



# The United Methodist Church

1205 MAIN STREET

P. O. BOX 506

LILLINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

*Our 100th Anniversary*  
*"An Experience of Celebration and Worship*  
22 October 1978 10:45 A. M.

*The Organ Prelude*

*\*The Call to Worship*

*\*The Hymn of Praise* Page 28  
*"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"*

*The Invocation*

*Words of Welcome* Mr. W. T. Simmons

*Concerns of the Congregation*

*\*Hymn (verses 1, 2, 3 and 6)* Page 1  
*"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

*\*The Responsive Reading* Page 606  
*"Praise God in His Sanctuary"*

*\*The Affirmation of Our Faith* Page 738

*The Choir Anthem* Carl Muller  
*"Surely the Lord is in This Place"*

*The Morning Prayers*  
*Silent Prayer*  
*Pastoral Prayer*

*Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings*

*Registration of Attendance*

*\*The Doxology*

*Special Music* Dr. Charles Yarbrough  
*"Art Thou the Christ"*

Altar flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Flemmon P. McDonald and Milton O. Lee by Mary Dwight McDonald and sons, Neill and George McDonald, and their families.

Vestibule flowers are given in celebration of the Centennial anniversary by Mr. and Mrs. John W. Spears, Jr.

Lillington United Methodist Church welcomes every visitor, former member, children and relatives of former members, and friends. Your presence today is a delight. May your visit for this occasion bring you the measure of pleasure that we feel because you are here.

Our Centennial Dinner  
12:00 Noon  
Church Fellowship Hall

We request that for a minimum of congestion all persons exit through the front doors of the sanctuary and take the downstairs hallway, or go outside and re-enter the educational building, then ascend the stairs to the Fellowship Hall. Guests will be served first. Others will follow as convenient.

During the dinner recess Miss Lois Byrd will acknowledge our guests and assist us in the recollection of their family ties with former members and dedicated servants of Lillington Methodist Church.

At the afternoon service we will extend our celebration through the Service of Infant Baptism. Katherine Coleene Leonard, daughter of Tim and Margaret Ann Leonard, and fifth generation descendant of Mrs. Mary Jane Davis McLean, a charter member of Lillington Methodist Church, will receive the Sacrament of Infant Baptism.



More than 100 years ago Methodist Circuit riders established preaching stations along the upper Cape Fear River basin. History records 49 different locations where services were conducted. The Buckhorn Circuit, organized in 1857, marked the beginning of regularly scheduled preaching points by Methodist pastors.

The beginnings of the first Methodist group in Lillington are shrouded. There are hints of a class that met in the Summerville area in a schoolhouse around 1870. Mention is made of a "Wesley Chapel" in that vicinity, but its existence cannot be documented. Oral tradition reported that Hebron Chapel, located on 12th and Lofton Streets, was a possible forerunner. This too is difficult to support. It is certain, however, that "Lillington Mission" was organized in 1878. North Carolina Conference records in November of that year reveal contributions from the Lillington Mission. A one room frame building was moved to the site now occupied by the County bus garage. Again, heresay reports that the structure was moved to Lillington from Summerville along with several other community buildings.

Rev. Isaac W. Avent was "junior preacher" on the Buckhorn Circuit and responsible for starting the Mission. Services were held there regularly until 1885. That year the Lillington Circuit was formed, comprising Lillington and five other churches.

A few of the people who were part of those early years of the church have had their names recorded in places that have been preserved. Mary Jane Davis McLean, grandmother of Addie and Monnie McDonald, and Florence Lee, was one of the charter members of the Lillington Mission. John

A. Green, Henry Spears and Oscar Spears were the first trustees of the church in 1882. Mr. L. M. Chaffin, a life long member of the church, is the grandson of the first pastor of the circuit, Rev. Washington Chaffin; and Mrs. J. H. (Jessie) Taylor, resident of Linden and member of Parker's Grove Methodist Church, is the great-niece of Rev. Avent, who organized the Mission.

The location of the church proved undesirable with the passing years. In 1902 a building committee was appointed. A new site had to be located and plans drawn. After six years of waiting, the old building was sold in November of 1908. A new deed had been drawn six months earlier for a one-half acre site, which today's structure still occupies. In the interval between 1908 and 1911 when the new church was completed, the congregation worshipped in the courthouse. Two years later, in 1913, the Fayetteville District Conference met in the spacious building. For its time it was an impressive place of worship.

Thirty years from the time the first timbers were put on the site in 1908, a new building was erected. The war years, the depression and the long period of recovery left their marks. The church bore evidence of neglect. In June of 1927 the Lillington Methodist Church congregation moved its services to the school, and the building was torn down. In its place an attractive brick structure appeared. Its doors opened for worship in October of 1928.

Through all these years Lillington remained on a circuit. At times churches were added, at other times they were switched to other circuits. The Raleigh and Fayetteville Districts have pushed their boundaries back and forth over the years so that Lillington has been first in one then the other.

In 1947 the parsonage was first occupied on its present site. In 1952 Lillington became a station appointment and had its first full time pastor. Community and church growth made larger facilities necessary. In 1959 the educational building was erected. Remodeling of the sanctuary basement area followed in 1961. 1964-65 saw the sanctuary renovated, and the vestibule and steeple added.

The history of the church has been made possible by the faithful service, the loyal support and the loving sacrifice of many persons. This abbreviated statement cannot begin to pay honor or just dues to them. Let it be said that they will receive their recognition in an audience of higher import than ours. Together, let us celebrate this joyful occasion as heirs of the heritage of generations of Methodists of Lillington. Let us also give all attention to that divine providence under which we too may leave for our posterity evidence of our love for and faithfulness to God and His church.



The Lesson from the Holy Scriptures

The Centennial Sermon

Rev. Steve Harper

"The Best of Methodism: Yesterday and Today"

\*Hymn of Celebration

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"I Love Thy Kingdom Lord"

\*Offering of Thanks for Our Centennial Dinner

\*The Benediction

The Organ Postlude

\*Congregation Stands

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Our services today are enhanced by the presence of two special speakers. Rev. Steve Harper, preacher for morning worship, is a United Methodist minister, and member of the Northwest Texas Conference. He and his family reside in Durham, N. C., where he is a student in Duke Divinity School. He is working toward his doctor's degree in Wesleyan studies, and plans to teach in a United Methodist Seminary upon completion of his work. We are happy to have Rev. Harper, his wife, Jeannie, and children with us for this Centennial service.

Bishop Robert M. Blackburn, leader of United Methodists in eastern North Carolina, will speak for our afternoon service. He has been in Lillington for two previous events, and we are happy to have him for this third engagement. He brings with him the newest member of our episcopal family, Mrs. Blackburn. We are pleased to have her make her first visit to Lillington, and add our welcome to that long line of greetings she has received as she has been welcomed to our North Carolina Conference.

## OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

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Paul Carruth.....	District Superintendent
Robert F. Bundy.....	Minister
Study 893-4811	Home 893-3627
William C. Stone.....	Choir Director
Len McKinney.....	Treasurer
Mrs. J. C. Croom.....	Financial Secretary
Mrs. Gladys McKay.....	Custodian

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David Tyre	Helen McDonald	Donald Kelly

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