

METHODISM
and
HALIFAX CHURCH
1867-1959

METHODISM
and
HALIFAX CHURCH
1867-1959

Preface

In attempting to write the history of Methodism in the village of Halifax, I realize how correct was Mr. Gerald W. Johnson, the distinguished author and former North Carolinian, when he said, "Nothing changes more constantly than the past . . . and that the history of events is, in reality, the story of what people believed happened."

Vague and incomplete church records make accurate research a difficult task. Memories, also, dim as years go by. Events that have happened in recent years often bring forth a difference of opinion surrounding the events. Nevertheless, it is my belief that this history of Halifax Methodist Church is basically factual.

It is, therefore, with love and appreciation that I thank the members of our church and other friends for their assistance in compiling this history.

Humbly and sincerely,

Geneva Cheatham Applewhite
Compiler

Margaret Howe
Stenographer

Table of Contents

	Page
Preface	2
1700 Era - Early Methodism	4-5
The Methodist Society of Halifax	6
Early Pastors in Charge and Presiding Elders	6
1800 Era - Conference Changes	7
Granville Street Methodist Church Episcopal Church South	7-8
Confederate Soldiers Buried in Methodist Cemetery.....	9
1900 Era - Changes - Parsonage	10-11
1938 N. C. Conference Merger	12
1947 - 1960 Era - The New Church	12-13
Dedication - Furnishings - Memorials - Windows	14-15
Pews	16
Other Gifts	17
Treasurers - Communion Steward - Choir	18
Church Organists and Pianists - Church School - Teachers	19
Vacation Bible School - Revivals	20
W. S. C. S.	21
The Youth of The Church	22
Men of Methodist Families In Service During World War II	23-24
Ministers and Elders for 1700 — Ministers 1800	25-26
Presiding Elders - Bishops - Pastors	27-28
Part of Halifax Church Deed - Part of Parsonage Lot Deed - Part of 1866 Granville Street Church Deed.....	29-30

1700 ERA

Early Methodism

"In 1729, John and Charles Wesley began Bible reading and practicing inward and outward holiness, and they invited others to do so. The Holy Club of Oxford University was an out-growth of this practice.

John and Charles Wesley came to Savannah in 1735 as missionaries of the Church of England, (of which they were clergymen) to work among the Indians. Finally on December, 22, 1737, John Wesley returned to England.

On the evening of May 24, 1739, John Wesley accompanied a friend to a society on Aldersgate Street in London. Here, he had his heart warming experience. Here the Methodist Church was born."

Early leaders in the movement in America were Robert Strawbridge (1760), George Whitfield, Francis Asbury (1771) and others.

The first regular itinerant Methodist preachers were Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmoor, sent over by John Wesley in 1769. Pilmoor came to the eastern part of North Carolina in 1772.

The Church of England was established by law in this province in 1669, but it was existing only in theory as there were many "dissenters" at that time. The "dissenters" were composed of Anabaptists, Methodists, Quakers and Presbyterians.

The first Methodist Society in North Carolina was organized by Robert Williams somewhere in this region in 1774. Jesse Lee (one of our first and finest preachers) says, "In the beginning of this year, 1774, Robert Williams began to form societies in Virginia and made out a plan for a six weeks' circuit which extended from Petersburg to the south, over Roanoke River some distance into North Carolina." (From Short History of the Methodists). The province of Halifax being situated on the Roanoke River and the main road from Petersburg to the south, naturally would fall within this circuit. However, just when Methodism entered Halifax County is not known.

"Soon after the formation of the county Methodism began to make its influence felt; churches of that faith were built in various sections of the county, among the oldest being Ebenezer, Haywoods, (near Halifax) Bradfords (near Enfield) and the church in the town of Halifax. In these early days the Methodist Church took a high stand in the county". (From Allen's History of Halifax County.) Turner and Bridges says, "As early as 1755, there were at least two chapels in the county, one at Tarboro,

also one at Halifax". "A period of great revival began in southern Virginia in 1775 and swept into Halifax and Bute (later divided to form Franklin and Warren Counties in North Carolina)."

In 1784, at Lovely Lane Chapel in Baltimore, Md., the preachers met and organized The Methodist Episcopal Church. Asbury and Coke were elected the first Bishops. The following spring, the first annual conference at the Methodist Episcopal Church was held at Green Hill Plantation, one mile from Louisburg, North Carolina on April 20, 1785. The conference was attended by Asbury, Coke and twenty preachers from this area. "There was no housing problem — they simply slept on the floor." The office of Presiding Elder was born at that meeting. (P. E.) I, also, understand the early minister was officially spoken of as Pastor in charge (P. C.)

Some Doctrines of the Methodist Church:

Universal Redemption

Repentance

Justification—Forgiveness of sins

Regeneration—Spiritual rebirth in Christ

Sanctification

Witness of the Spirit

Sacraments — The Church Practices two sacraments which were ordained of Christ, the Supper of the Lord and Baptism. "Baptism is the symbol of purification." In the Methodist Church baptism may be by sprinkling, pouring or immersion.

Our final doctrine teaches that it is possible to fall into sin again, but by the Grace of God, we may rise again, and truly repent and receive forgiveness of our sins.

The Methodist Society of Halifax

"As early as 1755, there were at least two chapels in the County, one at Tarboro, also one at Halifax." What kind of church building was this? Possibly the "Free Church" where all denominations held services at their convenience. The Episcopalians, Baptists and Methodists used it at the same time. It was spoken of as the "Colonial Church". When the Episcopalians moved into their new church in 1856, the "Colonial Church" was known as the "Old Methodist Church". Later when the Methodist acquired their own building the colored Methodists used it for many years. So the building was used by all denominations and by both races. It was never sold by anyone and nobody ever bought it. "The Town of Halifax gave the people the privilege of using it." This building was in the Colonial Cemetery across the street from the first court house and Clerk of Court's office (now the County Library). It was blown down during a storm in 1908.

On November 20, 1866, the trustee of the parsonage, on Roanoke circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church South bought Lot 118 on which to build a house of worship.

For years, the church built on this lot was known as the Granville Street Methodist Episcopal Church South. This church belonged to the Roanoke Circuit, which was formed in 1778, and at one time, included Bertie, North Hampton, Halifax and Warren Counties. "Roanoke will always stand in the annals of Methodist history as an honored name. It remained on the minutes for many years as one of the best circuits. Its members were distinguished for their social position. Here, Lovic Pierce was born. Here, too, was the home of that silver tongued orator, Thomas G. Lowe. In the bounds of this circuit, at the place called "The Old Barn" Jesse Lee preached his first sermon. Here, the first subscription to a Methodist School in America was made by Gabriel Long and Brother Bustan. Above all, this was the cradle of Methodism in North Carolina." (From Methodism in N. C. by Grissom.)

Early Pastors In Charge and Presiding Elders

The earliest record we have lists 173 pastors beginning with William Glendening, 1778. All but ten of these are listed as serving one year. The last name on the list being T. Page Ricaud, December, 1886.

There are 16 Presiding Elders listed beginning with R. J. Carson 1842 closing with J. D. Nelson, 1884.

(See Appendix A)

1800 ERA

Conference Changes

The North Carolina Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church was "set up" from the Virginia Conference in February, 1837. During the War Between the States, the division from the north took place, and our name became the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

Roanoke Circuit existed as early as 1778 and was changed to Warrenton District in 1884.

In 1890, the State Conference was divided, becoming The Western Conference and the North Carolina Conference.

Granville Street Methodist Episcopal Church South

As seen by the deed, the land for this church building was secured November 20, 1866; and it is assumed the building was erected soon thereafter. (See Deed).

The church was an oblong building, possibly 40 feet by 80 feet, made of heart pine. Parts of it were "pegged." This was a white clapboard building. There was no corner stone. The underpinning consisted of small brick pillows. In its more recent days, there were wooden lattices between the pillows and broad cement steps leading to double doors. Over the doors, was a transom and on the peak of the roof was a square belfrey, topped with a steeple. In the steeple, was a sweet toned bell, which was rung for all services. The vestibule extended across the entire front of the building. At the south end, winding stairs led to the balcony, which was over the vestibule and it is said, at one time the balcony extended out over the sides of the church too.

The interior of the building was pretty and restful. To enter from the vestibule, there were two doors, one to the right and one to the left, forming two aisles. Between the aisles were the long straight pews, to the sides were the shorter ones. These pews were not conducive to sleep, as the backs were low, the seats narrow. From the seat to the floor (in front) was one solid plank. These were hand made pews and very heavy. They were varnished with a dark stain almost black.

There were three extra large windows on each side of the church. The windows were made of colored glass, which gave a soft glow to the tinted walls. There was a beautiful altar rail of highly prized wood, expertly put together, without a nail. The

spacious pulpit was raised a foot above the floor. In the early 30's, the women bought a 12x14 rug for the pulpit and "runners" for the aisles. Then, they took the difficult task of making a padded kneeling pad for the curving altar rail.

Behind the pulpit in an alcove, was a pretty blue stained glass window, in three sections. In this alcove, one step higher than the pulpit, was the choir loft. Sometimes, the choir used this space, usually on special occasions. More often, the choir used two or three benches facing the congregation in the body of the church. This was in the north east corner of the building. A reed organ was used for some years. In the 1930's, a piano was purchased by the Sunday School.

On either side of the pulpit were doors leading to two small rooms. Each of these rooms had a window and an outside entrance. These rooms had no heat nor did the vestibule. The main body of the church was heated with two stoves, one in the south east corner and the other in the north west corner.

This building burned Sunday afternoon, February, 1947. the piano and a few pews were saved, along with the book case a few song books, the Bible, hymn board, marble top table, a few chairs and the pulpit furniture. Much damage was done to the trees and shrubbery in the cemetery.

Confederate Soldiers Buried In:

METHODIST CEMETERY

Capt. Henry Carraway
Capt. James Grizzard (1830-1901)
Rev. L. G. Grady (1839-1910)
Lt. Northington
Phynis Whitehead
George Keeter

STEPHENSON CEMETERY

Constantine Bradley (1836-1904)

FLEMMING CEMETERY

Rev. Thomas G. Lowe

“Born near Haywoods Church, August 10, 1815. Died in Halifax, February 13, 1869. Buried in the place of his choosing 2 miles south of that historic town. For more than 33 years a local preacher in the local church. Faithful in every relation. His end was peace. Friends have erected this tablet to the memory of the greatest natural orator ever born in North Carolina.”

1900 ERA

During the last fifty years the following churches have served on circuits with Halifax Church: Enfield, Haywoods, Ringwood, Mt. Tabor, Calvary, Ebenezer, Smith's, Pierces Camp Ground, Central Cross and New Hope. The present circuit is Halifax, Ebenezer and Pierces Camp Ground.

Changes

In 1921, by order of the North Carolina Annual Conference, the Warrenton District was changed to the Weldon District, and for the next ten years the district parsonage was in Weldon.

Halifax Parsonage

Rev. Julian L. Midgette came to Halifax in the fall of 1922. We are told he was sent here to build a parsonage.

At the fourth quarterly conference, October 13, 1923: "Resolved that this Quarterly Conference authorize the Parsonage Trustees to take steps to sell the Parsonage located at Aurelian Springs and invest the proceeds on a parsonage to be located in Halifax town."

Mr. Midgette said, "Hope to begin work on the parsonage May 10, 1924. Parsonage to cost \$4,219.58."

On February 16, 1924, the Parsonage Trustees, W. F. Coppedge, C. L. Kelly and M. P. Crawley bargained for land from W. V. Warren and others.

Haywoods Church was closed 1918 because of a court litigation (a group of light skin Negroes tried to take over this church and school.) Members transferred in 1922-1924 to Halifax and Enfield Churches.

"Resolved by the first quarterly conference, Halifax Charge, held on 13th day of December, 1924. First: That the church building and lot located between Halifax and Enfield be sold by the trustees and the proceeds applied on the indebtedness of the new Halifax parsonage."

To obtain ready cash an indenture was made the 16th day of March, 1925 between the Parsonage Trustees and the Weldon Building and Loan Company.

The indenture states that the "Trustees, their heirs or legal representatives shall on or before Saturday night of each week pay the Loan Association interest upon \$2,500.00 at the rate of six percentum per annum until the capital stock reaches the par value."

December 9, 1925, "By gift of the Church Extension Board of the Methodist Episcopal Church South of the North Carolina conference for the Halifax parsonage \$500.00."

The location of the parsonage lot is on Pitt St. (See Deed.)

In 1931 the Annual Conference under Bishop Edwin D. Mouzon and Presiding Elder L. B. Jones, the Weldon district was enlarged and became the Rocky Mount District.

In 1936, Pierces Camp Ground membership was moved to Granville Street Methodist Church South, because of lack of interest and poor condition of the building. Still less interest was shown after becoming members of Granville Street Church.

Presiding at this time were Bishop Paul B. Kern, J. M. Culbreth, P. E. and Rev. J. B. Hurley.

1938 North Carolina Conference Merger

"The North Carolina conference of the Methodist Church was composed of the North Carolina Conference of the former Methodist Episcopal Church South, and parts of the North Carolina Conference of the former Methodist Protestant Church and the Blue Ridge Atlantic Conference of the former Methodist Episcopal Church. The former Methodist Episcopal Church gave to the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church 9 preachers, 11 charges and 1,837 members; the former Methodist Protestant Church 23 preachers, 20 charges and 9,152 members; the former Methodist Episcopal Church South 273 preachers, 226 charges and 132,735 members."

About this time the "Church School" became the term for Sunday School, and Presiding Elder was changed to "District Superintendent".

On September 10, 1939, Reverend C. T. Thrift re-organized Pierces Camp Ground. With new interest and hope, the members repaired the building. It was dedicated October 23, 1939 by Bishop W. W. Peel.

Reverend C. T. Thrift organized a small Sunday School and Church at Caledonia State Farm on October 8, 1939. They met each Sunday afternoon.

In the fall of 1940, about twenty names were brought from the State Farm and placed on Granville Street Church roll. None ever attended services or supported the church in any way.

1947 - 1960 ERA

The New Church

Granville Street Methodist Church burned Sunday afternoon February 9, 1947 — one of the coldest days of that year. There had been a morning service and some members thought the fire started from an over-heated stove.

The next two and a half years the Halifax Church held Church School and Church services in the Halifax Elementary School Building. There were no night services.

Bishop W. W. Peele, A. J. Hobbs, D. S., Rev. D. A. Petty, members of the church and friends began the arduous task of building a new church. C. G. Vaughan was appointed Building Chairman and P. C. Millikin was appointed Building Treasurer. To make the task more difficult, Ebenezer burned also, and Smith's Church took on a big re-modeling job. Mr. Petty promoted three big building programs at the same time.

The Granville Street Church had approximately \$6,000 worth of insurance to start the new church. The Official Board asked the Church Extension Board for help. To receive aid, we were told we would have to secure a lot and plan, to meet their approval. The first selection of everyone was the same Granville Street lot. It was discarded by the Extension Board as being too small. Thus, began discussions as to where to build the church. Not only the church members, but the whole town became involved and finally caused a split in the membership for a short time.

In 1948, Dr. Robert Young and his wife gave to the church officials the southeastern portion of his yard. The home sometimes called the "Old Hill Place." (See Deed.)

The following Building Committee was appointed:

C. Gilbert Vaughan, Chairman
W. R. Caudle
Mrs. R. L. Applewhite
Mrs. Percy A. Harriss
John Cobb, Sr.
Julian H. Shaw (1913 - 1958)
James R. Twisdale, Sr.
Perry C. Millikin, Treas.
Rev. Dwight A. Petty
V. C. Matthews (resigned)

A campaign to raise money was started. The Church Officials sold a number of certificates valued at \$25.00 per share. Stained glass windows and pews were sold, also.

Dedication

The first bricks for the new building were laid on the morning of October 12, 1948. The same month, October 28, 1948, the corner stone was dedicated. The church building was dedicated two years hence on October 15, 1950. At the morning service the dedicatory sermon was given by Dr. Frank S. Hickman. Dinner was served in the yard. At the afternoon service, the "church doors" were opened for the reception of new members after which a musical program of familiar hymns was enjoyed.

In 1950 the church building was valued at \$45,000.

In 1959 the membership of the church is composed of 43 families.

Furnishings

Louisville Art Glass Company made the stained glass windows. Design 9460. They were installed in June, 1949 and cost \$1,450. The pews were installed September 1950 at a cost of \$2,200. At the same time the communion rail was placed costing \$200. On October 10, 1950 the choir screen was placed at a cost of \$200.

The pulpit chairs, settee and marble top table were brought from Germany by the Froleich family, after the death of Mrs. Froleich. The ladies of the church bought these pieces to use in the pulpit of Granville Street Methodist Church South. These pieces were saved from the fire. The new church pulpit being small, the settee was sold to W. E. Froleich, III, of Winston-Salem, N. C. for \$100.00, in, I believe the year 1951. In June, 1952, the chairs were refinished and upholstered at a cost of \$95.00. Mr. Froleich offered to pay this bill, if the church would give him the refusal of them, if and when they should be sold. The \$95.00 at such time being applied to the final cast. This agreement was made through the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

Other things saved from the fire were several antique chairs that fell apart, a book case, a few old pews, the Bible, hymn board and twelve primary chairs.

The primary chairs were made by Willis Clanton (colored) in 1919 for fifty cents each and were given by Mrs. R. L. Applewhite. They are still in use (1959).

Memorials

The Pulpit Bible was given October 23, 1921 by Ira G. Shaw (1864-1939) and Mamie Sugg Shaw (1873-1940) in memory of

their children: Rufus S. Shaw, Leona Shaw Dickens (1897-1946) Mary Shaw Clark, Ira Glen Shaw (1901-1912) Caswell E. Shaw, Annie S. Shaw Draper, Allie Shaw (1915-1920).

The Hymn Board given 1939 in honor of Mrs. Alice Barham Dickens (1887-1938) by her daughter Naomi Dickens Shaw.

Windows

The windows were received and installed June, 1949. The stained glass windows were given in memory or honor of loved ones. The two front windows depict scenes from the life of Christ. "The Good Shepherd" is in honor of Boyd Thorne Gregory and Fletcher Harrison Gregory by the Methodist Congregation. This window was given in appreciation of their years of interest and help given to the church. (They are Episcopalians.)

"Jesus at the Door" is in memory of William Farmer Coppedge (1872-1935) given by his children Mary Richardson Coppedge and Edwin F. Coppedge.

Window in memory of George Alpheus Hux (1876-1946) given by his son A. Leonidas Hux.

Window in memory of Leona Shaw Dickens (1897-1946) given by her husband Seward Dickens.

Window in memory of Florence Dickens Faucette Willcox (1859-1947) given by her daughter-in-law Belle Faucette.

Window in memory of Mammie Grizzard Froleich Butts (1869-1946) given by her son Willie E. Froleich, Jr. and grandson Willie Froleich, III.

Window in memory of Rebecca Ursula Ousby Gary (1822-1908), great-grand mother and Lucy Gary Daniel (1851-1942), grand mother, given by Ursula Marshall (Episcopalian).

Window in memory of Susie Hancock Campbell (1884-1943) and Donald McRae Campbell (1871-1936) given by their children, Mildred C. Jones, Dorothy C. Cassada, Edna C. Harriss, and Donald McRae Campbell, Jr.

Window given by Elizabeth Lawrence Vaughan and Charles Gilbert Vaughan, Sr.

Window given by Geneva Cheatham Applewhite and Robert Lawrence Applewhite (Baptist).

Pews

The church pews were installed September, 1950. There are two short pews. One is in memory of Thomas Elgin Owens, III (1944-1948) given by his parents Sue Millikin Owens and Tom E. Owens.

The second short pew is in honor of Undine and Willis R. Caudle, Jr. given by their parents Undine Hux Caudle and Willis R. Caudle.

Pew in honor of Mrs. Annie Bradley Jennings (1878-1955) given by her son Horace C. Jennings.

Pew in memory of William Thomas Eure, Sr. (1847-1931) given by daughter Miss Lottie M. Eure.

Pew given in memory of Nannie Elizabeth Page (1917-1937) and Samuel Mordicai Page (1891-1949) by the Page family.

Pew given in memory of Harold Lloyd Stephenson (1924-1944, died in Service) by his mother Mrs. Hattie Gold Stephenson and his brother Whit M. Stephenson, Jr.

Pew given in memory of Sallie Twisdale Millikin (1879-1942) by the Millikin family.

Pew given in memory of Edward Llewellyn Travis, Sr. (1886-1950) by his wife, Mrs. Jennie Outlaw Grady Travis.

Pew in honor of Mrs. Mary Twisdale Read (1874-1957) given by her son James Milton Read.

Pew given in memory of William Froleich, Sr., by his son William Froleich, Jr. and grandson, Willie E. Froleich, III.

Pew given in honor of Donald McRae Harriss by his parents Edna Campbell Harriss and Percy A. Harriss.

Pew given in honor of Caswell Shaw, Jr., and William Ira Shaw by their parents Naomi Dickens Shaw and Caswell Shaw Sr.

A pew given by Geneva Cheatham Applewhite and Robert Lawrence Applewhite.

A pew given by Susan Howell Branch and Edwin Branch.

A pew given by Ida May Cheatham.

A pew given by Mary Richardson Coppedge and Edwin Coppedge.

A pew given by Lizzie Parks Dickens and Joseph A. Dickens.

A pew given by Thomas Seward Dickens, Sr.

Some smaller donations in amounts up to \$25.00.

Other Gifts

The Cross given in 1951 in memory of James Whedbee Mullen (1819-1897) and Susan Clary Mullen (1819-1897) by their grand children, James Mullen, Clary Mullen, Mrs. Susie Gilliam Burwell, T. W. Mullen, Jr., George Gilliam, Jr., Charles L. Gilliam, Henry Gilliam, Julian Gilliam, Sterling G. Gilliam. (Episcopalians.)

The candle sticks given in 1953 in memory of Joseph Grizard Butts (1885-1953) by his children and grandchildren: Joseph G. Butts, Jr., Evelyn Butts Thompson, Cecil Butts Hicks, Lucy Butts Rhodes, George Spotswood Butts, Frank Butts Musselman.

A brass flower container given by Mrs. A. J. Jones, Jr.

The brass vases given in 1954 in memory of Ira G. Shaw (1864-1939) and Mamie Sugg Shaw (1873-1949) by their son Caswell Eure Shaw.

The Baptismal Bowl given in 1954 by Hilda and Eugene Edwards and Catherine Price Rothrock.

The Lectern was made and given 1956 by Whit M. Stephenson, Jr.

The desk lamp was given 1956 in memory of Willie David Dickens (1880-1948) by his daughter Naomi Dickens Shaw.

Many of the hymn books were given in honor of loved ones.

The collection plates were given by Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Shaw in 1959.

In 1952, the General Conference of the Methodist Church made a change in the organization of the local church. Since the earliest days of Methodism the "Stewards" have been the body of control in the local church. There is no longer a "Board of Stewards". We now have the "Official Board" which is the administrative body in each church.

In 1955, the Official Board was divided into commissions as follows:

- Membership and Evangelism
- Education
- Missions
- Finance and Stewardship
- Worship

In 1957, by order of the North Carolina Conference, the beginning of the church year was changed to July 1st.

Treasurers of The Church

The earliest treasurer's book we have has no signatures, but is identified through the handwriting.

In the late 1800's possibly, Mr. George Simmons. (Mr. Emmet Vinson recognized his handwriting.)

1907-1917, W. F. Coppedge (1872-1935). He may have served longer but the only record we have closed in 1917.

1922-1928, Mrs. W. A. Willcox (1859-1947).

1922-1926, Parsonage Treas.—Rev. J. L. Midgette.

1928-1931, Miss Rebe Ousby (—1936). Miss Rebe moved to Raleigh in 1931.

1947-1951, Church Building Treas.—P. C. Millikin.

1932-1957, Mrs. R. L. Applewhite.

1957—, R. W. Millikin.

Communion Steward

Mrs. W. L. Johnson

Mrs. H. O. Allen, Assistant

The Choir

The choirs of our church have had some periods of great interest and good music, then a slump. However, the faithful few have worked on to build it up again.

Once, for a year or more, we had a trained director from Roanoke Rapids, Mrs. Alice Miller. During this time, the Baptists, Episcopalians and Methodists formed a union choir which sang each Sunday morning in the church having a service.

There have been two interesting junior choirs, one conducted by Mrs. P. A. Harriss, the other by Mrs. C. E. Shaw.

Some of our early vocalists were Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Butts, Mrs. W. D. Dickens and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Willcox, Mrs. H. B. Furgerson.

Church Organists and Pianists

————, Mrs. E. L. Travis
———1913, Mrs. Nellie Nelson Powell
1913-1927, Mrs. R. L. Applewhite
1916-1919, Mrs. W. A. Willcox (1859-1947)
1927-1940, Mrs. E. L. Travis (1868-1955)
1940-1942, Mrs. C. E. Shaw
1940-1942, Director Mrs. Alice Miller
1942-1944, Mrs. Frank Walters
1944-1953, Mrs. C. E. Shaw
1953——, Mrs. P. A. Harriss

Assistants: Mrs. Willcox, Mrs. A. J. Jones, Jr., Mrs. Eugene Edwards, Mrs. Catherine Price Rothrock, Mrs. Milton Read, Mrs. Clyde Page, Mr. Caswell Shaw, Mrs. Floyd Johnson, Mrs. Ben Shepard.

Church School

Mr. George Simmons was one of the early Sunday School superintendents. He was followed by Rev. Lewis Grady (1839-1910), then W. F. Coppedge (1872-1935) and Ira G. Shaw (1861-1939). For years Mr. Shaw and Mr. Coppedge alternated this task. Later superintendents have been V. C. Matthews, C. Gilbert Vaughan, Julian Shaw (1913-1958), Vernon T. Bradley, James T. Twisdale, Jr., and Ben Shepard.

There were three classes in the Granville Street School: an infant class, a class for youths, and one for adults. The adult class elected W. D. Dickens (1880-1948) as its President for years. In its early days, it was known as the Wesley Bible Class. After some years, this class became known as the Bible Class and finally, just the Adult Class. Recent Secretaries and Treasurers are W. B. Pittman, H. O. Allen, W. E. Page and P. C. Millikin.

Teachers of Adult Class

Ira Shaw (1864-1939), W. F. Coppedge (1872-1935), E. L. Travis (1866-1950) V. C. Matthews, Miss Thelma Elliott, Dr. Robert F. Young, Mrs. R. L. Applewhite, Julian Shaw, Mrs. P. C. Millikin, W. L. Johnson.

For years, George A. Hux has worked with and taught the teen age group. He has been assisted by C. G. Vaughan, Ben Shepherd and Mrs. Dorothy Moore.

In the early 1950's, W. E. Page saw the need for a young couples class. Through his efforts, Mrs. P. C. Millikin, Mrs. G. A. Hux, Mrs. R. L. Applewhite and others, the class was formed and is doing a fine work. Most of the younger women of the church have been called upon to serve as officers and

teachers for this class and for the younger classes too. Among them are: Mrs. Julian Shaw, Mrs. Will Pittman, Mrs. G. A. Hux, Jr., Mrs. Milton Read, Mrs. Emma Smith, Mrs. James Twisdale, Mrs. F. C. Simmons, Mrs. C. G. Vaughan, Mrs. D. M. Campbell, Mrs. Mae Belle Smith, Mrs. L. P. Millikin, Mrs. P. A. Harris, Mrs. O. E. Inabinett, Mrs. Lee Birdsong, Mrs. Milton Bradley, Mrs. Roy Cobb, Jr., Mrs. Okey Kite, Mrs. N. B. Phillips, Mrs. Jesse Holford, Mrs. Ben Shepherd and Mrs. H. O. Allen.

Vacation Bible School

The Baptist Vacation Bible School, the Methodist Vacation Church School and the Episcopal School began as a joint project.

In 1937, Rev. C. E. Crawford, Baptist, organized the group, which met in the Baptist Church. The following year the meeting was held in the Methodist Church. At first the teachers planned their work courses and furnished their own material. In a few years, the school out grew the facilities of the churches and moved the vacation Bible School to the Halifax Elementary School. The Baptist and Methodist Churches still alternate in taking the leadership for the vacation school. Practically all the active members of the three churches help where needed. The leader this year (1959) was Mrs. L. F. Smith.

Revivals

For sometime our revivals have been held in the spring of the year. Each December, we join with the Baptist for the week-end Youth Revival.

W. S. C. S.

The Ladies' Aid Society came into being in this church about 1916. Its chief purpose was to help the local church in a material way. Eight or ten women met every Monday afternoon the year round (except in the month of December) and made articles of sewing to be used at the bazaar and supper held annually in some vacant store building, the last week in November. This was the era of embroidery, hem-stitching, crocheting and tatting. At one time this meeting almost turned into a gossip group, so Leona S. Dickens was appointed "reader" for the group. Each Monday afternoon, while the other ladies sewed, she read from the Bible, Sunday School lesson or something of a religious interest.

Through the efforts of Mrs. Julian Midgette (minister's wife), the Womans Missionary Society was formed. On a warm summer day in 1923, Miss Amma Graham, of Warrenton, met with us in the home of Mrs. I. G. Shaw and explained the "set up". We met once a month but continued the Monday Sewing Circle as we expected to help with the new parsonage.

In 1939, the Womans Missionary Society became the Womans Society of Christian Service. Practically every woman in the society has held some office several times in the past twenty years. Long term treasurers have been Mrs. Willcox, Mrs. Van Warren and Mrs. J. A. Dickens.

The W. S. C. S. meetings are held in the church except during the winter months, at which time, we meet in the homes. We try to operate in accordance with the plan set up by the Womans Division of Christian Service. We use the program material and study books as suggested by the Division. We contribute to home and foreign missions and observe the Week of Prayer. We have had delegates to the conference meetings, also to the study seminars' district and sub-district meetings.

Several years ago, Mrs. C. E. Shaw organized a small group of women into a Thursday morning prayer group. This is known as the Alice Barham Dickens Prayer Circle and has meant a great deal to some of us, especially the sick and "shuts ins".

For many years, the mid week prayer service has been held on Thursday night in the church or in the homes. Many times the attendance has been so small some members have felt that it should be dropped, but we struggle on. With the coming of Rev. W. F. Medlin, we hope the prayer service will be revived. Beginning October, 1959, we have been meeting on Wednesday nights as is the custom of the other churches, and have local members to conduct some of the services.

The Youth of The Church

Viola Nethery Beadles joined Granville Street Methodist Church in 1924. She is now a minister in Eastern Tennessee.

Ernest Russell Stott joined Granville Street Methodist Church in 1944; now preparing for the ministry.

Burke G. Petty joined Granville Street Church in 1946, is now pastor of Turkey-Friendship Charge.

Jerry Smith joined Halifax Methodist Church in 1955; preparing for the ministry.

The earliest organization in the Methodist Church for the children was the "Bright Jewels". It was in existence as early as 1880. Its purpose as I remember was to teach the children the catechism and Bible Stories, a supplement to the early Sunday School. To sum up the years work a "Children's Day" program was given. This was replaced by the Church School Rally Day.

The Epworth League was formed here by Rev. and Mrs. Julian Midgette, possibly in 1923. Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Millikin were active in this work. Like some of the organizations, the interest fluctuated. In 1944, the teen age group was re-organized by Mrs. Stott (minister's wife) and became the Methodist Youth Fellowship. Later, a younger group was organized into the Junior M. Y. F. Many have helped with these groups, among the; Mrs. O. E. Inabinett, Mrs. C. E. Shaw, Mrs. G. A. Hux, Jr., Mrs. D. M. Campbell, Mrs. J. H. Shaw, Mrs. C. G. Vaughan, Mrs. Maybelle Smith, Mrs. Ernest Hudgins, Mr. Clyde Page and its present leaders, Mrs. W. B. Pittman, 1959 and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Shepard.

Some of our children have been privileged to attend the assembly meetings at Louisburg College and Duke University, also Camp Don Lee.

Charles Inabinett came to Halifax in the spring of 1943 and was instrumental in organizing a Boy Scout troop. Among the Methodist men who have helped with this project are: W. L. Johnson, L. P. Millikin, C. F. Musselman (1886-1954), W. R. Caudle, C. G. Vaughan, Ben Shepard, V. T. Bradley and its present leader, Neal Philips (1959). Thomas W. Gregory (Episcopalian) was an important leader of this group too.

A Cub Scout group was organized in 1957 by Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Harriss.

Men of Methodist Families In Service During World War Two

- Howard Birdsong, Paul Birdsong, Philip Birdsong—Sons of Mrs. Laura Birdsong.
- Billie Brickell—Son of Mr. and Mrs. George Brickell.
- Bill Burke (deceased)—Husband of Louise Bradley Morris Burke.
- Spotswood Butts—Son of Cecil Fields and Joseph G. Butts.
- Donald McRae Campbell—Son of Susie Hancock and D. M. Campbell, Sr.
- Charles Coppedge—Son of Bettie Smith and W. F. Coppedge.
- Jim Dickens (deceased)—Son of Lucy Hux and Robert L. Dickens.
- Seward Dickens—Son of Leona Shaw and Seward Dickens, Sr.
- Jesse Holford—Husband of Helen Holford.
- A. Leonidas Hux—Son of Ethel Smith and George Hux, Sr.
- Charles Inabinett—Son of Martha and O. E. Inabinett.
- Tom Johnson—Son of Hattie Hux Johnson F. Nixon and Ed Johnson.
- Louie P. Millikin—Son of Sallie Twisdale and D. J. Millikin.
- Steve Millikin—Son of Treva Horney and Perry C. Millikin.
- Lacy Morris—Husband of Louise Bradley Morris Burke.
- Carroll W. Neal—Son of Blanche and Will Neal.
- Thomas Nethery (deceased)—Son of Ethel Stephenson and Henry Nethery—Died in service. Buried in Stephenson Cemetery.
- Sam Hampton Page—Son of Frankie Drewery and Sam M. Page.
- Milton Read—Son of Mary Twisdale and George A. Read.
- Harold Stephenson (deceased)—Son of Hattie Gold and Whit M. Stephenson, Sr.—Died in service, 1944. Buried in Germany.
- Frank Walters, III—Son of Ruth and Rev. Frank Walters, Jr.
- T/Sgt. Frank E. Grogan, Jr. (deceased)—Son of Susie Hamill Grogan Read—Air Force.—Died 1945. Buried in Belgium.
- Staff Sgt. John H. Grogan (deceased)—Son of Susie Hamill Grogan Read—Died in 1944. Buried in Lambach, Austria.

Men of World War Two

- Herman O. Allen—Husband of Ann Morecock Allen.
Marvin Birdsong—Son of Mrs. Lee Birdsong
Spotswood Butts—Son of Mrs. J. G. Butts
Cofield Clay—Husband of Frances Carter Clay.
Charles Coppedge—Son of Mrs. W. F. Coppedge.
Lemuel DeBerry—Son of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. DeBerry.
George Gardner, Jr.—Son of Mr. George Gardner
Jesse Holford—Husband of Mrs. Helen Holford.
A. Leonidas Hux—Son of Mrs. G. A. Hux.
Frank Musselman—Son of Mrs. C. F. Musselman
Mack Page—Son of Mrs. S. M. Page
Neal Phillips—Husband of Peggy Hunt Phillips.
Roy Schaff—Husband of Mrs. Lillian Lawrence
F. Coleman Simmons—Husband of Mary E. Hux Simmons.
Furgerson Smith—Husband of Mrs. Emma Felton Smith

Appendix A

A copy from an old register of Pastors, which was also a copy made in 1884 from records for Weldon and Halifax Station, Warrenton District, North Carolina Conference Methodist Episcopal Church South.

Ministers for 1700

William Glendening -----	1778	Edward West -----	1789
John Dickens -----	1779	Jonathan Bird -----	1789
Henry Willis -----	1779	Daniel Massie -----	1790
Enoch Watson -----	1781	John Pace -----	1791
Adam Cloud -----	1781	Daniel Cowles -----	1791
James Martin -----	1782	William Moody -----	1792
Thomas Foster -----	1782	Abner Henry -----	1793
John Eates -----	1783	Philip Sands -----	1793
William Dameron -----	1783	Samuel Shines -----	1794
Thomas Curtis -----	1784	Jeremiah Munday -----	1794
David Jefferson -----	1784	James Hunter -----	1795
Edward Morriss -----	1785	Nathan Williams -----	1795
Mark Whitaker -----	1785	Rufus Wiley -----	1796
Thomas Bowen -----	1786	John Shepperd -----	1796
William Stur -----	1786	William Ormand -----	1797
Thomas Anderson -----	1787	William Wells -----	1797
Benjamin Carter -----	1787	John Ray -----	1798
Charles Hardy -----	1788	William Brittian -----	1798
William Heath -----	1788	Nathan Walker -----	1799
Michael Smith -----	1788	Collier Hill -----	1799
Henry Merritt -----	1789		

Presiding Elders

Reuben Ellis -----	1785	Thomas Bowen -----	1791-95
Richard Ivey -----	1786	John Fore -----	1795
James Kelly -----	1787	James Meacham -----	1796
John Tunnell -----	1788	James Hunter -----	1797
Edward Harris -----	1789	James Rogers -----	1798-1800
Thomas Anderson -----	1790		

Appendix B

Ministers 1800

William Brittian -----	1800	James Boyd -----	1807
William Atwood -----	1800	Pleasant Thurman -----	1807
James Chappell -----	1801	Jesse Butler -----	1808
Samuel Garrard -----	1802	Abraham Trail -----	1808
James Hunt -----	1803	William Jean -----	1809
John C. B. Allen -----	1804	James Medley -----	1809
William Wright -----	1805	Nathan Weeden -----	1810
William Shands -----	1805	Thomas Neeley -----	1810
John French -----	1806	Henry Warren -----	1811
John Owen -----	1806	John Kelly -----	1811

Josiah Phillips	1812	Henry Speck	1838-9
James Thomas	1812	Philmer W. Archer	1839
Thomas Moore	1813&18	John Edwards	1840
Peter Wyatt	1813	R. J. Wynne	1840
Philip Bruce	1814	Thomas S. Campbell	1840
Bowen Reynolds	1814	Nathan Anderson	1842
Robert Thompson	1815	N. H. D. Wilson	1842-5
Michael Vester	1815	Joseph Goodman	1843-4
Samuel Garrard	1816	B. M. Williams	1843
James Reid	1816	William J. Duval	1845-6
William Jones	1817	Ira Wyche	1846-8
Lewis Kimball	1819	Lafayette W. Martin	1847
William D. Barrett	1819-20	John W. Wilson	1848-9
John Lattimore	1820	R. O. Burton	1849-54
James Smith	1821	L. S. Burkhead	1850-5
Ira Parker	1822	J. B. Martin	1851-2
Joshua Leigh	1822	T. S. Campbell	1851-3
Miles Nash	1823	T. W. Guthrie	1853
William D. Goode	1823	Henry Gray	1854
Joseph Carson	1824	N. A. Goodin	1855
C. S. Mooring	1824	John A. Andrews	1855-7
Peter Doub	1825	Moses J. Hunt	1856
James Dey	1825	Oscar J. Brent	1857
Joakin Lane	1826	H. T. Hudson	1858
Joseph Lindsey	1826	Theo. W. Moore	1858
Curtis Rooks	1827	John W. Floyd	1859
William M. Schoolfield	1827	Adolphus W. Mangum	1860
William Compton	1828	Theodore B. Kingsbury	1860-4
T. R. Brame	1829-30	James Fisher	1861
David Doggett	1829	L. L. Hendren	1862
James Jamison	1830	N. A. H. Goodin	1862-5
Stephen H. Jones	1831	M. C. Thomas	1863
Miles Foy	1831	L. Shell	1866
Phillip Anderson	1832	William C. Gannon	1867-71
W. Barcliff	1832	Ira T. Wyche	1871
George A. Bain	1833-4	Robert O. Burton	1872-4
James D. Alford	1833	Alex R. Raven	1877-9
John F. Burnett	1834	James M. Rhodes	1879.81
G. W. Dye	1835	Will L. Cuninggim	1881-4
T. Brame	1835-6&8	William B. North	1884-5
Willis Compton	1836	T. Page Picaud	1885-6

Presiding Elders From The Old Register

Beginning With 1800-1884

Francis Poythess -----	1800	R. J. Carson -----	1842
Johnathan Jackson -----	1801	R. O. Burton -----	1843-4
Phillip Bruce -----	1804-7	James Reid -----	1845-8
John Buxton -----	1807-14	R. J. Carson -----	1850
Canellum H. Hines -----	1814	William Closs -----	1851-5
Phillip Bruce -----	1815-6	L. L. Hendren -----	1863-67
Willis Jean -----	1817	Shockley D. Adams -----	1871
Lewis Thidmore -----	1818-9	Ira T. Wyche -----	1873
Christopher S. Mooreing -----	1820,1,2	R. O. Burton -----	1875
Henry Holmes -----	1823,4,5	James E. Mann -----	1878-82
George A. Bain -----	1826-7	William Closs -----	1882
Joseph Carson -----	1828-9	D. A. Bruton -----	1882
Benjamin Devaney -----	1830-1	J. S. Nelson -----	1888-4
B. T. Blake -----	1832-3		
Joseph Carson -----	1833-40		
W. E. Pell -----	1841		

Appendix C

A copy taken from the Circuit Registers of the Old Roanoke Circuit, Enfield and Halifax churches to 1923.

Warrenton District—Roanoke Circuit

BISHOP	PRESIDING ELDER	PASTOR	
Joseph S. Key	Thomas H. Campbell	B. B. Culbreth -----	1887
A. W. Wilson	W. L. Cunninggim	L. J. Holden -----	1883
Charles Galloway	S. D. Adams	W. L. Grissom -----	1891
Wm. W. Duncan	S. D. Adams	W. L. Grissom -----	1892
Alpheus W. Wilson	W. S. Black	E. E. Rose -----	1894
Robert K. Hargrove	J. T. Gibbs	J. D. Swindell -----	1897
Henry C. Morrison	J. E. Underwood	R. L. Davis -----	1900
Robert T. Hargrove	R. A. Willis	R. B. Clark -----	1901
A. Coke Smith	R. A. Willis	R. B. Clark -----	1902
Warren A. Chandler	G. F. Smith	S. A. Cotton -----	1903
Warren A. Chandler	G. F. Smith	H. B. Anderson -----	1904
Alpheus W. Wilson	W. S. Rone	H. B. Anderson -----	1906
Charles B. Galloway	W. S. Rone	J. A. Martin -----	1907

Warrenton District — Enfield Circuit

E. E. Hass	R. F. Bumpass	J. E. Holden -----	1911
Collins Denny	R. F. Bumpass	S. T. Singleton -----	1912
John C. Kelgo	J. D. Bundy	J. L. McNeer -----	1915
John C. Kelgo	J. D. Bundy	E. D. Dodd -----	1916
E. V. W. Darlington	E. M. Snipes	E. N. Harrison -----	1919

Weldon District—Enfield Circuit

E. M. Snipes	E. V. W. Darlington	Rufus Bradley -----	1922
--------------	---------------------	---------------------	------

Appendix D

Copy Taken From Halifax Register 1923-1960

Weldon District—Halifax Circuit

BISHOP	DIST. SUPER.	PASTOR	
Collins Denny	S. E. Mercer	J. L. Midgette	-----1922
Edwin D. Mouzon	S. A. Cotton	L. B. Patteshall	-----1926
Edwin D. Mouzon	S. A. Cotton	W. J. Watson	-----1927
Edwin D. Mouzon	L. B. Jones	W. C. Wilson	-----1930

Rocky Mount District—Halifax Circuit

Paul B. Kern	W. C. Martin	J. B. Hurley	-----1934
Paul B. Kern	J. M. Culbreth	Wade Johnson	-----1936
Clare Purcell	L. C. Larkin	C. T. Thrift	-----1938
Clare Purcell	L. C. Larkin	O. I. Hinson, (wife ill)	--1940
Clare Purcell	L. C. Larkin	W. Frank Walter (ill)	---1941
W. W. Peele	T. M. Grant	J. Doane Stott	-----1944
W. W. Peele	T. M. Grant	D. A. Petty	-----1946
W. W. Peele	A. J. Hobbs	L. C. Brothers (wife ill)	1950
Paul Neff Garber	A. J. Hobbs	L. C. Brothers	-----1951
Paul Neff Garber	J. F. Herbert (52)	John T. Smith	-----1955
Paul Neff Garber	W. C. Ball (56)	John T. Smith	-----1956
Paul Neff Garber	W. C. Ball	W. F. Medlin	-----1959

Deeds Found In Halifax Court House

Halifax Church Deed	-----Vol. 569	Page 429
Halifax Parsonage lot	-----Vol. 346	Page 550
Deed of Trust (Parsonage)	-----Vol. 360	Page 117
Granville St. M. E. Church South	-----Vol. 35	Page 473
Ebenezer Church	-----Vol. 3	Page 607
Pierces Camp Ground	-----Vol. 26	Page 36
Mt. Tabor	-----Vol. 64	Page 84

Part of Halifax Church Deed

A portion of the deed is as follows: On the 24th day of April, 1948 by and between Robert F. Young and wife, Dorsey T. Young and Jack T. Walker and wife, Florence B. Walker, parties of the first part and Seward Dickens, Sr., W. R. Caudle, C. E. Shaw and E. L. Travis, Trustees of the Halifax Methodist Church, parties of the second part for and in consideration of the sum of \$5.00 did bargain, sell and convey for the use and benefit of The Halifax Methodist Church the following real estate to wit: Beginning at the northeast corner of the Fenner property (formly James W. Faucett) the said corner being on King or Main Street and runs along the right angles and parallel to the Fenner or Faucette lot No. 63-141 feet to a stake in a ditch; thence along the ditch 82½ feet to the Fenner line, 157½ feet to the point of beginning. The said premises shall be used, kept and maintained as a place of devine worship.

The deed further states that this lot is never to be used as a cemetery. It is understood and agreed that the construction of a church for devine worship is to be started within a six months period or revert to Mrs. Young. Recorded June 10, 1948 by Anna C. Hux, Deputy Clerk Superior Court.

Part of Parsonage Lot Deed

This lot or parcel of land in the town of Halifax bounded as follows: Beginning on Pitt Street at the corner between the land of the parties of the first part and Andrew Jackson, deceased, thence along said street in a Northerly direction sixty feet, hence in straight line parallel to the line of said Andrew Jackson, deceased, to the line of the Masonic Lodge thence along the line of the Masonic Lodge sixty feet to the line of said Andrew Jackson, deceased, thence this line to the beginning. This 16th day of February, 1924 conveyed by W. V. Warren et ux to the afore said W. F. Coppedge, C. L. Kelly and M. P. Crawley, Trustess.

Part of 1866 Granville Street Church Deed

'When Halifax town was established in 1757, one hundred acres were bought from James Leslie at the price of one hundred fifty pounds. This land was divided into lots, numbered and sold.'

On November 20, 1866, the trustees of the parsonage on Roanoke Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church South (John

H. Fenner, William E. Fenner, A. B. Pierce, Rice B. Pierce and Richard B. Parker sold for the sum of \$200.00 to John H. Fenner, William E. Fenner, William W. Brickell, Thomas G. Lowe and James M. Grizzard, trustees of Methodist Episcopal Church Lot No. 118. Bounded on the west by Granville Street, and the north by Pitt Street, on the east by lands of George H. Barnes and on the south by the Methodist Parsonage known as Lot 119.