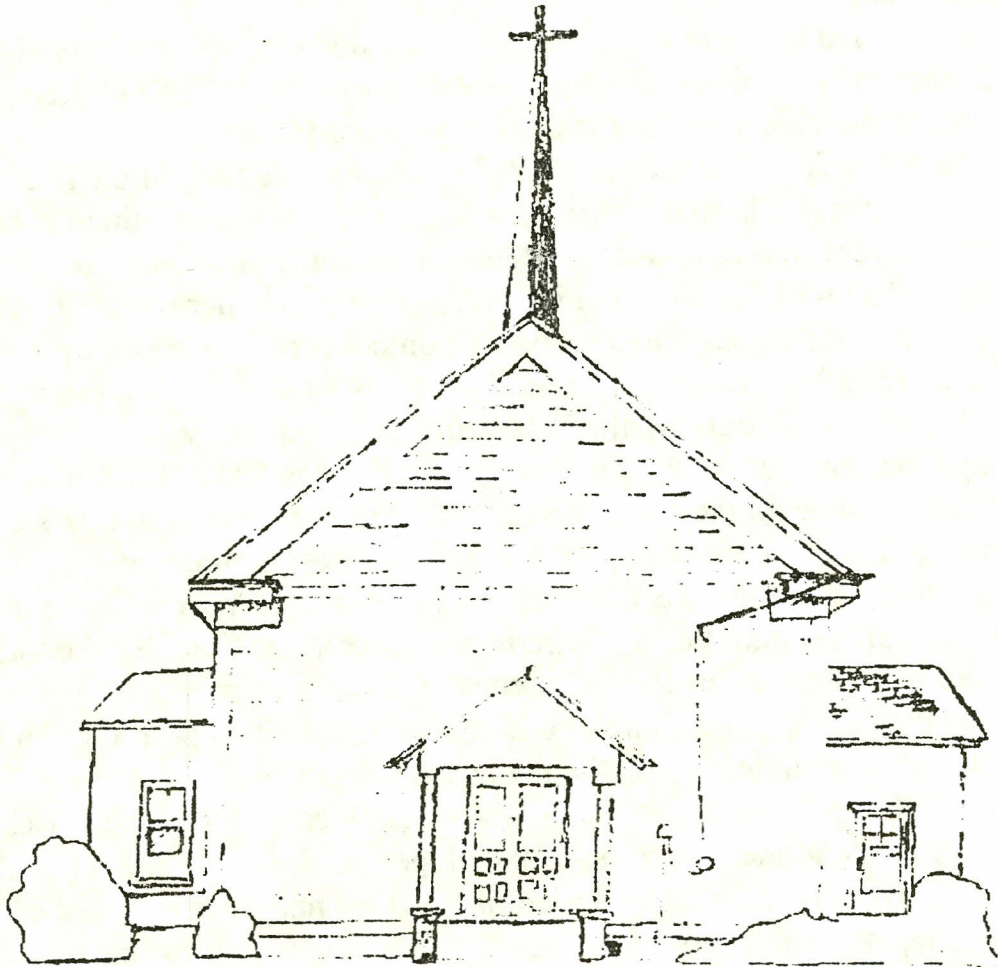


# LEE'S CHAPEL

*United Methodist Church*



*Artwork by Myron Meadows 1994*

*"I have set the Lord always before me:  
because He is at my right hand,  
I shall not be moved."*

OCTOBER 13, 2002  
HOMECOMING/HERITAGE DAY



## A HISTORY OF LEE'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Francis Asbury was born in England. In 1771, he answered John Wesley's call for preachers to go to the wilderness of America. Asbury first mentions in his journal being in Jones County in February 1788. On Wednesday Feb. 13, he preached at Lee's meeting place. He writes, "We had many dead souls at the quarterly meeting at Lee's." His journal entry for the following day says, "My heart melted for the people: they do not, will not pray; and if they so continue, must be undone."

Thomas Lee deeded one acre of land to the Methodist Church on September 13, 1790 "for love and 83 pounds" to include the "new meeting house lately built by Lee for their use." Thus, Lee's Chapel is the oldest Methodist Church in Jones County.

Asbury returned to Jones County in 1791. He wrote in his journal on Tuesday, Feb. 25, "I preached at Lee's Chapel. There is a very great change for the better since I was here 3 years ago: they have built a very decent house of worship. I was unwell in body, but happy in my God, and resigned to His will." His journal indicates he preached here in 1796, 1799, 1801, 1804, and 1813; he traveled through Jones County numerous other times, but does not specifically mention preaching at Lee's Chapel during any of those visits. During Asbury's lifetime, Lee's Chapel was the only Methodist Church in Jones County.

Lee's Chapel became part of the Trent circuit as early as 1842. The Jones circuit was organized in 1858 to include all the Methodist churches in Jones County. Lee's Chapel at that time was the leading church of the circuit. In 1879 three acres of land were purchased from J.O. Foy and J.C. Holland for \$1.00 by the Trustees of Lee's Chapel Church. These three acres were added to the original lot; William Puckett was the preacher at the time. By the turn of the century, there were 614 members of the 6 churches of the Jones circuit.

History says that the original church building burned the later part of the nineteenth century. Services were held in tents until the present sanctuary was built.

In 1901, Lee's Chapel was transferred to the Onslow circuit with 4 other churches. The others were Maysville, Belgrade, Tabernacle, and Hopewell. In 1920, Pollocksville Methodist Church was added to the circuit. In 1954, the Pollocksville charge was formed with Lee's Chapel, Pollocksville, Belgrade, and Tabernacle. During this time, only one worship service was held each month at Lee's Chapel, usually the fourth Sunday afternoon. Sunday School was held each Sunday.

In 1960, Lee's Chapel and Pollocksville were the only churches on the Pollocksville charge. At that time, no additions had been made to the original church, but plans were made for Sunday School rooms and a kitchen. Since then, many improvements have been made: new floor, windows, pews, and other improvements, most recently the double entry doors on the front of the building. Most of the work done over the years was by the good men, women, and pastors of the church. A steeple was placed on the church, and the cross on the steeple was given in memory of Mrs. Ruby Yates Wilson by her children. The steeple was blown off the roof several years ago in a storm, but we hope to have it replaced again soon.