Hickory Grove United Methodist Church Lenoir County, North Carolina





1860 — 1991 History

FOREWORD

Hickory Grove United Methodist Church today is a strong and thriving country church. Presently, we are pastored by the Reverend Charles Eakin and his wife Frances.

Today we have an average attendance for Sunday Morning Church Service of approximately 115 members; part of whom make up a very able choir with a piano and organ accompaniment. The members of the church today represent a wide variety of occupations and interests with new members welcome.

The physical building of the church and Fellowship Hall are modern in appearance and neatly maintained from the outside. The Sanctuary is a blend of the traditional (with the hanging lights, high ceiling, and stained windows) and modern (with the carpet floors and cushioned pews). The Fellowship Hall is very spacious with a number of rooms for Sunday school classes, plus a men's and women's restroom.

All of the above is a long way from meeting in each other's homes for services or from the first meeting house which was the start of what has become Hickory Grove United Methodist Church. The following is an attempt to trace some of the history of Hickory Grove United Methodist Church through the years, and we hope it will be of interest to you.

THE BEGINNING 1860

Hickory Grove Methodist Protestant Church was built and organized approximately 1860. Charter members were: Jere Sutton, Benjamin Sutton, Ivey Sutton, Hardy Sutton, Josiah Sutton and Levi Hill.

This church has had three different names: Hickory Grove Methodist Protestant Church, Hickory GroveMethodist Episcopal Church South, and Hickory Grove United Methodist Church.

When the church was begun in 1860, there were only three wagons in the community. They belonged to Jere Sutton, Benjamin Sutton and Levi Hill. These three wagons hauled the lumber for the church from South West Mill near Pink Hill, from early dawn until dark to build this church. The carpenters we do not know by name, but by their work, they were the best at that time.

THROUGH THE YEARS

We have been told Wooten Bizzell from Goldsboro visited in the community and became interested in Sallie Sutton. These two were the first couple to be married in this church.

The church in those days was very different from today. We had no Sunday School rooms or bathrooms at that time. There were four classes divided, one in each corner of the church to have their lesson. For warmth, there was a heater sitting in the middle of the church. The music was supplied by an old pedal organ played by Mrs. Jessie Sutton during 1915, and Mrs. Annie Barwick during 1920-1930. In 1930, Mrs. Effie Phillips played, 1940 Mrs. Helen Sutton; and from 1950 to the present, Mrs. Ruth Sutton. At times when it was so cold, the organ had to be moved near the heater.

Sometimes there were only enough people to have one class. These gathered around the heater and had their lesson.

Pews were donated in 1945. Educational rooms were added at the back of the Sanctuary in 1945 with Reverend J. D. A. Autry serving as pastor.

Illuminated pictures and memorial windows were added in 1952. Reverend R. L. Bame was pastor.

The Hammond organ we have today was installed in 1955. At that time, most of the membership derived their living by farming. It was asked that each family give an acre of corn or beans to

help purchase the organ and this acre came to be called the Lord's Acre. As recalled, this was a particularly good year for crops. It was thought that this may have continued for a couple of years following. Reverend B. R. McCullen was pastor during this time.

Air conditioning was installed in 1959. Reverend J. B. Parvin was pastor and Clellan Sutton was Sunday School Superintendent.

In 1961, Evelyn Barwick donated land to the church, when Reverend James B. Parvin was pastor. The land was donated to build a Fellowship Hall.

In 1982, new shrubbery was placed around the church.

In 1985 a new roof was installed on the Fellowship Hall. Also, handrails were placed on the front entrance to the Fellowship Hall on February 18, 1985.

The year 1986 was a busy year for us. For starters, in February the kitchen project began. Phyllis and Charles Phillips wallpapered the kitchen area. Several men built and installed the cabinets. Several appliances were donated by members of the church.

In March of 1986 Easter Breakfast with Institute began at our church. It has continued since then. This year, 1991, Hickory Grove and Institute shared in the Easter Breakfast at Institute in its new Fellowship Hall.

In October, 1986, Hickory Grove United Methodist Church had a Harvest Sale. We sold barbecue plates for lunch. Community persons donated items to be sold or auctioned. The sale continued all day. An auction was held in the evening. We sold hot dogs and drinks for supper. Everyone enjoyed this event so much that it was decided by the church to become an annual event. The money went into the building fund account to help pay expenses on building maintenance and improvements, and also office equipment such as our copier.

Christmas Eve services between Hickory Grove and Institute began in 1986. Both churches alternate every other year with Sunrise Breakfast.

In May 1987, a Spring Dinner with Institute was begun. This event is held each Spring with choir members and church members presenting a special program to the community.

Hickory Grove started the Circuit Rider Program in September of 1988. This program has continued since then.

In December of 1988, renovation of the Sanctuary was done.

The year 1989 was also another prosperous one for our church. New shingles and vinyl were placed on the church.

On February 15, 1989 we were blessed with a new piano. In August we received new Hymnals for the choir members.

Sixteen pews were sold to John Mercer of Wilson at \$75 each, for a total of \$1200.00. On May 25, 1989, new pews were completely installed.

On July 12, 1989 we purchased 50 chairs and 12 tables to be used at special events such as Homecoming.

New choir robes were ordered in July 1990. They were received in September. The new robes were dedicated to the church and worn for the first time on Homecoming Sunday, October 3, 1990.

In 1990, the church voted to have its own bulletins printed. Also, a church newsletter was begun.

A new shelter was added to our church in 1991. This was done by the men and young boys of the church.

PASTORS OF HICKORY GROVE CHURCH

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1882-1883
Reverend James De Lafayette Carpenter
                                                        1885-1888
Reverend W. W. Rose
Reverend M. H. Tuttle
                                                        1888-1890
                                                        1890-1891
Reverend J. E. Raven
                                                        1891-1893
Reverend R. H. Broom
                                                        1893-1894
Reverend J. E. Bristowe
                                                        1894-1896
Reverend G. T. Simmons
                                                        1896-1900
Reverend Thomas H. Sutton
                                                        1900-1901
Reverend E. R. Welch
                                                        1901-1903
Reverend H. B. Anderson
                                                         1903-1905
Reverend J. E. Saunders
                                                         1905-1907
Reverend H. E. Tripp
                                                         1907-1908
Reverend W. O. Davis
                                                         1908-1910
Reverend J. J. Boone
                                                        1910-1914
Reverend J. M. Carraway (Supply Pastor)
Reverend Abernathy performed Several Marriages during 1913
                                                         1914-1918
Reverend K. T. Duval
                                                         1918-1920
Reverend Rk. G. L. Edwards
                                                         1920-1925
Reverend E. K. Pettman
                                                         1925-1926
Reverend W. C. Benson
                                                         1926-1929
Reverend Rufus Bradley
                                                         1929-1931
Reverend Daniel Lane
                                                         1931-1933
Reverend L. B. Pattishall
                                                         1933-1936
Reverend L. L. Smith
                                                         1936-1939
Reverend J. C. Humble
                                                         1939-1943
Reverend C. E. Hix, Jr.
                                                         1943-1951
Reverend J. D. A. Autry & Clair
                                                         1951-1954
Reverend R. L. Bame & Helen
                                           1954
     LaGrange Methodist became Station
Institute, Trinity & Hickory Grove became Institute Circuit
                                                         1954-1957
Reverend B. R. McCullen & Gladys (AS)
Reverend J. B. Parvin & Velma (Boots) (AS)
                                                         1957-1962
                                                         1962-1966
Reverend J. Nelson P. Edens & Annie
                                                         1966
Reverend Lewis H. Dodson
                                                         1967
Howard B. Harrell
                                                  March-June 1968
Max Dullin
Reverend Alton Lancaster & Ruby
                                                         1968-1972
                                                       1972-1975
Reverend Everette E. Bryan & Christine
     Trinity Methodist became Station
                                           1975
     Institute and Hickory Grove became Institute Charge
                                                         1975-1977
Reverend James Hobbs & Mary
Reverend James E. Sponenburg, Jr. & Tillie
                                                         1977-1980
                                                         1980-1983
Reverend Fredrick Dillon & Anita
                                                         1983-1985
Reverend Grady Kinley & Mildred
                                              July '85-August '88
Reverend Joseph M. Donakey & Cheryl
                                                              1988
                                                  Sept/Oct.
Reverend Harley M. Owens & Inez
Reverend Charles F. Eakin & Frances
                                                     October 1988
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CHURCH LEADERSHIP

SUPERINTENDENT

Junius Sutton - 1915 Levi Ferrell - 1924-1925 Tommy Herring Edgar Anders Ray Dawson Clellan Sutton - 1930-present

TREASURERS OF HICKORY GROVE

Wesley Sutton 1935-1951 Billy Sutton 1951-1984 Charles Phillips 1984-1985 Roy Smith 1985-1987 Stanley Sutton 1987-present

MEMORIALS GIVEN TO HICKORY GROVE CHURCH

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS--Memory of Family & Friends

Charles Andrew Sutton 1883-1945 Bettie Ann Sutton 1884-1937

Benjamin Franklin Sutton Family 1838-1897

Walker Wilson Sutton 1918-1949

Jere Sutton 1875-1945 Agnes May Sutton 1876-1950

Junius Eli Sutton 1847-1931 Susan Daly Sutton 1847-1912

Frank Lee Barwick 1890-1934 Annie Lee Barwick 1890-1982

J. Marcus Sutton 1882-1946 Mary Ann Sutton 1882-1928

John Ivey Sutton 1870-1942 Cora Lee Sutton 1877-1947

Levi Hill 1863-1893 Barbara Hill 1860-1931

Lucy Jane Herring 1874-1942

CANDLEHOLDERS 1900-1951

In Memory of Harold and Winnie Sutton by Family

PULPIT WINDOW - 1952

Donated by Women's Society Christian Service

CROSS 1889-1957

In Memory of Wesley B. Sutton by Family

BAPTISMAL BOWL 1954-1959

1

Memory of Donald Sutton 1954-1959 by Allen and Shirley Sutton

FLOWER VASES

Memory of Sue Belle Sutton Cobb 1896-1960 Memory of Albert E. Cobb 1895-1965 Given by A. E. Cobb Family

DOOR MARKERS OF CLASSROOMS 1966

Memory of Lydia G. Sugg

PULPIT BIBLE, ALTAR FURNITURE, KNEELING PADS AND CARPET

Given by the Methodist Women 1970

AMERICAN FLAG AND CHRISTIAN FLAG 1977

Memory of Eliza Frances Sutton Given by her Children

OLD PARAMENTS 1977

Memorial Money of Mrs. C. R. Sutton, Sr.

ATTENDANCE BOARD 1988

Memory of Charles (Chuck) Reed 1945-1988 Given by Family and Friends

MICROWAVE OVEN 1988

Memory of Charles (Chuck) Reed 1945-1988 Given by his Brothers and Young Adults

IN REMEMBRANCE BOOK 1990

Memory of Catherine and Herman Sutton, Jr. and Linda Cauley Given by 4-H Club of Bucklesberry 1990

NEW PARAMENTS-1991

Memory of Miss Frances Herring By Family and Friends

Memory of Mrs. Gladys Sutton and Honor of Sherwood and Patty Sutton by Stanley Sutton and Family

GIFTS OF LOVE

PIANO IN FELLOWSHIP HALL 1949

Given by Catherine and Herman Sutton, Jr.

LARGER FLOWER VASES 1978

Given by Clellan and Pauline Sutton

PIANO IN CHURCH February 15, 1989

Donated by Members of the Church with the help of Sue Faulkner

PLEXIGLASS ON CHURCH WINDOWS 1990

Donated by Sue Faulkner January 1990

RENOVATION OF CHURCH IN 1988-1990

The ceiling was screwed tightly together to remove gaps between boards. Sheetrock was put up with both being repainted. Also at that time, the pulpit window lighting

was redone, along with the addition of flood lights in the ceiling.

New pews, new carpet and new kneeling pads.

The work was done by Reverend Charles Eakin and the men and boys of the church with donations from members of the church.

Renovations were paid for by proceeds from previous

DONATION OF PEWS - Installed May 25, 1989

Memory of Harry and Lillie Sutton by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Creech

> Memory of Delilah Sutton by Family and Friends

Memory of Harvey and Ava Sutton by Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Hardy and Montague, III and Mr. and Mrs. Parrott Suggs and Harvey

> Memory of Mrs. Gladys Sutton by Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood Sutton and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Sutton

Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Sutton by Mr. and Mrs. Woody Sutton and Children and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sutton

Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Barwick Mrs. Lena Barwick Mrs. Mary Beaman Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Bruner Mr. and Mrs. John Dawson Reverend and Mrs. Charles F. Eakin Mr. and Mrs Barry Fulcher Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Dan Hardy Mr. and Mrs. Leland Heath Mr. and Mrs. Chester Hooten and Bryan Mr. and Mrs. Lelland Ivey Mrs. Louise Lowery Mr. and Mrs. Roger Mewborn Mr. and Mrs. Pete Pate and Imelda Mr. and Mrs. Charles Phillips Mr. and Mrs. Rom Phillips Mr. and Mrs. Sutton Phillips Mr. and Mrs. William Rouse Mr. and Mrs. Al Suggs Mr. and Mrs. Albert Suggs, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Alton Sutton Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sutton Mr. and Mrs. Clellan Sutton Mr. and Mrs. John W. Sutton and Families Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Sutton Mr. and Mrs. Kirby Sutton Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Sutton Mrs. Mary Sutton and Families Mr. Prentice Sutton Mrs. Wesley Sutton Mr. and Mrs. William L. Sutton Mr. and Mrs. William P. Sutton Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Sutton

THE BELL by Billy Sutton

The bell at Hickory Grove Church was given by Hadley Jackson Sutton (1895-1962) in memory of his parents, Benjamin Franklin and Mary Frances Dixon Sutton, who were Billy Sutton's grandparents. This was given sometimes in the late 50's.

Jack, an employee of Southern Railway, left his work to enter Upon returning home, he also returned to his duties with Southern Railway. Upon retirement, Jack was able to get the bell from the company to be used at Hickory Grove Church. colleges tried desperately to get such a bell, however, little success. Hickory Grove Church was one of the institutions The bell came honored with a bell. from a steam engine train which was being taken out of service. The bell holds a great deal of history. Thanks to the efforts of Jack Sutton, C. R. Sutton, Sr., C. R. Sutton, Jr., and William P. Sutton, the bell stands proudly at Hickory Grove Church.

PARSONAGE by Estelle Creech

Until 1954 the parsonage was located next to the LaGrange United Methodist Church in LaGrange. At that time, the sister churches were LaGrange, Institute, Hickory Grove, and Trinity. LaGrange went station, so that left Institute, Hickory Grove, and Trinity. This was in 1955. Reverend Billy R. McCullen and his wife, Gladys, came to the charge. The three churches rented an apartment from Carl Vause in LaGrange (Ray Burk owns that house now) for the new preachers and their families to live in until the parsonage was built at Institute.

The three churches stayed together until 1975, when Trinity went station and left Hickory Grove and Institute. churches paid Trinity its share they had in the parsonage. Reverend James Hobbs was the new preacher from 1975 until 1977. Reverend James E. Sponenburg, Jr. and his wife, Tillie, came. two churches had been talking about fixing the upstairs parsonage, so when Reverend Sponenburg came, he soon went to work building the stairsteps going the attic. The members into furnished all the materials that were needed. He and Mrs. made two nice bedrooms and a bath. One bedroom was furnished with a bed, dresser, and curtains by Hickory Grove. The living room was furnished by Institute with 2 wing back chairs, pictures and new curtains. Some members on the Parsonage Committee Ruth Sutton, Effie Mae Suggs, Mary Frances Barwick, Mary Sutton, Charles Sutton, Pauline Sutton, and Roy Smith - Hickory Grove; and Institute - L. D. Hardy, Margaret Hardy, Melba Hardy, Edna Bryan and Mary Daly Hardy.

After remodeling the parsonage, Mr. and Mrs. Sponenburg had open house. Mr. Sponenburg was a good carpenter and could make anything. He did a lot for our churches. Reverend and Mrs. Sponenburg left in June, 1980.

Reverend Fredrick Dillon and his wife, Anita, came next. They left June 12, 1983.

FELLOWSHIP HALL by Estelle Creech

In the year 1962 a brick educational building was added to the right side of Hickory Grove Methodist Church: a Fellowship Hall and Sunday School rooms. It was named the "James B. Parvin Educational Building," in recognition of him, because of his efforts to obtain funding to build the Educational Building. The land, which was donated by Evelyn Sutton, was cleared by hand, and several tractors were used to level the land by men in the church. The state gave several loads of dirt to build up the site. Then under the direction of Ed Gray as foreman, the men in the church built the Fellowship Hall. Also, the men helped Jennings Dawson brick the Fellowship Hall.

In 1963, James Beaman secured donations from members of the church to have it bricked. In 1964, the church was bricked with the help of Earl Butts, Jennings Dawson and the men. Jennings bricked the sign in front of the church.

HICKORY GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHOIR by Deborah Sutton

Hickory Grove United Methodist Church has always had a volunteer choir but no written record was found. Some members recall past organists. In the 1950's Ruth Sutton became the church organist. She has been a faithful servant for over 40 years and continues as Hickory Grove's organist. In the past, the organist served as the choir director also, but members do remember having guest choir directors assist with special music at Revival. Many different ones have given of their talents to the choir. To name a few, Ella Elmore, Kinsey Elmore, Louise Lowery, Tank Mitchell, Spivy Eason, Rom Phillips, Ruby Sutton, Pauline Sutton, Montague Hardy, Alton Sutton, Lorena Sutton, Sutton, Mary R. Sutton, Parrott Sugg, Sue S. Faulkner, Woodrow Sutton, and Billy Sutton. Also, over the years, the young girls of the church would sing on Sundays.

In 1985 a student pastor, Joe Donakey came to Hickory Grove. Not only could he preach, but he could also sing. He reorganized the choir and served as its director. Around this time, Phyllis Sutton Phillips, granddaughter of Ruth Sutton, organist, became the pianist. These two musicians have since rendered beautiful piano-organ duets to the delight of our congregation. We are also privileged to have another granddaughter of Ruth Sutton, Sandra Sutton Mewborn, who on occasions has played the piano for our church services too. Not every church is as gifted with such fine musicians as Hickory Grove.

In 1984, Deborah H. Sutton married and moved to this community. She joined the choir in 1985, and when Joe Donakey left, she was asked to render her services as choir director, since she had been involved with several large choirs in the past. Since becoming the choir director, the choir has increased its membership to 15 members. With the help of our talented pianist and the dedication of the choir members who love singing for the glory of the Lord, the choir has met the challenge to perform many special musicals.

In 1989, while practicing for a cantata, a need for a new piano was discovered. With the help of Sue S. Faulkner, who diligently worked on this project and the generosity of our church members, a new piano was purchased. In the Spring of 1990, new Methodist hymnals for the choir were purchased with funds from a memorial gift and the general church fund. In late 1990, after renovation of the sanctuary, much needed choir robes were purchased with funds from a memorial gift and the building fund. In 1991, a new brass music stand for the choir director was given by the Women's Society at Hickory Grove.

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN by Estelle Creech

In the beginning we were known as "The United Methodist Women." The members were Annie Barwick, Ruth Sutton, Ruby Sutton, Lillie E. Sutton, Ava Sutton, Delilah Sutton, Clara Belle Elmore and Frances Herring. The members would meet once a month at the church or in homes. They changed from "The United Methodist Women" to "Methodist Women," and all the dues were used to get needed things for the church. The members at this time were Annie Barwick, Ruth Sutton, Ruby Sutton, Verna Ivey, Lorena Sutton, Louise Sutton, Estelle Creech, Ruth Ellen Hooten, Shirley Sutton, Doris Sutton, Delilah Sutton, Mrs. Clifton Sutton, Eliza Sutton, and Ruby Lancaster, wife of Reverend Alton Lancaster, who was pastor of Hickory Grove Church.

METHODIST WOMEN PLEDGE

The purpose of the Methodist Women, as members of The United Methodist Church, shall be to work together as a group to help meet the needs of the world and to help further God's Kingdom - a responsibility that goes beyond self to your neighbor, community, nation, and the world. Let us assume our obligation to support the church through the Methodist Women with our loyalty, prayers, and Bible reading, seeking such grace as to enable us to complete our task. For there is one body and one spirit, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. To this we will seek to accomplish the work and service set before us, to the Honor and Glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All members would say this Methodist Women's pledge in unison at every meeting.

A few years later, the Methodist Women group dissolved.

HICKORY GROVE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 1979 by Jane Sutton

The Hickory Grove Methodist Women began as a Task Group with four mothers. On February 26, 1979, Mrs. Tillie Sponenburg, wife of the pastor, organized the U. M. W. with Allyson Barwick, President; Tillie, Vice-President; Darlene Creech, Secretary; Jane Sutton, Treasurer; and Sue Sutton, Nominations. The Pastor was Reverend James Sponenburg, and Mrs. Tillie was the one who started the U. M. W. Members on the roll were: Mrs. Annie Barwick, Allyson Barwick, Darlene Creech, Sue Sutton, Ruby Sutton, Effie Mae Suggs, Lucille Sutton, Jane Sutton, and Mrs. Tillie.

The U. M. W. took on several projects. They fixed up the nursery for Mrs. Tillie to keep the children during church service. She donated a coat rack, shelves, and story books. supplies for the men's and ladies' restrooms. M. W. bought Darlene and Pat Creech wall papered the bathrooms and bought curtains and the wall paper. Allyson donated rugs and curtains for the nursery. We had a bake sale to raise money for the U. M. W. We bought a record player and cart for the Kindergarten class. We met on the 3rd Monday of each month. In September, we had a Bazaar and made \$285. The group bought a film projector, mattress and crib for the nursery. Shelves were bought for some of the Sunday School rooms, and a table and chairs were bought for the nursery with several other supplies that were needed. The group disbanned in November of 1979. This was the last U. M. W. Group at Hickory Grove.

In 1990, the women of the church started what is called the Women's Society. They have about 15 women, who meet once a month.

THE UNITED METHODIST MEN by Estelle Creech

The Methodist Men group was organized while Reverend Bill McCullen was pastor between 1955 and 1957. The men from Hickory Grove, Institute and Trinity would meet once a month, rotating at each church. In 1975, Trinity became a Station Church, leaving Hickory Grove and Institute.

A list of the charter members of the United Methodist Men were framed and hung at Hickory Grove, but now it is at Institute. Members were:

Ed Barwick
Malcolm Barwick
Herman Bryan
J. C. Bryan
Kenneth Creech
Forrest Dawson
H. K. Elmore
Hugh Everett
Carl A. Gray
L. D. Hardy, Jr.
S. P. Hardy, Jr.
Walter Hardy
Kenan Hart

Hampton Hill
Staford Hill
Ben S. Holloman
Robert A. Merritt
B. F. Mitchell
William Rouse
Donnie Stroud
Daniel P. Sullivan
Alton Sutton
Jack Sutton
Johnnie Sutton
Parrott Sutton
William P. Sutton, President

On April 4, 1977, a special 20th anniversary meeting was held for the Methodist Men. All the charter members were invited to attend this meeting, along with regular members and their wives. A total of 49 members and guests attended this meeting.

January 7, 1980 Reverend Sponenburg reported that Hickory Grove and Institute Churches voted \$750.00 in the budget to finance building a carport. Work days were scheduled on a Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. More work days would be set later. Ray Hardy reported that the carport cost was \$1009.81. All bills had been paid. There was enough contributions and money in savings and loan to pay all the bill except \$131.00. That was taken from the club treasury. Hickory Grove will finish painting and pay for the paint - June 9, 1980.

The Methodist Men's Club met at Institute for the last time on May 4, 1987 at 7:30 p.m. Billy Sutton gave the invocation. Eleven members were present. We had a delicious pork chop supper. Reverend Joe Donakey dismissed with prayer.

Since that time, Institute and Hickory Grove have started meeting again this year, 1991.

YOUTH GROUP

In 1984, a youth group was formed by Phyllis and Charles Phillips and Libby and Roy Smith. Activities and programs were held monthly. Several fund raisers were held to enable youth members to go to Carowinds, play Putt Putt Golf and various other activities.

In September of 1989, Hickory Grove Methodist and White Oak Grove Baptist Youth groups formed as one group. The group has since then visited Kings Dominion, Busch Gardens and Carowinds.

Other activities enjoyed by the youth group include volleyball, summer softball games with children playing against the adults. The youth and Women's Society, along with parents have also sponsored Halloween carnivals for the past 3 years.

In 1990, the senior youth were honored with a supper. The guest speaker for this event was Ms. Diane Bowen with Carolina Today. This was enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

SPRING DINNER THEATER

EVENING WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Joe Donakey started this project in the spring of 1987. Since his departure in 1988, the choir director has been responsible for organizing the entertainment for the event, and the Age-Level and Family Ministries committee has organized the dinners.

THEMES	YEAR
Hee Haw	1987
Oldies But Goodies	1988
Bahama Mama	1989
Puttin' on the Ritz	1990
Grand Ole Opry	1991

GENERATIONS OF LAND HANDED DOWN FROM PEOPLE THAT GAVE LAND TO HICKORY GROVE

Benjamin Sutton and Pincy Young Sutton Hardy Sutton and Annie Hill Sutton Julius Eri Sutton and Nanseatta Sutton

Julian Sutton and Helen Sutton

Charles Henry Barwick and Evelyn Hope Sutton Barwick

PLAN OF SUBDIVISION Julius E. Sutton Estate Lenoir County, N.C. Julian Sutton Thos. N. Sutton Woodland + Church

Charles Julian Barwick

Members of Hickory Grove Church 1916

JohnF. Barwick

Martha J. Barwick

John Low Barwick

Amy Barwick

Dempsie Barwick

Frank Lee Barwick

Annie Lee Barwick

Ruffian Benton

Charity Benton

Betsie Benton

John Benton

Jesse Benton

Vina Loue Coltrain

Thomas Calwell

Katie Dawson

Joel Elmore

Martha Elmore

J. O. Elmore

Lorena Elmore

Ella Elmore

Hillard Elmore

Lester Elmore

Barbara Hill

Annie Lee Hill

Ivey B. Herring

Fannie Herring

Alonzo Moore

Ella Moore

Sallie Moore

Julia Moore

Lou G. Moore

Mabel Rouse

Selma Rouse

Alice Quinn

Junius E. Sutton

John I. Sutton

Nancy Sutton

Heber Sutton

Jerry Sutton

Agnes Sutton

Glennie Sutton

Sue Belle Sutton Cobb

Hepsie Sutton Hill

Julius Sutton

Nansetta Sutton

Thomas Sutton

Jessie Sutton

Walter Sutton

Julian Sutton

Herman Sutton

Lola Sutton

Blanche Sutton

Christiana Sutton

Gordon Sutton

Sarah M. Sutton

Lucy Sutton

Ben E. Sutton

Jo Sutton

Eliza Hill Sutton

James D. Sutton

William Sutton
Mary Sutton

Laura Suton

Clarence Sutton

Swannie Dell Sutton Barwick

Bettie Sutton Wesley Sutton Edward Sutton Harry Sutton

Kathleen Sutton

Finely Sutton Johnnie Walters

Winnie Sutton Walters

Sallie H. Sutton

Lillie Sutton

Rachel Sutton

Mae Sutton

Chas A. Sutton Lonnie Sutton Harvey Sutton

Mabel Clara Sutton
Mary Elmore Sutton

Harrold Sutton Nellie Sutton

Ava Walters Sutton

J. M Sutton

MEMBERS 1920

Niary Sutton

William Ferrell

Ormond Sutton

Ruth Suton

Levi Ferrell

Morrison Ferrell

Sallie I. S. Tilghman

James D. Sutton Hellen Sutton

Zelle Sutton

Walter Jones

Effice May Sutton

Panice Sutton

Annie Elizabeth Sutton

Albert Cobb

George Blizzard

Pennie Letchworth

Irene Herring

Nancy Warters Sutton

Delila Sutton

Louise Sutton

Felix Sutton

Carrie Ferrell

William Ferrell

Hodges Sutton

Florence E. S. Dawson

Allie Sutton

Pauline Sutton

Hardy Kinsey Elmore

Carroll Beatrice Sutton

Ludie Clifton Sutton

Verna Lee Barwick

Eliza Creech Sutton

Zennie Carter

Jannie Skinner Lane

Roland Carter

Clellan Sutton Mrs. Joe Sutton Carmon Elmore Mrs. Myrtle Skinner Carson Barwick Woodrow Sutton Alton Sutton Robert W. Ivey Sallie G. Ivey Grace Sutton Lucile Sutton F. Bruce Sutton Walker Sutton Margurite Vause John Frank Barwick Robert Vause James Beaman Allene Vause Julia Sutton Sadie Ruth Sutton Doris Sutton Estelle Sutton Robert Sutton Norman Sutton

Prentice Sutton E. A. Faulkner J. F. Skinner John Bryan Horace Sutton Roy Sutton Lida Elmore Lilha K. Elmore Lorena Sutton John Charles Sutton Owne Sutton Gladys Sutton Bonnie Vause Edward Milton Barwick Jessie Barwick Duval Barwick Mary Beaman Chrystal Sutton Annie Sutton Bruce Sutton Doris Sutton Herman Sutton, Jr. Martha Sutton

MEMBERS 1939

Malcolm Barwick
Mrs. Clifton Sutton
William P. Sutton
Esther Blanche Sutton
Sallie Billie Sutton
Elsie Ann Sutton
Rose Marie Sutton

Clifton Sutton
Helen Dixon Sutton
James Vause
Sue Dailey Sutton
Mary Lou Sutton
Agnes Jean Cobb
Camelia Ann Cobb

Mary Rouse Sutton

Gay Nelle Sutton
Wilton Mc Leon Sutton
Effie E. Sutton
Helen Louise Mercer
Herbert Frederick Mercer
Edith Sutton
James Sutton
Mrs. James Sutton

Mrs. J. M. Sutton

John Ivey Elmore Walter Edward Sutton Mary Catherine Sutton

Pattie Sutton
Jno. Walters Sutton
Mrs. Alton Smith
Mrs. William Lowery
William A. Rouse

MEMBERS 1942

Annie Barwick Dempsie Barwick John Benton Ella Elmore Lester Elmore Jerry Sutton Sue Belle Cobb Jessie Sutton Herman Sutton Lucy Sutton J. D. Sutton Lillie Sutton Swannie N. Barwick Mrs. Roy Sutton Harvey Sutton Mable C. Faulkner Mary Elmore Sutton Harold J. Sutton Ava Sutton J. M. Sutton Delilah Sutton Ruth Sutton James D. Sutton

Amy Barwick Betsie Benton J. U. Elmore Hilliard Elmore Nancy Sutton Agnes Sutton Thomas Sutton Julian Sutton Lola Sutton Eliza Sutton Sallie Sutton Clarence Sutton Charles A. Sutton Wesley Sutton Edward Sutton Harry Sutton Kathleen Sutton Mrs. Johnnnie Walters Winnie Sutton Ormond Sutton Mrs. Ormond Sutton Frances Herring Hodges Sutton

Florence Dawson Lydia Elmore Effie Mae Philips Vera Lee Ivey R.W. Ivey CLellan Sutton Mrs. Lou Sutton Carmon Elmore Horace Sutton Roy Sutton Marquerite Kennedy John Charles Sutton Owen Sutton Walker Sutton Mrs. J. M. Sutton William Rouse Duval Barwick Mrs. James Sutton Mary Beamon Crystal Sutton Annie Sutton Bruce Sutton Doris Sutton Herman Jr. Sutton Martha Sutton Mary Rouse Sutton Clifton Sutton Mrs. Clifton Sutton William P. Sutton Ester Blanche Sutton Sallie Billie Sutton Elsie Ann Sutton

Louise Lowery Kinsey Elmore Mrs. William Rouse Albert E. Cobb Mrs. R. W. Ivey Prentice Sutton E. A. Faulkner Carson Barwick Woodrow Sutton Alton Sutton Lorena Sutton Lucille Hill Gladys Sutton Edward Barwick Jessie Barwick Robert Carl Vause John Frank Barwick James Beamon Alene Vause Julia Sutton Sadie Ruth Sutton Rosa Lee Smith Estelle Sutton Robert Sutton Norman Sutton Malcolm Barwick Clifton Jr. Sutton Helen Dixon Sutton James Vause Sue Daly Sutton Mary Lou Sutton Agnes Jean Cobb

Camelia Ann Cobb
Gaynelle Sutton
Wilton Mc Lean Sutton
Effie Elizabeth Sutton
Helen Louise Mercer
Pattie Sutton
Madeline Barwick
Mrs. Kinsey Elmore
Jerry Alton Sutton
W. Wilson Barwick
Ruth Ellen Sutton
Charlotte Sutton

Rose Marie Sutton
John Ivy Elmore
Walter Edward Sutton
Mary Catherine Sutton
Herbert Frederick Mercer
Edith Sutton
John Waters Sutton
Wesley Allen Sutton
Lelland Ivey
Mrs. Kirby Sutton
Marion Sutton
Jack Sutton
Bailey Elmore

Dates Found from 1943-1987

Frances Suggs

Nannie Sutton

Mrs. Curtis Sutton Mrs. Owen Sutton Mrs. Lelland Ivey Mrs. Louise Sutton

Mrs. Iris Sutton

Mrs. If is Succe

Ollie Suggs Maxine Stroud

Katherine Sutton

Christine Sutton

Tommie Grant

Mary Lee Elmore

Sutton Phillips

Huldah Sutton

Cora Lee Dawson

J.R. Phillips

Evelyn Sutton

Mrs. Pauline Sutton

Mrs. Edward Herring

Mrs. Ruby Sutton

Hugh E. Sutton

Mary G. Grant

Harold Stroud

Susan Sutton

Ollie D. Sutton

Parrott Sutton

James D. Sutton

Bettie R. Sutton

Jean Sutton

Barbara A. Sutton

Carl Franklin Barwick

Ivy Jo Barwick

Georgia W. Barwick

Thomas Barwick

Elizabeth Barwick

Mary Frances Barwick

Mary H. Barwick

Shirley Catherine Barwick

James Arthur Elmore

Pauline Hocutt

Harold Sutton

James Dail Reed

Joan Reed

Charles Reed, Jr.

Joe P. Sutton

Chester Hooten

Sandra F. Hooten

Roger Mewborn

Charles H. Phillips

Kenneth Creech

Darlene M. Creech

Sue Ann Suggs

Montaque Hardy, Jr.

Pamela J. Hardy

Carl L. Sutton

Majorie S. Evans

D. Gail Ivey Coltrain

Chris Cauley

Jerry Sutton

Glenda Sutton

Dallas Sutton

Mary Lucille Suton

Susan Sutton

Francis F. Barwick

Edna Earl M. Barwick

Lena H. Barwick

Ronald Barwick

Martha Jane Barwick

Dempsey Hugh Barwick

John Frank, Jr.

Mary Lee Hurdle

Patricia S. Elmore

Johnny Sutton

Charles Reed

Kenneth A. Reed

David Rouse

Nell Mitchell

Jeffrey Sutton

Phyllis G. Hooten

Karen Sue Hooten

C. Bryan Hooten

Linda R. Faulkner

Patrick Creech

Parrott Suggs

Harvey Suggs

Dennise Hardy

Montaque Hardy III

Louise W. Sutton

Frances S. Smith

Linda Ivey

Thelma Sutton

Brenda Sutton

Judy Sutton

Alma Lou Sutton

Lynelle Sutton

William Sutton

Alice C. Sutton

Marcellus Sutton

Carol D. Sutton

Jean Sutton

Imelda Pate

Catherine Ann Sutton

Jimmie Sutton

Phillip N. Sutton

Jeffrey L. Sutton

Clyde L. Rouse

Sherwood Sutton

Stanley Sutton

Wanda Sutton

Jan P. Sutton

Jonathan P. Dawson

Clyde Dawson

Paul Dawson

Bobbie Jo Sutton

Robert H. Sutton, Jr.

Roger E. Eubanks

Nelson Eubanks

Charles M. Sutton

Carl A. Gray

Mark Sutton

Randall Sutton

Wesley F. Sutton

Allyson Phillips

Johnnie E. Sutton

Kay Sutton

Libby Sutton

Finley Sutton

Mary Croom Mitchell

Lydia A. Jenkins Freddie L. Beaman

William Sutton, Jr.

Donna K. Sutton

Glenn Bruner

Jarvis W. Pate

Betty H. Sutton

J. Thomas Sutton

Cindy S. Sutton

Vann Sutton

Alice Faye Sutton

Juanita C. Sutton

Russell Sutton

Jane J. Sutton

L. Diane Sutton

Forrest Dawson

John Dawson

John Dawson

Nannette Sutton

Frank L. Laney

Barbara Sutton

Evelyn F. Eubanks

Ernest Eubanks

Gibbie Sue Sutton

Betsy Jane Sutton

Kirby Sutton

Myra G. Sutton

Ella Phillips

James M. Barwick, Jr.

David A. Sutton

Evelyn C. Sutton

Roy Smith

B. F. Mitchell

Charles Jenkins

James Thomas Beaman

Yvonne Beaman

Ruth Ellem Beaman

Effie Mae Suggs

Albert Suggs

Kathy L. Foss

Billy Lewis

Claudia Sutton

Peggy J. Sutton

Roland Tripp

William J. Bryant

Lori Foss

Gail Cottle

Hugh Dan Hardy

Robert Varnell

Albert Suggs, Jr.

Leigh Suggs

Frances S. Rouse

Sharon Lewis

Ruth (C) Sutton

Catherine Sutton

Sybil Sutton

Hazel D. Tripp

Elaine Bryant

Gerald Cottle

Amy Cottle

Mary Hardy

Dates Found From 1987- Present 1991

Karen Sue Sutton

Mary Reed

Preston L. Sutton

Robert C. (Robbie) Sutton

Joy Heath

Mary Ann Everett

Deborah H. Sutton

Roxie Weeks Cauley

Frederick D. Sutton

Leland Heath

McKeever L. Smith

Angela Barwick

SUMMARY

Trying to trace the history of Hickory Grove Methodist Church has been a very interesting and learning experience for us. To put 130 years of history in thirty-five pages of print and pictures is an impossible task. There have been many changes from the Meeting House from which our church began. Over the years many people have lent a helping hand to make our church what it is today.

Some of the earliest history of the church we can only put in general terms because there are very few records or other references from whic to derive information. From 1915 on, we have been better able to find more records and/or someone to help fill in our church's history. We would like to thank each one for the help and information that they have given to us.

We have tried to be as accurate as possible with our dates and other facts; but we would not say that there are not any errors. If you find a mistake or if this book jogs you memory about something not in the book, write it down and give it to one of us. It would be very useful in any additions to the church history.

We hope that you have found it to be informative, interesting, and enjoyable.

Mis. Francis Eakin mis. Estelle Creech mis. Karin Swe Sutton Mis. Jane J. Sutton Stanley D. Sutton 1 Book 217 Page 179

Lenoir County

North Carolina
Lengir County

INDEXED

This Deed, made and entered into this 3rd day of May, 1945, by and between Guy Elliott, acting as Commissioner as hereinafter stated, party of the first part, and Edward Barwick and Millian Rouse, trustees of the Mickory Grove Methodist Church, in trust, that said premises shall be used, kept, and maintained as a place of divine worship of the Methodist ministry and members of the Methodist Church; subject to the Discipline, usage and ministerial appointments of said church as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference and by the Annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises are situated. This prevision is solely for the benefit of the grantee, and the granter reserves no right or interest in said premises, all parties being of Lenoir County, North Carolina;

Witnesseth: That whereas, in a certain special proceeding entitled "Kro. Helon Sutton, widow of Julian Sutton, deceased, and Everlyn Sutton, a minor, by her Next Friend, S. D. McCullen, Ex Parte", brought and pending before the Clerk of the Superior Court of Lenoir County, North Carolina, an order was made by said court appointing said party of the first part Commissioner to sell at private sale subject to the confirmation of the court certain lands including the land hereinafter described:

And whereas, said party of the first part, acting as Commissioner as aforesaid, on the 5th day of April, 1945, reported to said court the sale of the land hereinafter described to said parties of the second part at the price of Twenty five Dollars (\$25.00) and recommended that sale be confirmed by the court.

And whereas, said report remained open for ten days and no advance bid was made and no objection offered to said sale:

And whereas, said court on the 19th day of April, 1945, entered an order approving and confirming said sale and directing said party of the first part as Commissioner to make, execute and deliver unto said parties of the second part a good and sufficient deed for said land upon the payment to him of the said purchase price; and whereas, said purchase price has been fully paid;

Now, therefore, said party of the first part, acting as Commissioner as aforesaid, under authority of said order of court and in consideration of the said purchase price of Twenty Five Dollars (\$25.00) has bargained and sold and by these presents does bargain, sell, and convey unto the said parties of the second part, their successors and assigns a certain tract or

parcel of land lying and being in Lenoir County, North Carolina, and described as follows:

Beginning on a stake in north targin of public road, Julian Sutton's heirs corner and runs at right angle to road N 52-30 E 110 feet to a stake in the Sutton heirs line; then S 35-30 E 104 feet to a stake; then S 52-30 W 110 feet to a stake in the north margin of the public road upon a mail box; then along the edge of the road N 36-30 W 104 feet to the beginning, containing. 26 of an acre.

To have and to hold said lands and premises, together with all privileges thereunto belonging to them the said parties of the second part, their successors and assigns in as full and ample a manner as said party of the first part as Commissioner as aforesaid is authorized and empowered to convey the same.

In Testimony Whereof, said party of the first part, acting as Commissioner as aforesaid, has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Guy Elliott.....Commissioner

1000

North Carolina Lenoir County .

I, Annie Grady, a Notary Public, do hereby certify that Guy Elliott, Commissioner, personally appeared before me this day and scknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and seal, this 24th day of May, 1945.

(LS) My com. expires: 7/8/45

Annie Grady.....Notary Public

State of North Carolina Lenoir County

The foregoing certificate with Notarial Seal attached is adjudged to be correct. Let the instrument, with the certificate, be registered. Witness my hand this 24 day of May 1945.

John S. Davis S. C.

Filed for registration at 10:45 o'clock A. M. May 24, 1945, and recorded May 24, 1945.

Camille Aldridge. Register of Deeds

Lengir County

One of the Illing The sethodist such is Contificate of Dedication Know All Men By These Presents That

of the Wood in the Congregation, and for the teaching of elernal Fruth. To be hold in toust for the use and benefit in the Alembers of The Methodist Church subject to the usage and descriptions of the sound Church us andor the protection of Almighty God, and with a single oze to The Glory, in the full arracise of any office and ministry, being assisted by the Flaster and Officials of the Chitch, have this day sot afraid from all undeallowed as common was and dedicated to the exembly and somice of Almighty Ged.

Hickory From Grand Mine for the due administration of The Holy Sacraments and Ordinances of Christ, for the preseding from time to time authorized and electared by the General Conference of the said Church, and by the Innual Conformers in whose bounds these promises are esterated

M. Bruined

In Terstimony Mireroly, I have horowale sol my hand and soil the 14th day of Wetaber

NORTH CAROLINA.

LENOIR COUNTY.

THIS DEED made and executed this 16th day of March, 1961, by and between Evelyn Sutton Barwick and husband, Charles H. Barwick, of Lenoir County, North Carolina, parties of the first part, and William A. Rouse, Jere A. Rouse, Edward Barwick, Alton Sutton, and Kinsey Elmore, as Trustees of Hickory Grove Methodist Church; all of said County and State, parties of the second part,

WITNESSETH:

That the said parties of the first part, in consideration of one dollar and other valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, have bargained and sold, and by these presents do bargain, sell and convey unto the said parties of the second part, Trustees as aforesaid, and for the use and benefit of the congregation of said llickory Grove Methodist Church, all that certain lot or parcel of land situate in Moseley Hall Township, Lenoir County, North Carolina, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a stake on the north or northeastern side of the public road whereon is the frontage of the present Hickory Grove Methodist Church lot, at the southwestern corner of said lot, and runs with the northern or northeastern boundary of the public road N. 36 deg. 30 min. W. 20 feet to a stake; thence N. 52 deg. 20 min. E. 150 feet to a stake; thence S. 36 deg. 30 min. E. 210 feet to a stake; thence S. 52 deg. 30 min. W. 150 feet to a stake in the northern or northeastern boundary line of said road; thence N. 36 deg. 30 min. W. along and with the boundary line of said lot 86 feet to the southeastern corner of the present church lot and the same course continued and along the boundary line of said road 104 additional feet to the point of beginning; the foregoing description embracing the present church lot heretofore conveyed by Guy Elliott, Commissioner of Court, to Edward Barwick and William Rouse, as Trustees of Hickory Grove Methodist Church by deed of record in Book 217, page 177, office of the Register of Deeds of said County of Lenoir.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same with the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging unto them, the said parties of the second part as Trustees of Hickory Grove Methodist Church and their successors in office to their only use and behoof forever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF the said parties of the first part have hereunto set

BOOK 430 PAGE SZZ

NORTH CAROLINA,

LENOIR COUNTY.

Land Land Land Land Land Land for the County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that Evelyn Sutton Barwick and husband, Charles

H. Barwick, personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged to me the due execution by them of the foregoing deed.

Notary Public.

Notary Public.

NORTH CAROLINA LENGIR COUNTY

The foregoing pertificate of Alether M. Hellenstern County. State of Mortin Curolina, is adjudged to be correct. Let the instrument with this certificate be registered.

Witness my hand, this the 20 day of Mankage /
Clerk Superior Court

march 20 rb1

Register of Deeds Lands Com-

AND THE RESERVE THE

Mrs Herman Suttone Mrs annie Barricks Billie Sutton 5.00 mary Sultar Mrs Munden - Jone button 1.00 Patter 00 Sherwood 2:0 0 lellan oxfo 2.00 Welien Pouse 5.00 WS.CS. 510.0 Hickory Thou (Kurch 1000 1,00 1.00 1.00 2,00

La

1144,00 1.41.00 2 windows 5,00 gan over do 3 40, 00 pulpitum 630,00 1.77. Etain 4/8,47 Pietus Window
10,00 Ale box for pastor a
5,00 minmegraph mac

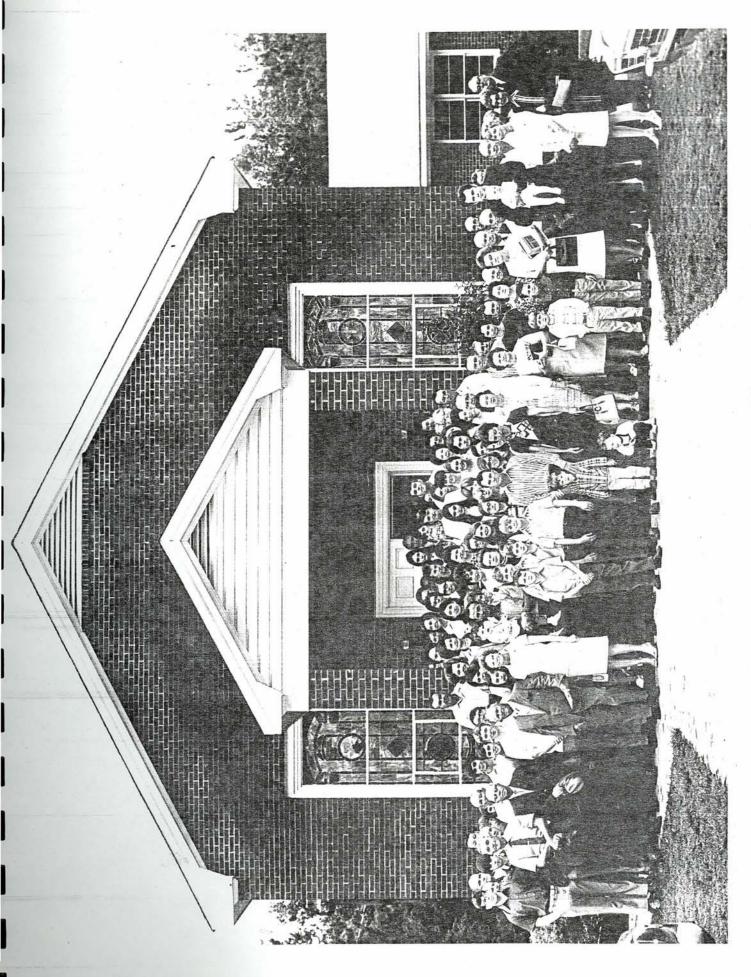


Homecoming





Picture taken on April 20 on May, 1952





Rev. C. E. (Gene) Hix, Jr. 1939-1943



Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) Hix



Rev. Billie McCullen 1954-1957



Mrs. Gladys McCullen



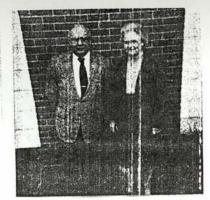
Rev. & Mrs. J. D. Autry (Clara) 1943-1951



Rev. J. B. Parvin 1957-1962



, Rev. & Mrs. N. P. Edens (Annie) 1962-1966



Rev. & Mrs. Lewis H. Dodson (Carrie) 1966



Rev. & Mrs. Jim Hobbs (Mary) 1975-1977



Rev. James Sponenburg 1977-1980



Rev. & Mrs. Charles F. Eakin (Frances).



Rev. Fred Dillon 1980-1983



R. L. Bame



Billie McCullen



J. B. Parvin



Nelson Edens



Lewis Dodson



Alton Lancaster



Evertte Bryan



James Hobbs



J. E. Sponenberg



Fredrick Dillon



Grady Kinley



Harley Owens



Joseph Donakey