

A BICENNTEENIAL BOOKLET 1776 - 1976

HAW RIVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Presented as a memorial to all of those members who have labored in the Haw River United Methodist Church, and in honor of those who are yet working.

A debt of thanks is owed to the past ministers who made history and helped to compile this material. Also, to Mrs. Wolfe Sandra Ray who did the typing, and to Miss Cleora Cates who gathered material from the ministries of Rev. Capps and Rev. Rogers. Finally, to Mrs. Betty Pendergraph, Mrs. Jean Bowman, Mrs. Ruby Montgomery, and Mrs. Patsy Turner who helped with the assembling.

HISTORY - HAW RIVER METHODIST CHURCH

The life story of a church is the life story of people as well. The story must therefore, be related to the history of the community. It must tell something about the life of the families and individuals whose spiritual and financial contributions made the church possible.

Accordingly, a "Look into the Past" is necessary if one is to appreciate fully the rich history of the Haw River Methodist Church. It seems appropriate to say in the beginning that this church was established as a Methodist Protestant Church, and remained such until Methodist Union came in 1939 when the Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Protestant Church, and the M.E. Church, South, were merged into The Methodist Church.

The hill on which our church is now located has always played an important part in the lives of the inhabitants in this area. It is said that the indians used this area to cross the river and to camp nearby when delays were necessary. Long before our churches acquired the land and built the first little church, this ground was used as a meeting place for public gatherings. At one time there was a Bush Arbor built for some protection from the weather and was used during many of these gatherings. It was in one of these arbors that the White Pilgrim, Joseph Thomas, preached his first sermon. He went on to be a great preacher, and the Haw River Christian Church has dedicated a memorial window in his memory.

When Mr. Adam Trollinger came to this country from Germany and settled near here, he operated a grist mill near this Haw River crossing, which became the hub of activity. He picked a spot west of Haw River Crossing which was known then as "Walnut Grove" to be used for a family burial ground. This area is still located here and is enclosed by a granite wall. ~~A member of the Duke family, who was formerly a Miss Roney,~~ ^{Mrs. Artelia Roney, the mother of Benjamin Duke and James Buchanan Duke} is buried here, and the Duke Foundation, and the descendants of the Trollinger family have responsibility for the upkeep. The two churches which now make up the Haw River Methodist Church were located on the north and south sides of the graveyard. Around the year of 1870-72, Mr. Adolphus Moore and ^{Mr. Thomas M. Holt} ~~Governor Holt~~ built a one-room building for public gatherings, which was located on or near the site where the Methodist Church now stands. This building was used for a school, union church services, and other public gatherings. This building withstood a slight earthquake and a severe hail storm which occurred in the spring and fall of the year of 1886. The hail storm occurred about the time school was being turned out, but there were no serious injuries. The hail was the size of a hen egg. This information was received from those who are living in the community and were here at that time.

window in memory of organized by Rev. J.H. Cox & H.M. Ray

All of the churches in Haw River used this building to organize the denominations which are now active in the community. The Methodist Protestant Church was in the process of organizing and purchasing land in the year ~~1888~~ ⁽¹⁸⁸³⁾. The land was deeded by Thomas M. Holt and Louise Holt. Following some time thereafter, the Haw River Baptist Church was organized. Then, on November 30, 1894, Holt's Chapel M.E. Church South acquired land from the Granite Manufacturing Company and started their organization. The Haw River Christian Church was organized also in the same building.

Thomas M. Holt who had become Governor of North Carolina in 1891?

C.W. Hunt, a minister at Burlington, came to Haw River and organized Holt's Chapel M.E. Church South in the year 1895. *The church was named in honor of L.E. Thompson who was appointed as the first minister and served here two years. The first official church board consisted* of: A.K. Roney, George W. Anthony, C.W. Hunt, C.A. Bray, and J.H. Flaherty. These were the trustees. The church's first organist was Mrs. Jennie Walker Noble.

pump

Some of the charter members were: Mrs. Della Ray, Mrs. Lessie Pope, Mrs. Ida Teater, Mrs. Tina Tew, Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. S.A. Vest, Mr. and Mrs. A.K. Roney, Miss Jennie E. Walker, Mrs. Malinda Whitsell, Miss Betty Ware, Mrs. Dora Purcell, C.A. Bray, J.H. Flaherty.

~~The Methodist Protestant Church had some trouble in getting its land problem worked out. The group bought land at two different spots before proper church site could be decided upon. This land was purchased from Governor Thomas Holt and his wife, Louise, in the year 1888, and the Granite Manufacturing Company in 1897 and 1901. The Holt property was deeded to the following trustees: Sandy W. Hughes, J.C. Kilbert, H.M. Ray, E.R. Overcash, S.D. Holt.~~

Information of the early growth of the two Methodist Churches which later became the Haw River Methodist Church is sketchy. The Holt's Chapel Methodist Church was the larger of the two. However, names of outstanding members have been difficult to locate. The names that are available were influential in the progress of the churches. Some of those who gave to the church more than 20 years of active service in all official departments were: K.B. Williamson, J.M. Murry, Charles L. Reid, Guy W. Crutchfield, Miss Thelma Cates, Mrs. Clara Thompson, John W. Thompson, O.L. Jones, W.H. Huffstetler, J. Hunter Jones, Janie Smith, Mrs. Maude Perry, Del Freeland, Mrs. W.E. McCracken, and Bertie Montgomery.

Nell Bullard taught ladies class

taught children

*Espa Bullard
(Treasurer M.P.'s)*

The two churches, whose members totalled about 36 in the beginning and gradually grew over the many years, now has a membership of 440 in the combined church. The churches had its ups and downs as many church whose history is long.

*J. Madison McClure
Monroe Woods
L. Preston Kimrey*

Fires damaged both of the churches. Holt's Chapel fire, which occurred in 1923, did not destroy the building, and its members were able to repair the damage. The Protestant church was destroyed twice by fire, one in the year of 1890 and again in 1922. A brick structure was built at this time, and this part of the church is still being used today by the Haw River Methodist Church. Those who served on the building committee who directed the remodeling and rebuilding were for the Protestant church: Rev. Morgan, Tom S. Coble, K.B. Williamson, W.J. Crutchfield, Espa Bullard, Spence Holt. Those who were serving in the Holt's Chapel were Rev. G.W. Daniel, acting as chairman; John Thompson, J.M. McClure, O.L. Jones, and there were others whose names are not available.

not on
List of
pastors

The ministry of the two churches is very colorful, with a wide range of men from the early organization to final union in 1942. The churches were always on a circuit with other churches in ~~its~~ ^{their} entire history except for Holt's Chapel which was served by students between the years of 1929-31. when Holt's Chapel

was served by students from Duke Divinity School. The M.P. ~~Circuit~~ ^{Church} was ~~called~~ ^{on the} Glen Raven ~~Circuit~~ ^{the} and Holt's Chapel M.E. Church, ~~was~~ ^{South} paired with Webb Live Church, ~~ca. 1932~~ ^{ca. 1932} and ¹⁹¹¹

Worship services were held once a month in ~~each~~ the four main churches of Haw River: The Christian Church had the first Sunday; the First Baptist had the second Sunday; the ~~Methodist Episcopal~~ ^{Holt's Chapel Church} had the third Sunday; and the Methodist Protestant ~~Church~~ ^{Church} had the fourth Sunday. The four congregations ~~attended~~ ^{freely} ~~together~~ all services together.

The names of the ministers have been listed without dates. the reason for this is because of some mixup in dates, and it is felt that it would save the writers from possible errors. The following names are of the ministers who served the churches before union took place;

Holt's Chapel - M.E. South

Methodist Protestant

1894 - 1942

18~~9~~⁸³ - 1942

- C.W. Hunt, Organizer - Dec.1,1894-98
- L.E. Thompson
- J.A. Daley
- B.C. Thompson; the first revival was held by this man and he took in 47 members. This is the largest number at one time.
- G.R. Rood
- G.O. Green; he died Sept.1902 while serving the charge.
- W.B. Green
- Charles Langston
- W.F. Sanford
- T.G. Vickers
- M.M. McFarland; he died while serving this charge April 18,1911.
- B.T. Hurley *d. 1980 Meth. Home June 1911 - Nov. 1912 (North Alamance Circuit)*
- X Rev. Noblett
- X D.C. Durham
- X R.E. Atkinson
- X E.C. Glenn
- X J.R. Edwards
- X C.T. Thrift
- X G.M. Daniels; he was the pastor who remodeled the church after the fire in 1923.
- X G.W. Starling
- X A.C. Holler
- X C.C. Hubert
- X Paul Cooke: assisted by William Dean.

- J.H. Cox *- 1883 on window*
- W.C. Kennett
- Rev. Hammer
- W.H. Ashburn
- Mack Modlin
- Rev. McDower
- J. Henry Ray; lived near Haw River and when the church was without an appointed minister, he would fill in.
- W.E. Swain
- Rev. Bowman
- Rev. Bryant
- G.W. Holmes; he was once president of the M.P. Conference. *His son Joe Holmes is active in Davis St. Church.*
- Rev. Plyeler
- Rev. Curry; he was serving here when the train 708 wrecked in Haw River. *Thanksgiving Day 1911.*
- J.R. Troxler; he served the church twice and died while serving here, around 1930. *Sam Hughes says 1936-38*
- X O.B. Williams; he also served the church at two different times; once after the church burned in 1922.
- Rev. Ledbetter
- X Clyde Auman
- X O.C. Loy
- ✓ J.P. Pegg *1905 Wheat St. Rockingham 28379 1931-1935 - moved in October*
- X Rev. Hutton
- X Rev. Pike
- X T.A. Williams
- ✓ J.F. Coble *1938-1942*

These were the first student pastors.

- X Robert L. Jerome *d. 1971*
- ✓ Grady Dawson *Meth. Home, Durham 1935-1938 (West Ave-Holt's Chapel)*
- X O.I. Hinson
- ✓ J.F. Coble

In 1941 Rev. J.F. Coble now pastor of both the branches, was the first minister to serve both churches at the same time. A meeting of both churches was called to lay plans for the group to form one congregation. The following minutes are from the first joint committee meetings:

First Meeting; October 6, 1942

The first meeting was called to order by its Ex-officio chairman Rev. Joseph Coble in the community club building, with prayer. The first duty was to elect a secretary, and after Mr. T.S. Coble nominated J. Hunter Jones and seconded by Dace Pearson, he was elected on a vote.

After much discussion it was decided by the committee to get Mr. Charlie Garrison to look over both buildings and see what can be done about the buildings being consolidated.

After a general discussion on many subjects it was decided to hold the next meeting at 1:00 P.M. at the Community Building on a day to be notified by the chairman, Mr. Coble, at a later time at which meeting Mr. Coble will get a representative of the Board of Missions and Church Extension to meet with us. The deeds of both churches are to be produced at the next meeting.

A motion to adjourn by Mr. Dace Pearson and seconded by Mr. T.S. Coble, and on vote was carried.

J.M. McClure was absent. O.L. Jones voted his proxy.

Committee Members

Joseph F. Coble, Chairman

Dace Pearson

T.S. Coble

K.B. Williamson

O.L. Jones

J.M. McClure

J.Hunter Jones

Second Meeting: October 8, 1942

The second meeting was opened by Rev. J.F. Coble and prayer was asked by Dr. Love, member of the Board of Missions and Church Extension.

Dr. Love's opinion was asked and received in regard to the operation of our two (2) churches and their present plants. His opinion was that we had a perfect setup with the exception of being separated by a short distance, that reference being to our Sunday School.

After listening to Dr. Love, a discussion led to an agreement that no major amount of debt be incurred at present and that both churches be used as they are.

A motion was made by O.L. Jones and seconded by Dace Pearson to ask the Trustees not to let out any more burial plots behind the brick church.

The motion was made by Dace Pearson that the adult division of the church school would be assigned to the brick church and the young people and the primary divisions be assigned to Holt's Chapel. This was seconded by T.S. Coble and on vote the motion was carried.

After discussing the road approaches to the brick church and the possibility of opening a new entrance in the rear, the committee recommends to the new Trustees that the old approach be improved and that the new one be opened.

This meeting was adjourned by its chairman.

J.M. McClure was absent (He was not notified about the meeting)

Mr. O.L. Jones made a motion that the regular place of worship be at the brick church. It was seconded by K.B. Williamson, and on vote the motion was carried.

Third Meeting: October 27, 1942

The meeting was opened by its chairman, J.F. Coble, and prayer by J.M. McClure. Minutes were read for both previous meetings and approved after corrections.

All members were present. A motion was made to move our local church conference year to end October 31st. The motion was made by K.B. Williamson and seconded by T.S. Coble. On motion the vote was carried.

The committee requests that the new trustees of the Methodist Church do something about the approaches to the brick church as soon as possible.

All minutes of this committee are complete, the report of this special elected committee for the purpose of drawing up the workable framework of the Haw River Methodist Church.

J. Hunter Jones, Secretary

J.F. Coble served both churches separately and helped unify them but did not return the next year to be pastor. He would preach in the two churches to separate congregations. Even though unification was passed by the General Conference in 1939, it was not until 1942 that our two churches merged into one congregation.

The following are the ministers who have served the unified Haw River Methodist Church:

- 1942-44 Allen C. Edens, Jr.: he went into the chaplaincy June 1, 1944.
- 1944 H. Burnell Pannell 1943 (April 1944) Oct. 1944 (Came in summer 1944)
- 1945-48 Fred Pfisterer: Left here in September, 1948 and Gene Newberry, a Presbyterian, filled in until Annual Conference met.
- Oct. 1948-51 Nov. D.J. Reid: Reid Organized the Haw River Civic Association and was its first president.
- Nov. 1951-53 D.M. Sharpe retired in 1953 and moved to Durham, but organized Epworth Ch and served two others before dying in 1979.
- 1953-57 J.W. Goodwin: Goodwin went from here to the mission field and is now serving in Brazil South America.
- 1957-61 Randall Baker: helped to compile and write this history.
- 1961-65 Clingman C. Capps
- 1965-70 Harry L. Rogers - went on disability after serving here.
- June 1970-77 William L. Wolfe: present pastor and who also helped to compile and write this history of the Haw River United Methodist Church.
- 1977-81 Charles D. Myers At the beginning of unification when the two churches came together in 1942 the combined membership was under two hundred. It has grown to the present membership of 419.

Although when the two churches merged the space needed to carry on a full program in any one of the churches was not enough, so both churches had to be used during the Sunday School hour. This brought about a problem because usually after Sunday School many people would go home rather than walk to the other building to attend church. The members began to make plans to build an education building on, to the present sanctuary. The frame building of Holt's Chapel M.E. Church South was sold, and plans for the new addition were drawn up by a former member of the church Mrs. Walter B. Jones. The church accepted the plans as being adequate and after several meetings a contract was given under the direction of a building committee.

The Board of Trustees acting under the authority of the called session of a Quarterly Conference held on March 13, 1949 hereby authorizes the Building Comm. (which was elected by this Quarterly Conference) to proceed with the building of the parsonage, and making disposition of our church building known as Holt's Chapel, taking into consideration the authority and conditions under which these two jobs can be done, including furniture and fixtures, not at Holt's Chapel.

On March 20, 1949, another meeting of the Board of Trustees was held and J. Hunter Jones, acting as chairman, called the meeting to order. The following members of the Board of Trustees were present: J. Hunter Jones, J.W. Thompson, J.W. Clayton, L.P. Kimery, O.L. Jones and Rev. Dermont Reid.

The Board of Trustees elected J. Hunter Jones as chairman for the conference year of 1948-49. A motion was made by L.P. Kimery that the church purchase a lot from the Cone Mills Corporation. The motion was seconded, and the vote carried the motion.

About this time a litigation that had been going on for about 18 months, between Mr. Sidney S. Payne for Cone Mills Corporation, and W.G. Crutchfield and J. Hunter Jones for the Methodist Church, terminated and out of which the church received a building lot for the parsonage site for a very small sum.

On March 24, 1949, a meeting was called and at that meeting definite plans were launched for the building of the parsonage. A sub-committee was appointed to assist Mr. Marion Workman on this job, who had agreed to look after and build the building. Appointed on this committee were: Edward Smith, W. Guy Crutchfield, Ralph Pearson, Glenn Stout, and J.C. Clayton. At this meeting, Mr. H.E. Hendry was appointed to dispose of the fixtures in the Holt's Chapel building - to assist under the direction of the chairman of this committee.

At a meeting held June 28, 1949, this committee voted to dispose of the following items at the prices listed. Old pews @\$15 each; church bell @ \$30; old opera chairs @ \$1.50 each. All of the surplus furniture was sold, and the money was turned over to the building fund treasurer, J.C. Clayton.

At a meeting on August 16, 1949, Mr. Workman reported that the parsonage was just about finished, with a few minor details to be done, the approximate cost of which would be \$7,569. The parsonage would include five rooms with bath downstairs and space upstairs floored for two rooms. The committee figured a considerable savings because of M.G. Workman's supervision in this work. Also at this meeting, plans were made to start work on our church school building. Mr. Wagoner, one of the contractors who helped Mr. Workman on the parsonage, promised to take the job; however, he put us off on starting the building, for varied and certain reasons, for about 12 months. On August 28, 1950, Edward Smith and J.C. Clayton of the sub-committee signed a contract with Earl P. Gates to do the work, as Mr. Wagoner failed to start it by August 1, as he had promised to do.

The plans for a 10-room and two-auditorium building were drawn by Mrs. Walter Jones to fit a lot approximately 32' x 48', but later on we were able to move some graves at the rear of the lot, which gave us more room for the building, so we changed the plans to fit the larger lot, and that gave larger classrooms.

The Board of Stewards voted us \$12,000 to build the building and finish the downstairs part of it, but as the building progressed, there were elaborate changes made which cost much more money than originally estimated. We finally decided we would have to stop the work, just before it was finished, besides we were going deep in debt. Before we could get it stopped, we had spent \$24,000 and at that time we were in debt \$6,000.

The following were the sub-committee for the church school building. Edward Smith, Chairman, J.C. Clayton, M.G. Workman, Glenn Stout, and Ralph Pearson.

A large number of the church members gave to the building a great deal of their time and labor. To try to show the appreciation of the church membership, the following names are those who made some contribution in free labor and other means to put the building in use. It is possible that some names have been missed and if so, it was not done intentionally. Among those were: M.G. Workman, Jack Leach, Jimmie Leach, J.C. Shropshire, A.A. Lute, J.B. Hughes, Jr., Richard Hendry, Mrs. W.B. Jones, Glenn Stout, Donald Reid, D.J. Reid, Luke Trollinger, Edward Smith, Carl Ray, Jerry Ray, Mack Woods, John Wesley Woods, Arlie Allen, Sr., J.C. Clayton, Joe Holt, E.C. Workman, Rudy Montgomery, Elvis Pendergraph, Simon Allen, Dace Pearson, Allen Pearson, W.G. Crutchfield, Paige Stout, Allen Newlin, Reid Aldridge, Ralph Pearson, Joe Harrison, Billy Montgomery, Joe Allen, Monroe Woods, H.E. Hendry, J. Hunter Jones, W.M. Leach, J.A. Long, Jr., Curtis Moore, Clarence Terrell, Melvin McBride, Levi Aldridge, James Faucette, Manuel Williamson, and Eugene Modlin.

A large crew of ladies and young girls helped clean up the building before the church school moved in. The names of this group are not available, but they did a splendid job for which we were very grateful indeed.

Last but not least, in the Spring of 1952 there were definite plans laid to raise funds and pay off the mortgage on church property incurred by the building of the church school department. Mr. Manuel Williamson was made chairman of this committee. The money was raised and the debt was completely paid off on June 5, 1952. We received two large outside donations for these projects; one from The Cone Foundation for \$5,000, and the other from the Duke Endowment for \$2,000.

The church and parsonage committee gave their final report on progress of the building program. This was September 8, 1952. The following names were on the Building Committee: J. Hunter Jones, Chairman; Constance M. Cates, Secretary; Mrs. R.B. Clayton, J.C. Clayton, W. Guy Crutchfield, H.E. Hendry, A.D. Pearson, Ralph Pearson, Edward Smith, Glenn Stout, Marion Workman, and Rev. D.J. Reid.

The church has seen a large growth since 1949, and the condition of the sanctuary began to show its age from the many years of use before and after unification. During the pastorate of Rev. James W. Goodwin there were plans laid to remodel the sanctuary. Rev. Goodwin left for the mission field before these plans could be carried out. In 1957, after Rev. Randall Baker was appointed minister to the church, these plans were completed and the remodeling job was completed. A new Building Committee was formed with the following people who served: Glen Pendergraph, A.A. Lute, and Allen Newlin.

The cost of the remodeling was \$16,000. The church had in a building fund \$5,000, and the remainder was borrowed from the Haw River Bank for a period of four and one-half years. The work was contracted to the Jessup Contracting Company. However, many items were given by members of families in honor or in memory of a loved one:

Art Glass Windows: In Memory of: Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Hughes, Sr. and Mr. J.B. Hughes, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Ray, Mr. and Mrs. C.P. Suitts, Mr. W.H. Huffstetler, Mrs. Dora Purcell, Mr. and Mrs. I.M. Hughes, and Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Crutchfield.
In Honor of: Mr. J. Hunter Jones.

Altar Set: In Memory of: Mr. J.W. Thompson (Cross), Mr. K.B. Williamson (Offering Plates) In Honor of: Miss Thelma Cates (Flower Vases). Two new offering plates in memory of Mrs. Fannie Sykes by Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Montgomery.

The organ was given by the Adult Men's Bible Class and the piano given by the youth in honor of the youth choir leaders, Mr. Graham Faucette, Mrs. Norma Goodwin, and Miss Cleora Cates.

Rev. Clingman Capps came to Haw River in 1961 not only to give leadership to our church, but also to be a zealous civic worker. He served all people of the community without discrimination.

While still paying on the indebtedness for remodeling the sanctuary, the church launched out to remodel the class rooms and to erect a two stall garage at the parsonage.

After paying off a \$10,000.00 loan for renovation of the sanctuary and \$2,500.00 for the garage, plans were made to purchase an old house and lot adjacent to the church property to be used as additional classrooms and a study for the pastor. At the same time the rail for the fire escape was installed.

The day circle of the W.S.C.S. contributed approximately \$350.00 for the garage fund and helped in all other projects of the church.

There was no physical building during 1963; however, the spiritual needs of the church were stressed, A day camp was provided involving junior-age children. For the young people a Youth Activities Week was held. Vacation Church School averaged 125 in attendance. The Methodist Men re-organized. The W.S.C.S. carried out its programs. All age groups were involved in some activity. Two pianos were purchased in 1963.

During 1964, prayer circles were formed contributing much to the growth of the church. Average attendance in Sunday School, M.Y.F. etc. was 275. A Community Senior Citizens organization was established under the direction of Mrs. C.C. Capps. Also during 1964, a Duke Divinity student was used. During this time there was much interest among the youth. Total membership of the church at this time was 466.

During the conference year 1965, Rev. Harry L. Rogers was appointed to our church. Through his ministry and service, the church continued to flourish. The prayer groups continued to grow and many people became more dedicated to God and His work. The W.S.C.S. worked hard in 1965. Very interesting programs were held for the group as well as the entire church. Mrs. Charlie Oliver, missionary to the Congo, and Rev. Jesse Minnis, missionary to India brought very interesting and

informative programs related to mission work. Out of these programs, clothing and material was gathered and sent to the Congo. Mrs. Janie Smith was presented with a life-membership pin by the W.S.C.S. She is just one of several ladies that have been honored in this way. A receipt book was compiled by the ladies to raise money for missionary projects.

A bazaar, box supper and variety show was held at the Haw River School. Everyone enjoyed working to make this event successful.

During Rev. Rogers tenure, the parsonage was painted inside and out and closets were built upstairs. A new dinette suite, two bedroom suites, a living room suite and wall to wall carpeting were purchased for the parsonage.

A projector was purchased for the church. Third graders were presented with Young Readers Bibles. The church membership contributed \$1,090.00 to the Dr. J.C. Wilkin's fund.

In 1966 the W.S.C.S. observed its 25th anniversary with a Silver Tea at the church. Many older members of the group attended the afternoon tea even though they were unable to attend the regular nightly meetings. New lamps, end tables and a coffee table were purchased for the parsonage. The year ended with the installation of a mercury light at the back of the church building and the donation of a piano to the Haw River Civic Center.

Church camps, Vacation Bible Schools and revival services conducted by Rev. Jim Jones, Dermont Reid and Randall Baker, all contributed to the continuing growth of the church.

In the church building new sound boxes for the organ were installed. Memorial gifts of altar paraments and brass seven-branched, floor candelabras were presented in memory of Mrs. Fannie Sykes. These have helped in the worship and spiritual life of the church family. Gifts in memory of W.G. Crutchfield who was Sunday School Secretary for many years were new Methodist Hymnals and carpet for the sanctuary. The nursery and other classrooms were also carpeted. New drapes, furnace and a washing machine were purchased for the parsonage.

In June of 1970, Rev. W.L. Wolfe came to serve as our pastor. At this time the membership totaled 455 with an average of 120 attending the Sunday morning worship service. The Sunday School enrollment was listed as 253 with an average attendance of 125.

Haw River United Methodist Church like so many other churches has experienced a steady decline in Sunday School enrollment. As late as 1975, the enrollment was 208 with an average attendance of 116. The church membership roll has been worked on continually with many names being removed as a result of death and transfer to other churches through the years. In 1975 there were 421 on the membership roll with an average attendance of 135 attending the morning worship service.

In 1970, an old house adjacent to the church property, which had been purchased for classrooms, was razed and the ground graded for a parking lot. At the same time a steep embankment in front of the church was graded and grassed. Also during 1970 the sanctuary was air conditioned. A little later a set of memorial handbells was purchased.

The church and different organizations joined together in furnishing an office and study for the pastor. The Methodist Men installed book cases. The Dora Lilly Class, "Chicken Salad Group" had the furniture upholstered and the floor carpeted. The M.Y.F. purchased a folding machine. The Thelma Cates Class installed drapes, and the church purchased the following equipment: a spirit duplicator, copy machine, Gestafax stencil cutter and a used mimeograph machine.

During the tenure of Rev. Wolfe the following projects have been completed: the church building roofed, many classrooms painted, the nursery renovated, the parsonage painted inside and out, living room furniture upholstered and new drapes, gutters and downspouts replaced at the parsonage and where needed on the church building. The Methodist Men erected a shelter, a multi-purpose building costing in excess of \$45,000.00 and paid for in about 3 years time, the heating system of church and educational buildings replaced, educational building air conditioned, and the sanctuary painted.

The church has had several revival services with each one helping the church in different ways. Each year under capable leadership of church members, successful church camps, Vacation Bible Schools and various study courses have been held. If one thing were selected to be the most helpful during the years of 1970 - 1976, it would be a "Lay Witness Mission" held in 1973. From this service a morning sharing came forth and a spirit of love throughout the congregation.

The youth of the church under the leadership of Mr. Ed May, Miss Gloria Faucette, Miss Denise Thompson is still going strong. The Happenings, a musical youth group has made a strong witness for the Lord Jesus Christ and for the Haw River United Methodist Church.

The Haw River United Methodist Church is a strong church made up of strong men, women and youth groups. In addition, there are many strong individual personalities that can by the grace of God continue to move the church ahead for years to come, providing that they continue to remember the church is here to serve and not to be served.

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Waugh are responsible for the cover of our bicentennial booklet as well as the banner. The logo represents the rising sun coming over the front of the church. The motto on the cover is very realistic - "The Rising Sun Beginning a New Day."

Let us never forget the past but always let us push onward, upward and forward in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. Let us attempt great things and expect great things from Him, through Him and for Him.

This paper does not by any means complete the history of the Haw River United Methodist Church. We realize that there are many things that have been overlooked or not at present available for use. We wish it were possible to mention every member and person who has contributed some part to the growth of the church. We realize that service cannot be measured by many of the general standards of measurement. Everything that has been done to advance the church has meant a great deal, and by no means do we wish to overlook any detail that is at the disposal of the committee. We just hope that each one who has had a part will feel that your part has been valuable in the growth and progress of our church.

The church is a living and moving organization and is making history every day. Tomorrow, it will have changed and new faces will appear on the surface of dedication. We do not wish to stop with past history, but to set our faces toward the future where greater things can be done than we have seen in the past.

So, we look upon the Haw River Methodist Church as not history but a new adventure moving into the pages of time

METHODIST BEGINNINGS IN HAW RIVER

The roots of Methodist beginnings in Haw River go back at least to 1833. In that year on July 23 a Quarterly Conference was held here. Haw River was at that time a preaching appointment on the Chatham Circuit. An early church was evidently in the area by 1838 according to a deed dated September 26 of that year (Book 28, Page 377 of the Orange County Registry). Methodists may also point out that an early famous Methodist is buried in the cemetery next to Haw River United Methodist Church. She is Artelia Roney Duke, the mother of Benjamin and James Buchanan Duke of Duke Foundation fame.

Mrs. Duke contracted typhoid fever from a stepson and left Durham for her parents' home near Haw River where she quickly died in 18. (See Durham Herald article in the file cabinet under Historics for details). Being a relative she was buried in the Adam Trullinger Family Cemetery which is now enclosed by a fine granite wall erected by Mrs. Duke's sons.

North of this cemetery at or near the present Methodist church is the site of a small, one-room frame building that was erected by Adolphus Moore and Thomas M. Holt in 1870 or 1872 as a ~~place~~ school, a

place for union church services, and other public gatherings. Here all of Haw River's four earliest churches were organized. The first of these was the Methodist Protestant Church.¹ It was founded in 1883 by Rev. John H. Cox and Rev. Henry Michael Ray, Sr. The present Methodist Church has a window which was once behind the old central pulpit. It bears this inscription:

REV. J. H. COX 1883 (Ch. on
ORGANIZED THIS CHURCH wording)
& H. M. RAY

~~The~~ Property was purchased from Thomas M. Holt and his wife Louise in 1888. The deed lists the following trustees: Sandy W. Hughes, J. C. Kilbert, H. M. Ray, E. R. Overcash, S. D. Holt.² Additional land was purchased from the Granite Manufacturing Company in 1897 and 1901.

¹ This church is not to be confused with the Haw River Circuit near Oak Ridge in the Greensboro District that dates from early Methodist Protestant days. The Fairview Church of Ossipee was organized out of that circuit in 1881.

² See Book 13 Page 75 Alamance County Registry.

A great granddaughter of Rev. H. M. Ray, Sr., Miss Elizabeth Ray Whittemore of Graham, has a receipt in the amount of fifty dollars which Mr. Ray gave for the church's first land. Another interesting receipt in her possession reads as follows:

Haw River Dec. 9th 1892 Received of
 Rev. H. M. Ray \$16.00 Donated by the Knights
 of Labor to the M. P. Church at Haw River,
 John H. Cox, Trustee

About the two founders of the Methodist Protestant Church at Haw River:

Henry Michael Ray, Sr. was born on September 1, 1829 and died on May 10, 1907. His birth place may have been in a midwestern state.³ He settled in the Mt. Hermon Community of southern Alamance County where he became a preacher. The following license shows his early connection with Methodist Protestantism:

Henry M. Ray, a member of the Methodist Protestant Church, residing in Mt. Hermon Circuit, being duly examined by this Quarterly Conference, on gifts, grace and acquirements, is hereby authorized to preach the Gospel of Christ.

³ We have records that on March 9, 1865 Mr. Ray was in Indianapolis, Indiana and that on August 22, 1884 his sister wrote him from Hesper, Kansas.

On May 18, 1852 Mr. Ray married Catharine Thompson, a native of the Mt. Hermon area. She died in 1862 seven days after the birth of their second child, Robert. Seven years later to the day of Catharine's death, on February 14, 1869, Mr. Ray married Elizabeth Ann Long of Graham. She was a descendant of Coonrad Long who in 1779 purchased from Governor Richard Caswell a state land grant of 620 acres along Haw River. The Rays reared five of their own children and the son by Catharine Thompson in a big house on what is now East Harden Street, Graham.

It was after his fiftieth year that Mr. Ray was able to do his greatest work for his church as an organizer and traveling preacher. His interests extended far beyond the work at Haw River, Burlington and southern Alamance County. He is buried next to his first wife Catharine and daughter Mary at ^{one of his pastorates,} Concord Church in the Whitney Cross Community.

Rev. John H. Cox had the pastoral responsibilities of the young Methodist Protestant Church at Haw River.⁴ He married another great church worker, "Reinda" — Cox Stuart (ch. full name + spelling) who lived into the late 1940's and outlived three husbands. (ch)

⁴ Mr. Cox was also a trustee. See 1892 receipt above

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South had its beginnings in Haw River through the organizing efforts of Rev. C. W. Hunt of Burlington.⁵

The church was founded in 1894 and was named ~~a~~ Holt's Chapel in honor of Thomas M. Holt who had become Governor of North Carolina in 1891. (ck.) Rev. L. E. Thompson was appointed as the first pastor and served here two years. The first official church board consisted of: (see 1976 History)

Some of the charter members were:

A large handsome frame structure was erected in _____ to the south of the Trullinger Cemetery. This building still stands on Highway 70

⁵ Land was purchased ~~by~~ on November 30, 1894 from Granite Manufacturing Company (Book 17, Page 82, Alamance County Registry).

Information concerning the early growth of the two Methodist Churches of Haw River is limited. Together their membership totalled only about 36 in the beginning. Holt's Chapel became the larger of the two. They were always on a circuit with other churches except for the years of 1929-31 when Holt's Chapel was pastored by students from Duke Divinity School. The Methodist Protestant Church was on the ~~Glen~~ Raven Circuit and Holt's Chapel was on the North Alamance Circuit ~~in~~ 1911. In 1932 Holt's Chapel was paired with the Webb Avenue M.E. Church, South. In these circuit days, ~~services~~ ^{preaching} services were held once a month in each of the four main churches of Haw River: The Christian Church had the first Sunday, First Baptist had the second Sunday, Holt's Chapel had the third Sunday, and the Methodist Protestant Church had the fourth Sunday. The members of the four churches attended their own Sunday Schools which were held every Sunday and then were free to attend whichever church was having "preaching."