### A BRIEF HISTORY

of the

## Kitty Hawk Methodist Church

by

Mattie Sanderlin Wescott

With the assistance of the Kitty Hawk Methodist Church
Centennial Committee

Rev. Stanley S. Snead, Pastor

Mrs. Jackson S. Twiford, Overall Chairman

Mrs. John E. Finn, Chairman, Historical Committee

Kitty Hawk, North Carolina

# MEMBERS OF THE INTERMEDIATE CLASS, 1953 WHO ORIGINATED THE EDUCATIONAL BUILDING PROJECT

Mrs. Fannie Brothers Perry, Teacher

Carol Perry

Jacquelyn Twiford

Sandra Keller

Vivian Midgett

Robert Duvall

Bruce Best

Roy Harris

Herbert Morrison

Judith Utz

Barbara Wise

Karolyn Whitfield

Shirley York

Betty Lou Tillett

Gloria Rogers

Tommy Parker

Sandra Elliott

#### KITTY HAWK METHODIST CHURCH

The first Methodist Church in the village of Kitty Hawk, N. C. had its birth in the year of 1858 and was located in the center of a 4 acre field owned by Elijah Sibborn, presently the B. F. Perry homesite. This church was of small dimension, roughly about the size of the average neighborhood living room. Its frame was hand hewn, enclosed by vertically fastened foot-wide rough boards. The inside was unfinished and it was floored. The pews were long, wide boards resting on three upright blocks cut from a large log.

For many years devotional services, other than prayer meetings, were conducted by transient ministers. The hymnals were noteless. The hymn leader was either the minister or a member of the congregation who would raise the hymn after first announcing its metre, such as: long metre, short metre, or whatever metre.

In the year 1887 Elijah Sibborn gave a parcel of land on the main road of the village, the present site of Kitty Hawk Methodist Church, to the church trustees and a new church was erected there. In the year of 1904 he submitted a deed for the piece of land.

This church was somewhat larger than the original one, approximately 24 x 36 feet and a very nicely constructed frame building. It was finished outside with horizontal siding painted white and inside with horizontal sheathing painted white with a medium blue ceiling and window trim. There were 9 windows. Three were in each side; two in the pulpit end, (one at each side of the pulpit) and one between the two front doors in the front end. An aisle led from each front door down to the pulpit. Long pews were in the center between the two aisles, and half-length pews on the opposite sides of the aisles and attached to the side walls. The pews were millmade. Four matching oil lamps were suspended from the ceiling. One hung over the pulpit, and the three others hung in line down the center of the room over the long pews. Four bracket oil lamps were on the side walls, one between each two windows.

The construction of the building was directed by Life Saving Service Keeper, James R. Hobbs, known as Captain Hobbs, and Thomas N. Sanderlin, aided by all carpenters in the community working for free. The church's name was chosen as "Boaz" by Captain Hobbs, inspired by a verse of the Scripture referring to King Solomon's Temple, which reads: "and he set up the left pillar, and called the name thereof Boaz." First Kings, 7th Chapter, 21st verse.

The charter members of the church were Mrs. James R. Hobbs, Mrs. Sidney Toler, Mr. and Mrs. Edward O'Neal and Thomas N. Sanderlin.

The first pastor in charge was Reverend Sanderson Payne, who came to the Kitty Hawk Methodist Church in 1888. During his pastorate at Kitty Hawk, the Reverend Payne served as pastor to Nags Head Church whose membership was 4, alternating his Sundays between the two churches.

A Methodist church in the beach community of Currituck Inlet, 30 miles north of Kitty Hawk with a membership of 32, entered Kitty Hawk circuit of churches in the year of 1900. Around the same time a Methodist Church on Colington Island with a membership of 24 also joined the circuit. The Kitty Hawk pastor then conducted services one Sunday of each month in each church of his charge.

The pastor's overland trips to his churches in Nags Head and Currituck Inlet were made by horse and beach-cart transportation. The members of Kitty Hawk schurch took turns at furnishing a horse and vehicle. Across-water passages to Colington Island were made in small sailboats supplied and operated by owners of such craft as an accommodation. Later small motorized boats were used.

In the year of 1902 the Ladies Aid Society of the church purchased by installment plan for the amount of \$75.00 a used organ. This organ had the appearance of a small pipe organ, though the pipes were only ornamental. The first organ-

ist was Miss Nora L. Baum, assisted by her brother Elijah W. Baum. Following the purchase of the organ for two or more summers, the young people of the community took short courses in music reading, referred to as "singing school". Those music courses of about 12 lessons each were taught by Mr. Ed Sowers, assisted by his daughter Bernie. Thus the choir was born. The first choir director was Elijah W. Baum.

The organ for the church was selected and the business entailed in the full transaction was engineered by Franklin Harris Midgett, a trustee of the church. Captain Harris Midgett as he was known to his neighbors entered the church as a member in 1888. At the outset of his membership he was chosen as trustee and served in this capacity until his death in 1929. Throughout all those years of service, a major part of the financial responsibilities of the church rested upon his shoulders, and he bore them with joy. During the first lean years of the church's life, he was known to pull from his own pocket to make up a deficit after having previously given substantially.

The church was enlarged in 1905 with the addition of a  $45 \times 25$  foot room at the pulpit end, making the church a "T" shaped structure. The inside and outside of the addition was finished to match the old one, and at the right of the pulpit a raised platform was built for the seating of the choir.

In 1922 the Currituck Inlet Church was withdrawn from the Kitty Hawk charge and the Duck Methodist Church, with a membership of 6, replaced it.

By 1938 plans were perfected for replacing the frame church building at Kitty Hawk with a brick structure, and in that year the old building was razed and in June, 1938 the cornerstone of the present church building was laid. The "T" shaped brick church was completed at a total cost of approximately \$9,000. Reverend Matt Ransom Gardner was the pastor.

Mount Zion Methodist Church with a membership of 95, and Hebron Methodist Church with a membership of 75, both of which are located on the Currituck mainland, were added to the Kitty Hawk charge in 1943 and in that same year Nags Head Methodist church was withdrawn. In 1953 both Currituck County churches requested and were granted withdrawal by the Methodist Conference, and at the present time the Kitty Hawk charge consists of the three churches, at Kitty Hawk, Colington, and Duck.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Kitty Hawk Sunday School had its beginning in the year of 1880 in a small room in the home of charter member, Mrs. James R. Hobbs, later known as Aunt Eliza. Mrs. Hobbs was born Eliza Murphy in Liverpool, England and was fairly well educated for her time. She met her husband, Captain James R. Hobbs, then a master of an ocean-going vessel, in New York City before the war between the states. He brought her as a bride to Kitty Hawk, N. C. and they made their home in a cottage atop a hill surrounded by grass and huge oaks on the site presently occupied by VEP power plant. For many years on Sunday afternoons she taught the village children to read and to write and she read to them children's Bible stories and from the Bible. Two students in her very first class of pupils were Eliza Twiford (Perry) and her sister Nancy Twiford (Tillett),

After the second church was completed and the Sunday School classes began meeting there, Ezekial Midgett, Sr. was elected superintendent of the Sunday School. He served until his death in 1898. However, the person who has merited the most credit for the perpetuation of Aunt Eliza's Sunday School is the son of Ezekiel Midgett, Sr., William, known as Captain Will Midgett. He was elected superintendent of Kitty Hawk Sunday School following the death of his father and served almost continuously until his death in 1952. He gave to the youth of the church a lifetime of tireless devotion to service and strict attendance.

#### **PARSONAGE**

The site for the first parsonage of the Kitty Hawk Methodist church was deeded to the three trustees, Thomas N. Sanderlin, Harris Midgett, and Edward O'Neal on July I, 1896 by James R. Hobbs. Shortly afterwards the first parsonage was built there. It was "L" shaped. A front porch extended down the west side its full length. A center hall opened from the front porch and led through to a back porch which extended eastward along the north side of the back wing of the house. The dining room and kitchen opened on this porch. On the left of the center hall was a living room, on the right was a bedroom, and leading from it was a second floor consisting of two bedrooms. The furnishings of the parsonage was a gift from Mrs. Hannah Lyons. The same team of builders who built the second church also built the parsonage under the same working arrangement.

This parsonage was abandoned and razed and the site sold in the year of 1919. A similarly styled house owned by Captain W. J. Tate and on the site of the present parsonage was purchased by the church for their pastors in the same year. In 1928 this second parsonage was burned. Shortly thereafter the present parsonage was erected. The site of the original parsonage is now occupied by a large white frame house owned by George R. Fearing.

#### OTHER CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Though members of the Kitty Hawk Methodist church frequently attended camp meetings in other nearby communities (and three of these were held on Colington Island between 1888 and 1905) there appears to have been only one camp meeting for which the Kitty Hawk church was host. This was held in the summer of 1887 at the east end of Kitty Hawk Bay, south of the village, and for many years that particular area has been known as the Camp Meeting Grounds.

Frequently services were conducted by men stationed in the nearby Lifesaving Stations, and Nelson Holmes and Dan W. Hayman were among those early lifesavers who conducted services prior to 1900.

Ever mindful of its responsibility toward the unfortunate souls who do not know the joy of a Christian faith, the church regularly has made contributions to Foreign Missions and dispatched them to the Methodist Conference, even when the financial problem of making ends meet was acute.

From her, also, arose at least one man of the gospel. Reverend Louis Hayman, an ordained minister, has given and is continuing to give to the Methodist church a dedicated and distinguished service.

#### THE PROPOSED EDUCATION BUILDING

In 1953 the Intermediate Sunday School Class, with Mrs. Fannie B. Perry as teacher, started a building fund for a new educational building, and at Christmas that year Mrs. Perry and the members of her class donated a total of \$18.00 for the purpose. Mrs. Perry was then appointed by the Board of Stewards as Secretary-Treasurer of the building fund, and this project has since become one of major concern to the members of the church.

At the time of our centennial celebration the fund has grown to more than \$22,000, cash on hand, plus more than \$5,000 in work pledges, and another \$5,000 from the Duke Endowment Fund. Many members of the congregation have pledged monthly donations during the coming year in order to raise the total figure closer to the goal of \$50,000, which is the estimated cost of the new building.

The new structure, to be added to the rear of the existing brick church, will be a two story building, 60 feet long and 40 feet wide, finished on the exterior in brick. It will include a large fellowship hall, kitchen, rest rooms, kindergarten classroom and chair storage room downstairs, and primary, intermediate, youth and adult classrooms upstairs.

### Kitty Hawk Boaz Methodist Church

### Membership Record

	Eliza Murphy Hobbs Edward O'Neal Sallie A. O'Neal Thomas N. Sanderlin Sidney M. Toler	Deceased "" ""	1902	Rev. J. E. Saunders Delia Owens Baum Elijah W. Baum Hettie M. Baum Joseph E. Baum	Deceased Active Deceased
1888	Rev. Sanderson Payne Matilda O. Baum Ellen T. Baum Edward Baum, Sr. Emeline Baum Sarah A. Baum Martha T. Harris Margaret A. Harris Agustus Harris Thomas E. Hines Franklin H. Midgett Mary H. Midgett	   Active	1903	Nora L. Baum Rosa Baum Silos D. Hines Samuel W. Melson Ezekial D. Midgett Martha A. Midgett Oliver O'Neal Elnora Perry Dowdy Arthur P. Tillett Nancy E. Tillett	Active Deceased  Active Deceased  Trans.
	Ella M. Sanderlin Addie M. Tate Aby Twiford	Deceased		Lemuel Hines	Deceased
1889	Banister Hines	11	1904	William Frank Midgett	Trans.
1891	Charlotte O'Neal	11			
1892	Rev. J. J. Porter Corinna G. Owens	11	1905	Rev. A. W. Price Caroline Basnight Mary R. Basnight	Inactive Deceased
1893	William W. Basnight			Christopher C. Baum	Deceased
1894	Rev. R. L. Warlick Louisa Basnight	** #7		Edward N. Baum, Jr. Gaston F. Baum Maud M. Baum	Inactive Active
1895	Rev. Sanderson Payne			William Baum, Jr. Maggie Cogswell	Deceased
1896	Rev. J. W. Gurganous Victoria Baum Lovie C. Hines James R. Hobbs Polly Melson William W. Midgett Martin L. Sanderlin Elizabeth D. Smith Palistine Tate Theocanus Tillett Jackson S. Twiford, Sr. Mary F. Best	Active		John D. Cogswell Bertha Midgett Baum Harriet M. Midgett Spencer L. Midgett Thomas E. Midgett Truxton E. Midgett William T. O'Neal Dora O'Neal Dough Mincie Partridge Claudia Sanderlin Alethia S. Parker Mattie S. Wescott Bessie B. Sanderlin	Trans. Inactive Active Inactive Active Withdrew Trans. Trans. Deceased
1901	Rev. L. E. Sawyer Henry G. Smith	Deceased		Levicy Scarborough Fidelia Tate George B. Tillett	Trans. Deceased Trans.

1906	Rev. J. F. Hallford Elsworth J. Baum Filena Beals Rogers Minnie L. Beals Paul J. Beals Dona Beals Buena V. Midgett Chloey F. Midgett Arthur R. Parker Callie E. Parker	Deceased Trans Inactive Deceased Inactive Trans.	Nov. 1914	Rev. J. F. Usrey Mrs. J. F. Usrey Jessie E. Usrey Beulah B. Usrey Nancy E. Usrey	Trans. " " ett Active
	Hollis Parker Ellerd Payne Zenith F. Perry Dezzie D. Perry Emma F. Sanderlin	Deceased Inactive Active Trans. Deceased	1916 1917	Anne Hines  Stella Baum Staples Mary Midgett Dowdy Iola Midgett Davis Vera Usrey	Trans. Active Trans.
1907	Rev. S. J. Kilpatrick Hattie A. Hines Mollie Hines W. R. Hines Bettie Midgett	" " Active		Rev. R. L. Beasley	"
Nov. 1907	Sadie Stetson  Rev. Edward Johnson	Deceased	1918	Mary Beasley Norman H. Beasley Erna R. Beasley Raymond L. Beasley Robert Beasley	" " Deceased
Oct. 1908	Rev. Henry G. Smith			Lauretta O'Neal Clara Sanderlin James Robert F. Sanderlin	Trans. Deceased
Nov. 1909	Rev. J. M. Whitson Irene Tate Pauline Tate Edward Beals Eddie Beals Sabrie Beals Bernie Midgett	Trans. "" "" Deceased	1919	Julian Guard Lizzie Harris W. Ambrose Midgett Ernest L. Midgett Nannie Midgett Hasket Robert L. Midgett Oscar Partridge Addie C. Toler	Inactive Trans. Inactive  Trans.  Deceased Active
Nov. 1911	Rev. M. B. Cox Ether Best Mellie R. Cox Sadie Midgett Beacham Bertha O'Neal Willis	Trans. Deceased Trans.	1920 Nov.	Jesse E. Baum James R. Best W. H. Lewark Sarah Lewark Irene Lewark Twiford	Inactive Active
1913	Samuel L. O'Neal Rodanthe Partridge Nancy Twiford Tillett Aldbaron Partridge	Deceased Inactive Deceased		Rev. M. D. McLamb  Robert L. Wescott, Sr. Bonnie Wescott Gray	Deceased Withdrew
Nov. 1913	Rev. W. H. Smith Alberta H. Smith Lizzie A. Smith Helen Stetson Tillett	Trans.	Nov. 1922	Rachel Wescott Gruve Lovie Wescott Reiff Odessa Tillett Baum Rev. E. J. Midgett	r Trans. Deceased

Nov 1923	3 Rev. R. L. Beasley	Nov. 1930	Rev. H. A. Baum	
Nov 192	4 Rev. W. A. Chambers  5 Aleta Baum Corbell Ac Edna Baum Harris	1931	Rhoda M. Baum Mrs. Dan Collins R. M. Haskett Nathan Haskett Katie May Haskett Dorothy May Midgett	Trans.
	Orville Baum Ac Ruby Baum With Carlos Dowdy Ac Margaret Midgett Tra	ctive ans.	Rev. H. A. Baum and R. E. Walston, Asst.	
	Bertie Morse Ac Minnie Parker Perry Tr	eased Nov. 1933 ans.	Rev. R. E. Walston	
	Wilma Perry Beasley Inac Virgie Perry Cox Ac	tive 1934	Cynthia A. Meekins Mrs. Clay Tillett R. B. Young	Inactive
	Easter Tillett Beacham Tr		Rev. Matt R. Gardner Isaac Norris Baum	Deceased
Nov 192	5 Rev. W. A. Betts	ans.	Alfred Midgett Rosalind Swain Oma Pearl Tillett	Active
172	Gladys Betts Henry Betts William Betts Nellie Baum Caldwell	1936 	Alma Beacham Hayman Shirley Dowdy Toler Denton Clay Everton Guy Holden Hayman Carl Maxton Midgett Wilbur Ervin Midgett	Inactive Trans. Inactive Trans. Inactive Active
192	Undine Brenan Tr Julian Lewark Inac	ans.	Trux Shelton Midgett Claude Edgar Parker Rose Marie Swain	Inactive Trans.
	Thelma Midgett Della Partridge Haskett Deco Bessie Tillett Partridge Inac	1027	Mrs. Alice Baum Bertha Lee Gardner	Inactive Trans.
Nov 192	8 Rev. J. R. Jolliff	1938	Lillie Beasley Loreli Henderson Eugenia Midgett	Inactive
Nov 192	9 Rev. R. A. Bruton		Bessie Sanderlin Powell Mildred Sanderlin Spaig	ht Trans.

Geneva Lora M Jarvis Jack D Mary S Eula Sr Ruth V Nov. 1940 Rev. J. C Mrs. J. Emma John H	Dowdy A Harris Iidgett Outz Midgett . Nelson Stetson Perry nith Perry Vhitehurst  C. Harmon C. Harmon Harmon	Active Trans. Inactive Deceased Active Trans. Deceased	1951	Mary Stetson Nelson Virgie Cartwright Minnie Gray Roy Harris Jean Hines Crowe Mary Midgett Hines Edgar Perry Margaret Ellen Perry Nellie Garington Perry Judy Ann Perry Elizabeth Susan Sanderlin Phyllis Sawyer Richards Robert Allen Sullivan Anges Toler Wise Barbara A. Wise	Active Trans. Active
1941 Shirley William Thomas Mrs. Tl Flora N	Mae Shannon n Roy Beacham s R. Caroon homas R. Caroon Midgett Brickhouse	Trans.	1952	Lois Frances Corbell Frank H. Dean Herbert R. Morrison, Sr., Mrs. H. R. Morrison, Sr Herbert R. Morrison, Jr. Mrs. F. J. Oliver	
1943 Guy S	paight	Trans.		Tanya Dawn Tillett Phyllis S. Stick	Active
Nov. 1943 Rev. G. V Nov. 1945 Rev. W.	R. Freeman	٨٠١		Robana Hines Wise R. B. Cobb Mrs. R. B. Cobb Elizabeth G. Baum Mrs. R. E. Parker	Trans.
Mary S	carborough Baum	Active			
Nov. 1946 Rev. L. F	. Harris		1953	John W. Evans Maxine Tillett Evans Wallace F. Mustian	11
1947 Alma N	Midgett Finn	n		Emily L. Mustian Genis Partridge Beasley	"
Eva H.	Crews Dean White ine P. Twiford	11 11		Frances O'Neal Beasley Joan K. Corbell Reuben B. Haskett Leslie Rex Henley	11 11 11
Nov. 1948 Rev. W.	J. Freeman			Michael W. Keller Sandra Keller Sadie O'Neal Ballance	11
Cora E Violet Millice David Elizabe	W. Barnard E. Barnard Keller Meekins nt Miller P. Pruitt th Sivills Sanderlin . Osmon	Active		Janis Pugh Parker Donald J. Twiford Marion C. York Daniel L. York Clarence A. York Elizabeth Atkins	Trans. Active

Nov.				Joan Rae Gimbert	Active
11/2/2012	Rev. W. B. Gregory			Joyce A. Gimbert	11
1755	Nev. W. D. Oregory			Judy Faye Gimbert	
				Roger Dale Gardner	11
1954	Thomas Briggs	Active		Glenwood Paul Montgom	nery "
	Mrs. Thomas Briggs	11		Robert Gerald Montgom	
	Charles Briggs	11			100
	Sanford Gregory			Mrs. W. H. Montgomery	11
	Mrs. Sanford Gregory	"		George O'Neal	100
	Alston Meekins	5.00		Cobert Foreman	11
	Major M. Morrisette	111		Edward Lee Midgett	11
	William (Billy) Davis	111		Irene Baum Midgett	
	Miles Davis	.0		Vivian Lee Midgett	11
	Marjorie E. Gregory	Trans.		Carlos Lee Perry	11
	W. David Gregory	11		Vera Dionne Tillett	0
	Walter B. Gregory, Jr.			Elizabeth Jennette Baum	
	James (Jimmy) Morrison	10		Pauline Baum	
	Fred M. Mustian	Active		Robert Lee Mason	
	Michael Parker	"			ñ.
	Tommy Parker	11	1957		n
	Robert (Bobby) Shannon	11		Alta Baum Midgett	
	W. Herbert Smith	11		Eddie Midgett	
	Mrs. W. Herbert Smith	11		Rosemary Sanderlin	n
	Wils. W. Fierbert Smith			Minnie Tillett Twiford	11
				Dempsey Perry	"
July				Patricia Miller Butler	11
1955	Rev. W. H. Montgomery				
	Sonny Briggs	.11	Misc	. Nancy Lee Baum	Active
	David Fearing	11		Jean Best Beacham	11
	Ronnie Fearing	***		Robert Bruce Best	.00
	Ralph B. Marx	11		Emma E. Haskett	11
	Mrs. Ralph B. Marx			Mincie Vonita Haskett	.01
	N. Avery Tillett	**		Decater Midgett	"
	Jackson S. Twiford, Jr.	11		Jarvis Midgett V	Vithdrew
	Jacquelyn Kaye Twiford	11		Marvin Midgett	Active
	Martha York	316		Marvin Midgett, Jr.	11
	Shirley York			Mary Helen Best Parker	.01
	Mrs. Robert A. Young	***		Carol Dee Perry	
	Robert A. Young, Jr.			Fannie B. Perry	11
	Tanya Young	11		Hallett Perry	11
	2020 - 100 2 CO 200 - 1 2 CO 200 CO 2			Mrs. Hallett Perry	11
105/	M 61 II 1 II			Katheryn Hayman Perry	11
1956	Mrs. Shelby Hines			그러워 호텔 선생님은 10 전략이	nactive
	Carlton Smith, Jr.			Phyllis Jean Stetson	Active
	Mrs. Carlton Smith, Sr.	"		Lionel Shannon	"
	Gene Smith	110		Sadie Midgett White	11
	Sarah A. Smith	u)		3-11 1.1110	
	John Everett Finn	11	July		
	Betty Lou Finn	"	1958	Rev. Stanley S. Snead	

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS KITTY HAWK METHODIST CHURCH

1893-1897—Ezekial Midgett

1897-1898-Dan M. Tate and John D. Collins

1898-1913-William Midgett

1913-1917—Truxton Midgett

1917-1921—Joseph Baum and Franklin Harris Midgett

1921-1952-William Midgett

1952-1955—Carlos Dowdy

1955- —Mrs. John W. Evans