

Celebrating 200 Years

Meroney United Methodist Church
June 10, 2008



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I

Founding of Meroney United Methodist Church

John Wesley's reform movement within the Anglican Church came to America and quickly turned into a separate church denomination called the Methodist Episcopal Church with the 1784 Christmas Conference held in Baltimore. During the time leading toward the civil war in 1844, the church split into two churches mainly over the slavery issue. Meroney would have been part of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. The northern and southern branches of the church would come together as the Methodist Church in 1939. This union also included the Methodist Protestant Church, which also had split from the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1830 over laity representation. It was not until 1968 that the church became the United Methodist Church when it merged with some similar pietist reform movements from Germany (Evangelical United Brethren and the Evangelical Association).

The spelling of Meroney has varied in time from Meroney's, Meroneys, Meronies, or even Maroney. The spelling is now Meroney. This is the way the founder of the church spelled his name, so the church keeps his namesake in honor of his founding of the church.

1779 – Mt. Pleasant UMC founded, two and one-half miles north of Bynum.

1780 – Merritt's Chapel UMC founded, northeast of Jordan Lake.

1780 – Rocky River Methodist founded, now closed.

1780 – Asbury UMC founded, South of Meroney UMC and five miles north of Sanford.

1800 – Buckhorn UMC founded, north of Cape Fear River and Sanford.

1800 – Hickory Grove UMC founded, three miles south of Liberty.

1800 – Zion UMC founded, two miles south of Staley.

1804 – Providence UMC near Bonlee. Now closed and re-opened as an independent church.

1806 – Cedar Grove UMC founded.

1808 – Meroney UMC in Bear Creek founded.

1815 – Pittsboro UMC founded.

1827 – Ebenezer UMC founded, southeast of Jordan Lake.

1832 – Hickory Mountain UMC founded, five miles east of Pittsboro near Jordan Lake.

1832 – Mt. Vernon UMC founded, in Silk Hope.

1841 – Sapling Ridge UMC founded, near Silk Hope.

1848 – Brown's Chapel UMC founded, eight miles north of Pittsboro.

1850 – Pleasant Hill UMC founded, East of Meroney UMC and west of Pittsboro.

1850 – Center UMC founded, near Silk Hope.

1873 – Hope UMC founded, in Bonlee, now closed.

1885 – Chatham UMC founded, five miles south of Pittsboro.

1886 – First UMC of Siler City founded.

1892 – Goldston UMC founded.

1901 – Bynum UMC founded.

1913 – West End UMC of Siler City founded.

History of Meroney UMC

Meroney United Methodist Church was founded as the Meroney Methodist Episcopal Church on June 10, 1808, when William B. Meroney and Boling Hines made a deed for the land on which the church stands. The deed was duly registered in February of 1814. The deed conveyed one and one-half acres of land to the following trustees: Thomas Ragland, Micagah McGee, James Gaines, William Ragland, Thomas Brooks, and Edward Rives.

Historical Sketch Of Meroney Church given in the *History of Pleasant Hill Methodist Church* By Grace Green Tysor

The Rives name is the only one of the charter names still found on the current membership list. Trustee Edwards Rives was born in Virginia in 1775 and came with his parents to Chatham County. Here is part of the legendary story of the courtship of one of his daughters who was a lifetime member of Meroney's Church: On a beautiful spring Sunday in 1819 when Martha K. Rives was only thirteen, she went with her mother, Mary Ann Alston Rives, on the north side of Rocky River to attend services at Bethlehem Church. She was riding on the back of the old white mare, perched behind the saddle where her mother sat. Jogging happily along they arrived at the church, dismounted, and went in. The service was very attractive. Everyone seemed to sing from their hearts, and God seemed to be in their midst. The end of the service came and they started home going on the road toward Ramsey Mill. Suddenly, the mare neighed. Martha looked back and saw a lovely bay saddle horse singlefooting down the road behind them. The rider drew rein as he greeted them. The rider was Joseph John Goldston, and he was even more handsome than the lovely horse he rode. Martha pulled her bonnet closer to hide her blushing face. Joseph John held his horse to a slow gait, talking to the mother. Martha, also called "Patsy," remained silent. At last he pulled his horse over nearer the riders and leaned very near Patsy saying, "Miss Patsy, will you marry me?" Her breath to speak would not come. Finally she whispered, "Tell later." Needless to say, what Patsy "told later" resulted in a happy wedding on November 15, 1821.

Charges

Years ago, Meroney Church was one of six churches which made up the Goldston Circuit and thus shared ministers with surrounding churches for several years. In more recent years, Meroney has been on a three-point charge with Hope and Providence. After Hope was removed from the charge, West End was added to the charge. Meroney is currently on a two-point charge with West End United Methodist Church in Siler City.

II

The Life of Rev. William Britton Meroney

By Rev. David Carlton Wade

Rev. William Britton Meroney was born on October 19, 1769, in Annapolis, Maryland to Philip Delancey and Sarah Nelson O'Meroney, who were immigrants from Ireland. Philip and Sarah were married in 1768 and had one other son besides William, Philip Delancey Meroney, Jr., born in 1774. As a young man, Philip Delancy O'Meroney came to the United States and settled in Maryland and soon entered the Continental Army as Captain in the first Maryland Battalion of the Flying Camp. He fought in the battles of White Plains, Brandywine, and was with General Greene in numerous battles. He was also present with General George Washington at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

Unfortunately, Rev. Meroney's mother, Mrs. Sarah Nelson O'Meroney, died with consumption around 1775. Sometime in 1785, Rev. Meroney's father married Martha Massie and raised eight children along with William Britton and Philip, Jr. The Meroneys are listed on the first US Census in 1790 as residents of Chatham County, NC.

Rev. William B. Meroney married Winifred Webb Clark Mott in 1794. Winifred was a daughter of Mrs. Phoebe Jefferson Clark, first cousin of President Thomas Jefferson. She was also the widow, at the time of her marriage to Rev. Meroney, of Dr. Joseph Mott.

In the late 1790's and early 1800's, Rev. Meroney was a professor at Fayetteville Academy and also M.K. Academy. While a teacher at M.K. Academy, the following poem, entitled "Salutary," was composed by Rev. Meroney and was spoken by a small boy from memory in 1809.

“Salutary”

*To night with throbbing heart and anxious fear,
Some trembling youths before you will appear,
Anxious to please but fearing they may fail,
And all then efforts form of no avail,*

*I've come to beg your kind indulgence now,
And all your hopes and fears anew,
We are young in age, in sense younger still,
To please distrustful too have the will,
Short is the time since your approving smile,
Has bid a welcome to our rural miles.
Short is the time on our western hills,
The cup of merit from her hand distills,
Should your applause a confidence import,*

*To quell the fears that shrink a timid heart,
With joy I go to tell the pleasing tale,
Their fears to silence and their hopes regale.*

The Orange Presbytery records show that William Britton Meroney was licensed to preach on April 5, 1804. His first charge was at Brown-Marsh Church in Bladen County from 1804-1807. From there he went to form Meroney's Chapel near Pittsboro, in Chatham County, NC around early 1807. The church that now stands on the site of Meroney's Chapel is known today as Meroney United Methodist Church. On June 10, 1808, Rev. William B. Meroney and a Mr. Boling Hines deeded the property to the Methodist Episcopal Church for the establishment of a Methodist meeting house.

One must remember that absolute dates involving Rev. Meroney's years in ministry are uncertain due to a fire in the office of the Orange Presbytery. However, we are certain of the date he and Mr. Hines deeded the land for the church.

Rev. Meroney is listed among the pastors that served Red House Presbyterian Church close to Semora, in Caswell County, NC

during the years of 1812-1813. Later in 1813, he moved to Bethesda Presbyterian Church, just off Highway 158, ten miles west of Yanceyville, in Caswell County, NC. Rev. Meroney served this church as well as Griers Church and Rattlesnake Church, until his death on August 1, 1816, in Caswell County. At the time of his death, he was 47 years of age. It is recorded that he could play the violin beautifully, and as a young man "he had a histrionic talent" –and in the book of North Carolina Genealogy it states: "When professor at Fayetteville College – quite noted in its day and locality – he (William B. Meroney) taught some of the finest orators of the state, and in the US Senate from NC." He was buried in the Bethesda Church Cemetery and his grave was marked by a large stone which reads:

Rev. William B. Meroney, Late Minister of the Gospel

At this place

Was Born

October 19, 1769

And Died

August 1, 1816

In just one year, his wife was laid to rest beside him. Rev. and Mrs. Meroney were the parents of eight children. The youngest child, Philip Flinn, was only six years old when his father died. The children are as follows:

Thomas Goldsmith Meroney	(1795-1872)
Mary Goldsmith Meroney	(1797-1842)
William Britton Meroney, Jr.	(1800-1836)
John Alexander Meroney	(1802-1837)
Margaret Hadley Meroney	(1804-1898)
Frances Duval Meroney	(1806-1834)
Sarah Nelson Meroney	(1808-1893)
Philip Flinn Meroney	(1810-1882)

One son, Colonel John A. Meroney, was a partner in law with Richmond Pearson, an early North Carolina Supreme Court Justice. The youngest daughter born to William B. and

Winifred, Sarah Nelson, was born on September 10, 1808, while Rev. Meroney was in Chatham County. She later married Mr. Lewis H. Garner and moved to Mississippi where she died in 1893. The youngest son, Philip Flinn, was a tailor in Mocksville, NC.



William B. Meroney

III

Building Structures

Our Building

The first building was a log structure and was followed by a frame structure. The third building was erected around 1904. The Rev. J.C. Humble of the Fayetteville Circuit led this building program. It was completed during the ministry of the Rev. Charles O. Durant and was dedicated by Rev. J.W. Hoyle, Sr. The dedication sermon was preached by the Rev. J.C. Humble on August 1, 1919.

This church was one of many that held camp meetings during the summer. People came from miles around. A brush arbor was built to accommodate the crowds. This was built near the northwest corner of the present cemetery. Meetings were known to last up to three weeks and beyond.

Miss Abigail Cloy Beal was the first person buried in the church cemetery. She was the daughter of Asa and Cloy Beal. On the monument that marks her last resting place is the following inscription: "Buried at her request where the old brush arbor stood." Although there are no dates listed for Abigail Beal, she was noted to be 26 years old during the 1850 Census of Chatham County. The oldest marked gravesite in the cemetery is that of John Moffitt who died in 1865 and was one year old.

Around 1930, four classrooms, two rooms from each side of the church, were added. People who could not give money gave their time in labor and lumber to construct these additions. In the late 1950's, a group of three rooms was built to the left of the sanctuary. 1963 was a year of remodeling the sanctuary. Two thousand dollars was borrowed from the bank; the rest was completed by donations of lumber, time, and money. New pews,

pulpit furniture, and stained glass windows were placed in honor or memory of loved ones.

In 1991, new carpet was put down and the pews were padded at that time. Also a new piano was purchased in December 2001. In 2003, the front doors were widened and an awning was added to the front porch.

First Fellowship Hall

The first wing of the fellowship hall was given to us through the love of Mrs. Elizabeth Dowdy Vestal who died in September of 1971. In her will, she left Meroney Church cash and two lots with a house on each lot. When her estate was settled there was around \$30,000. The money was to be used only for a building or upkeep of the church. In 1972, the money was deposited in the bank; and in 1974, the fellowship hall was built by Henry Shaw, contractor. The cost of the fellowship hall was approximately \$18,000 with the remaining monies going into a maintenance upkeep fund. The building was dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. Vestal. Rev. H.B. Harrell preached the dedication sermon. It is only but fitting to give praise and honor to God for the many generous gifts and givers over the years.

Newest Addition to the Fellowship Hall

In 1998, an addition was made to the existing Fellowship Hall to add approximately 1,000 square feet, including two new restrooms and a storage area. An article in the *Chatham News*, dated April 30, 1998, shows the groundbreaking for the addition to the Fellowship Hall.



*Jeremy Hart, Bobbie Rives, Tony Shaw, Eddie Staley,
Eleanor Moses and Pastor Richard Farmer*

An excerpt from an article in the same paper titled, “Tree helps give life to church building project” is given below:

“In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” Genesis 2:9.

“To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” Revelation 2:9

While the Meron(e)y Church community isn’t in the middle of the Garden of Eden, folks who live there think it’s a pretty good place. And one of them – Melody Troncale – has plans to celebrate her joy at being a part of the community and church with a “Tree of Life” she hopes will help the church with a project it just kicked off. “We’re planning an addition to our fellowship hall,” she says. “So many people are helping in so many ways with the funds for it. I wanted to do something special, and this is it.”

The “this” she’s referring to is her own “Tree of Life,” something which has not only spiritual and religious meaning but also reflects her own life. “Since I was a child,” she says,

"I've wanted to create a sacred piece of some kind. Now I've got the chance – and it will help our building project."

Troncale is a ceramic artist, primarily a potter. Her Owl Song Pottery Shop is just off NC Hwy 902, a short distance north of the church. The "Tree of Life" she proposed to the church is a "growing" art piece which will be fastened to the wall in the new addition. Donations to the building fund or to upkeep of the structure after it's completed will allow people to purchase a leaf with someone's name on it – "in memory of people or for babies or whatever" she says. Since the leaves are pottery pieces, more can be added, causing the tree to continue to grow.

"For me, the tree of life is a symbol which runs through religion," she says. "But trees are also a part of where we live and trees have memory for us. This is the nicest community here; it has such incredible roots." Not only does the community have roots like a tree, however, but it also has a canopy. And that canopy is attracting more people. "More people are coming in to the community and to the church," she says. "We're growing and need more room for the activities. So the decision was made to expand, about double what we have now."



'The Tree of Life' . . .

Melody Troncale shows a model of the ceramic "Tree of Life" she will create to help fund the church addition.

The project, for which a formal groundbreaking recently was held, has already begun. "We need about \$30,000 more to finish it without a loan," she says. Among the other fundraisers is a cookbook by the women of the church, available from Christee Cranford or Bonnie Allen. But it's the "Tree of Life" that stands out as something a bit different.

Land

Land given by:

- Mr. R.L. Beal et. al., 2.25 acres in November 1928.
- Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Poe, 3 acres, April 23, 1959, and 0.8 acres on October 11, 1969

Land purchased:

- 11.38 acres on September 9, 1970, and as a gift on same date 0.46 acres by Marlo Corporation.
- 2.15 acres on August 24, 1998, from Rebecca Mann Tucker.



Church in 1986



New addition being built in 1998

IV

Memorials and Dedications

Stained Glass Windows

The stained glass windows were part of the church renovation in the 1960's. Find below the inscriptions found on the stained glass windows upon the request of the donors:

- In Memory of Eleanor Pugh Johnson by the Family
- In Memory of Wilbur & Annie Moses by the Family
- In Honor of T. Henry & Lillie Harris by the Children
- In Memory of Maggie L. Poe by the Family
- In Memory of E.J. & Ella McIver by the Children & Grandchildren
- In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Willett by the Children
- In Honor of Carlie & Russie Holder by Davis & Margaret Holder
- In Memory of Jim & Addie Campbell (1868-1958 & 1873-1942) Roy (1901-1928) by the Family
- In Memory of Bob & Annie Beal (1867-1940 & 1873-1936) Robie (1909-1943) by the Family
- In Memory of J.A. & Lizzie B. Harris by the Children
- In Memory of Pvt. John E. Whitt (1925-1944) by the Family
- In Memory of W. Elizabeth Brafford by Husband & Children
- In Memory of Eugene B. Beal by the Family
- In Honor of Dalton & Mallie Harris by the Children
- In Honor of Josie Thomas McIver by the Children

New Church Bell

The original bell of the church would be around the 1900 timeframe when the present sanctuary was built. This bell was replaced in 1992 by the Shaw brothers (Tim, Tony, Jeffrey, and Quintin) in memory of their mother, Ruth Cockman Shaw. The present bell was cast in Belgium and was quite heavy. Putting

the new church bell in place was quite a task as the tower had to be strengthened to support the weight of the new bell. The church bell is rung every Sunday.

New Hymnals

In regard to our present hymnals (1989 version), the hymn books were given by various contributors in memory of Mary Blanton's son, Robert Lee Blanton, in 1993.

Pews

- By the children of Mr. and Mrs. F.C. Straughn
- In memory of her son Private Paul E. Elkins by Mrs. Paul Elkins
- In memory of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Adelphos J. Burns, by George Burns Williams and Lt. Oscar Davis Williams
- By children of Mr. and Mrs. T.P. Beaver
- In memory of Joe Willett by Cora and children
- In memory of husband Jay V. Johnson by Hazel B. Johnson; In memory of brother David M. Johnson by Judy and Larry McPherson
- In honor of Clarence and Bronna Willett by Howard and family
- In honor of Sue McIver Brooks and Lucious J. Brooks

Preacher Chairs

In memory of Henry Grady Burns by the family

In memory of Joe Willett by Cora and children

Podium

In loving memory of T. Henry Harris

Flower Stands

Given by Clarence and Bronna Willett

Altar Cloths

In memory of Julia Covert Kithas given by Mr. Nick Kithas (1980)

Baptismal Font

In loving memory of Howard and Ethel Shaw by their children (1981); Crafted by Calvin Cook

Christ Praying Stained Glass Window

In memory of William Alston and Eliza Harris Rives by the children and grandchildren

Cross on the Altar

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Watkins by children and grandchildren

Bible

Donated in 1942 in memory of Kenneth Rives

Organ

Donated by William Rives

Piano in Fellowship Hall

Donated in memory of Gladys Hough Burke by Jehugh Burke

Flag Pole

Donated by Marge Compton, Memorial Day, 2000. The light on the flag shines in memory of W. Clarence Fields.

Benches around tree

Donated in memory of J.C. Covert

V

Pastors Who Have Served the Church

Many pastors have served during these past 200 years, and we thank God for their leadership and their calling. Find below a list that compiles most of the years and pastors (though not all):

Rev. William B. Meroney	1808
Rev. W. Clegg	1873
Rev. T.C. Moses	1875
Rev. J. Craven	1878
Rev. Phillip Greening	1882-1885
Rev. Oliver Ryder	1886-1887
Rev. Washington B. Chaffin	1887-1889
Rev. J.E. Woosley	1889-1890
Rev. W. Townsend	1890
Rev. A.D. Betts	1890-1891
Rev. J.R. Newlin	1891
Rev. E.C. Sell	1893-1896
Rev. H.S. Whitaker	1896-1897
Rev. W.F. Craven	1897
Rev. J.H. Frizelle, served until conference	1900.
Rev. J.C. Humble	1901-1904
Rev. D. Sanford	1901-1904
Rev. F.A. Sikes	1904
Rev. Charles O. Durant	1905-1907
Rev. J.W. Hoyle, Sr.	1908-1910
Rev. E.B. Craven	1910
Rev. T.H. Sutton	1913
Rev. M.D. Giles	1913-1915
Rev. M.M. McDonald	1916-1918
Rev. C.W. Robinson	1918
Rev. R.F. Taylor	1919
Rev. H.B. Porter	1919
Rev. E.C. Maness	1920
Rev. S. Salyer	1921-1923

Pastors Who Have Served the Church

Rev. E.C. Sell	1923
Rev. H. Witten	1924-1925
Rev. G.H. Biggs	1926
Rev. L.M. Chaffin	1931
Rev. M.D. McLamb	1932-1933
Rev. W.J. Underwood	1934-1944
Rev. N.B. Strickland	1945-1946
Rev. G.C. Kinlaw	1947-1948
Rev. C.K. Wright	1949-1950
Rev. E.G. Cowan, Sr.	1950-1956
Rev. M.W. Heckard, Jr.	1956-1957
Rev. John Durkovich	1957-1959
Rev. Leslie Myers	1959-1963
Rev. J. Wayne Billings	1963-1966
Rev. Francis Bradshaw	1966-1968
Rev. James M. Short	1968-1971
Rev. W.O. Connors	1971-1973
Rev. W.B. Gregory	1973-1974
Rev. H.B. Harrell	1974-1975
Rev. Robert H. Ray	1975-1979
Rev. David C. Wade	1979-1985
Rev. Dennis Spaulding	1985-1986
Rev. Steve Wanger	1986-1988
Rev. Vicki Phillips	1988-1990
Rev. Todd Krueger	1990-1991
Rev. Herman Brannen	1991-1995
Rev. Richard Farmer	1995-1999
Rev. Warren Owens	1999-2002
Rev. Hank Saunders	2003 (1/2 year)
Rev. Jim Whittaker	2003-present

Celebrating 200 Years: Meroney United Methodist Church



W.B. Chaffin (1887-1889)



W.J. Underwood (1934-1944)



E.G. Cowan, Sr. (1950-1956)



Robert Ray (1975-1979)



David Wade (1979-1985)



Dennis Spaulding (1985-1986)

Pastors Who Have Served the Church



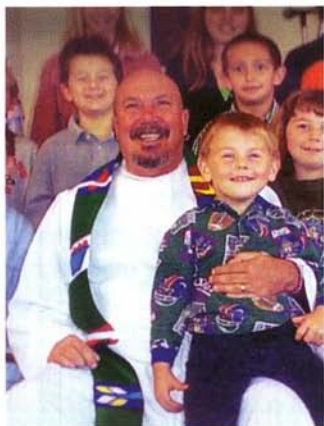
Steve Wanger (1986-1988)



Vicki Phillips (1988-1990)



Todd Krueger (1990-1991)



Herman Brannen (1991-1995)



Richard Farmer (1995-1999)



Warren Owens (1999-2002)



Jim Whittaker (2003-present)



Notes on Ministers of Meroney UMC

By Rev. David Carlton Wade

One must remember that in the past, it was not unusual for a Methodist preacher to have as many as six churches in his care. Years ago, Meroney Church was one of six churches which made up the Goldston Circuit and thus shared ministers with surrounding churches for several years.

Rev. Phillip Greening

Mr. George Rives stated once that Rev. Phillip Greening, who served the area from 1882 to 1885, was an Englishman by birth, but later immigrated to America. "He was a good man and a very good preacher," said Mr. Rives.

Rev. Washington S. Chaffin

Rev. Washington S. Chaffin, another distinguished minister who served the area was here from 1887 to December 1889. We are able to know Rev. Chaffin very well because his personal journal is in the Manuscript Room of Duke University Library. Later Rev. Chaffin's son, Rev. L.M. Chaffin served Meroney Church from 1926 to 1931.

Following are some excerpts from Rev. Washington S. Chaffin's Journal:

"December 4, 1887 - In 47 years of ministry I have gone on foot many times to attend my appointments, from 4 to 12 miles – wade swamps, creeks, and rivers to get to the places of meeting. This coming year I am appointed to Deep River Circuit: Fair Promise, Wesley Chapel, Maroney's (Now Meroney), Corinth (now Goldston), Mount Zion, Harper's Crossroads, Bethlehem, and Asbury. I am not informed as to the number of members or its ability to support a preacher. Yet I expect to go to the work with a cheerful faith in God and a firm reliance upon him for help."

"February 5, 1888 - (Sunday) A very disagreeable day. Eddie Goldston carried me in buggy to Maronies (Meroney) where there was assembled a good crowd..."

"February 8, 1888 - Drove to C.W. Womble's for dinner and remained for the night. Very kindly entertained. My birthday – there will be but few more of them (73rd birthday).

"March 11, 1888 - (Sunday) Cold east wind and heavy rain until 1pm. No one went to Maroney's (Meroney)... A great disappointment in this neighborhood today. Much nice starching and elegant ironing had been done by girls to show off at Maroneys. Girls had done their bands in paper so as to appear beautiful and lovely. The boys had blackened their shoes and fixed to oil the hair of their heads so as to charm the young maidens. Mamas had cooked splendid dinners to feast everybody upon – But O the rain!"

"July 1, 1888 - (Sunday) Preached at Maroneys. Dinner at Sister Moffits. Preached at Corinth. Night at Mr. Tysor's. Nothing unusual."

"November 5, 1888 - (Monday) Dinner at T.W. Bynum's. We spoke of a 2 acre lot of land for a parsonage at Goldston. Went to Rev. T.C. Moses, (Ancestor of the present Moses family) and old member of our conference. His son lives with him... He

received me cordially and we had a very pleasant visit... I think that he is a good Christian man."

"November 6, 1888 - Election of General Benjamin Harrison as President of the US. Dinner at T.C. Moses. Night at J.J. Goldston's."

"November 10, 1888 - (Saturday) Meeting for trial of Mrs. and Miss Harper for fighting another woman at a Sunday School the first Sunday in July."

"September 1, 1889 (Sunday) – Preached at Maroneys to a very large congregation, more than I ever saw here before except in a camp meeting in 1859."

"September 4, 1889 (Wednesday) – Remained at J.A. Pugh's until 6pm thence to W.A. Rives' where at night I married Wilbur F. Moses and Miss Annie M. Rives (daughter of William A. and Eliza Harris Rives). Nice couple. He's a son of Rev. T.C. and Sarah Ann Moore Moses."

"November 3, 1889 (Sunday) – Drove to Maroneys. It was so late when the congregation arrived that I did not preach – went to J.A. Pugh's for the night."

"December 4, 1889 – Conference ended. I am assigned to Cape Fear Circuit."

Rev. Chaffin was 74 years old when he ended his pastorate with Meroney in 1889. He died six years later, at 80 years old.

Rev. A.D. Betts

Rev. A.D. Betts, who served the area churches in 1890 and 1891 seems to have been very dedicated and much beloved by his people and colleagues. Following are some comments about Rev. Betts:

"It is refreshing to be in his presence. He always carries sunshine with him." T.N. Ivey

“He was one of the best and most devoted chaplains in the Confederate service. General Lee was so impressed.. that he spoke of him as ‘the model chaplain.’” T.B. Kingsbury

“It is in the sick room, especially among the poor... this is the work he selects. He does not wait to be sent for... he is always on the alert.. Not only does he share his money, where that is not sufficient to relieve all the needs, he supplies the deficiency with personal service. How often has he been seen with arms full of wood from a neighboring sawmill, buckets of water... hastening to relieve suffering.” N.H. Street, M.D., New Bern, NC.

Rev. Jesse L. Johnson, Jr.

Another minister who must be mentioned is the Rev. Jesse L. Johnson, Jr., one of our own. Rev. Johnson was born here in Chatham County to Jesse L., Sr. and Eleanor Pugh Johnson, who were faithful members of Meroney Church. Rev. Johnson was educated in Bonlee School and also graduated from Louisburg College and High Point College. He is also a graduate of Duke Divinity School, where he received the Master of Theology degree.

He was licensed to preach in the Sanford District of the North Carolina Conference in 1940. The minister then was Rev. W.J. Underwood. Rev. Johnson served the following charges:

- Assistant Minister, Edenton Street Methodist Church, Raleigh – 3 ½ years
- Guilford Circuit – 3 years
- Sparta Methodist – 4 years
- Bethlehem (Near Cherryville) – 4 years
- Wilkesboro Methodist Church – 6 years
- Maiden First Church – 4 years
- First Church Thomasville – 4 years
- Forrest Hill Methodist, Concord – 7 years
- Memorial United Methodist Church, Charlotte – 6 years

Rev. Johnson retired from the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church in June, 1983. Rev. and Mrs. Johnson are now living in Charlotte, NC and have three children and four grandchildren.



Jesse Johnson

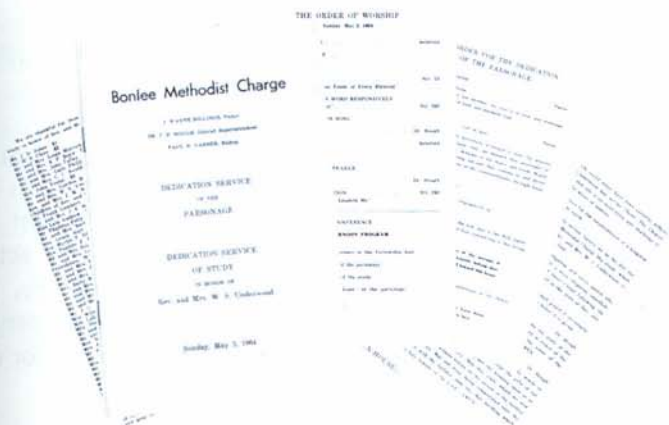


August 1, 1984

VI

Parsonage

The parsonage is always an important part of the pastor's family as well as a means for the church to support their pastor. Find below scanned images of the original bulletin when the present parsonage at 115 Al Davis Road in Bonlee was dedicated:



Dedication Service of the Parsonage and of the Study

There was a dedication service held for the parsonage and for the study on Sunday, May 3, 1964 in honor of Rev. and Mrs. W.S. Underwood. J. Wayne Billings was the current pastor then. Dr. T.B. Hough was the District Superintendent. Paul N. Garber was the Bishop.

Excerpts from the bulletin above ...

In Honor of Rev. and Mrs. W.J. Underwood

We have asked Mr. Cecil Brewer, who supervised the completion of the parsonage, working so faithfully many consecutive nights, to make the presentation.

The Bonlee Methodist Charge is greatly privileged to have a minister of the gospel and his wife to retire in Bonlee. We are especially grateful to have such a dedicated couple who have spent their lives in service to others.

Rev. and Mrs. Underwood were married on January 10, 1906, and have enjoyed 58 years of happy companionship.

Rev. Underwood began his ministry for Christ in 1920 when he was ordained an elder and has given 33 years of service to the Methodist Church. But those who know him realize that his years of service for Christ have extended beyond his active ministry within the Methodist Church. By his presence, his cheerfulness, and his witness of Christian charity, self-denial, and brotherly love, we are encouraged to live a better life for our master, Jesus Christ.

We know also such a life could never have been possible without his benign helpmate. Mrs. Underwood has served Christ, the Church and her fellow man faithfully. Her life is an inspiration and challenge to every wife and especially to the wives of pastors.

They both have given their lives for the establishment of a kingdom of righteousness and justice on the earth.

Therefore, in recognition of their devout loyalty, we on the 3rd day of May, 1964, present to the Bonlee Methodist Charge this study, which has been furnished in the honor of Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Underwood, to be dedicated to the glory and praise of God.

It is our prayer that we, as a congregation and every pastor who shall occupy it, may experience a purer life, a more religious, unselfish, and deeper loyalty to the great kingship of Jesus Christ following the light of Christ which has been so exemplified in the lives of Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Underwood.

We accept this gift as a sacred trust, and shall guard it reverently, in honor of the faithful and devoted life to whose honor it is given.

WORDS OF DEDICATION – Dr. Hough

In the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, I dedicate the study of the Bonlee Methodist Charge to the glory of God and in honor of his servants, Rev. and Mrs. W.J. Underwood; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

VII

Local History



Meroney School

There is also a school that was named after the Rev. Meroney in the neighborhood. It would be just a short distance down the Meroney Church Road as you leave the church and head toward Goldston. The above picture is of the Meroney School in 1914 in the Fellowship Hall and the following students were present for that picture:

Joe Norwood, Angus Brooks, Alfred Watkins, Ralph Moore, Bryant Elkins, Roy Campbell, Hubert Brooks, Gregerson Bright, Colon Burke, Donnie Hart, Lawson Snipes, Garland Watkins, Wilbur Campbell, Henry Moody, Lynn Campbell, Robert Snipes, Guy Harris, Pearl Norwood, Sanke Edwards, Henry Richardson, Jewel Fields, Flossie Fields, Cora Burns, Mary Lizzie Harris, Lula Beal, Edna Brooks, Garland Norwood, Ina Phillips, Louise Rives, Rosalie Rives, Wannie Fields, Dow

Moody, Mae Norwood, Mary Moore, Myrtle Murray, Mossie Moore, Eugene Beal, Beulah Tysor, Bessie Murray, Jack Norwood, Herbert Murray, June Phillips, Lizzie Brooks, Vallie Murray, Pearl Batten, Henry Wayne Rives, Dewey Moore, George Burns, Eugene Norwood, Curtis Norwood, Roosevelt Moore, Romie Dowd, Kenneth Rives, Lacy Watkins, Josie Watkins, Vaudie Norwood.

Teachers: Sankie Edwards and Henry Richardson

Later Church or Church Family Events:

First Rives Reunion (1927) – from old newspaper article thought to be the *Chatham News*.

One of the old Chatham families organizes family reunion at Meronies.

September 3 – A reunion of the Rives and all related to the family was held Saturday at Meronies church, of Chatham County. The crowd gathered in the beautiful grove of the old church where their great-great-grandfather and kinsmen, Edward Rives, worship after settling in Chatham County after leaving Virginia. Greetings were exchanged and conversation ensued until a bounteous dinner was prepared beneath the shade of the oaks.

After dinner the crowd assembled in church to organize, since this reunion is the first to be held by the family. The rendering of two hymns was followed by a prayer by William Cheek of Chapel Hill. Mr. Cheek acted as chairman and the following officers were elected to take charge the future reunions. Chairman, Mr. H. A. Rives, Borawsay.

William Rives recalls:

The homecoming we do now with dinner on the grounds with all families and congregation interspersed among the different families is different than what it used to be years ago. William recalls that years ago the dinner on the grounds was done on the basis of families. For example, all the Harris family got together, and all of the Rives family got together. People

without family would be invited to join one of the old families. No one was left out; yet that is quite different than our gathering today. (June 5, 2007).

Bobbie Rives recalls:

The difference between now and the older days was homecoming was a time for the children to do programs. It was also a longer event as families after eating would join back in the church for a time of special singing.

Mary Kate Harris recalls:

Flossie Beaver was raised in this community and loved her church. She was born blind and always came to homecoming in August as this was her home church. She played piano and never missed a note or word. She loved to sing. A few of her favorites were: 1) "Evening Prayer," 2) "Others," 3) "His Eye Is On the Sparrow," 4) "Whispering Hope," and 5) "Sunrise, Sunset."



She would never miss homecoming and revival and sang at both frequently. She had a smile on her face and enjoyed being with people. Miss Flossie died January 27, 1968. She was buried at Sandy Branch Church.

Things I remember about Meroney Methodist Church

By John H. Harris

There is a white oak tree on the right side of the church. That was our "designated" spot to hitch our horses. Everyone had a spot to "park" their surreys buggies or wagons.

We went to church in a surrey (no fringe on top). Our two horses were groomed and special harnesses were put on for Sunday. People took pride in their surreys and horses just as they take pride in their cars today.

As we entered the front door of the one room church, the first two rows of seats were where the small children had their Sunday school lessons. It was called the card class. We received a card each Sunday with a verse of scripture. We memorized it and recited it the next Sunday. On the left back side of the church was the older boys and girls class. On the right front side of the church was the men's class and on the opposite side was the ladies class. We could hear what was going on in all the classes. We had a choir and my dad led the singing.

We had lots of all day services with "dinner on the ground." There was no kitchen, so each family brought the food on the plates to eat it on. I can see that table now—lots of fried chicken, and pies, and dozens of delicious cakes. We often killed a goat for our meat. We called it mutton. There was a spring nearby that furnished the water.

It seemed to me my parents invited the preacher and his wife to eat dinner with us each fourth Sunday. We had preaching only once a month. The preacher had other churches to serve. The adults ate first. That meant the children (seven of us) had to wait. I would peek through the dining room door and report back to the others that, "they haven't even got to dessert yet."

We boys liked to play baseball on Sunday. This was a no-no when the preacher was there. One Sunday we slipped away behind the barn. After dinner Dad brought the preacher to the barn to show him a horse he had bought. As they turned the corner, there we were playing ball. The preacher, realizing the awkward situation, came over and asked if he could hit that ball.

He hit the ball over the top of the barn. From then on, he was our favorite preacher.

The ladies had many projects to raise money for the church. One was to wrap knitting yarn around a wire coat hanger to prevent the wire from making a crease in men's pants (women didn't wear pants). I still have two of these hangers in my closet.

Things I learned at Meroney's Church, like Sunday school each Sunday, have stayed with me all these ninety-three years of my life.

Thank you, Meroney Methodist Church!

Excerpts from a letter written by Sank Green, sent to Eloise Moses in the 1930s:

Dear little Cousin Eloise,

I want to tell you about when I was a little girl and lived where Mrs. Fannie Murray lives. I went to Sunday School at Meroneys and we had big celebrations, did not call it children's day then, but the children were in the service and marched and had a big flag and the one that was smart in class was allowed to carry the flag and go in front, and that looked grand to us and we tried to learn all our lessons good. We had little catechisms, not pretty Sunday School literature like you do now, and there was a big arbor about the place where the back part of the cemetery is, and held our big meetings there. I used to walk to Sunday School and used to go barefoot every day, and when I started home soon as we got out of sight of the church I would pull off my shoes and walk barefoot.

from Cousin Sank

**Mothers of Meroney Church
Poem by Helen Miller 5/8/94**

Hats off to all good Mothers
Whose lives are so dear to others!

Here's to Bobbie Rives,
A Happy Retiree.

To Ann Mashburn, a nurse
She's there when things get worse.

To Betty Rives, Sandra's her girl,
She's now a Mother, and a real pearl.

Here's to Mary Kate Harris,
And her in-law Nancy,
Who dresses so fancy.

Here's to Lois Moses and Elea-nor
On whom we depend for so much more.

There's Bonnie Allen, and sister Mamie,
Without them, things wouldn't be the same-ie.

Here's to Brenda Shaw, a secretary with skill
And Mrs. Brafford and Shirley are here for our meal.

And don't forget Peg-gie,
She's part of this great family!

Here's to Sharon Trotter and daughter Melinda,
And to the sisters, Donna and Linda.

Zoni Darnell, who's mother-in-law
To Katie Darnell and that's not all.

There's Christy Cranford and Christy Sirls,
They are in-laws and very fine girls.

Ava Lee Spivey, another great nurse,
Who's rarely seen without her purse.

Mrs. Hero Bunker is the Mom,
Of Mary Ann Blanton, who's so calm.

Hazel Johnson knows Shelia is Bright,
While Ann and Annie are a Beaver's delight.

Melinda Brannen, a teacher is she,
But Athalene Palmer's a lucky retiree.

Amy Baird is the daughter of Janice, who
When she was little was so menace.

Mamie Glosson and Marie Covert
Are here with us and we love it.

Janie Dowd and Hattie Jane Beal
Are with us too, and that's a good deal.

Another teacher is Tracey Shaw,
Barbara Dowdy works at home, oh law.

Mary Holmquist is here today,
And Anita Rives has come our way.

Sandy Josie and Amy Sugg
Are here with coffee in their mugs.

Glendora Rives is here also
We're proud to have her as you know.

Ann Williams and Connie Dowdy
Have come to give a great big "Howdy".

Last but not least, there is Nancy Shaw,
She gave me the info on you all.

She had me write this poem for you,
I hope you like it, I really do.

Happy Mother's Day.

VII

175th Anniversary

On the 175th anniversary, historical documents, pictures, and other things important to the life of the church were collected and put in a time capsule to be opened 100 years later in August 2084. Part of the records gathered included the membership at that time, so find below the members of the church on the 175th anniversary.

* Denotes Preparatory Member

Bonnie Burke Allen	Sheila Shoe Bright
Thomas Earl Allen	Bonnie Brafford Buckley
Winfred Earl Allen	Dennis Nathan Bunker
George Beal	Hero Stone Bunker
Hattie Jane Beal	Buddy Burke
Marjoirie Griffin Beal	Edna Dowd Burke
Nancy Ellis Beal	Max Burns
Vernon Lee Beal	Kenneth Dwayne Campbell
William Beal	Linda H. Campbell
Annie Campbell Beaver	Wilbur Cancel Campbell, Jr.
Joseph Burnice Beaver, Jr.	Joyce Bright Carlton
Lou Ann Fuquay Beaver	Sue Burns Clegg
Thomas Paul Beaver	Alma Covert Compton
Jack Beavers	Calvin Coolidge Cook
Martha Beavers	Margaret Shaw Cook
Mary Straughn Blalock	Carol Hefner Cooper
Mary Ann Bunker Blanton	Harriet Murray Cooper
Vester Guy Blanton, Jr.	Annie Hart Covert
Donnie Lee Brafford	Marie Griffin Covert
Anthony Paige Bright	Jessie Earl Darnell
Jennifer Carol Bright	Zonnie Bright Darnell
Mattie Campbell Bright	James Ellington

Terrill Ellington	Karen Rives Hefner
Wayne Ellington	Tony Dwight Hefner
Dora Moody Fields	Clyde Johnson
Retta Gray Bright Fields	Danny Johnson
Sherman Fields	Elbert G. Johnson
Wayne Fields	Frank R. Johnson
Jonathan Craig Fox*	Hazel Beal Johnson
Kelly Marie Fox*	Bobbie Kernstine
Randall Craig Fox	Eula Mae Hart Kernstine
Teresa Moore Fox	Rudolph Kernstine
Judy Johnson George	Helen Burke King
Mamie B. Glosson	Mary Alice Shaw Lemonds
John Robert Hall	Jill Diane Long*
Mamie Lee Burke Hall	Karen Suzanne Long*
Robert Bruce Hall	Vickie Cook Long
Sherry Ann Hall	Ida Belle Hart Martin
Fred Wilson Harris	Ann Louise Rives Mashburn
Herbert Harris	Ethel Mae Shaw Minton
Larry Wilson Harris	Claude Moody
Mallie Straughn Harris	Odessa Watkins Moore
Mary Kate Johnson Harris	Thomas E. Moore
Thomas Henry Harris	John A. More
Gary Lynn Hart	Angela Dawn Moses
Jeremy Duane Hart*	Denise Lynette Moses
Kirby Hart	Eleanor James Moses
Marvin Duane Hart	Elizabeth Faye Harris Moses
Marvin Wiley Hart	Elizabeth Renee Moses
Pauline Bright Hart	Gary Morris Moses
Peggie Brafford Hart	Jarvis Milton Moses
Shirley Brafford Hart	Jerry Matheison Moses
Minnie L. Harvell	Lois Morris Moses
David Scott Hefner	Mary Alice Moses
Dewey Dale Hefner, Jr.	Tamra Lane Moses

Thomas William Moses	Nancy Hilliard Shaw
Temple Watkins Oldham	Ruth Cockman Shaw
Athalene R. Burns Palmer	Tony Randall Shaw
James Gregory Phillips	Everette Charles Smart, Jr.
James Phillips	Everette Charles Smart, Sr.
Martha Jones Phillips	Mary Ann Watkins Smart
Annie Hough Phillips Poe	Archie Donald Spivey
Audrey Faye Poe	Archie Spivey
Clarence Poe	Ava Lee Beal Spivey
Lois Gilmore Rives Poe	Kermit Freeland Spivey
Mary Lou Campbell Poe	Lizzie B. Stout
Reid Poe	Charles Ray Trotter
Wilson Poe	Melinda Gale Trotter
Barbara Brooks Rives	Sharon Phillips Trotter
Betty Phillips Rives	Marian Kelly Tysor
Billy Rives	Ralph Jenkins Tysor
James Michael Rives	Stella Moses Tysor
Kenneth Gerald Rives	Emily Johnson Watkins
Mitchell Brooks Rives	Janice Johnson White
Rocky Rives	Mary Mazie Summers Whitt
Shirley Wilson Rives	Phyllis Harris Wilkie
Wilbur Arnold Rives	Bronna Straughn Willett
William E. Rives	Leroy Willett
Carolyn Beal Robinson	Robert Clarence Willett
Sandra Jean Rives Roscoe	Doris Beal Young
Beth Janelle Shaw	
Brenda Fields Shaw	
Donna Faye Walters Shaw	
Eric Randall Shaw*	
Henry Howard Shaw	
Howard Eugene Shaw	
Marty Joe Shaw	
Marvin Shaw	

The oldest member of the church on the 175th anniversary was Ralph J. Tysor, age 90.

Sunday School Enrollment as of July 1, 1984

Nursery Class

Nicholas Allen	Eric Shaw
Jeremy Hart	Heather Shaw
Karen Long	Justin Shaw

Teacher: Mrs. Brenda Fields Shaw

Primary Class

Kelly Fox	Dawn Minton
Jill Long	Charles Trotter

Teacher: Mrs. Sharon Phillips Trotter

Junior Class

Jody Allen	Troy Alfred Smart
Lisa Campbell	Melinda Trotter

Denise Moses
Teacher: Mrs. Bobbie Brooks Rives
Assistant: Mrs. Eleanor James Moses

Young People's Class

Earle Allen	Angela Dawn Moses
Anthony Paige Bright	Elizabeth Renee Moses
Jennifer Carol Bright	Tamra Lane Moses
Kenneth Dwayne Campbell	Beth Janelle Shaw
Sherry Ann Hall	Danny Shaw
Gary Lynn Hart	Everette Charles Smart, Jr.

Teacher: Mrs. Lou Ann Fuquay Beaver
Assistant: Mr. Mitchell Brooks Rives

Young Married Couple's Class

Marvin Duane Hart	Brenda Fields Shaw
Peggie Brafford Hart	Marty Joe Shaw
Mitchell B. Rives	Donna Walters Shaw

Tony Randall Shaw
Teacher: Mr. M. Duane Hart

The Bible Class

Edna Dowd Burke

Calvin Cook

Marie Griffin Covert

Randall Craig Fox

Mamie B. Glosson

Fred Wilson Harris

Mary Kate Johnson Harris

Teacher: Mr. Fred W. Harris

Martha Jones Phillips

James Gregory Phillips

Bonnie Phillips

Charles Ray Trotter

Sharon Phillips Trotter

Bronna Straughn Willett

The Adult Bible Class

Mattie Campbell Bright

Dennis Nathan Bunker

Hero Stone Bunker

Mallie Straughn Harris

Teacher: Mr. Dennis N. Bunker

Jarvis Milton Moses

Lois Morris Moses

Kenneth Gerald Rives

Robert Clarence Willett

The Fellowship Class

Winfred Earl Allen

Bonnie Burke Allen

Dallas Harold Bright

Sheila Shoe Bright

Joseph Burnice Beaver, Jr.

Vester Guy Blanton, Jr.

Mary Ann Bunker Blanton

Wilbur Cancel Campbell, Jr.

Bobby Dowd

Janie Dowd

John Robert Hall

Mamie Lee Burke Hall

Marvin Wiley Hart

Shirley Brafford Hart

Herbert Harris

Teacher: Mr. Archie Spivey

Elbert Johnson

Hazel Johnson

Vickie Cook Long

Gary Morris Moses

Eleanor James Moses

Thomas "Sonny" Moses

Faye Harris Moses

Wilbur Arnold Rives

Betty Phillips Rives

Henry Howard Shaw

Nancy Hilliard Shaw

Everette Charles Smart, Sr.

Mary Ann Watkins Smart

Archie Spivey

Ava Lee Beal Spivey

Historical Board Minutes

The official Board of Meronies Methodist Church met November 10, 1980 with chairman, Gary Moses, presiding. There were 8 members present. Rev. Wade opened with prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The treasury reports were made with the following balances reported: General Fund - \$2,654.97, Local Fund - \$1,065.83, Cemetery (reg. checking) - \$341.20 and (savings) - \$1,076.04, Building (reg. Checking) \$401.96, and (Savings) - \$2,268.65.

Mrs. Eleanor Moses reported that she had received donations for 56 Cokesbury hymnals and 2 red hymnals. The board voted to purchase 75 Cokesbury Hymnals with the church paying for those that aren't donated.

The date for the Christmas Program was set for Monday, December 22, at 7:30 p.m. Johnny Hall is to get the treats, and the MYF is to get the tree and decorate it. Rev. Wade was given permission to purchase any supplies needed for the Christmas program.

The Board voted to give Tamra Moses \$25 and Renee Moses and Angela Moses \$20 each for playing the piano.

A motion was made and passed to let the church pay for the refreshments for the Thanksgiving Service.

Rev. Wade informed the Board that a change in the time of worship would be made in January, 1981. Worship Service will be held at 11:00 on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. This plan is to rotate every 2 years. The meeting was then adjourned. Signed: Mrs. Betty Rives, Recording Secretary.

The Board of Meronies Methodist Church had a special meeting Sunday, November 1, 1981, at 4 p.m. Rev. David Wade opened with prayer.

A motion was passed to present to the Charge Conference the Board's approval for Advanced Missionary support, with the country and individual to be decided at the next Board Meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Signed: Mrs. Peggie Hart, Recording Secretary

The Official Board of Meroney United Methodist Church met on January 16, 1984 with 11 members present. Mr. Wilbur Rives, chairman, opened our meeting, thanking everyone for attending and asked Rev. David Wade to lead us in prayer.

The minutes were read and approved.

The treasury report was given: Local \$282.34; General \$2,680.55. The Cemetery report was given: Checking \$555.21; Savings - \$869.90; CD Large - \$8,784.27; Smaller - \$4,705.60. The building report was given: Checking - \$3,349.25; 6 month note \$14,398.13.

There was much discussion on how much we're paying for gas 84 cents per gallon. Wilbur checked in Siler City and said we could get it at 72 cents per gallon if we pay bill the next day. If we change companies we would have tanks - we don't know if we would come out any cheaper in the long-run. Wilbur is going to check more into this and report at our next meeting.

David brought the discussion of paying our major funds, especially Outreach Ministries which is our main item of business and then the District Work Fund. He stated that we shouldn't wait as long to pay the two above but pay a little along. Eleanor Moses made this a motion and Hero Bunker second to pay \$700 every quarter to Outreach Ministries and handle District Work Fund as we can.

Ann Beaver reported the Council on Ministries had met and what they decided on in terms of activities:

Feb. 5th – 6 p.m. Supper, 7 p.m. Service
March 11 – Lay Speaker
March 18 – Youth Day
April 1 – Woman's Day
April 22 – Easter Program
May 13 – Mother's Day
June 11 – Bible School
June 17 – Father's Day
July 21 – Youth Event and Supper
August 5 – Homecoming
August 6-9 – Revival
September 9 – Grandparent's Day
October 27 – Halloween
November 18 – Share Your Food Day
November 21 – Thanksgiving Service
December 16 – Christmas Program

There was some discussion on revival – some wanted it to be divided like it was last year. Mrs. Bunker motioned and Mr. Henry Shaw second to approve the above schedule for 1984 except the revival. We decided on some dates for revival and it is to be brought before the church and let them decide (August 6-7; Oct. 7-9; August 6-10).

The Council on Ministries also wanted to bring before Board other requests.

- Check into having picture of Church printed on plates and money go to Youth Class. Betty Rives motioned and Archie Spivey seconded to go ahead.
 - They wanted to have a Time Capsule buried and on August 5, 1984 – to be opened 2084. (let future folks know about how we are now) Betty Rives motioned to let them investigate, Bobbie Rives seconded the motion.
 - Have a sign made commemorating 1984 Methodist Bicentennial Year placed at end of road. Picture of preacher on a horse - \$30 to \$40. Mr. Dennis Bunker motioned and Mr. Archie Spivey seconded to go ahead and have sign made. The meeting was then adjourned.
- Signed: Mrs. Brenda Shaw, Recording Secretary

IX

200th Anniversary

As we prepare to celebrate our 200th anniversary of the church, the oldest couple who are members of the church are Archie and Ava Lee Spivey. The oldest single member is Lois Moses at age 94. Annie Beaver is the next oldest. The newest member of the church is Danny Shaw. The newest Baptized member of the church is Meri Katherine Killen.

By Rev. Jim Whittaker

What a blessing it is to be a part of a community and church that has not only survived 200 years but has thrived. In this part of our historical sketch, we do not celebrate the past; instead, we celebrate the present. We believe God is blessing this congregation now. Find below a listing our current activities:

Little Lambs (Nursery)

Joseph Killen	Kelsey Minnich
Meri Katherine Killen	John Thurman
Connor Kitchings	Joseph Tucker
Gillian Kitchings	Benjamin Wilson

Sonshine (Elementary)

Matt Shaw	Leann Thurman
Caleb Staley	Johnathon Tucker
Erin Staley	Jamie Wilson

Samaritan (Middle/High School)

Donnie Baird	Cari McLeod
Holly Baird	Jared Oldham
Hannah Hart	Nikki Roscoe
Ryan Mashburn	Heath Shaw

Genesis (College)

Mitchell Dowdy
Beth Hart
Jeremy Lee
Stephanie Lyons

Jessie Mashburn
Phillip Roscoe
Justin Shaw

Jubilee (Young Adult)

Jason & Jennifer Killen
Scott & Sonja Kitchings
Jay & Carolyn Minnich

Chris & Sherry Thurman
Eddie & Denise Staley
Jeff & Angela Wilson

The Disciple Class

Mike & Amy Baird
Cynthia Campbell
Barbara Dowdy
Connie Dowdy
Nancy Harris
Duane & Peggie Hart
Marty & Sandy Oldham
Audrey Poe
Dexter & Ann Poe

Hal & Jan Queen
Mitchell Rives
Jeff & Sandra Roscoe
Tim & Ann Shaw
Marty & Tracey Shaw
Tony & Brenda Shaw
Amy Sugg
Rebecca Tucker

The Fellowship Class

Winfred & Bonnie Allen
Mary Blanton
Sheila Bright
W.C. Campbell, Jr.
Marie Covert
Bobby & Janie Dowd
Bud & Carolyn Esch
Mamie Hall

Mary Kate Harris
Wayne & Pat Harris
Marvin & Shirley Hart
Paul & Janice Inman
Gary & Eleanor Moses
Wilbur Rives
Henry & Nancy Shaw
Charles & Sharon Trotter

Our Membership as of 4/30/2008**Baptized Members (formally Preparatory Members)**

1. Morgan Asbill
2. Scott Everett Holmquist
3. Joseph Traynham Killen
4. Meri Katherine Killen
5. Laurel Gray Knight
6. Victor Henry Knight III
7. Gillian Annette Kitchings
8. Connor Scott Kitchings
9. Samuel Warren Owens
10. Christopher Brett Shaw
11. Heather Renee Shaw
12. Danielle Simmons
13. Jason Andrews Simmons
14. John Christian Sirls
15. Caleb Moses Staley
16. Erin Danielle Staley
17. John Thurman
18. Jonathan Knight Tron
19. Mary Tron
20. Johnathon Tripp Tucker
21. Joseph Tucker
22. Katherine Ann Williams
23. Maggie Lynn Yow
24. Nathan Shaw Yow

Professing Members (189)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
Allen, Bonnie Burke	06.06.1963
Allen, Jody Wrenn	11.16.1991
Allen, Nicholas Shane	11.24.1991
Allen, Thomas Earl	10.16.1983
Allen, Winfred Earl	06.03.1984
Asbill, Karen Suzanne Long	08.09.1981
Aschenauer, Ronnie	02.07.2007

Backof, Charlie	02.25.2007
Backof, Gail	02.25.2007
Baird, Amy Inman	05.31.1992
Baird, Donald Paul	11.14.1993
Baird, Holly Renee	05.31.1992
Baird, Michael William	05.31.1992
Beal, George Franklin	08.xx.1959
Beal, Nancy Carolyn Ellis	09.05.1954
Beal, William	08.10.1958
Beaver, Ann Fuquay	05.15.1977
Beaver, Annie Pearl Campbell	08.xx.1929
Beaver, Joseph Burnice	10.25.1981
Beavers, Martha Olivia Garner	10.05.1980
Blanton, John Samuel	01.28.1995
Blanton, Mary Ann Bunker	05.06.1984
Brafford, Donnie Lee	08.05.1963
Bright, Dallas Harold	06.28.1987
Bright, Sheila Shoe	05.xx.1974
Buckley, Bonnie Jean Brafford	01.26.1969
Burke, Buddy Alvis	08.xx.1960
Campbell, Cynthia B.	04.25.1999
Campbell, Wilbur Cancel Jr.	xx.xx.1947
Carlton, Lessie Joyce Bright	08.14.1938
Causey, Mary Alice Shaw Lemonds	xx.xx.1947
Cockman, Barbara	04.07.2004
Cockman, David	04.07.2004
Cole, Bill	03.19.2006
Cole, Connie	03.19.2006
Compton, Alma Covert	xx.xx.1937
Cooper, Carol Sue Hefner	12.xx.1961
Covert, Marie Georgia Griffin	08.xx.1959

Cranford, Christee Sirls	08.23.1992
Cranford, Jon Brody	08.23.1992
Cranford, Michael Lucas	08.23.1992
Cranford, Michael M.	08.23.1992
Cranford, Sandi Lynne	08.23.1992
Darnell, Jesse Earl	xx.xx.1951
Darnell, Katie Ward	02.13.1994
Dowd, Bobby	12.18.2005
Dowd, Janie	12.18.2005
Dowdy, Barbara Lyons	01.10.1993
Dowdy, Constance M.	06.20.1993
Dowdy, Mitchell Thomas	06.20.1993
Ellington, James	08.06.1954
Ellington, Terrill	xx.xx.1951
Esch, Bud	07.25.2004
Esch, Carolyn	07.25.2004
Farris, Tamra Lane Moses	09.07.1980
Fields, Sherman	xx.xx.1947
Fields, Wayne	06.03.1984
Foushee, Odessa Virginia Watkins	xx.xx.1944
Fox, Jonathan Craig	04.xx.1979
Fox, Randall Craig	05.16.1976
Fox, Teresa Yvonne Moore	05.16.1976
Frazier, Caroline A.	03.24.2002
Frazier, William G.	03.24.2002
Hall, Mamie Lee Burke	08.10.1953
Hall, Robert Bruce	09.07.1980
Harris, Larry Wilson	08.xx.1959
Harris, Mary K. Johnson	08.06.1954
Harris, Nancy R.	06.14.1992
Hart, Duane Marvin	09.07.1980

Hart, Elizabeth Ann	06.09.1985
Hart, Gary Lynn	10.16.1983
Hart, Hannah Marie	04.22.1990
Hart, Jeremy Duane	09.21.1980
Hart, Kirby Lunn	xx.xx.1947
Hart, Marvin Wiley	xx.xx.1947
Hart, Peggie Ann Brafford	01.26.1969
Hart, Shirley Brafford	xx.xx.1955
Hash, Melinda Gale Trotter	10.16.1983
Hash, Randy	02.11.2001
Hefner, Dewey Dale	01.15.1978
Hefner, Tony Dwight	01.15.1978
Holmqueist, Erica Lynn	07.25.1993
Holmquiest, Mary Fornes	07.25.1993
Inman, Janice	11.14.1993
Inman, Paul	11.14.1993
Johnson, Clyde	08.14.1938
Johnson, Danny	08.23.1964
Johnson, Frank R. (Billy)	xx.xx.1937
Johnson, Mary Hazel	
Johnson, Tommy	03.24.2002
Johnson, Vickie	08.09.1981
Kernstine, Bobbie	08.11.1945
Kernstine, Eula Mae	08.03.1933
Killen, Jason	02.27.2005
Killen, Jennifer	02.27.2005
King, Helen Burke	06.06.1963
Kitchings, Scott	04.11.1999
Kitchings, Sonja Hicks	04.11.1999
Knight, Jared	02.24.2007
Knight, Lisa Smith	01.11.1998

Knight, Victor Henry IV	01.11.1998
Lyons, Christina Marie	01.10.1993
Lyons, Stephanie Ann	01.10.1993
Mashburn, Jessie Ann	05.19.1985
Mashburn, Ryan Burke	09.23.2001
McLeod, Cali	09.10.2006
McLeod, Cari	09.10.2006
McLeod, Dale	09.10.2006
McLeod, John	09.10.2006
Minnich, Carolyn	03.16.2008
Minnich, Jay	03.16.2008
Minton, Ethel Mae Shaw	08.06.1954
Mitchell, Linda Darnell	08.23.1992
Mitchell, Richard	08.23.1992
Mitchell, Richard Joshua	08.23.1992
Moody, Claude	07.07.1932
Moses, Eleanor Eloise James	08.30.1965
Moses, Gary Morris	xx.xx.1951
Moses, Lois Morris	08.xx.1943
Moses, Mary Alice	xx.xx.1947
Oldham, Tempie Pearl Watkins	10.02.1940
Parker, Katherine T.	11.11.2001
Parker, Roderick W.	11.11.2001
Phillips, Greg M.	09.04.1983
Phillips, James	08.14.1938
Poe, Ann Louise Rives Mashburn	01.26.1969
Poe, Audrey Faye	01.26.1969
Poe, Dexter	01.01.2006
Poe, Reid	08.11.1945
Queen, Hal	08.26.2001
Queen, Jan	08.26.2001

Rives, Barbara "Bobbie" Lou Brooks	08.10.1952
Rives, Glendora	04.26.1987
Rives, James Michael	08.05.1963
Rives, Kenneth Gerald	08.14.1938
Rives, Mitchell Brooks	09.07.1980
Rives, Rocky Everette	09.14.1975
Rives, Wilbur Arnold	08.xx.1943
Rives, William Elvin	08.14.1939
Roscoe, Jeffrey V.	08.20.1995
Roscoe, Nicole Doris	09.08.1996
Roscoe, Phillip Rives	08.20.1995
Roscoe, Sandra Rives	08.20.1995
Roundy, Ruth	02.24.1991
Seawell, Carolyn Beal Robinson	06.06.1963
Shaw, Ann	04.07.2004
Shaw, Brenda Sue Fields	09.07.1980
Shaw, Cindy	09.10.2007
Shaw, Danny	04.20.2008
Shaw, Donna Faye Walters	06.03.1984
Shaw, Eric Randall	09.27.1981
Shaw, Heath	02.24.2007
Shaw, James Henry	08.xx1959
Shaw, Justin Kelby	08.19.1984
Shaw, Marty Joe	06.03.1984
Shaw, Nancy Carol Hilliard	06.03.1984
Shaw, Quintin	09.10.2007
Shaw, Tim	04.07.2004
Shaw, Tony Randall	09.14.1975
Simmons, Donna Darnell	02.13.1994
Sirls, Christy Howard	07.26.1992
Sirls, John Campbell	07.26.1992

Skvarla, Kelly Marie Fox	02.xx.1977
Smart, Everett Charles	12.xx.1961
Smart, Everett Charles, Jr.	09.14.1975
Smart, Ida Belle Hart	08.10.1958
Spivey, Archie	04.06.1958
Spivey, Ava Lee Beal	08.xx.1943
Spivey, Donald Archie	06.03.1984
Spivey, Kermit Freeland	04.06.1958
Staley, Denise Lynette Moses	10.16.1983
Staley, Larry Edwin "Eddie"	07.23.2000
Sugg, Amy Odom	06.20.1993
Sugg, Erin	08.28.2005
Sugg, Ramy Vaughn	06.20.1993
Sugg, Raymond Massey Jr.	06.20.1993
Thurman, Chris	02.27.2005
Thurman, LeAnn	02.27.2005
Thurman, Sherry Hall	10.16.1983
Tron, Sheryl Knight	12.06.1998
Tron, Tim Wayne	12.06.1998
Trotter, Charles Phillip	11.24.1991
Trotter, Charles Ray	09.26.1982
Trotter, Sharon Elaine	09.26.1982
Tucker, Rebecca	07.25.2004
Tucker, Tripp	07.25.2004
Wilson, Angela Dawn Moses	10.16.1983
Young, Doris Beal	xx.xx.1947
Yow, Beth Janelle Shaw	06.03.1984

Church Activities Reported on 2007 Report of Pastor for Charge Conference

Annual Auction: The annual auction and BBQ sale for 2006 was very successful and raised about \$12,000. A new copier, bulletin folder, and a new computer were purchased with these funds. The windows were installed in the parsonage. The Parsonage also received a new lawn mower with bagger, and a weed trimmer. The plans for the 2007 auction are underway with plans to purchase a new copier and computer for the preacher's office.

Scouts: The scouting program continues to be well supported. The Cub Scout troop has now sprung into the Webelos and the Boy Scouts. The troop has now grown to 60+ boys. The church annually gives \$300 in support. The Methodist Men have been seeking ways to be more supportive of this program. The pastor participated as a judge in the Scout rally.

Bible Studies: The pastor did a Study on the "Beginnings" Series, Maxie Dunham's book on "Living Prayer," Adam Hamilton's "Making Love Last a Lifetime," and now with a new "Disciple I" course. It has been 8 years since we have had a Disciple I, so we are excited since there are 18 total in the class.

Ecumenical Service for Thanksgiving: Each year the Bonlee charge shares in a Thanksgiving service together with the Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, Siler City Presbyterian church, and Providence Independent Church. The service was held at Meroney UMC.

Evangelism Committee: The evangelism committee continues to build an identity. A website continues to be used and can be found at www.meroney-umc.org with sermons posted on a weekly basis. This is an ongoing process of trying to use modern technology for the church. Attendance pads are now used in the church so the pastor can keep tabs on the visitors. Several phone calls and letters were sent out in regard to our visitors.

Worship Committee: The Order of Worship according to the Guidelines set forth in the Book of Worship has been carried out now for 2 ½ years. This committee will take on new duties in 2008 as it seeks to become a viable committee.

Sunday School: The Sunday School continues to thrive and will have 60 to 70 on a given Sunday. There are some people who only come to Sunday School, and families have been attracted to the church because of the work of the Sunday School.

Methodist Men: The Methodist Men group, now beginning its fourth year, is beginning to stand on its own. The group will have from 6 to 10 generally on a Sunday morning. The Methodist Men were very encouraged to seek out visitation and mission. As a result, they have backed the visitation efforts and are backing Habitat for Humanity. As well, the Methodist Men gave three \$250 scholarships to High School graduates, and put on a roof in Faison for the MERCI Center. We are now looking at doing a project at Camp Rockfish.

Methodist Women: The Methodist Women's Group is almost three years old. They are now a chartered UMW group. The women have been active with the Gulf Pregnancy Crisis center. The women have started and are actively involved in visiting the shut-ins. They have supported the Samaritan's Purse in Boone, NC by actually working in Boone last November. They also had a huge success with a yard sale that raised \$1,600 in donations for the Methodist Home for Children. They held a joint Spiritual Retreat with Merritt's Chapel with ten women from Meroney going.

Special Services: The time of lent was earmarked with an Ash Wednesday service followed by a Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Sunrise service to celebrate the rising of our Lord Jesus Christ. There was also a Christmas Eve service held. All of these services were held jointly between Meroney and West End. These services were quite new to most, and we had a moderate success having about 25 people at a service. The

sunrise service was the best attended in a long time with about 35. The Soup lunch on Good Friday was certainly a hit.

Adopt a College Freshman – We started a program where the college freshmen of the church are supported by prayer, gifts, and cards during their difficult freshmen year when transitions to the college life are the most difficult.

Prayers for our Children – All children in our church have a prayer partner starting this fall. The prayer partner's joy is first to pray for the child and also to support them with cards or gifts if it is appropriate.

Prayer Meeting

A prayer meeting has been a regular event since January 2006. The attendance was from 6 to 10. The sole purpose was prayer and to help build the spirituality of the church.

Seniors Celebration

There was a celebration for all over 60 in the church. To make it evangelistic, all in the community including West End UMC were invited. There were some other folks in attendance from other churches. The event began with a hayride and ended with a dinner followed by games. The theme was "Crazy Hat." There were about 20 in attendance.

Seniors Ministry

We have now completed one year of the Senior's Ministry. We have a short devotion, eat, and have fellowship. We have averaged about 12 on the regular meeting.

Children's Ministry – Kids for the Kingdom

We began last September, a Children's program that matches our Sunday evening Youth program. Both meet on Sunday evenings from 4 to 5:30 pm. We have a preschool for the 3 and 4 year olds, and we have an elementary program for the 5 through 10 year olds. We averaged about 16 last year. We will plan on meeting weekly until Thanksgiving and then have a Spring program.

Events From Our 2007 Planning Calendar

Feb. 21	Ash Wednesday Service
April 5	Maundy Thursday Service
April 6	Good Friday Service
April 7	Easter Egg Hunt
April 8	Easter Sunrise, Breakfast, and Worship
May 13	Mother's Day
June 17	Father's Day
June 24	Graduation Appreciation Day
July 16-20	Vacation Bible School
July 28	Church Cleanup
August 5	Homecoming
August 6-9	Revival
August 26	Promotion Sunday
Sept. 9	Grandparent's Day
Oct. 6	Auction for the Parsonage Fund
Oct. 27	Fall Festival (did not occur this year)
Nov. 17	Senior Citizen Dinner
Nov. 18	Thanksgiving Service at Providence
TBA	Christmas Float
TBA	Decorate Christmas Tree
Dec. 9	Cantata
Dec. 16	Christmas Program
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service

Big Events not on the calendar: Relay for Life Fundraising, Youth Fundraising, Women's Yard Sale, and Men's BBQ.

Looking to the Future

The church can only be the church of Christ as we seek to do what Christ did while he was on earth: to seek and to save the lost, heal the hurting, and truly be the face, the feet, and the hands of Christ to the world. We seek on this 200th anniversary to dream dreams and to see visions (Joel 2:28) as we seek to fulfill the "Great Commission" (Matthew 28:19-20). We have developed a Mission Statement that states:

Mission:

The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by proclaiming the good news of God's grace and thus seeking the fulfillment of God's reign and realm in the world.

Vision:

We are **formed** through study, fellowship, prayer, and mission. We are **involved** in the church through our prayers, presence, gifts, and service. We are **transformed** by the Holy Spirit to be the new creation God has called us to be. In doing this, we are spiritually **F.I.T. (Formed, Involved, and Transformed)**.

We know as we look to the future our mission and vision will need to constantly be teased out so that we can reflect it in our daily lives. We will be challenged to live into the church core values of radical hospitality, intentional spiritual formation, risk-taking mission, passionate worship, and extravagant generosity.

If we are to celebrate another 200 years, then we have to be not only the church of yesterday and today, but we must look toward tomorrow. Our programs and buildings will have to change to face the changing culture and context. Christ's message does not change, but how it is presented and made relevant does. As we celebrate who we have been and who we are, may we also celebrate who we will become. God be with us on this journey.

We begin this journey by having a "Friends Day" in January 2008, after spending four weeks in evangelistic preparation. We must reach those outside of the church walls. We have committed to touching lives in support of missions. We as a church have pledged to tithe (10%) our church budget in missions. We include the approximately 50% of apportioned conference giving that is also mission giving. Find our 2008 budget below:

			<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
			<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Change</u>
CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENTS							
World Service & Conference Benevolences			7993.00	8531.00	9821.00	1290.00	15%
Past Service Liability			1760.00	1882.00	2091.00	209.00	11%
Episcopal Fund			256.00	273.00	330.00	57.00	21%
Africa University Fund			32.00	32.00	36.00	4.00	13%
Black College Fund			145.00	145.00	163.00	18.00	12%
Interdenominational Co-op. Fund			28.00	28.00	32.00	4.00	14%
District Work Fund (4 % Of Salary + Ut.)			762.66	1234.24	1279.39	45.15	4%
SUBTOTAL			10976.66	12125.2	13752.39	1627.15	13.4%
MINISTERIAL Support (78% of Total)							
Salary	**100%	38806.00	23770.50	29218.0	30268.68	1050.66	4%
Utilities	**100%	2200.00	1575.00	1638.00	1716.00	78.00	5%
Travel	**100%	5000.00	2250.00	3120.00	3900.00	780.00	25%
Pension	**100%	6500.01	3801.66	4894.02	5070.01	175.99	4%
Life Insurance	**100%	225.00	168.75	175.50	175.50	0.00	0%
Health Insurance	**100%	11016.24	8262.18	8592.67	8592.67	0.00	0%
CPP Insurance	**100%	970.15	807.08	730.45	756.72	26.27	4%
Continuing Education	**100%	300.00		234.00	234.00	0.00	0%
			-201.89				
Total Ministerial Support			40433.28	48602.6	50713.57	2110.91	4.3%

LOCAL CHURCH EXPENSE

Building Maintenance	11270.35	10000.0	10000.00	0.00	0%
Literature	3496.10	4000.00	4500.00	500.00	13%
Love Gifts/Remembrance	628.40	1500.00	1000.00	-500.00	-33%
Misc. Expense	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0%
Missions	2236.00	3000.00	4457.00	1457.00	49%
Service Speakers	550.00	800.00	800.00	0.00	0%
Special Programs	1184.63	1500.00	1500.00	0.00	0%
Supplies, Kitchen	114.33	500.00	600.00	100.00	20%
Supplies, Office	1179.14	1000.00	1500.00	500.00	50%
Utilities	8091.42	8000.00	8700.00	700.00	9%
Vacation Bible School	1515.63	1500.00	1750.00	250.00	17%
Youth Program	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	0.00	0%
Children's Program	458.91	500.00	600.00	100.00	20%
Annual Conference	400.00	400.00	600.00	200.00	50%
Benevolence Fund	100.34	500.00	500.00	0.00	0%
200th Anniversary		600.00	1000.00	400.00	67%
Total Local Church Expense	32725.25	35400.0	39107.00	3707.00	10.5%
Total Expenses	84135.19	96127.9	103572.9	7445.06	7.7%
<i>Per Week Giving Required</i>	<i>1617.98</i>	<i>1848.61</i>	<i>1991.79</i>	<i>143.17</i>	<i>7.7%</i>

**Meroney UMC
Mission Budget 2007**

Missions:	
Boy Scouts	100.00
Family Violence	100.00
+Rainbow Covenant	750.00
*6 Special Sundays	300.00
Methodist Retirement Home	300.00
Methodist Home for Children	600.00
ZOE	300.00
Merci	500.00
District Bd. Of Missions	247.00
Other Sundays:	
Golden Cross	50.00
Disciple Bible Outreach	50.00
Partner with Missionary	350.00
Annual Conference Giving	160.00
Food Bank of Siler City Partner	600.00
Other	50.00
Total Budget	<u>4457.00</u>

Listed below are the amounts of
the electric bill in years past:

January 1961: \$1.50
January 1978: \$20.05
January 2008: \$143.92

Goal to support a missionary whether
here or abroad at 50 cents per member
or \$1,000 per year

*6 Special Sundays	
Human Relations	50.00
Great Hour of Sharing	50.00
Native American	50.00
Peace with Justice	50.00
World Communion	50.00
UM Student Day	50.00
	<hr/>
	300.00
	<hr/>
+ Rainbow Covenant	
Project Agape	#S-0004 100.00
Society of St. Andrew	#801600 100.00
Gary Locklear	#982955 100.00
World Hunger	#982920 100.00
Chatham Lee Hispanic	#S-0032 350.00
	<hr/>
	750.00

This fee represents a \$250 increase in District giving to support the Hispanic Ministry.

Mrs. Bobbie Rives and the now deceased Mrs. Athalene Palmer contributed toward the compilation and writing of this history of the church for the 175th Anniversary under the direction of Rev. David Wade. William Rives also contributed toward the writing of this 200th Anniversary history as well as those people on the 200th Anniversary Committee: Eddie and Denise Staley, Barbara Dowdy, and Brenda Shaw, under the direction of Rev. Jim Whittaker.

200th Anniversary Celebration Speakers
 February 10, 2008—Rev. Warren Owens
 April 6, 2008—Rev. David Wade
 May 4, 2008—Rev. Richard Farmer
 June 8, 2008—Rev. Herman Brannen
 July 13, 2008—Rev. Vicki Shepherd
 August 3, 2008—Bishop Alfred Gwinn

An afghan and Christmas ornaments commemorating the 200th anniversary were produced and sold.

X

Cemetery

List of the Interred at the Meroney UMC Cemetery

Thomas Atwater	2/15/1862	7/2/1890
Varnie S Atwater	10/21/1887	6/4/1970
Abbie Beal		
Annie Ray Beal	1873	1936
Archie L Beal	9/24/1917	12/5/1983
Christopher Lynn Beal	12/7/1993	2/12/1994
Etta Moore Beal	1/15/1904	3/29/1982
Eugene B Beal	4/15/1895	4/12/1947
Francis Isabella Beal	11/6/1866	7/14/1946
Glenn Ray Beal	7/6/1936	6/30/1998
Grace M Beal	3/6/1898	3/13/1976
Harold Griffin Beal	3/26/1939	2/8/1940
Hattie Jane Beal	9/6/1912	2/16/1996
James "Jimmy" Eugene Beal	9/22/1924	2/16/1970
John W Beal	11/4/1818	11/7/1900
Julia Beal	1804	10/6/1882
Lee Vernon Beal	9/16/1930	1/25/2007
Louisa W Beal	7/1825	2/6/1916
Margie Griffin Beal	2/21/1918	9/25/2004
Mary W Beal	7/24/1921	10/4/1989
Percy Thomas Beal	10/15/1894	3/10/1949
Percy "Pete" Beal	7/31/1934	4/13/1993
Robert E Beal	5/20/1909	5/13/1943
Robert Lee Beal	1867	1940
Ruby Gilliland Beal	2/3/1920	6/26/1972
Thomas Beal	11/4/1807	2/8/1884
Thomas Aaron Beal	5/6/1869	1/18/1923
Walter Earl Beal	2/12/1953	9/10/1981
Wilbur Beal		
Callie Beavers	1886	1915
Clady Beavers	1886	1901
Dora Beavers	1884	1901
Frank B Beavers	1860	1901

Joseph B Beaver, Sr.	10/23/1918	2/13/1994
Kelly Jo Beaver	5/13/1971	8/16/1981
Vallie Beavers	1901	1919
J Richard Beavers	10/22/1954	12/16/1966
Jesse Jackson Beavers	4/9/1926	10/20/2007
Pearl McGinn Bergen	2/20/1923	8/7/2002
William Andrew Bergen, Jr.	8/18/1918	10/14/2002
Robert Lee Blanton	1/6/1970	1/1/1993
Mary C Blaylock	10/12/1859	11/12/1885
James Edward Brafford	12/1/1947	3/24/1983
Edward Roy Brafford, Jr.	5/26/1921	3/23/1974
W Elizabeth Brafford	6/7/1925	7/18/1962
Eric Oliver Branson	7/2/1905	7/20/1966
Harold Bright	3/7/1914	7/14/1963
Harry C Bright	10/16/1942	10/17/1942
Ida Beal Bright	1890	1970
Jessie B Bright		
Louis D Bright	12/20/1919	1/1/1994
Mattie Campbell Bright	5/4/1915	9/17/2001
Rita S Bright	9/15/1953	9/25/1953
William J Bright	1887	1951
Daisy Brooks	9/19/1907	4/13/1909
Ernest L Brooks	4/20/1899	7/22/1934
Frank Brooks	8/4/1915	8/6/1915
Jenny J Brooks	12/22/1871	1/2/1930
Lonnie Brooks	2/17/1863	3/24/1933
Mary Sue Brooks	1/25/1887	4/30/1920
Ruby Virginia Brooks	9/9/1923	5/5/1963
Ollie Dowd Brooks and Infant	7/7/1902	1/1/1931
John J Burk	6/7/1811	1/21/1889
Empirer Burk	9/27/1830	9/22/1899
Colon Monroe Burke	9/14/1906	2/11/1926
Cora E Burke	1881	1942
Dorthy Ann Burke	1/?/1944	4/?/1944
Edna Dowd Burke	5/11/1919	10/26/2003
Gladys V Hough Burke	1/31/1911	10/10/1963
Jehugh C Burke, Sr.	1/21/1911	9/9/2001
John Elwood Burke	9/22/1918	2/18/1976
John William Burke	1/12/1882	5/17/1941

Cemetery

Pattie Burke	4/27/1886	9/26/1965
Adelphos Burns	1/1/1842	7/5/1915
Annie Beatrice Burns	6/10/1885	11/3/1963
Cora Bynum Burns	8/9/1854	1/26/1941
Curtis Compton Burns	2/10/1882	11/26/1964
Emma Kate Burns	5/18/1882	4/3/1936
Eula Gladys Burns	8/13/1902	9/11/1970
George W Burns	10/8/1899	10/16/1963
H Grady Burns	3/4/1889	8/19/1962
Haddison Burns	4/5/1840	12/4/1925
Henry G "Sid" Burns, Jr.	8/18/1925	12/6/1991
Irene S Burns	9/11/1902	2/24/1985
Katelyn Ann Burns	7/9/2007	7/30/2007
Mark Bynum Burns	4/8/1883	5/26/1974
Mary E Burns	10/18/1848	2/2/1924
Pauline Ellis Burns	1/31/1934	1/18/1993
Pearl Batten Burns	6/13/1897	7/20/1981
Peggy Smith Burns	5/2/1940	8/29/1997
Tommy Burns, Sr.	5/26/1937	1/20/2008
Virginia Burns	2/24/1892	11/16/1980
Wendell Gordon Burns	9/9/1920	5/11/1981
Carrie W Byrd	7/25/1899	4/10/1965
Addie Mobley Campbell	7/7/1873	7/10/1942
Addie Jane Maness Campbell	7/25/1917	2/23/2005
Dewey C Campbell	1910	1968
James Coley Campbell, Sr.	10/4/1908	11/16/1987
James Dallas Campbell	2/5/1868	8/5/1958
James Lee Campbell	9/30/1929	5/15/1967
Linda Hughes Campbell	12/26/1944	11/22/1999
Louis C Campbell	5/16/1905	2/28/1975
Lula E Beal Campbell	5/27/1904	4/8/1978
Robert L Campbell	1/9/1874	10/26/1942
Roy Jefferson Campbell	11/30/1901	10/27/1928
Tom L Campbell	11/26/1913	10/10/1974
Wilbur C Campbell	1/28/1904	12/29/1976
Meroney Time Capsule	8/5/1984	8/5/2084
Edesel Franklin Carlton	7/5/1945	7/6/1945
Joyce Lucille Carlton	6/28/1952	2/24/1953
Kenneth Wayne Carlton	2/20/1967	5/25/2006

Raymond Jeffery Carlton	1/19/1956	3/7/1975
Raymond Carlton	12/22/1921	5/21/1995
Addison Clark		
James Walter Clark, Sr.	1891	1942
Lula G Clark	4/1/1893	7/13/1966
Mary Clark		
Noah Clark		
Van A Clark	11/23/1936	3/29/1938
Ernest "Bud" Reid Clegg	12/14/1928	12/21/2007
Sue Burns Clegg	9/21/1933	4/4/1996
Harold "Ace" Russell Compton	4/29/1923	9/20/1988
JeCola Lynn Compton	11/18/1953	2/5/1958
Calvin C Cook	4/10/1926	6/24/1986
Margaret Shaw Cook	1/28/1928	12/31/1999
Annie H Covert	6/8/1896	12/7/1986
James C Covert	7/24/1919	10/30/1975
Jim H Covert	5/21/1889	5/4/1965
Julia Covert	12/13/1929	1/1/1980
Jackie Phillips Crawley	1/12/1943	7/28/2007
J Leon Darnell	3/11/1915	5/3/1997
Zonie B Darnell	3/5/1917	10/3/2000
Archie B Dorsett	10/4/1886	5/15/1954
Gertrude P Dorsett	5/25/1890	5/11/1967
Ethel Murray Dowd	12/23/1921	3/11/1970
"Baby" Dowdy	9/12/1904	9/12/1904
"Baby" Dowdy	7/1/1908	7/1/1908
Alma Dowdy	5/8/1906	5/29/1908
Lydia A Beal Dowdy	4/15/1864	1/3/1895
Mary Susan Dowdy	11/1892	5/14/1896
Thomas W Dowdy	1851	1924
Anna Poe Dunn	5/25/1933	8/29/1995
Mary Louise Dunn	8/2/1975	6/7/2004
Johnny Douglas Edwards	1/27/1955	4/27/1990
"Baby" Elkins		
Malissie Elkins	4/20/1837	10/10/1915
Elizabeth Evans	1/2/1845	2/17/1920
John M Evans	1/30/1835	4/5/1906
Martha A Evans	3/3/1828	1/7/1907
Aaron Viola Fields	3/4/1944	4/27/1987

Cemetery

Claude W Fields	8/7/1901	4/13/1977
Dora M Fields	5/28/1904	7/7/1999
Jahu Fields	1/27/1822	3/15/1892
James Herbert Fields	8/28/1917	7/8/2003
Jimmie Reid Fields	11/12/1936	6/14/1942
Retta Bright Fields	1/11/1923	10/18/1997
William Clarence Fields	8/24/1948	3/6/2000
Ray Sam Garner	5/8/1930	1/6/1996
"Baby 1" Gilmore		
"Baby 2" Gilmore		
"Baby 3" Gilmore		
Annie H Gilmore	7/11/1872	2/7/1900
G Baxter Gilmore	2/26/1905	5/8/1906
Adline Glosson	3/15/1859	4/25/1908
Mamie Byerly Glosson	10/15/1917	4/14/2003
W W Glosson	4/15/1853	10/30/1914
Pauline S Griffin	8/26/1895	10/7/1974
Ralph P Griffin	12/13/1894	12/29/1978
John Robert Hall	5/10/1944	4/6/2002
Annie L Harris	1896	1898
Fred W Harris	5/12/1916	5/14/1999
Herbert Hinson Harris	9/10/1925	8/28/2000
John A Harris	1833	1918
Lillie S Harris	9/25/1884	12/26/1972
Lizzie B Harris	1860	1931
Mallie Straughn Harris	10/18/1901	1/10/2001
Paul Dalton Harris	4/17/1892	7/23/1980
T H Harris	5/5/1924	3/25/1999
T Henry Harris	2/1/1882	5/11/1973
Jimie Hart	12/25/1909	1/15/1912
Lewis Clendon Hart	3/11/1917	3/10/1919
Martha Hart		
Nannie Hart	8/18/1886	2/10/1912
Pauline B Hart	5/17/1912	11/2/1986
Viola B Hart	5/8/1899	11/10/1976
William D Hart	4/17/1904	4/19/1983
William Ed Hart	4/12/1899	6/10/1936
Dewey C Hefner, Jr.	4/3/1936	2/20/1995
Dewey C Hefner, Sr.	3/17/1915	2/25/1968

Virginia Karen Rives Hefner	9/2/1910	7/8/2002
Harry L Hoaglin	9/21/1908	7/8/1988
Carlie Cleveland Holder	1896	1971
Davis A Holder		6/6/1993
Margaret Ashwell Holder		8/22/2003
Rushia Bobbitt Holder	1888	1982
Ruben Holler	2/11/1888	2/3/1919
J C Hough, Jr.	4/26/1929	5/7/1929
Charlie Johnson	5/26/1884	6/6/1886
Daniel Lynn Johnson	2/10/1973	4/10/1982
David Milliard Johnson	7/25/1951	2/25/1968
Elbert G Johnson	10/29/1910	5/26/1998
Eleanor Lee Pugh Johnson	9/14/1890	4/5/1957
Hazel Beal Johnson	1/25/1928	7/12/2001
Hurley Durant Johnson	10/7/1927	12/9/2003
Jay Van Johnson	8/8/1915	7/26/1972
Jesse Elbert Johnson	12/26/1948	2/15/2006
Jesse L Johnson	7/17/1887	9/21/1975
Lucian T Johnson	6/24/1886	2/12/1926
Rhonda Ann Johnson	8/21/1970	1/28/1998
T M Johnson	4/24/1856	6/30/1890
Mary Phillips Jones	10/28/1888	2/21/1979
Carl M Josey	2/18/1909	12/20/1979
Lucy K Josey	7/11/1916	12/28/1999
Joseph M Kernstine	4/4/1872	4/9/1953
Mary Ella Kernstine	3/17/1878	7/3/1962
Rudolph F Kernstine	11/17/1909	12/8/1984
Kernstine Marker 1		
Kernstine Marker 2		
Annie Marley	5/27/1888	6/15/1936
Mary Marley	11/17/1902	1/29/1943
William Marley	12/25/1884	7/6/1938
Carrie Lee McIver		8/19/1923
E J McIver	10/8/1847	10/19/1927
Edd Watts McIver	1883	1936
Eddie W McIver, Jr.	7/11/1930	10/5/1931
Ella E Rives McIver	7/24/1857	7/28/1925
Joseph E McIver	10/10/1918	12/5/1918
Bessie N Moffitt	9/30/1885	9/15/1886

Cemetery

John M Moffitt		10/11/1865
Martha J Moffitt	5/22/1830	5/7/1904
Mary Loula Moffitt	10/16/1861	3/29/1890
Milo Moffitt		10/29/1881
Amille Moody	7/5/1811	10/4/1880
Elisha Moody	11/6/1804	2/25/1885
Elizabeth Ann Moody	9/7/1947	9/7/1947
James Moody	11/5/1846	3/25/1910
Nancy J Fields Moody	1/6/1850	9/3/1924
Ida Snipes Holler Moore	11/22/1894	12/9/1989
Forney H Moses	1/8/1911	9/16/2003
Jarvis Milton Moses	3/3/1908	8/4/1998
Mary G Moses	8/23/1911	12/5/1971
"Baby" Murrow	11/9/1906	12/6/1906
Allie Rives Murray	11/3/1901	8/8/1902
Fannie Murray	9/10/1861	6/17/1940
Horace Murray	12/28/1869	3/19/1916
Jewel Fields Murray	8/6/1896	9/20/1927
W Herbert Murray	4/23/1896	6/26/1957
Ernest L Norton	11/9/1933	8/13/1993
Pauline P Norton	1/27/1933	10/28/2002
"Baby 1" Norwood		3/19/1906
"Baby 2" Norwood		1/15/1904
"Baby 3" Norwood		11/8/1902
Dora Jackson Norwood	8/15/1888	11/25/1950
Gilam Norwood	4/22/1907	11/3/1909
Nathaniel Gilliam Norwood	4/10/1876	3/15/1934
Pearl Norwood	12/2/1902	4/21/1965
Earl Wade Oldham	7/16/1926	2/21/2008
Athalene Rives Burns Palmer	1/4/1922	1/11/2005
Hal A Perry	12/6/1891	6/30/1892
Annie H Phillips	9/11/1905	8/27/1992
Bessie G Phillips	6/25/1895	3/5/1925
Cora Annie Phillips	12/22/1878	10/19/1884
Daisy Belle Phillips	12/22/1886	7/14/1973
Dennis Phillips	4/15/1854	7/30/1917
Dora Phillips	10/2/1888	10/29/1925
Eula F Phillips	8/28/1892	6/15/1981
Gurney Phillips	8/15/1881	10/16/1938

Irvin Phillips	8/17/1850	3/24/1913
J R Phillips	7/1/1889	1/11/1964
Joe Phillips	11/7/1881	10/19/1951
June Joseph Phillips	11/26/1909	5/17/1983
Mamie Phillips		
Martha A Beal Phillips	2/14/1855	1/16/1937
Martha J Phillips	12/9/1912	1/19/1989
Raymond Lee Phillips	4/19/1915	3/21/1954
Unknown Phillips		
Verna Stout Phillips	3/12/1912	11/14/1998
Vernie W Phillips	11/17/1911	5/30/1979
Betty Lois Gilmore Rives Poe	11/8/1907	2/16/2000
Clarence "Boobie" Clawson Poe	2/7/1929	6/12/2005
James Robert Poe	3/13/1921	10/23/1963
Lonnie Wilson Poe, Sr.	8/6/1910	12/30/2002
Maggie L Poe	3/28/1898	3/29/1949
Mary Lou Campbell Poe	12/17/1911	9/6/1991
Rommie W Poe	12/3/1896	1/10/1984
Carrie B Pugh	10/11/1873	2/11/1907
Clide Pugh	5/3/1896	6/17/1897
Fannie Clyde Pugh	11/1/1882	12/21/1884
John A Pugh	2/1/1827	7/24/1891
Mary Lewis Pugh	5/7/1834	3/23/1912
Mattie M Pugh	10/25/1869	4/13/1935
Robert L Pugh	3/29/1865	7/25/1936
Thomas A Pugh	10/9/1860	12/9/1887
"Baby" Rives	7/20/1912	7/20/1912
Alston Ramsey Rives	12/29/1922	3/17/1988
Betty Phillips Rives	3/27/1934	5/16/2003
Carl Jackson Rives	12/18/1892	12/30/1979
Charles J Rives	1874	1958
Clair Bernard Rives	4/1/1906	7/9/1958
Clarence William Rives	9/11/1901	3/15/1902
Dora B Rives	1869	1914
Eliza Harris Rives	1/18/1883	10/25/1965
Eliza Henry Harris Rives	1/1/1851	9/9/1928
Elizabeth A Rives	4/15/1824	1/20/1902
Emma E Gilmore Rives	9/19/1902	7/2/1977

Cemetery

Ethel Brafford Rives	9/7/1880	4/18/1957
James F Rives	6/13/1820	1/21/1887
Kenneth Guy Rives	10/27/1894	3/29/1942
Margaret Louise Rives	12/8/1902	10/12/1996
Oran S Rives	3/10/1890	4/7/1963
Patsy McIver Rives	1/15/1897	9/15/1992
Ruby A Rives	4/17/1912	7/21/1992
Sallie A Rives	1868	1950
William Edward Rives	11/10/1878	10/14/1918
William Hadley Rives	8/24/1911	3/5/1924
William "Willie" Alston Rives, Jr.	10/8/1840	8/13/1917
Lynda Jane Tysor Roberts	12/29/1941	7/26/2003
Ethel Hedrick Shaw	5/12/1912	12/24/1980
Henry Howard Shaw	12/8/1907	3/23/1979
Howard Eugene Shaw	6/14/1930	10/13/1991
Marvin Hedrick Shaw	8/1/1932	6/15/2000
Ruth C Shaw	6/1/1934	5/19/1991
William Ray Shaw	5/25/1945	5/25/1945
Mary Ann Watkins Smart	12/28/1941	3/20/1986
John H Snipes	3/16/1867	12/15/1949
Lydia Jenkins Snipes	3/11/1870	4/7/1960
Charles Reitzel Stone	5/15/1919	11/9/1995
Evelyn H Rives Stone	11/7/1921	7/4/1987
Blanche Edna Rives Stout	9/9/1887	9/21/1973
Burnice Stout	12/30/1908	2/1/1910
Earl Rives Stout, Jr.	6/4/1928	6/9/2003
Earl Rives Stout, Sr.	7/6/1908	10/3/1968
Edna Stout	6/10/1920	8/16/1921
Henry Harrison Stout	8/4/1884	9/21/1973
Henry Milton Stout	12/7/1913	2/28/1935
Irene Caudle Stout	9/22/1909	6/14/1988
Fred C Straughn	7/3/1871	6/20/1951
Fredrick Straughn	12/23/1901	12/14/1933
Mary B Straughn	1/10/1867	12/8/1967
Jon-Anthony Barrett Sumrell	7/17/1985	4/17/2002
George W Sylvester	1832	2/2/1902
"Baby" Thomas	1/17/1910	1/17/1910
Joseph J Thomas	6/21/1866	10/26/1924

Celebrating 200 Years: Meroney United Methodist Church

Mary S Thomas	2/3/1874	9/11/1922
Henry Etta Tyson	5/11/1872	8/10/1943
Marion Kelly Tysor	3/20/1904	8/21/1987
Orron G Tysor	4/17/1854	6/30/1932
Ralph Jenkins Tysor, Jr.	7/22/1929	5/17/1997
Ralph Jenkins Tysor, Sr.	9/22/1893	1/14/1995
Robert A Tysor	4/4/1901	6/28/1965
Ruth Adelaide Tysor	5/18/1856	7/7/1908
Stella Moses Tysor	6/19/1906	12/20/1988
Elizabeth Vestal		
Jack Vestal		
Alfred N Watkins	9/28/1900	7/1/1982
Emily J Watkins	8/9/1909	7/30/2000
Harold H Watkins	10/12/1936	1/10/1937
Dewey G Whitt	6/14/1898	12/22/1977
Mazie S Whitt	10/10/1904	9/13/1989
Bronna S Willett	11/17/1906	6/28/1988
Cora L Dowd Willett	12/18/1899	8/16/1968
Eliza A Ray Willett	3/10/1864	11/24/1945
John D Willett	7/23/1858	9/20/1936
Joseph V Willett	3/25/1887	2/21/1950
Robert Clarence Willett	6/12/1897	3/21/1993
Sallie A Willett	4/13/1824	9/6/1900



XI

Letter Left by W.B. Meroney

It is said that Rev. Meroney was a great master of the English language and that he often wrote poetry. In completing this brief history, it is only appropriate to close with the following letter he composed on his deathbed in 1816 to his children. Hopefully, it will prove to be a source of inspiration to all of us, as we carry on the work he so ardently began.

My Dear Children:

Before these lines shall meet your perusal, the hand that writes and the heart that dictates shall lay cold in death; the immortal spirit shall have flitted its way to the world of spirits, and the decision of a righteous God shall have fixed its fate forever. Under the impression of these solemn thoughts, I write, my dear children, with all the feeling and anxiety of a fond father. I proceed to give you my last and best advice, fondly hoping that you will pay some respect to the words of a dying father; and that they will prove beneficial unto you in your progress through this world of trouble. May God bless them and sanctify them to the desired end, is my fervent prayer.

The first and most important thing that I would recommend to your attention and consideration is RELIGION. Without this, my dear children, you never can be happy. Not all the pleasures, profits, and honors of the world can render you so without this one thing needful – this all essential requisite to happiness in this life and the world to come. Make it, therefore, the business of your lives; seek it in all the means of grace God has appointed; read His Word, attend on the same, expounded and preached. Do all this in solemn prayer to the Lord, that he may bless and assist your efforts. In this way you shall certainly find: the veracity of Heaven is pledged for it, and the Lord has declared that those who seek him early shall find him. To impress this more solemnly upon your minds, attend to the advice in I

Chronicles xxviii,9. Receive this truth from your dying father: without religion you can never be happy. With it, you may, both in time and eternity. May God Almighty bless you with his spirit and his grace, is, and has long been, my ardent prayer.

Much, my dear children, depends on your own conduct: Although salvation is by grace alone through faith, you are commanded to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. In addition to what has already been observed, let me exhort you to be circumspect in all your conduct. Stand aloof from the wicked, and guard against temptations. Fly the crimes of intoxication, gambling, rioting, reveling, and dissipation. These are dreadful crimes, and giving way to these is very dangerous. In your intercourse with mankind, be honest in all your dealings and faithful to all your promises. Treat all with kindness and civility. To your inferiors, be humane and kind. To your superiors, respectful and obliging. As masters, servants, children or parents, husbands or wives, discharge your duties as accountable to God. Let me particularly exhort you to be kind and affectionate to your aged mother; and amidst all her sufferings and difficulties, remember she is still your mother, and has labored and toiled for you. Never suffer her to want, if in your power to prevent it. Be kind and affectionate, one to another and assist each other when in your power. You are all poor. Industry and economy must be your dependence. With this you may obtain a competency, and that is all that is necessary. "Man wants but little here below nor wants that little long." And now my children, Adieu. God Almighty bless you, guide and direct you, and oh! that I may meet you in the realms of eternal delight, is my fervent prayer, for Christ's sake.

Your affectionate father, W.B. Meroney.

XII

Memories in Photograph



William Alston Rives, Sr.
1803-1883. His father,
Edwards Rives, was the first
Trustee of the church in 1808.



John Add and Lizzie Harris with Henry Harris
(right side), Ed Harris (Standing left of mother),
Jody Harris (Lap of mother)



Meroney School Standing: Lacy
Watkins, Romie Dowd, Mary Lizzie
Harris Sitting: Eliza Rives, Garland
Watkins, Doro Moody



Jim and Addie Campbell



James Ruben Phillips, Bessie Glosson Phillips, Vernie W. Phillips (infant), 1912



Bronna Willett, Pauline Straughn, Clarence Willett, Dalton Harris with Reid, Mallie Harris-1925



Clarence and Bronna Willett



James Ruben Phillips, Annie Hough Phillips, James Phillips (child), mid 1930s

1940
Homecoming



Memories in Photograph



Fred W. Harris, 1941,
WWII, served in Pacific



Annie Rives Moses



Jarvis, Gary, and Lois Moses



First wedding at Meroney: Betty Harris and Bill Lambert,
June 25, 1949



Raymond "Shorty"
Phillips, late 1940s



Left to Right:
Eunice Suits Watson,
Unknown, Gladys
Burke, Rachael Jessup
Johnson, Bobbie
Rives, Eleanor
Johnson, Eula Burns,
Annie Phillips Poe,
Bronna Willett,
Maude Moses, and
Lois Rives Poe



Henry and
Lillie Harris,
50th
anniversary,
married in 1905

Meroney Pastor
for many years:
Rev. and Mrs.
W.J. Underwood
50th Anniversary,
Feb. 6, 1956



Easter 1952,
Martha Phillips
was the teacher of
this SS class.

Back row:
Clyde Elkins,
Donald Whitt,
Jerry Campbell,
Junior Fields,
Billy Brady, and
Glen Elkins.

Front row:
Jane Tysor,
Myrna Fields,
Becky Brady,
Neomie Beal,
Loris Beal and
Mary Katherine
Burke



1956, Margaret Woody, Carole Moore, Judy Johnson,
Wayne Fields, Ida Bell Hart, Jane Beaver, Mary Sue Bright

Memories in Photograph



Easter 1957,
Martha Phillips
was the teacher of
the Junior SS class.
Back row: William
Beal, Eddie
Brafford, Donald
Spivey, Kermit
Spivey, Vickie
Cook, ? Front row:
Mary Sue Bright,
Jane Beaver,
Sharon Phillips,
Donnie Brafford,
Danny Beaver,
Phyllis Harris

1960, Intermediate
SS class. William
Beal, Mary Sue
Bright, Jane
Beaver, Ann Rives,
Donald Spivey,
Kermit Spivey, Ida
Bell Hart, Wayne
Fields, Eddie
Brafford, Mrs.
Bronna Willett,
Mrs. Ruby Rives,
Jehugh Burke,
Buddy



Donnie Brafford and Judy Hefner



Peggie Brafford



Eleanor and Angela
Moses, 1968

Rev. Leslie Myers, Wilbur and Betty Rives with
Sandra, Donald and Joybelle Whitt with Pam



Peggie Brafford (Front), Sharon
Phillips, Brenda Covert, and
Audrey Poe



1970, Mary Ann Smart was the teacher.
Renee Moses, Tamra Moses,
Angela Moses, and Dwayne Campbell



1971, Dwayne Campbell, Anthony Bright,
and Angela Moses



Mr. and Mrs. Dalton Harris,
50th Anniversary, 1973

Memories in Photograph



1974, Troy Smart, Lisa Campbell, Denise Moses, Sherry Hall, Kim Josey, Jennifer Bright, Kelly Beaver



Baptism at the Pond, 1974, Sandra Rives, Linda Campbell, Rev. W.B. Gregory



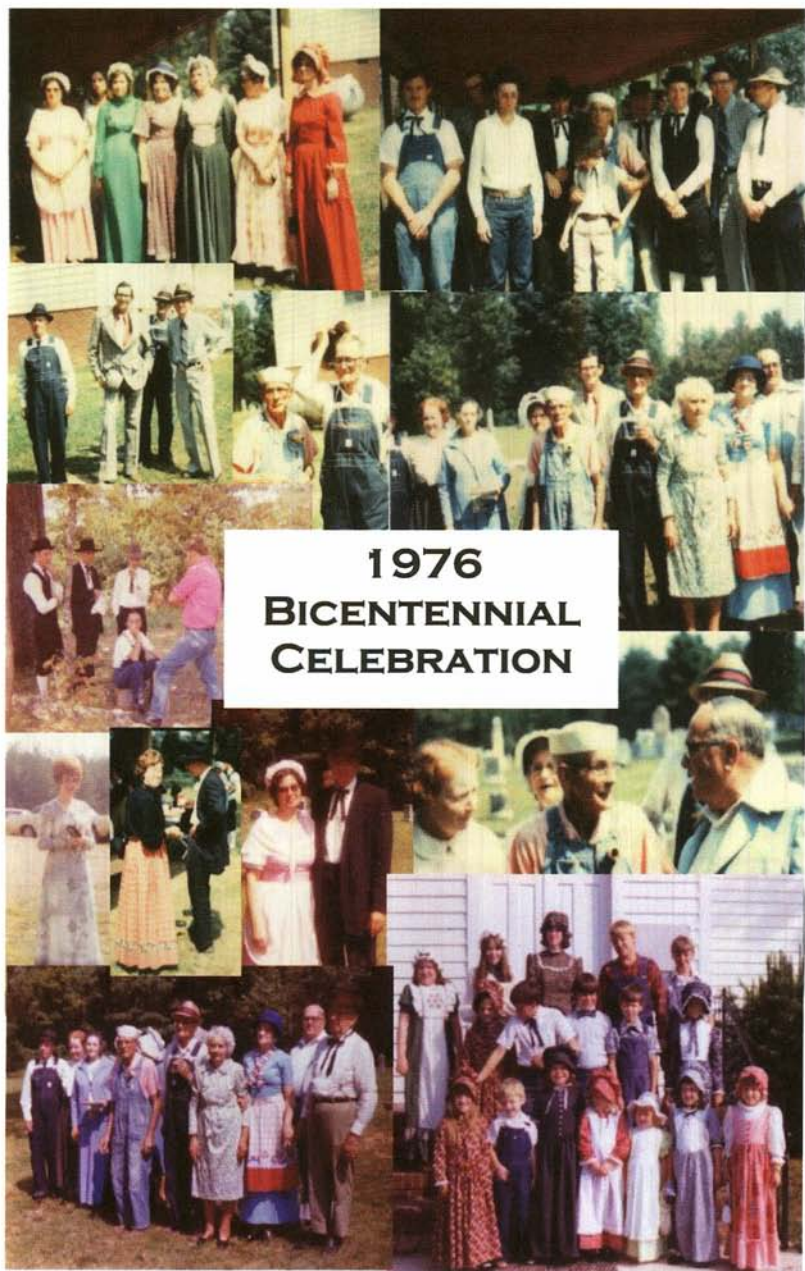
Baptism at the Pond, 1975, Tony Shaw, Charles Smart, Rocky Rives, Rev. Arthur Wesley, and Rev. Robert Ray



Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Willett, 50th Anniversary, 1975



1975, Kelly Beaver, Troy Smart, Jennifer Bright, Tonya Davis, Melinda Trotter, Larry Harris, Lisa Campbell, Denise Moses



Memories in Photograph



Johnny and Mamie Lee Hall, Chuck Smart, Eleanor Moses, Shirley and Marvin Hart

Kelly Fox, Troy Smart, Melinda Trotter, Jennifer Bright, Sherry Hall, Lisa Campbell, Denise Moses, Angela Moses, Dwayne Campbell, and Anthony Bright



1983, Baptism at Sandy Branch: Earl Allen, Melinda Trotter, Jennifer Bright, Rev. David Wade, Gary Hart, Denise Moses, and Sherry Hall



Eric and Brenda Shaw



Easter Egg Hunt, 1986



Duane, Peggie, Jeremy,
and Beth Hart, 1986



Tony, Brenda, Eric, and
Justin Shaw, 1986



Christmas 1989, Jessie Ann Mashburn,
Beth Hart, Mrs. Bunker,
Mr. Bunker, and Vallie Eaton



Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis Moses,
50th Anniversary, 1991



New bell that was placed
in 1992

Memories in Photograph



Harris Family, 1992



Mary Kate and Fred Harris, 1993



The sanctuary was raised in 1994 to repair the foundation.



Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bunker,
68th Anniversary, 1997



Holly Baird & Hannah Hart, 1999

Youth at Rockingham Race, 1999





Crop Walk 2001: Mary Blanton,
Gary Moses, Angela Wilson,
and Eleanor Moses



Crop Walk 2001: Nikki Roscoe, Cynthia
Campbell, Wayne Harris, Pat Harris,
Gary Moses, and Cindy Koszulinski



2002 Graduates: Jeremy Hart,
Tony Shaw, Heather Shaw,
Justin Shaw, Rev. Warren Owens,
and Mitchell Dowdy

Relay for Life 2004:
Jerry Wayne Campbell,
Shirley Hart, Carolyn Frazier,
Nancy Shaw, Mary Kate Harris,
Mary Blanton,
and W.C. Campbell

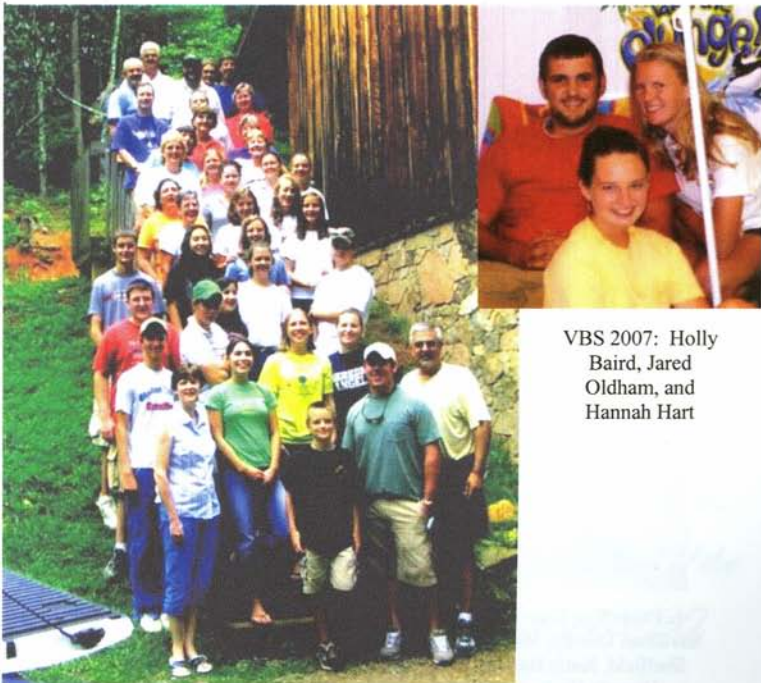


Christmas Parade 2004:
Jamie Wilson, Caleb Staley,
Erin Staley, Jared Oldham,
Hannah Hart, Donnie Baird,
Ryan Mashburn, and Holly Baird

Memories in Photograph



Christmas Cantata 2004: Angela Wilson, William Rives, Katherine Parker, Cynthia Campbell, Eleanor Moses, Denise Staley, Sonja Kitchings, Cathy Fields, Barbara Dowdy, Hannah Hart, Nikki Roscoe, Audrey Poe, Brenda Shaw, Jan Queen, Mary Kate Harris, Ann Shaw, Peggie Hart, Bonnie Allen, Sharon Trotter, Eddie Staley, Scott Kitchings, Rev. Jim Whittaker, Phillip Roscoe, Gary Moses, Jeff Wilson, Winfred Allen, Hal Queen, and Charles Trotter



VBS 2007: Holly Baird, Jared Oldham, and Hannah Hart

Rafting Trip 2005



Relay for Life
2007: Amy
Baird, Janice
Inman, Marvin
Hart, Paul
Inman, Shirley
Hart, Barbara
Dowdy, Beth
Hart, Dale
McLeod,
Stephanie
Lyons, and
John McLeod

Christmas Float
2007: Stephanie
Lyons, Beth Hart,
Donnie Baird,
Gillian Kitchings,
Jamie Wilson,
Leann Thurman,
Matt Lumsden,
Erin Staley, Caleb
Lumsden, Caleb
Staley, Spencer
Suits, and Jesse
Inman



Easter Egg Hunt 2008: Allison Bender, Isaac and Owen Dowdy,
Savannah Dowdy, John Thurman, Jamie Wilson, Benjamin Wilson, Rylee
Sheffield, Justin Bender, Jaxson Burke, Caleb Staley, Kelsey Minnich,
Victoria Hash, Shelby, Joseph Killen, Gillian Kitchings, Connor
Kitchings, and Erin Staley



And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:18-20