

A Brief History
of the



Harkers Island
United Methodist Church

Harkers Island, North Carolina

1882 - 1980

A Brief History of The
HARKERS ISLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1882-1980

COMPILED AND EDITED BY
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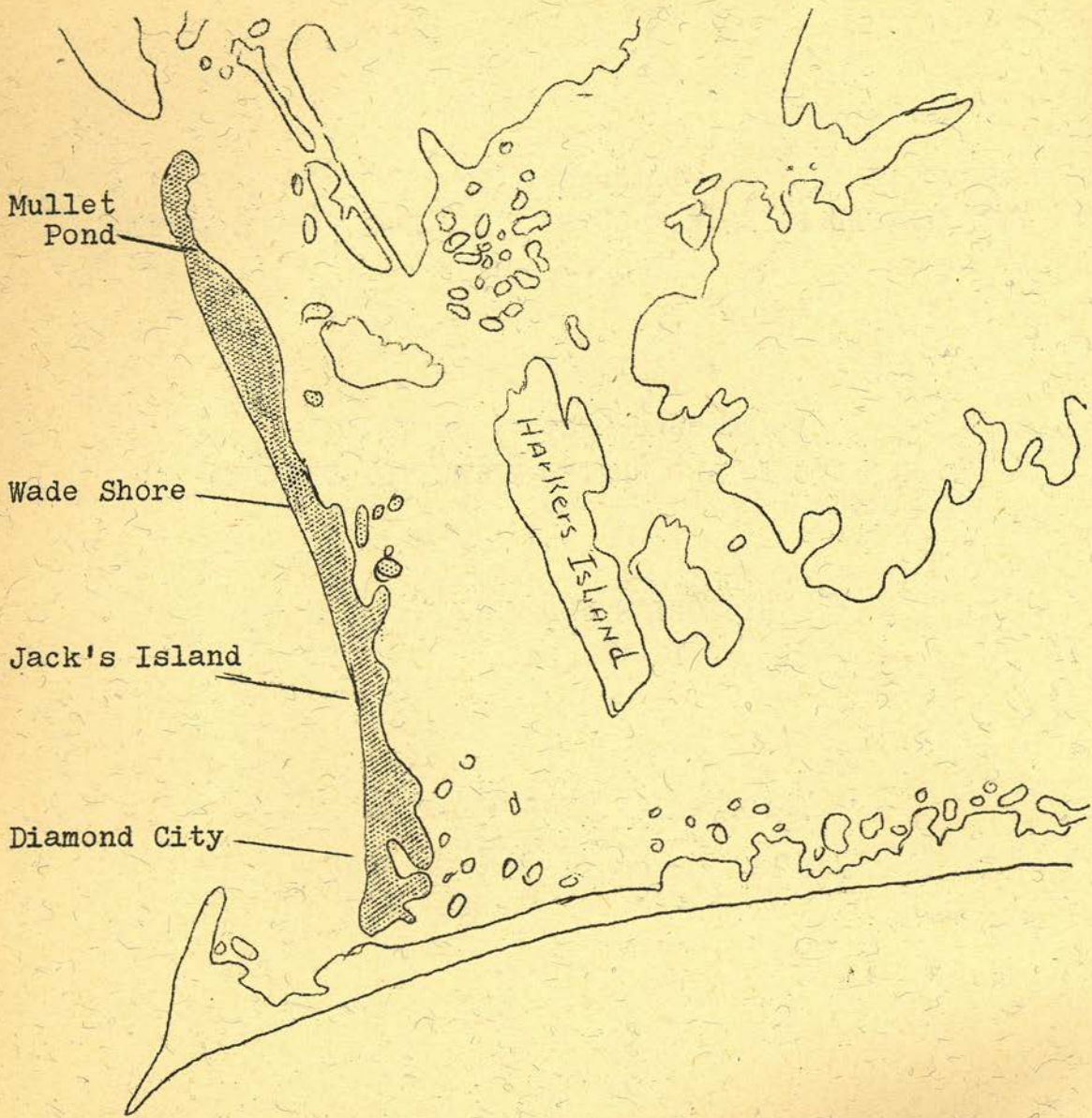
THE HARKERS ISLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Heritage Day
May 18, 1980

History of The
SHACKLEFORD BANKS METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH
1882 - 1903

Background History of The
HARKERS ISLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HISTORIAN AND EDITOR
Polly M. Davis

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM
Mr. Allen Moore
Church and Conference Records
Writer's Own Thoughts



SHACKLEFORD BANKS

THE BANKS CHURCH
1882-1903

Not only were our forefathers instrumental in establishing and carrying on the Shackelford Banks Methodist Episcopal Church South, but still today their direct descendants are involved in our present day Harkers Island United Methodist Church to continue our Lord's work. The history of Harkers Island United Methodist Church would not be complete without including the available historical facts of the Banks Church (its forerunner) because of its interest and involvement in our church of today. Therefore, these facts are being recorded that we may never forget, but hold dear to our hearts the importance of its affiliation with our church.

According to our earliest records and Mr. Allen Moore the Banks Church was in operation in 1882 and possibly earlier than this. Shackelford Banks consisted of four sections as follows: the Mullet Pond at the West End, Wade Shore, Jack's Island and Diamond City at the east end. Among those who resided in these sections were the Lewises, Moores, Guthries, Salters, Willises, Hancocks and Styrons. The church, a one room building approximately 20 x 40 feet, of wooden construction, also served as the school building. It was located about 200 yards to the east of Wade Shore, according to Mr. Allen.

I still remember the awesome feeling I experienced when my father, Aron Moore, took me to this spot and pointed out particles of brick which had been used for the foundation of his church and school. Uncle Allen recalls that approximately half way between Wade Shore and the church was located the shop, the Banks' only store, owned by Tyre Moore. Any supplies they couldn't buy there had to be bought from the mainland.

According to Mr. Allen, school was attended during the summer months. Church worship services were held monthly. At other times cottage meetings were held. There were no musical instruments. Neither were there many hymn books, one reason being that not many people could read. Therefore the preacher would read verse by verse of the hymns and then the congregation would repeat in song after him. Appointed song leaders were often used to perform this duty, especially when the preacher was absent.

The average church attendance was 20 - 30. The average Sunday School attendance was 15 - 20. Let us note here that according

to the Presiding Elder's report (Quarterly Conference) there was a work at both ends of the Banks: the Wade Shore Section Church, which we've just mentioned, and the Diamond City Section (east end) work. The Diamond City Work had no church building, but visited and worshipped with the Banks Church in the Wade Shore Section Church as they wished and were able to.

The only way to travel was by boat or on foot, so their worshipping together was hindered at times because of inclement weather. The east end work was part of the conference, but only held cottage meetings. They were held in the home of Cliff Hancock, Tom Styron, and Billy Hancock.

Records show that the Banks Church (both works) was on a four point charge as follows:

- Tabernacle, which is now Straits
- Summerfield, which is now Smyrna
- Springfield, which is now Williston
- Banks, which was Shackelford

In 1890 North River Methodist Church was also on the Charge.

Let's keep in mind our affiliation with these churches down through the years. Straits (Tabernacle when this history took place) must have been a big factor in the establishment of our own Harkers Island United Methodist Church, and all the way through to the time we became a station church.

Preachers serving the Banks Church traveled from Straits to look after the church affairs and to conduct services at the appointed time. When the preacher was not available Mr. Devine Guthrie, who was known for his long, fervent prayers, conducted funerals and served as spiritual advisor and leader for the church. According to one church report, in 1887 he was Sunday School Superintendent, Church Leader, and held services each month. In 1889 he was appointed "Local Exhorter" - One whose character has been approved. This was the first of twelve steps in becoming a preacher. His two daughters, Ollie and Frances, served as Sunday School teachers.

Other Sunday School teachers remembered by Mr. Allen were Ellie Lewis and Doll Lewis. For a period of time the Sunday School Superintendent was Mousouri Moore, daughter of Mr. Tyre Moore. Song Leaders he recalls were: Tom Arendell and Ed Willis, who moved to Morehead City when the exodus from Shackelford Banks took place.

Weddings were performed by the Magistrate, Mr. Billie Hancock of the Diamond City Section.

According to Mr. Allen and Church records, those instrumental in establishing the church were:

Devine Guthrie & Family
Alden Moore & Family
Tyre Moore & Family
Ed Moore & Family
Joe Lewis & Family
Cliff Lewis & Family
The Salter Family

Others who helped lead the church while it existed until 1903 were Hedrick Moore and Eugene Yeomans.

Spiritual hunger, need to worship and desire for Christian fellowship must have been of vital importance to the residents of Shackelford Banks. Each summer Protractive meetings (camp meetings) were held, which lasted for weeks or until the church body felt the witness that God's will had been accomplished for that particular meeting. People traveled from surrounding areas: Atlantic, Sea Level, Straits, Morehead City, and even as far away as Swansboro to attend these meetings. They traveled by Schooners, Buckeyes and Sharpies, which also provided a place to sleep when the local residents could not provide such for all who came.

Oh, how they must have been led and driven by the Holy Spirit and realized a great need in their lives to be willing to experience what they apparently did to attend these meetings. It was at Tyre Moores's place that these meetings were held. The bushes were cleared from under the trees, lanterns were hung from the trees and benches were placed to accomodate as many as possible. Food was provided in big iron pots by Mr. Tyre Moore's wife, who so willingly shared what she had with everyone as far as it would go.

There was singing, praying, preaching, shouting, praising and testimonies, which still lives on today and blesses the hearts of those who hear and receive with open hearts. Through these meetings people were saved and joined the church. Prayer meetings were held in the woods near the cemetary at times, and Uncle Allen recalls, "Voices could be heard far away singing, 'I've Anchored My Soul In The Haven Of Rest'." He also recalls that prayer meetings were attended at Straits by the Banks people.

Records show that many people whom we of the Harkers Island

United Methodist Church know and have known were affiliated with the Banks Church. Also we have records of children's baptism. In 1889 Stacy F. Guthrie, youngest son of Devine Guthrie and Furney B. Yeomans received baptism into the Banks Church.

Quarterly Conferences were held on a regular basis with the Presiding Elder traveling by boat to Shackelford when the appointed time came. When the Conference was held at one of the other charge points members of the Banks Church likewise traveled to the appointed place to represent the church.

In 1887 Mr. Eugene Yeomans was appointed delegate to District Conference. He showed much interest in the Banks Church and later was instrumental in establishing the Harkers Island Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1910. In 1890 he was granted his license to exhort.

Preachers serving the Banks as recalled by Mr. Allen, and some according to church records are as follows:

1883 - Frank B. McCall
1884 - Joseph G. Nelson
1885-88 - Edmund D. Hoover
1889-90 - F. S. Becton
1891 - George W. Starling
1892 - J. P. Pate
1893-95 - William Y. Everton
1897-98 - Thomas J. Browning
1899 - C. P. Snow
1900 - J. E. Bristowe
1901-02 - F. E. Dixon
1903 - E. H. Creel

Some interesting notes and facts concerning the budget from Church Quarterly Conference Records:

1887	-	Banks pastor's salary	-	\$30.55
1888	"	"	"	- \$ 3.00
1888	"	"	"	- \$ 2.35
1889	"	"	"	- \$23.67
1891	"	"	"	- \$13.23

The church continued to exist until 1903. Because of threatening erosion and hurricanes, the need for bigger and better schools, better transportation, more marketing, more jobs, medical facilities, and most importantly of all to have better access to places of worship the Banks residents began to move away. They resettled at

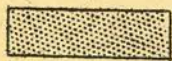
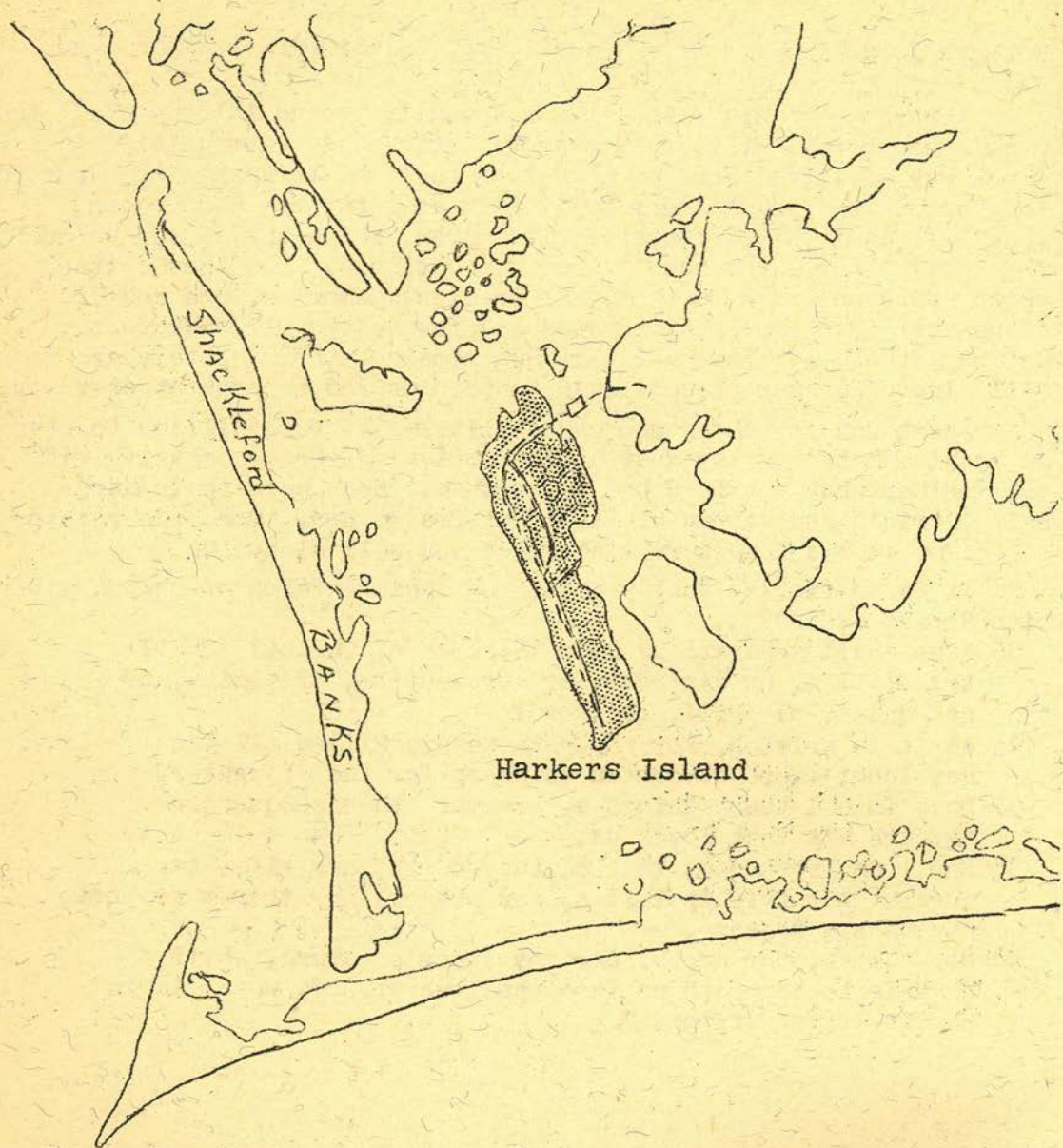
Harkers Island, Beaufort, Marshallberg, Salter Path and Morehead City.

According to Mr. Allen it was actually around 1912 when all the people had permanently moved away to their chosen communities to begin a new way of life. Some of them took their homes apart, transported them across the sound and rebuilt them on lots they had chosen. They left their birthplaces and landmarks, which they loved so much. The little church and school were discontinued. But the heritage which had been given to them, the precious memories, God and His Son Jesus Christ in whom they trusted and loved, traveled across the waters with them. This heritage has remained through the years and will always be ever present even to the end and throughout eternity.

Thank God for those who had so little yet were willing to give so much. What joy they must have experienced through sharing with one another what the Lord had given them. Many were their hardships, trials and storms of life, but Praise God, those who remained steadfast in His love were victorious and will always be.

It is so fitting that we close out this portion of church history with Romans 8:35-39

- 35 "Who shall separate us from the Love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
- 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.
- 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.
- 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
- 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."



HARKERS ISLAND

HARKERS ISLAND METHODIST CHURCH
1910 - 1960

HISTORIANS

Mrs. Donnie Davis
Mrs. Ikie Willis

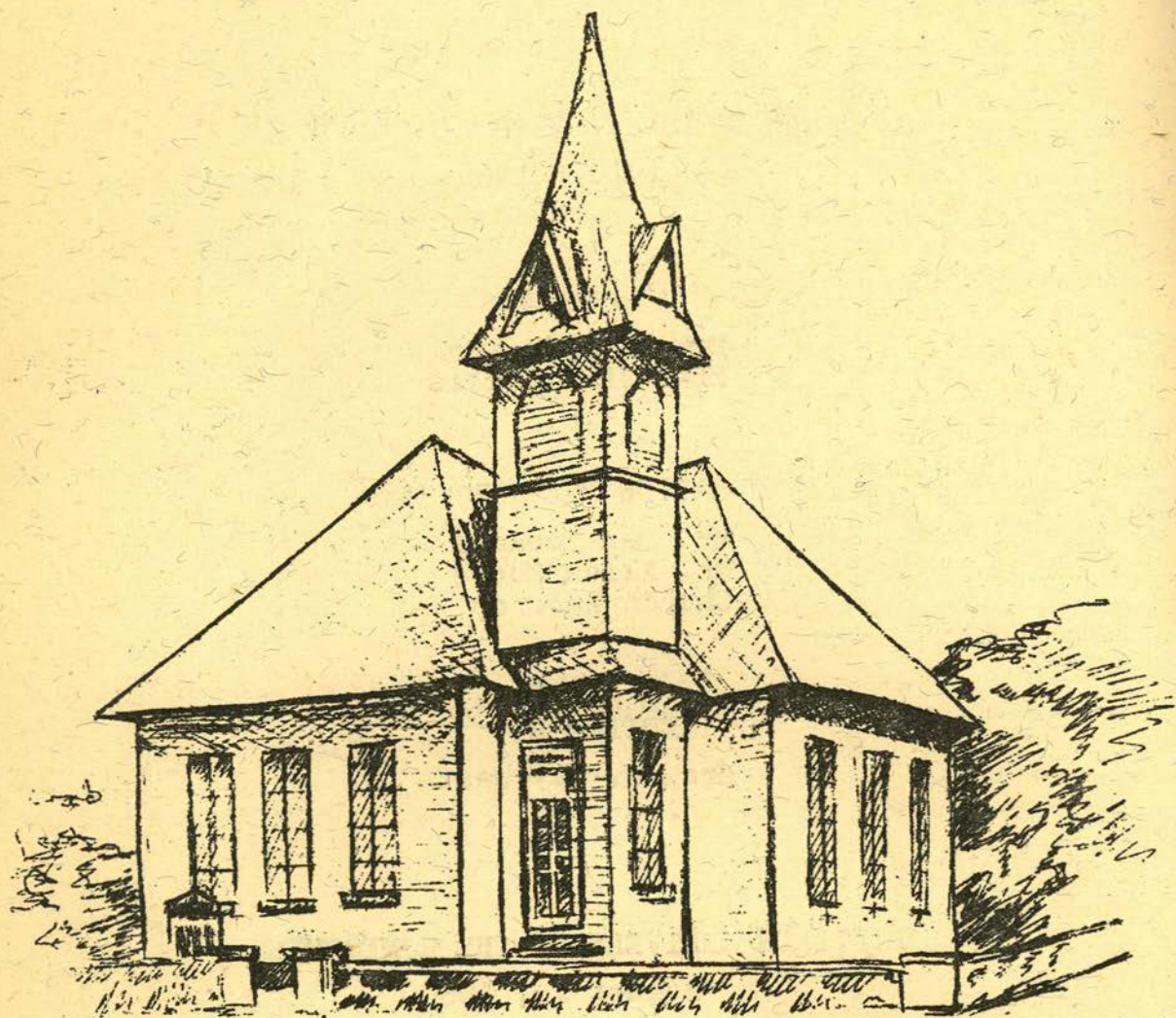
INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM

Mr. Dan Yeomans
Mr. Allen Moore
Church Records

EDITED BY

Mrs. C. Ray West

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND HOMECOMING
August 14, 1960



HARKERS ISLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
before remodeling in 1977

HARKERS ISLAND METHODIST CHURCH
1910 - 1960

The deepest longings of man's heart led him to establish a place of worship. Whether it be an altar as Abraham erected or the most elaborate building; to the worshipper it is a place to worship God according to the dictates of his heart.

So it was with the early residents of Harkers Island. They realized that the survival of a community depended upon the establishment of places of worship. Even though the Northern Methodist Church had already been organized, some of the early settlers felt the need of a Southern Methodist Church.

In 1887, before the Southern Methodist Church was organized as a church, meetings were held in Mr. Eugene Yeomans' home at Harkers Point (the west end of the Island). Mr. Yeomans visited the Straits Methodist Church and was encouraged by the pastor, Mr. Trotman, to begin making some concrete plans to organize a Southern Methodist Church on Harkers Island.

The first worship services were held in "Miss Bell's Old Schoolhouse" in 1905. Mr. Trotman held services one Sunday afternoon each month. He was transported to and from the Island by boat, which was manned by one of the Island men.

Mr. Joe Carraway and Mr. Becton were two of the Conference Appointed preachers during the "Schoolhouse" days.

Feeling the need for a permanent church building, Mr. Eugene Yeomans led in establishing a building fund for the Harkers Island Southern Methodist Church in 1910. Eighty four dollars was raised in the first effort --- \$50.00 being contributed by Mr. Charlie Wallace of Morehead City.

Although \$84.00 was the only capital the little group had, their determination led them in the building program of their first church. The men donated their time and skill. Mr. Curtis Davis was the only paid laborer. He worked as "Boss Carpenter" for \$2.00 a day from sun to sun. Lumber was brought to the Island by boat and the men carried it to the building site.

Because the majority of the people lived at the west end of the Island and had difficulty getting to "Miss Bell's Schoolhouse" (located on the east end), the church was built near the center of the

Island.

The first Conference appointed pastor to the new church was Mr. N. B. Strickland, who was on the Straits, Williston, Harkers Island and Smyrna Charge. Services were held Saturday night, Sunday morning and Sunday night once a month. The membership was approximately 25 and the first annual budget was \$105.00 -- including Conference Benevolences, Pastor's salary, etc.

The Sunday School at that time had an average attendance of 30. The first Sunday School offering was 83¢. Mr. Allen Moore was the first Sunday School Superintendent in the new building. He served in that capacity 25 years. Others who have served in that capacity since 1935 are: Mr. Joe Davis, Mr. Paul Lewis, and Mr. David Yeomans, present Superintendent.

The first revival was led by Mr. A. B. Crumpler, assisted by the pastor. During the meeting a group who had moved from Shackelford Banks united with the Harkers Island Southern Methodist Church. They were: John Tom Salter and wife, Cordelia; Hedrick Moore and wife, Charlotte; Luther Guthrie and wife, Dollie; Lillie Larson; Thomas Styron; and Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Guthrie.

The church building was never completed, for on September 7, 1913 it was blown down by hurricane winds. Undaunted by the loss, the little group renewed their efforts. Construction began again two weeks latter.

When the re-construction was begun Mr. Humble was serving as pastor. He had been residing at the Straits Parsonage, but realizing the need for being "on the site" during the building program, he moved to Harkers Island. While on the Island he boarded in the home of Mr. Hedrick Moore. Mr. Humble not only preached but helped with the actual construction of the building. It was at Mr. Humble's suggestion that the church was built with an elevated floor. In addition to preaching and carpentering at Harkers Island he held services at Straits, Williston and Smyrna.

Services were resumed in 1914. The pastors who served from 1914 to 1935 were: Mr. Humble, Mr. Hocutt, Mr. Bell, Mr. Culbreth, Mr. Barfield, Mr. Stack, Mr. Glass, Mr. Jackson, Mr. McNear, Mr. Smith and Mr. Freeman.

(During this period of time until Unification in 1939, there

was a Methodist Episcopal Church South called the Southern Methodist, and a Methodist Episcopal Church, called the Northern Methodist on Harkers Island. The northern church was the older of the two.

In 1928, Rev. Carl A. Johnson was sent to serve as pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church North. He with his saintly wife, Lillian, and two young children, Wellman and Dora, came from the Salter Path Church, where he had served as pastor since 1926. Before the Salter Path appointment, the Johnsons had lived in Ronda, North Carolina, where they served the Lord in their home church and in at least one other pastorate. In those days especially, this was considered a long way to travel and was an extremely difficult locality and environment, but this didn't hinder the Johnsons. Doing the Lord's work took first place in their lives.

Even after his pastorate was completed, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson remained and lived here until their earthly journey was completed. Two other children, Doremus and Ella were born to them. In 1939, when unification took place, they continued to be very active in the Methodist Church. He served as supply pastor, Sunday School teacher, did carpentry work, janitorial duties and many other positions too numerous to name. She likewise was a great worker, wonderful speaker, teacher and leader. She served as church treasurer for many years.

We like to think of the Johnsons not only as pastor and wife, but also great missionaries. They truly loved Jesus and His church and were willing to serve in any capacity necessary to help carry on His work. No task was too big or too small for them. They loved people and served them well. They were known and loved for their generosity and compassion for others. In Oct. 1957, they moved out of their home into their daughter's home to provide a place for my family and me to live while our home was being built. I can never forget that act of love and kindness.

Their lives blessed and influenced all whom they touched, because their desire was to do the will of God and let Jesus live through them. Mr. Johnson completed his earthly journey Aug. 16, 1966. Mrs. Johnson completed her earthly journey Aug. 15, 1974. They were loved and will always be remembered and respected for their contribution to this church and community. Thank the Lord for sending to us the Johnsons.)¹

1. 1980 addition to the record by Polly M. Davis

Some time before 1935 the Ladies' Aid (now known as the Woman's Society of Christian Service) and the Epworth League (now known as the Methodist Youth Fellowship) were organized in the new church.

(When thinking of our Women's work and the youth of our church during the 30's and 40's, I readily think of Mrs. Jeanette Willis, known to so many as Aunt Jeanette. She was a good leader and was very active in the Ladies' Aid, but if we were to give her a title which would fit her most, it would be "The Greatest Program Leader." She was especially good at working with children in these programs. Oh, how she loved to work at producing and managing these, especially at Christmas time. She practiced long and hard, and then spent many hours at night cutting out and sewing up costumes to make the programs (plays, drills, etc.) more meaningful and more enjoyable. In those days we didn't have electric, gas or forced air heat to warm our church. We had a big tall wood stove. When time came to practice or use the church for any purpose, whoever could and would brought fire wood from their wood piles to keep the fire going. This was our only heat.

Aunt Jeanette loved her work, was serious about it and expected others to do the same. She was willing to give of her time, talent and whatever means she had. Looking forward to one of her programs was always a delight for everyone. She completed her earthly journey in 1956. We will always be grateful to our Lord for Aunt Jeanette for her many faithful years of service to Him and His church)²

Between 1935 and 1939 Mr. Hill and Mr. Matheson of the Atlantic Charge served the Straits Charge.

(When I think of Mr. Matheson and his wife Rachel, I recall the interest they took in the musical ability of the children. Music has always played an important part in the ministry of our church. God has always blessed us with musically talented people, even young children, to enable our church in carrying on its mission. The Mathesons recognized this talent and worked diligently with our children during his pastorate here. On one occasion, around 1938, they

2. 1980 addition to the record by Polly M. Davis

took a group of young children, approximate ages 8 - 13 yrs, to Raleigh, N. C. to sing on a children's radio program. In that day Raleigh was really some place to go, and to have an opportunity to sing on the radio was an accomplishment.)³

(Another precious one who comes to mind of this period of time is Mr. Joe Davis, husband of Mrs. Sallie Davis. In my opinion Mr. Joe was one of the most saintly men I have ever known. He had a quiet, gentle way about him that spoke loud and clear of his love for God and His Church. He served as Sunday School Superintendent, ushered and was always busy working for our Lord Jesus. His daughter Elva Mae recalls how on Sunday morning she and her father would carry wood, coal and kerosene (whatever they could afford) to the church to build a fire for Sunday School. In those days they had to walk, which didn't make the burden any lighter.)⁴

During the 1939 unification of the Methodist Churches, Mr. Walter Pavey was sent by the Conference to unite the Southern and Northern Methodist Churches of Harkers Island. The pastor resided in the Parsonage owned by the Northern Methodist Church and he alternated services between the two churches until they were officially united. Because of a conflict of ideas the church was weakened, and many of the members withdrew.

Mr. Cecil Harris was appointed in 1940. He resided in the Parsonage which previously had been owned by the Northern Methodist Church. Services were now being held in the present church building, formerly known as the Southern Methodist Church. A short time later the Harkers Island Methodist Church went on a Four-Point Charge -- Straits, Williston, Harkers Island and Smyrna. The pastor resided at the Straits Methodist Church Parsonage. The Northern Methodist Church building and parsonage were sold by the Methodist Conference.

During 1944 the program was curtailed due to the lack of manpower. Many of the preachers and young men went into the services of their country. For this period of time the Marshallberg pastor, Mr. H. G. Cuthrell, preached two Sunday afternoons a month.

(The late 30's through the early 40's were difficult years and no less so with the finances of the church. There's one who comes to

3. 1980 addition to the record by Polly M. Davis

4. 1980 addition to the record by Polly M. Davis

mind at this time, Mr. McKinley Lewis, who was faithful and instrumental in helping the church meet its budget. He is remembered as a wonderful leader who loved the Lord, his church, and was always willing to dig a little deeper (in his own pocket) to help the church meet its obligations. He completed his earthly journey in 1956. We thank God for his concern and unselfish love for the Lord and His work)⁵

In 1945 the Four-Point Charge was resumed and the Conference appointed Mr. Bromley, who served for one year.

Mr. H. L. Harrell assumed his duties in 1946. Under his leadership the church launched a building program -- remodeling and altering the interior of the sanctuary and building additional Sunday School rooms.

(Before building these additional Sunday School rooms we only had the sanctuary and annex (same floor space as today), which was also used as a Sunday School room. The annex could be closed off with drop type doors, which made it possible to use it for suppers or any event other than worship services.

Mr. Harrell was very interested in the Methodist Youth Fellowship, worked well with it, and was most supportive to our counselors and youth leaders. He drove his car on many occasions to sub-district meetings with as many as eleven in his car at one time. In 1947 he drove two of our youth members to Louisburg College to attend a session of the Louisburg Youth Assembly. When the session was over he drove back to bring them home. It was well known that Mr. Harrell had a deep love and concern for this church.)⁶

Mr. A. C. Regan served from 1951 to 1953.

Mr. D. M. Tyson followed Mr. Regan and served until 1956. (The most significant thing I remember about Rev. Tyson's pastorate here were the wonderful revivals we had. Our church had always held occasional revival meetings and benefitted by them. As I recall, we began having them more frequently during this period of time. Rev. Tommy Tyson was one of the most outstanding evangelists who came and preached during at least one of these revivals. These services brought about more spiritual hunger, soul searching, a spiritual

5. 1980 addition to the record by Polly M. Davis

6. 1980 addition to the record by Polly M. Davis

awakening, openness and awareness to the working of the Holy Spirit. The spiritual life of our church began to grow and deepen. Therefore, the church began to grow and has increased in its ministry, especially in its mission of soul winning.)⁷

In 1956 the Four Point Charge was divided into two charges, each two-point: Harkers Island and Straits; Williston and Smyrna. Mr. H. E. Gibat was appointed and served until 1958.

Our present pastor, Mr. C. Ray West, was appointed in 1958. Under his leadership the work has progressed considerably. The building to the right of the church building was leased from the Carteret County School Board in 1959 for additional Sunday School space. The present church membership is 111 with an annual budget of approximately \$4,500.00. We have a growing Sunday School; active Men's Club, W. S. C. S., M. Y. F., Adult and Girls' Choir, and a Boys' Choir which has recently been organized.

Many others, whose names are not mentioned in this report, have aided the growth of our church: The Sunday School Teachers, Officers of the Sunday School, and members of the church, Methodist Men's Club, Women's Society of Christian Service, Methodist Youth Fellowship, Members of the Choir, Pianists, and the many voluntary gifts of time, talents, and material possessions -- all have played a most important part in the spiritual growth of our church. Although we cannot possibly record all the names of those who have served, we are indeed grateful for the great and lasting good that each has contributed in his or her own way.

Above all we give thanks to God for sending us His Son, Jesus, who is the head and founder of our church, and to whom we give all honor and praise forever.

7. 1980 addition by Polly M. Davis

A History of The
HARKERS ISLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - UPDATED
1960 - 1976

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM

Church Records
Members of Church
Writer's Own Thoughts

SUBMITTED BY:

Edna W. Davis
Member of Harkers Island United Methodist Church

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

July 4, 1976

On July 20, 1964, the Official Board appointed Mrs. Polly Davis Choir Director and she served faithfully until April 25, 1976, with the exception of 9 months due to illness in her family at which time Beverly Johnson served for her. On April 25, 1976, Beverly Johnson was appointed Choir Director and continues to serve at present. We have been blessed through the years with musicians. Mrs. Marguerite Yeomans served faithfully for years as church pianist until her health would no longer permit. In 1958 and 1959 Mr. Frank Moore played for the Sunday School. In 1960 Frank was encouraged to put his talent in full service for the Lord, and he has been a faithful servant rendering his talent unto the Lord for the past 16 years. In 1960-1964 Bobbie West also assisted as pianist. Mrs. Ruth Paylor, who had been assisting in the children's choir up to 1967, became the church pianist. Ruth's music has blessed us and she has served in this capacity now for approximately 8 years.

The choir has witnessed not only here at home, but also in the surrounding communities and counties and has sent several young people, now living in other areas, who continue to witness through the ministry of music in other churches. At present, choir membership is 20.

Rev. West served as pastor until June, 1964. Rev. Robert Randalls served as pastor from 1964 to 1965.

On Nov. 17, 1965, two committees were appointed to look into the possibility of purchasing an organ for the church. On Jan. 19, 1966 it was decided that this project should be tabled due to financial reasons.

On October 19, 1967 a new organ was delivered to the church. This organ was presented to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Kaylor of Wilmington in memory of their son, Jimmy Kaylor. The first service with the new organ was October 22, 1967, and the dedication was on Nov. 12, 1967. Mrs. Marguerite Yeomans played the organ for the dedication. Frank Moore became church organist. The organ has been a blessing to our church and has added much to our worship services.

From 1965-1966 Rev. G. E. Hawkins served as pastor.

From 1966-1967 Rev. Robert C. Reynolds served as pastor.

June 29, 1966 - Sue Lewis was appointed Church Treasurer and Sec. to the official Board, and continues to serve at present time.

Aug. 6, 1966 - Mr. C. A. Johnson, Supply Pastor, completed his earthly journey.

1967-1971 - Rev. Ralph M. Hill served as pastor.

Aug. 20, 1967 - The Church, the Educational Building and the parsonage were connected to Harkers Island's new water system.

1968 - The church became Harkers Island United Methodist Church.

1969 - The Women's Society of Christian Service was changed to The United Methodist Women.

June 1969 - There is no longer an Official Board, it is now to be called The Administrative Board.

In 1959, under Rev. West's leadership, we began making plans for Sunday School space and looking toward the day when a new sanctuary could be constructed. With the building of the parsonage the church building program appeared to have been tabled until 1969, when, under the leadership of Rev. Hill, we again started talk of a building program. Committees were elected and a drive to raise money was started. At the March 2, 1970 Administrative Board meeting plans began to take shape. In June, 1970 Louise Guthrie was appointed Church Bldg. Fund Treasurer. In Sept. 1970 the Bldg. Committee voted to build a new church. In Nov. 1970 a committee was appointed to see about the Alfred Moore home on the tract of land which the church owned, making way for the new church building.

June 1971 - Aug. 1971 - Dr. Glover became our pastor and served for three months.

The Lord, knowing the needs of our church, sent us a young, dedicated Christian family. On Oct. 1, 1971 Rev. Wallace Lewis became Pastor and continues to serve at the present time. Under his ministry the church has gone forward both spiritually and financially. God used Rev. Lewis as an instrument in bringing many young adults, especially young men, to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. One of these couples, Sherman and Cora Guthrie, are going into full time Christian service. God was about ready for us to begin our church building program and He knew we would need young men, so He raised them up. God's timing is always right.

July 1972 - The Conference Building Committee met with our local building committee.

July 15, 1973 - Administrative Board Meeting - Discussed the run down condition of the church. We decided that the outside of the church should be painted. The church purchased the paint and men and women of the church accomplished this task during the summer.

July 20, 1973 - Administrative Board Meeting - Rev. Lewis brought before the board that members of the church had stated that they would rather remodel than try to build a new church. A committee was formed to look into remodeling. Nov. 4, 1973 - Administrative Board Meeting - The decision to remodel instead of build a new church was voted on and the motion carried to remodel.

Nov. 18, 1973 - The church honored our Senior Citizens on this date with a special afternoon service. Since that date Mrs. Lillian Johnson, Mrs. Carrie Guthrie and Mr. Stacy Guthrie have completed their earthly journey.

June 30, 1974 - Final plan of the church's building program was in the hands of conference for approval.

Feb. 3, 1975 - Louise Guthrie resigned as treasurer of the building committee and Natalie Johnson was appointed.

April 17, 1975 - The church conference accepted the plans and the financing of the building program. The church is to sell bonds to finance the building project.

April 20, 1975 - Administrative Board decided each year the church would give Bibles with the name engraved to each graduate from the church.

May 15, 1975 - A bond drive was started and a total of \$46,000.00 was sold to help finance the building program.

July 24, 1975 - After 16 years of much discussing and planning, on this date our church building program became a reality. We began tearing down the back part of the church and the program was underway. We had approximately \$92,000.00 in the building fund. This was from pledges, gifts, bond sale, Duke Endowment and Board of Missions. As we look around today we can see how God has blessed us. Our men have donated approximately 75% of the labor. We have not completed our church, but if we continue to be obedient unto the Lord and put our faith and trust in Him, in His time it will be completed.

May 17, 1976 - We purchased the property on the east side of the church from the Board of Education so that future generations might have room for expansion when necessary.

We have an active Jr. and Sr. Methodist Youth Fellowship, Methodist Women and Men's Club and Sunday School. Our average attendance in Sunday School is 103. Our total church membership is 153. Budget for Harkers Island United Methodist Church for Jan 1, 1976

through Dec. 31, 1976 is \$20,480.65. Including building fund obligations of \$9,181.12, our total yearly budget is \$29,661.77.

Many, whose names are not mentioned in this record, have aided the growth of our church. All have played a most important part in the spiritual growth of our church, and as a family of God we are indeed grateful for the great and lasting good that each has contributed in his or her own way.

Yes, God had a plan for the Harkers Island United Methodist Church and He put it into existence in 1875 and, in looking back, we can see how He has blessed us and met our every need, and how He continues to do so. The theme for the N. C. Methodist Conference Bicentennial Celebration on April 3, 1976 was "On the Way." Truly, we are just wayfaring pilgrims on a sojourn who have not yet arrived, but who are on our way. One hundred years from today we will have completed our journey. Our prayer is that this church will continue to shine forth as a beacon unto those who are lost and in darkness.

I would like to end on the same note as the 1960 record: Above all, we give thanks to God for sending us His Son, Jesus, who is the head and founder of our church and to whom we give all honor and praise forever.

A History of The
HARKERS ISLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - UPDATED
July 5, 1976 - May 18, 1980

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM
Church Records
Writer's Own Thoughts

SUBMITTED BY
Polly M. Davis
Member of Harkers Island United Methodist Church

HARKERS ISLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1976-1980

As we come together to celebrate "Heritage Day" let us remember how great our Christian heritage is. Also let us remember those who worked, prayed, gave of their time and financial means, sacrificed and stood the test of time to make it all possible. Thank God that there was always that remnant who were willing to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, whatever the cost. This is our heritage. But most importantly, let's not forget the greatest reason of all for our great Christian heritage, which is what God did for us when He gave his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who was willing to give Himself completely and unconditionally for us. The price He paid when He went to the cross for you and me is the theme of our great heritage.

Today, May 18, 1980, commemorates our church's 70th year in our Lord's service. In order to learn more of the historical facts of our church, let us start where we left off in 1976 and continue through today.

Our church was completed with carpet and pews installed by March 12, 1977. Our first worship service was held on March 13, 1977. We were so pleased and grateful that Rev. Wallace Lewis was able to see the building program completed and conduct the first worship service in our beautiful sanctuary. His sermon topic was "The Way of Life." We thank God for sending him to lead us through such trying and difficult times as a building program can create. He continued his pastorate with us to June, 1977.

The completion of our building program was surely one of the most glorious and wonderful occasions in the history of our church. This day represented much planning, work, giving and praying. Let us remember the many, too numerous to name, who did so much to help with the many phases of work - those who gave of their means and those who offered their prayers and encouragement to make it all a reality. I have to acknowledge that it was miraculous that so much was accomplished all the way through the program, especially the last few months before completion. The men worked long and hard to keep labor costs at a minimum. The women, with the help of the Lord, through projects and giving, largely paid for all the carpeting and floor covering throughout all the building. Stained glass windows, light fixtures, pews, the cross on the front of the church (outside wall) and the cross on the interior wall (over the choir) were donated.

Shortly after completion of the church a new piano was purchased for the sanctuary. By June 13, 1977 around \$1,900.00 worth of furniture for the parsonage was purchased. A new kitchen range was provided by the women collecting S&H Green Stamps. With all these added expenses and an already sizable budget, our church has always been and has continued to be a caring and giving church. By this I mean a social concern for those in our community and church who have financial needs from time to time.

In Nehemiah 4:6 we read, "So built we the wallfor the people had a mind to work." So it was with the Harkers Island United Methodist Church. We thank God for His wonderful love, mercy and grace, which made it all possible. With Him all things are possible.

Rev. George Eubanks served as Pastor from 1977 - 1979.

Rev. Robert MacLean followed Rev. Eubanks and continues to serve.

Due to illness Sue Lewis who served as Church Treasurer and Secretary to the Administrative Board since June 29, 1966 resigned Dec. 31, 1978. A special day called "Sue Lewis Day" was celebrated in honor of her and her many years of faithful service.

Wanda Willis was appointed as Church Treasurer and Secretary to the Administrative Board on Jan. 1, 1979 and is now serving.

June 1979 Rev. Sherman Guthrie received his appointment to serve as pastor of the Perkins United Methodist Church at Shawboro, North Carolina. Sherman received his call to preach the Gospel during Wallace Lewis' ministry here. He has prepared and waited patiently for this moment. We miss Sherman, Cora and their two wonderful children. They were such a blessing to our church family. Sherman played the guitar. His daughter, Wendy, played the violin along with two others, Angela Moore and Adrienne Willis.

We praise God for raising up such a spirit filled couple as Sherman and Cora, and for their willingness to yield and surrender their all to Jesus, that they could go out into the field so white with harvest as laborers together. I understand they are doing a good work and that God is using them in a marvelous way. Let's not forget to lift them up in our prayers.

Our choir is still active and carrying on a great ministry of music, not only in our church but in other churches in the surrounding areas. The Lord is using us in a marvelous way to witness for Him through this ministry. Donny Brooks with his bass guitar joined

our musical staff in late 1978. He has added so much to our music ministry. Craig Paylor adds a beautiful touch to our musical instruments when, on occasion, he plays his guitar.

In April 1979 two amplifiers and microphones were added to our musical department and have greatly improved the quality and sound of our music. Beverly Johnson resigned as Choir Director, effective April 6, 1980. She gave approximately four years of successful service. Polly Davis followed Beverly as Choir Director, effective April 7, 1980, and is now serving. Recently a youth choir has been organized under the direction of Beverly Johnson, and Ruth Paylor at the piano. The youth group is good and such a blessing to us. Ruth Paylor at the piano and Frank Moore at the organ are continuing to serve the church with their music. We are grateful to God for blessing our church with such a ministry of music, and for each member who is a part of it.

In 1979 several outstanding events took place in our church as follows: May 26-27 - Weekend Church Wide Family Retreat at Camp Don Lee.

Oct. 20-21 - Special day of food, fellowship and entertainment for the residents of Sea Level Extended Care Facility. This was hosted by our church, but co-sponsored by four participating ministers and their churches of the Harkers Island Ministerial Association, which was organized in 1979. Those participating were as follows:

Refuge Fellowship Church
United Methodist Church
Free Grace Wesleyan Church
Huggins Memorial Baptist Church

There was a uniting spirit between these churches which was enjoyed and made the occasion a wonderful one. Our thanks to Edna Davis, Chairperson of the Council on Ministries, who coordinated the event and worked with the Extended Care residents to make this special day possible. Let me add here that through the efforts of the Harkers Island Ministerial Association much is being done to unite the churches of our community. Among those efforts are (1) Thanksgiving Union Services and (2) quarterly Sunday night Union services with all four participating churches involved.

The program of our church has continued to expand over the years. Besides our regular worship services, prayer services, youth meetings, Sunday School, Women's and Men's meetings we carry on the following:

Third Sunday Night - Family Night Program

Fourth Sunday Night - Song Service with choirs participating

On Sept. 19-20, 1979 - A Weekend Rally Round the Church program involving all ages. This was sponsored by the Council on Ministries.

Oct. 20, 1979, a church album titled, "Lest We Forget," was presented to the church. It was arranged with photos of those of our church family who have completed their earthly journey. Our intentions are to continue this project and add to it as necessary.

We are so happy to report that, after several years of declining interest, our United Methodist Men's Club was reorganized with much enthusiasm March 1, 1980. Also, we have an active Jr. and Sr. United Methodist Youth Fellowship, Methodist Women's organization and Sunday School. One of the 1980 highlights was when our church hosted the Spring Subdistrict Meeting of United Methodist Women on March 11. Approximately 200 women attended.

Sunday School Superintendents serving since 1960 are as follows;

1962-1965 - David Yeomans	1975 - Reis Johnson
1966-1968 - Elbert Lee Davis	1976-1977 - Paul Lewis
1968-1971 - Fernie Willis	1978 - Sherman Guthrie
1971-1973 - Donnie Davis	1979 to present - Donnie Davis
1974 - Sherman Guthrie	

Our Sunday School enrollment is 130, with an average attendance of 90 - 100. Our total church membership is 169. Our budget for Jan 1, 1979 through Dec. 31, 1979 (including the building fund report) was \$31,324.00. Our approximate projected budget for Jan. 1, 1980 through Dec. 31, 1980 (including the building fund) is \$34,724.00.

The Membership Record is as follows:

1940 - Members on the Methodist Church Roll -----	45
(transferred from M. E. South roll)	
1946-1950 - H. L. Harrell, pastor. Members added --	13
1952-1956 - D. M. Tyson, " " " --	7
1956-1958 - Henry Gibat, " " " --	24
1959-1964 - C. Ray West, " " " --	24
1964-1965 - Robert Randalls, " " " --	3
1965-1966 - George Hawkins, " " " --	1
1966-1967 - Robert Reynolds, " " " --	2
1967-1971 - Ralph Hill, " " " --	47
1971-1977 - Wallace Lewis, " " " --	35
1977-1979 - George Eubanks, " " " --	16

1979-present - Robert MacLean, pastor. Members added --	6
	<hr/> 223
1940-April 28, 1980 - Deaths and transfers	54
April 28, 1980 - Total on Roll	<hr/> 169

Oh how good Jesus is and has been to us. How wonderful and powerful His sweet Holy Spirit is. Truly we've had our weak and trying periods over the years, but thank God for the mountain top experiences He has given us. I recall over the last four years at least ten have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. A number of these have been baptized in His Holy Spirit, adding power and strength not only to these individuals but to the whole church. These are still serving the Lord and have remained faithful to the church. There is a warm, sweet spiritual atmosphere in our church family presently, and I am expecting great things to happen.

Many special days have been observed. Many happy moments have been experienced and enjoyed. Also many unhappy situations and storms of life have been endured. But, Praise God, because of His wonderful love which never fails the Harkers Island United Methodist Church is victorious in Jesus, and is still that beacon which shines forth into a world of darkness.

So let us conclude this history with Psalm 105:1-5

"O give thanks unto the Lord; call
Upon His name; make known His
Deeds among the people.
Sing unto Him, sing psalms unto Him;
Talk ye of all His wondrous works.
Glory ye in His holy name; let the
Heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.
Seek the Lord, and His strength: seek
His face evermore.
Remember His marvelous works that
He hath done: His wonders, and the judgements
Of His mouth."