

100th Anniversary

1877-1977

LITTLE RIVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Memorial Service

31 July 1977



ROBERT N. BLACKBURN
Bishop, Raleigh, N. C.

Rev. Clyde McCarver
District Supt., Sanford, N. C.

Virgil L. Free, Minister,
Pekin, N. C.

To the Members and Friends of Little River:

It is a thrill for me to be the pastor of Little River United Methodist Church when we celebrate the first One hundred years in the history of this great church. I have never belonged to a church nor served as pastor when such an event took place. Indeed, it is a unique pleasure and experience.

There are two thoughts that occur to me in this event. First, that we are indebted to the past. When you read the church's history in this printed program you will appreciate the discomforts endured by those attending a worship service back in the "good ol' days". We should never forget the sacrifices made by those who have made possible the comfortable church in which we worship God today. The present educational facilities for our children, youth, and adults are adequate for our present needs. Recognizing indebtedness to the past, let us strive to be worthy of what has been given for our use today.

The second thought that occurs to me is derived from a statement made by Bishop Paul N. Garber, our first bishop of the Raleigh area. Bishop Garber said it was his personal hope and his hope for the church in his day "to so live in the present that the future will be indebted to us". This is a good motto for us here in Little River United Methodist Church. We should not rest on the successes of the past but look to the present days' needs for service. It is my hope and prayer that future generations will look back upon the second hundred years and see that the people of Little River United Methodist Church continued to build upon the deeds of their heritage.

While the present day may not call for large construction of buildings, there are some specific needs in this area. There are needs for: adequate parking facilities, a fellowship hall, church office and recreational facilities for our youth. There is the hope of greater evangelism for our church in reaching the un-churched and inactive members in our community. Truly the fields "are white already to harvest".

Today we thank God our Heavenly Father for this joyous centennial observance and ask His Divine Guidance for the future.

Virgil L. Free, Minister

CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE

July 31, 1977

11:00 AM

The Order of Service for Divine Worship

- THE PRELUDE: Pianist
- *THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Minister
- *THE INVOCATION Minister
- *THE HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 297, "The Church's One Foundation
- *THE APOSTLES' CREED: No. 738 (IN UNISON)

LITANY OF COMMEMORATION:

Minister: Let us pray. Almighty God, before whom do stand the living and the dead, we thy children, whose mortal life is but a hand's breadth, give thanks to thee for all those through whom thou hast blessed our pilgrimage.

Congregation: THANKS BE TO THEE, O GOD.

Minister: For the dear friends and kindred of Little River United Methodist Church whose faces we see no more, but whose love is with us for ever,

Congregation: WE PRAISE THEE, O LORD.

Minister: For the Sunday School teachers and companions of our childhood youth,

Congregation: WE LIFT UP OUR HEARTS IN GRATITUDE AND PRAISE.

Minister: For those through whose sacrifice we live, our brethren who have given their lives for our freedom among the nations,

Congregation: WE GIVE THANKS AND WILL GIVE THANKS.

Minister: That we may now be dedicated to working through the ministry of service to Thee through Little River United Methodist Church and where we may be engaged in freeing mankind from fear and offering the love of Christ.

Congregation: O LORD, SAVE THY PEOPLE AND BLESS THINE HERITAGE. DAY BY DAY WE MAGNIFY THEE, AND WORSHIP THY NAME, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.

PASTORAL PRAYER: THE LORD'S PRAYER (IN UNISON)

WORDS OF WELCOME: Church Lay Leader, Mrs. Shepherd

SPECIAL MUSIC: Church Choir

OUR CHURCH HISTORY Admin Bd Chairman, Joe Sneed

OUR CHURCH BUILDING Former Pastor, E. C. Crawford

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Minister

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS: Minister

*THE DOXOLOGY: Congregation

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS: Rev. William Currie

THE SERMON: Rev. William Currie

*THE HYMN OF DEDICATION: No. 294, "I love thy Kingdom Lord"

THE BENEDICTION: District Supt. Rev. Clyde McCarver

THE POSTLUDE: Pianist

* Congregation please stand.

WELCOME! WELCOME! To each and every one present today. We cannot extend praise to all those who have worked behind the outward scene in preparation for this great day. To all those whose names appear in order of service for worship; to the ladies who prepared the covered dish dinner for today under the leadership of Mrs. Gertrude Shepherd; to the Pastor, Rev. Virgil L. Free for the re-writing of the church history; to the Council on Ministries for endorsing this observance; and many others. Especially do we welcome all of you from out of town who have returned "home". We look forward to great things for Little River United Methodist Church and appreciate your continued interest.

Acolytes today are: Robert and Roger Beitzel

Looking Ahead

Monday: 7:00 P.M. Choir practice
8:00 P.M. Prayer meeting and Bible Study.

Saturday, 20 August - 11:00-2:00 P.M. B-B-Q Dinner to be held at Cafeteria,
Mount Gilead Middle School.

O, God, in whom all the families of the earth are blessed, visit with thy loving kindness the homes in which our people dwell; give them tenderness and patience, forbearance and love, that together we may be one body in thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

"We don't serve Christianity by doing a disservice to our own denomination."

—Bishop William R. Cannon

CHURCH HISTORY

How old is Little River United Methodist Church? When was it organized? Who were the people? Where did they come from?

In 1878 written reference appears that the positive date of the established church of Little River Methodist Episcopal Church South: however, the years prior to 1878 offer some scattered evidence that the origin may have been a little earlier than this.

Following the Civil War, there was social upheaval. People were displaced and families scattered. It was not uncommon for relative strangers to gather and hold impromptu worship services.

Church organizations were among the first to recover after the war, and it is probable that Little River emerged from one of the informal groups. Stories and legend indicate that services were held in homes and later in the year 1869 a group of the settlers around Little River met in the old Cotton Gin of C. E. Brookshire and held their first church meeting and called themselves Little River. Here they met until the present tract of land was given to the church by P. T. Kearns in January 19, 1878 at which time the present church building was built and the congregation called the Little River Methodist Episcopal Church South.

The building was used up to 1958 at which time a Sunday School wing was built and added to the present building. The present building being of a wood construction having two entrance doors at the front with a pot-bellied stove in the middle of the building for heating purposes. There were also two doors at the rear of the building and four windows on each side of the building.

In the year 1974 the church was again renovated wherein the building was brick veneered, steeple placed at the top of the building to the front, carpeted, painted and new stain glass windows replacing the old windows, one rear door taken out and both front doors replaced with a center door with double doors and high steps in front of them. Today the church has been again renovated and the ceiling lowered, altar redone and equipped with central air and heat plant to make it more comfortable for the worshippers. Also a sheltered picnic table built behind the church for the fellowship dinners.

Trees have been cut down that were dead, grass sown, flower beds built and sidewalks placed around the church to beautify and enhance the looks.

When the church was renovated in 1974 a new church sign was built to better identify the church and placed down by the roadside for passer-bys to see.

About 20 years ago new pews were placed in the church to replace the old ones which were out of style and getting worn and loose.

Little River's service, as a church, is best judged by the members of its church and next the community it is located.

Great things are ahead for Little River and its membership and we look forward to all becoming more dedicated and committed to Christ and His purpose.

CREDITS

Photo of first church building, and it's interior. Church Records.

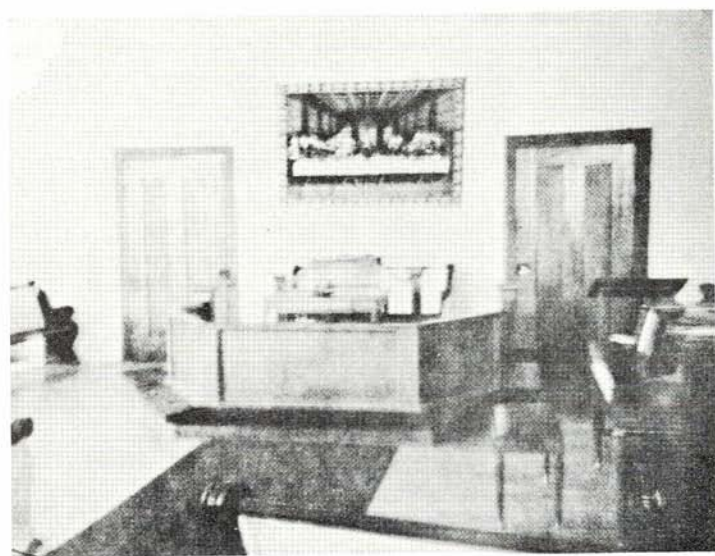
Photo of building when renovated and addition of Sunday School wing. Church Records.

Photo of building as it is today by Virgil L. Free.

Other information--From a host of people, Methodist and otherwise, who became interested in this project.



Little River's First Building



Interior of First Building



Little River's First Building
Renovated



Little River United Methodist Church
Today

THE PASTORS WHO SERVED LITTLE RIVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The oldest record we have of pastors who served the church goes back to the year 1884 and the church has been in service since then. The names of the pastors are listed below:

Date of Appointment	District	Charge Name	Pastor	
		Mt. Gilead Circuit	John W. Wall	
2 Dec 1884	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	F. M. Shamberger	
7 Dec 1886	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	C. O. Durant	
7 Dec 1887	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	J. E. Woosley	
4 Dec 1889	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	W. H. Townsend	
15 Dec 1890	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	L. S. Etheridge	
19 Dec 1892	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	J. M. Lowder	
10 Dec 1894	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	J. P. Pate	
16 Dec 1895	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	J. B. Thompson	
6 Dec 1897	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	J. W. Strider	
6 Dec 1898	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	D. A. Watkins	
11 Dec 1899	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	J. W. Keoyle	
30 Nov 1903	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	W. F. Sanford	
5 Dec 1904	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	W. A. Jenkins	
14 Dec 1908	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	W. L. Seabolt	
2 Dec 1912	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	D. B. Parker	
8 Dec 1913	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	G. T. Simmons	
6 Dec 1915	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	W. F. Frarwick	
24 Nov 1919	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	A. J. Groves	
	1922	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	E. F. Dixon
	----	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	M. C. Ellerbe
Nov 1928	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	E. C. Crawford	
Nov 1932	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	J. W. Autry	
Nov 1935	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	S. Bagly	
Nov 1936	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	B. F. Meacham	
Nov 1940	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	N. B. Strickland	
Nov 1944	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	W. J. Underwood	
Nov 1945	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	J. H. Parrish	
Nov 1949	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	Bill Wells	
Nov 1954	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	F. B. Brandenburg	
	1956	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	Millard Short
	1959	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	William B. Farmer
Nov 1961	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	W. S. Pullen	
	1961	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	J. C. Spring
	1962	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	C. H. Brigman
	1964	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead Circuit	Clay J. Morgan
	1966	Sanford	Pekin	W. C. Currie
	1967	Sanford	Pekin	G. E. Hawkins
June 1971	Sanford	Pekin	M. Glover	
June 1972	Sanford	Pekin	Odell Matthis	
6 June 1975	Sanford	Pekin	V. L. Free	

CHURCH DIRECTORY
1976-1977

Robert N. Blackburn
Clyde McCarver
Virgil L. Free
Gertrude Shepherd
Joe Sneed
George Robinson
Robert Beitzel
Pinky Brookshire
Robert Beitzel

Joe Sneed
Harold Graham
Sarah Shepherd
Sarah Shepherd
Sandra Bowles
Gertrude Shepherd
Sarah Shepherd
Sandra Bowles
Gertrude Shepherd
Sarah Robinson
Joe Sneed

Pinky Brookshire
Gertrude Shepherd
Sarah Robinson
Pinky Brookshire

Nolan Brookshire
Sarah Shepherd

Gertrude Shepherd
Lois Sneed

Resident Bishop
District Superintendent
Minister
Lay Leader
Chairman, Admin Bd
Finance Secretary
Church Treasurer
Chairman, Trustees
Chairman, Council
on Ministries
Chairman, Education
Chairman, Stewardship
Chairman, Evangelism
Chairman, Missions
Social Concerns
Worship
Childrens Ministries
Youth Ministries
Adult Ministries
Family Ministries
Superintendent-
Sunday School
Membership
Health & Welfare
Pastor-Parish Relations
Committee on Nominations & Personnel
Communion Steward
Recording Secretary-
Charge Conference
Chairman, Parsonage
Committee
Records & History

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Leon McDonald, Cheryl Free, Frank Sneed, Ann Sneed

TRUSTEES

PINKY BROOKSHIRE, FARLEY EAST, COLON HOOVER, ANDY BRITT