

## HISTORY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH

John Wesley was born in 1703, and in 1738 he received the spiritual experience which made him a flaming torch whose light and warmth is spreading even yet. He lived until 1791 and saw the revival spread throughout the American Colonies. It was said that in Wesley's time, Methodism possessed a warmth, spontaneity, virility, and adaptability that some of the other denominations in this area did not possess. As a result, Methodism attracted many converts.

After the Civil war and the long dark days of reconstruction, and in the year of 1878 on August 25<sup>th</sup>, about three miles southeast of the small village known as Pikeville in Wayne County, North Carolina, an area noted for growing cotton, forest products, turpentine, tar, hogs, and other farm products; Mount Carmel Church was organized.

Following taken from NC Conference Historical Directory:

"MOUNT CARMEL: Intersection of County Roads 1537 and 1545 near the Goldsboro Municipal Airport: Founded August 25, 1878, according to local church information; Earliest deed, January 20, 1882, Book 49 Page 5: Membership 215. "

About 1865, Public School No. 39 was established in this community and was known as Mount Carmel. The boundary of the School District was as follows: Beginning at Nahunta Swamp and runs with WW Railroad to Braxton Davis Bridge near Poor house, thence a direct line East to the head of Needham J. Smith Mill pond, then down said mill pond and branch to the the Slough, then down the Slough to County Road, then said road to Nahunta Swamp then up said Swamp to W&W Railroad to the beginning.

This was one of the first schools in the area and the first teacher was Grey Garriss who taught at Mount Carmel for many years. It is said that the older children of Benjamin and Serena H. Aycock attended school here and that Charles B. Aycock, being younger, attended here for a short time.

The Grammar School survived for many years, and in 1924 was finally consolidated with Pikeville School, the consolidated High School of the area.

It was near the school and on the same property that the church was founded. The primary religious belief of the area was believed to have been Quaker until the organization of this church.

Mount Carmel was organized by the Rev. A. J. Finlayson. The founding of this church was the outgrowth of a revival held under a bush arbor. This was on the same lot and near the one-room school known as public school No. 39.

In an address on July 12, 1893, at the laying of the cornerstone of what is now St. Paul United Methodist Church, the Rev. John W. Andrews recounted some of the instances of the great revival that swept Goldsboro in 1849 and of the influence that it had on the religious life of Goldsboro and Wayne County thirty-four years later. In a copy of the address owned by Mrs. Mary Slocumb, 612 E. Walnut Street, Goldsboro, NC, this account was given of the Rev.. A. J. Finlayson's early life and work as a minister or local preacher.

"Rev. A. J. Finlayson became a local preacher. He was not educated, but was converted, not eloquent, but earnest. He enjoyed the confidence of his fellow citizens to the end of life. No citizen of Wayne had impressed himself for good upon the religious public for two generations, as did Rev. Finalyson for nearly thirty years of his ministry. After the war, the Wayne and Lenoir circuits were revived and rebuilt through his instrumentality, and the seed from which has sprung the young and promising Goldsboro circuit was sown by him. He was instrumental in building seven churches. He gave bountifully of his time and money to the cause of Christ, and his death was one of great calmness and peace. "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like Him."

“The itinerant preacher addresses you, and after twenty-nine years of continuous work and 5,800 miles of continuous travel, having preached about 5,500 times, he had only this to say for himself: That could he begin where he laid down his profession, and with it all temporal prospects, with a full knowledge of all the disappointments, failures, and misfortunes of a preacher’s life, all should be given and suffered freely for Christ and His Church if he might be counted worthy to cry, “Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world.”

Some two or three years after the organization of the Church, a building was erected on property, known as the Joe Forehand property, and donated by Mr. Needham J. Smith. The Church building was built in front of the original school-house, by the members and other interested people of the community. The building was a frame, one room, wooden structure consisting of eight windows, three on each side of the church and two small windows in the pulpit, one on each side. Over the front door, which still serves, were five panels of clear glass windows. The interior was plastered. The building was heated by wood burned in a “log type heater”, and light was furnished by kerosene oil lamps. They were grouped in a cluster of three in brass holders fastened to the walls at designated points. A cluster of three in brass holders was attached to each side of the wall on each side of the pulpit. One large lamp was extended from the ceiling in the center of the sanctuary about twelve feet in front of the pulpit. A clock hung on the wall near the pulpit.

The furnishings of the church consisted of a small table, which now sits in the vestibule. This table originally served as the communion table. Two chairs sat in the pulpit. The pews, with the exception of several coats of paint, remain the same, and are presently being used. A pitcher and one glass (from which everyone drank) were used to serve the wine when communion was served. Among the charter members of the church were: Needham J. Smith, wife, Sarah Smith: John Pike and wife, Elizabeth Pate, Joe Pate, W.L. Garriss and wife, Smithie Garriss, K. B. Smith, A. S. Smith, John Smith, R. Jack Smith, P. P. Smith and Silas Smith. Among other prominent names as early members were The Scotts, Perkins, Garriss, Dees, and Forehands.

A picnic table, made of wire was constructed outside and John Pike and family planted trees on the grounds. The Peter Forehand family was the keepers of the Church and Church grounds for many , many years.

The John Pate family was effective workers in the church. Mrs. Pate taught a Sunday School Class. John and Eli were sons of Joe Pate. Eli Pate, who is still remembered by many, was an outstanding layman and a good vocalist. After moving to Goldsboro, he would often come back to Mt. Carmel to worship and testified to “finding the Lord” at the alter of this Church.

The next preacher to serve after the founder, Rev. A. J. Finlayson, was Rev. J. T. Bagwell, who was the preacher on the Goldsboro Circuit, which included Mt. Carmel. These were the years of 1878-1880. He was followed by Rev. W. M. Robey who served from 1881 - 1884. Then Rev. J. F. Washburn was the minister in 1885 - --886. Rev. W. M. Robey served again in the year of 1887 and Rev. J. G. Nelson served as minister in the year of 1888. Rev. W. H. Townson was the pastor in 1889, followed by Rev. Milton D. Hix during the years 1890 -91. Rev. M. M. McFarland was the pastor from 1892 - 1895, followed by Rev. A. L. Ormond in 1896 - 1897. Rev. M. M. McFarland served a second time in 1898, and was followed by Rev. H. M. Jackson in 1899 - 1900. In the Year of 1901, Rev. J. Ml. Benson was the minister.

In 1902 Rev. H. E. Tripp was stationed on the Goldsboro Circuit and served Mt. Carmel. He was remembered as a very large and wide-awake minister, weighing about 250 pounds and every pound full of energy. He would preach at Mt. Carmel on Sunday afternoons after preaching at Salem in the mornings. Rev. and Mrs. Tripp would often spend Sunday night with some of the members in the community then spend Monday visiting the members. In this manner, much local interest was created during his work here. Rev. Tripp served the Goldsboro Circuit for four years (from 1902 - 1905).

During this period, there were three division of the Methodist Church, The Methodist Protestant, The Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Ours was Mt. Carmel Methodist Episcopal Church South, Goldsboro Circuit, New Bern District, North Carolina Conference. Goldsboro Circuit was made up of the following churches: Pine Forest, Ebenezer, Daniels Chapel, Thompsons Chapel, Salem, St. Joseph's – Pikeville and Mt. Carmel. The pastor lived in the Goldsboro Circuit parsonage that was located on North William Street in Goldsboro, N. C.

It was around 1900, the turn of the century, that even though the membership was small and the preacher's salary less than \$100.00 per annum, some of the members began to talk of pulling out and organizing another church. Quite a few of the members opposed the move, especially the women, but in 1902 the move was made and St. Joseph's Methodist Church of Pikeville was organized.

Mt. Carmel Church always stressed the importance of a strong Church School. The first church school superintendent was Needham Smith with others to follow, John Pate, T. T. Pate, K. D. Perkins, a Mr. Hill, Charlie D. Hicks, Tavie Frank Hicks, Leon Lewis, Jr., Donald Peele, A. J. Lewis, and Ray Hicks who is now serving. Tavie Frank Hicks served as superintendent of the Sunday School and on the Official Board as an officer for a continuous period of more than fifty- five years. ( A plaque is erected to his memory by the members of the Mt. Carmel Church along with the plaque that was erected to the memory of the founder of the church, The Rev. A. J. Finlayson).

As time went on, the building deteriorated and needed repairs. The first repairs, as remembered by some of our older members, took place following the earthquake that shook the church and cracked the plastering. In an effort to cover the cracks, the interior was painted by Stacy Demelt with a blend of colors mixed together – The most outstanding color being a dark green. Delco lights later replaced the kerosene lamps. T. F. Hicks was in charge of keeping the plant repaired and the batteries charged. Years later the electric lines were run through the community and the electric lights were installed.

At Annual Conference in 1905, Rev. Tripp, after serving four years on the Goldsboro Circuit, was sent to another charge and J. M. Carraway was stationed on this circuit. Rev. Carraway being a small man was not like Rev. Tripp in stature, but had plenty of energy and was a good preacher. His service began on December 4, 1905.

At the Annual Conference in 1909, Rev. J. M. Carraway was replaced by Rev. G. W. Stancil. Rev. Stancil served us only one year. During this period, Rev. R. F. Bumpass was the presiding elder and Rev. E. R. Hendrix was bishop.

The Conference of 1910 sent Rev. F. L. Fulcher to the circuit. Rev. Fulcher was on the charge for two years. He was interested in young people and during his years many youth organizations were formed. An organ was purchased during this time. Rev. J. E. Underwood was the presiding Elder. Rev. E. E. Hass was the bishop in 1911 and Rev. C. Dewey followed as bishop in 1912

The Annual Conference of 1912 stationed Rev. C. O. Durant on the charge for two years. During these two years, Rev. J. E. Underwood was the presiding Elder, and Bishop J. H. McCoy served in 1913 and Bishop R. G. Waterman in 1914.

At the Annual N. C. Methodist Conference in 1914, Rev. W. A. Piland was stationed on the Goldsboro Circuit. Rev. J. B. Hurley was the Presiding Elder for the next six years and Rev. J. C. Kilgo served as bishop for four years. During Rev. Pilan's pastorate, the Goldsboro Circuit parsonage on North William Street was sold and a larger house on East Ash Street was purchased and used for the parsonage for many years. Rev. Piland was an excellent preacher and many changes were made during his stay on the circuit. It was during this time that some changes were made in the composition of the Goldsboro Circuit.

It was during this time that St. Joseph at Pikeville and Elm Street of Goldsboro were grouped together to form the Pikeville-Elm Street Charge with the Rev. Ernest C. Durham as Pastor.

Mt. Carmel remained on the Goldsboro Circuit and was served during the years of 1918 – 1921 by Rev. K. F. Duval as pastor and Rev. F. M. Shamberger as presiding elder.

During the years 1921 – 1923, Rev. Charles A. Jones served as pastor on the Goldsboro Circuit, and it was at the Conference of 1923 that Mt. Carmel was transferred to the Pikeville-Elm Street Charge that was being served by Rev. C. P. Jerome during the years of 1923 –25. Rev. J. C. Wooten was serving as Presiding Elder and Rev. C. Dewey served as Bishop until 1927.

At the Annual Conference of 1925, Rev. C. P. Jerome retired. His son, Rev. Robert L. Jerome, was finishing Duke Divinity School that year. He was ordained a Methodist minister and was assigned to the Pikeville-Elm Street Charge for his first work. Rev. Robert L. Jerome, like his father, was a good man and an excellent young minister. Progress was steadily made on the charge during his appointment. Rev. Walter Patton was appointed Presiding Elder in 1927 and served the District for three years. Rev. E. L. Morgan was serving as Bishop.

In the spring of 1927, with the help of Mrs. F. B. McKinnie and other district officials from the Goldsboro area, and under the sponsorship of the Missionary Society of St. Joseph at Pikeville, a new Missionary Society was organized at Mt. Carmel Church. Charter members of the group were: Mrs. Ellen S. Hicks, Mrs. Fannie Wooten, Mrs. Elma P. Lancaster, Mrs. Inez Smith, and Mrs. Jane T. Pike. Mrs. Pike transferred from the St. Joseph Society where she was also a charter member of that Society. Mrs. Ellen S. Hicks served as the Charter President and Mrs. Jane Pike served as secretary-treasurer until her death in 1935. Each member paid \$0.25 each month, if able, which was used for missions –40% foreign and 60% home missions. In 1968, the name of the missionary society was changed to the Women's Society of Christian Service, and is now know as the United Methodist Women, being changed after unification in 1972.

During this same period, the youth group was organized as “The Epworth League” and later being named MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship) and is now known as the UMYF or the United Methodist Youth Fellowship.

During the years 1928 –29 Rev. I. S. Richmond was our pastor and was followed in 1929 – 1932 by Rev. J. G. Phillips. Rev. J. H. McCracken was the presiding elder, 1931 –1932.

At the Annual Conference of 1930, Good Hope Chapel was added to the Pikeville, Elm Street, Mt. Carmel Charge. This was during the great depression and our people had little money and our pastor Rev. Phillips walked to the churches to fill some of his appointments during this serious economic depression. Rev. and Mrs. Phillips were very good leaders with the young people. They were both very musical and the churches made much progress while they were on the Charge.

At the Annual Conference of 1932, Rev. Leon Russell was stationed on the Charge. He was an excellent leader and an outstanding preacher. He served these churches for four years. Good Hope Chapel was dropped in 1934 and Saulston was added. This was the second appointment for the Russells, having served a charge on the outer banks before coming to this charge. Rev. and Mrs. Russell's son, John Carl, was born while they were stationed here.

Rev. T. M. Grant followed Rev. McCracken and presided over the New Bern District during the years 1932 – 1935. Rev. E. L. Morgan was the Bishop.

In 1936 the Annual Conference transferred Rev. Leon Russell to Raleigh where he organized the Hayes Barton Methodist Church. Rev. F. M. Hodges was sent to serve our Charge. Rev. Hodges served this work for one year. He moved from Pikeville to the Parsonage at Elm Street in Goldsboro during the year he was here. Rev. E. L. Hillman was our presiding Elder and Dr. Paul B. Kern was serving as Bishop during 1937.

In 1937 The Annual Conference appointed Rev. F. D. Hedden here. Rev. Hedden was in Raleigh at the time and commuted to fill his appointments for awhile. Houses for rent were very scarce and due to the failure of the charge to find a suitable parsonage, Rev. Hedden moved on to another appointment. The presiding elder secured a Duke Divinity School student, Rev. John James Rook, to serve the charge. Rev. Rook commuted from Durham during the school term and then found a room in Pikeville during the summer months. Rev. Rook served the work during the years 1937 – 1939. It was during his stay that the work on the parsonage was started and completed in the spring of 1939 in time for a new preacher to accept appointment, Rev. James H. Overton, Jr. Rev. Rook was graduated in June of 1939 and returned to his home state of Florida to accept an appointment.

Rev. James H. Overton, Jr. and Mrs. Overton were married just prior to coming here and Rev. Overton was a classmate of Rev. Rook. The Overton's were the first parsonage family to occupy the parsonage in Pikeville. \*Much of the material was supplied by Mt Carmel and was a joint project by both churches. Because of this rent was not charged or a minimal amount was charged as long as the two churches were on the same charge. Rev. J. A. Russell served as presiding elder for the years 1939 – 1944 (no relation to Leon).

In 1939 the three divisions of the Methodist Church were united and the Mt. Carmel Methodist Church South, became the Mt. Carmel Methodist Church. Rev. W. W. Peele was bishop and Rev. Clare Purcell was appointed to follow him in 1940.

At the Annual Conference in 1940, Rev. C. W. Guthrie was stationed on the charge and served here for two years, doing a wonderful job.

In 1942 Rev. J. Q. Patrick was appointed to the charge and unfortunately passed away in 1942 (apparently a victim of the new Sulfa Drug). Rev. J. D. Stott, a returning missionary to Japan, was appointed to complete the year and stayed until 1944. \*Rev. Stott had a love for the people in Japan, which was hard for the congregation to accept as the nation was currently at war with Japan. In 1944, Rev. W. W. Peele was again appointed Bishop and served until 1950.

In 1944, Rev. W. F. Walters was appointed to the charge. Rev. W. F. Walters passed away in 1946, and his appointment was completed by Rev. Ralph I. Epps.

In 1946 Rev. E. W. Downum was appointed to the charge and served for one year.

At the annual conference in 1947, Rev. Robert L. Bame was appointed to the charge. Bob and his wife, Helen, as they were affectionately called, were excellent leaders (\*especially with the youth) and served the work here for four years.

The Church continued to grow, and the members began to see the need for expansion and plans were made to enlarge the building. In 1948, Sunday school rooms were added to the front of the church. Some labor and materials were donated by members and other interested persons of the community. This addition was dedicated by Rev. Robert L. Bame and the late Bishop Paul N. Garber on Sunday, June 10, 1951.

( A number of corrections and additions were made during this time, taken from the minutes of the Official board from 1956-)

In 1951, Rev. C. M. Mitchell was appointed to the Charge. Elm Street was dropped during the year of 1952. Rev. B. B. Slaughter was our District Superintendent and Rev. Paul N. Garber was our Bishop. In 1954 Rev. Hirm K. King was appointed our District Superintendent and was serving when the Goldsboro District was formed at the conference of 1954.

In 1954 the Goldsboro District was formed and Rev. Howard M. McLamb was appointed District Superintendent. Rev. Ben F. Boone was stationed on the Pikeville – Mt. Carmel Charge.

The two small windows in the pulpit and the other windows in the sanctuary were replaced by memorial stained glass windows in August, 1955 at a cost of \$1,771.40. The ladies, under the leadership of Mrs Mabel Hicks, sponsored this project. Rev. Boone served for one and one-half years until he retired in 1956.

In 1956 the date of the Annual Conference was changed from meeting in November to June. Rev. E. E. Earnhardt was named to the charge here and served for three years. \* During his time at Mt. Carmel in August of 1958 the board voted to have a Unified Budget. Until then the church and the church school budget was separate.

It was at this point in time that another change was made in the charge. Pikeville decided to go station in order to have more morning services; therefore, in 1959 the Mt. Carmel – Saulston - Elm Street Charge was formed with Rev. Jean L. Hood as pastor. Rev. Mark Lawrence was our District Superintendent.

In May of 1959 it was voted that our budget would be paid by June 1 so the conference records might be sent in on time rather than waiting for the delegate to take the final amount to Annual Conference as had been done in the past. A side door to be placed near the pulpit was also discussed, and was done at a later date.

At the Annual Conference, Rev. J. R. Hailey was named to fill in until a regular appointment could be made. Finally, in August of 1959, Rev. Horace T. Ferguson was appointed to the Mt. Carmel-Saulston Charge and served until 1963. Rev. Mark Lawrence was District Superintendent. Rev. Leon Russell a former pastor served the District as District Superintendent after Rev. Lawrence until 1970.

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- During the time Rev. Ferguson was serving our charge, Saulston built a parsonage. Mt. Carmel was to pay rent.
- An organ was purchased for the church
- Mrs. Ellen Hicks gave an outside bulletin board in memory of her father P. B. Scott. \*(Official board minutes for Feb. 1961)
- It was decided to move the trees at the back of the church as soon as possible.
- In Sept. 1962, grave plots were restricted as we saw a need to keep parking space.

Cement walkways were discussed as well as a stoop for the front of the church. A woodpecker hole in the church was repaired.

At the Annual Conference of 1963, Rev. Robert F. Randalls was appointed to serve the charge for one year.

- In August of this year a partition was put in the large classroom upstairs to provide more classroom space.
- The Organizational plaque had been repaired and placed back in the front of the sanctuary.
- In October a stoop was erected over the front door. The total cost was \$1134.84.
- At a board meeting in January it was voted to set the date for Homecoming for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in September and this date was not to be changed as had been done at times in the past.
- It was also voted to begin using bulletins for the first time.

At the Annual Conference of 1964, Rev. Frederick J. Dillon was appointed as pastor and served four years until 1968. \*In 1965 a forgotten well, in the east corner of the church grounds near the road, collapsed when Elton Wooten drove across it during a wet time. Only a few of the older members remember the well. It was refilled.

The Church and Church School, along with the entire community, continued to grow and the members began to see the need to plan for an educational building.\* In January of 1965 a building committee for the Education building and rest rooms was appointed. The first plans were not acceptable by the county fire code. The alternate plan was approved. The first plan was to have a frame building but as we could not attach it to the church building, in August of 1965 it was decided to brick the new building. The cost for this building would be \$15,000. After several years of planning, harvest sales, fellowship suppers, and donations, our dreams became a reality and a fellowship building was constructed. Price Construction Company built the brick building. Rev. Fred Dillon served as our pastor during this time. Our attendance increased quite a bit during his time as our pastor.

With the plans for a new building it was noted that there was a need for more parking space and plans were made in July 1967 to move the cemetery to Pikeville Cemetery. This was completed and paid for in November 1967.

In February 1968 our church voted for a minimum salary minister and at the Annual Conference in 1968 Rev. J. Hillary Bryant was appointed to the Mt. Carmel-Saulston Charge and served it for four years. Cement walkways were poured and during our Revival Rev. Rudolph Gerald Massey was ask to lead the singing. In September of 1968 our services were change from 2 morning and 2 evening services to 4 morning services with the time alternating from 11:00 to 9:45 morning services.

At the Annual Conference in 1972, Rev. Eric Carson, a young minister from Belfast, Ireland, was appointed to the Charge while he did some graduate work at Duke and Southeastern Seminary in completion of his education. Eric and his wife, Melissa were an interesting change for our congregation. \*On Sunday, May 13, 1973 our new building was dedicated by Rev. Carson, pastor and Rev. A. F. Fisher, District Superintendent. Rev. Albert F. Fisher was the District Superintendent from 1970 – 1974 and Rev. Robert L. Blackman, was the Bishop.

At the Annual Conference in 1974, still another change in the Charge took place. Pikeville and Mt. Carmel were again joined, forming the Pikeville – Mount Carmel Charge with Rev. Haywood L. Harrell appointed as pastor. Saulston was joined with Jefferson, a fairly new church, to make a charge. During 1974 there was a need for a new Communion set as the small set we had was not enough to serve the congregation. It was also decided that Flowers, at the time of a death, would be provided by the church not the WSCS as had been done in the past. The UMYF had a large glass bulletin board built and installed in the Education Building. Other renovations for the sanctuary were planned during 1974. In February of 1975 the Communion rail was moved forward 2-3 feet and new carpet was installed. Gold plush was used for the altar area and stairs, and gold tweed was used for the floor. Fashion Floors installed the carpet that was glued to the floor. In March of 1975 new light fixtures were to be installed. Green foliage arrangements were given as memorials. In January, 1976 a new adult Sunday School class was formed and named the Messengers Class. A covered walkway was discussed and a storm door was installed to protect the side door. To keep the congregation informed of decisions of the Official board the minutes would be posted for all to see. Charles Bedford gave a memorial in memory of his mother. For the annual fellowship supper the pigs were cooked at Bobby Benton's shelter and has continued.

In June of 1976 Rev. Charles Graham Nickens was appointed as our pastor. Rev. J. Paul Edwards was appointed as our District Superintendent in 1974 and is currently serving in that capacity.

The Spiritual life of the Church continued to grow through the years. Our membership has also continued to grow and we now have a membership of 172.

Several of our members have been inspired to go into full-time Christian service for the Lord, serving as Ministers. They are Rev. Jim Pate, son of one of the charter members of the church, Mrs. Elizabeth Forehand Pate. Rev. Charles W. Wooten is the son of Mr. Wesley R. and Enness Hicks Wooten, who served as stewards and Church school teacher for many years. Mrs. Enness as she was known taught the primary class from the age of 12 until she retired in her 70's. Rev. Leon Lewis, Jr's, great grandmother and grandfather were early members of the church. Rev. James W. Hicks', father Wesley (Bud) Hicks was a steward and his mother a choir member for many years. Rev. Charles Hicks, who was accidentally drowned at an early age, was the son of Denver Hicks and his grandparents were members of this church also.

Some others who have given outstanding service to the church are our Communion Stewardesses: Mrs. Penny Pike Pate, Mrs. Jane T. Pike, Mrs. Lizzie T. Pike, Mrs. Elma P. Lancaster, and Mrs. June Smith, presently serving.

Our Church has always been a singing church and Choir directors as remembered were: Mr. Jim Thomas, William Jones, Eddie F. Jones, Wesley Wooten, Robert Y. Wooten, W. A. Wooten, and Mrs. Jean P. Wooten, presently serving.

Those faithful members serving as pianist or organist include: Mrs. Mamie J. Perkins, Mr. Arthur O. Scott, Ella Hicks Holbert, Mrs. Elma P. Lancaster, Mrs. Pearl Jones Best, Mrs. Ava Hicks Aycock, Miss Evelyn Lancaster, Mrs. Inez Hicks Smith, Mrs. Sandra Hicks Benton, Mrs. Olga W. Davis, Miss Kathy Smith, and



Miss Donna Lewis. Miss Hope Hicks. Others that contributed of their musical talents were Milton Hicks with his violin, and Otto Hicks with his saxophone for many years.

Some of our members rendering outstanding service as teachers in the Church School include: Tavie Frank Hicks, serving over 55 years; and his wife, Mrs. Ellen S. Hicks, serving over 50 years. Mrs. Enness H. Wooten, serving over 45 years, Mrs. Ava Hicks Aycock. Serving over 30 years and put flowers in the church for almost that long, also. Mrs. Jean P. Wooten served as teacher for over 15 years and Mrs Elma P. Lancaster served for over 20 years. Mr. P. B. Scott, Jr. Served as Church School secretary for 30 years.

Some others serving on the official boards for long periods include. T. T. Pate, Wesley Wooten, James Wooten, Mack D. Lancaster, Sr., Mrs. Jane T. Pike, William Moody Pike, Wilbur Pike, Wesley Hicks, George Herring, Katherine Herring, L. C. Huffman, John Hicks, Otto Hicks, Casper Hicks, Elton Wooten, William Bogue, Handley Pate, Clinton Lancaster, Bruce Mazingo, Bobby Benton, A. J. Lewis, Donald Peele, Durwood Smith, Lynn Lancaster, and John Wooten. Also, many others who we are unable to remember.

Yes, we are today beginning the centennial celebration of Mt. Carmel Church. We will celebrate for several weeks to come, all this is very appropriate and timely, but it is not enough to merely look to the past, or to remember and glorify the "Good Ole Days" gone by. We know that the past is prologue.

We must look to the future, and let this celebration be, not only a celebration of the past, but a spring-board of spiritual enthusiasm on which to take a leap forward into the next 100 years with even greater determination and zeal than we have shown in the past.

Mt. Carmel has an outstanding heritage.

Mt. Carmel has been called a great church.

Mt. Carmel is great because Mt. Carmel is good.

When she ceases to be good she will cease to be great.

Therefore, my prayer is that her influence be deepened and her power be extended throughout the next 100 years.

Thank you very much for your attention!

1978-1987

In commemoration of the church's centennial, a "Month of Sundays" was decided upon by the official board of the church to observe this event. The celebration began August 20, 1978, which was observed as "History Sunday". Wilbur Pike presided and gave the history of the church. The following Sunday, August 27, was observed as "Children's Day" and at that time the children presented the program. "Senior Citizens Day" was observed on the third of September and many of our older citizens told of their spiritual experiences and the church's early beginning. September 10 was "Youth Day" and the youth of the church presented a play "I can Do It". During the week of September 10-15 and "Ole Time Revival" took place. Former pastors, Reverends Eric Carson, Edwin Earnhardt, Haywood Harrell, Robert Randall, Horace Ferguson and Jean Hood were guest ministers who brought the messages. "Field Day", Saturday, September 6, was a day of fun for all. Games, contests, a cookout on the church grounds and various activities for all ages, gospel singing and musical instrumental selections were enjoyed by all. Annual home coming on Sunday, September 17 climaxed the celebration. The Rev. Paul Edwards, district superintendent, was guest speaker.

"Appreciation to the youth and administrative board for the public address system was given on September 17, 1978. A Centennial Directory was published and was made available for those who wished to purchase one.

A permanent Memorial Fund was established. The Nominating Committee should contact members before presenting their name to Charge Conference for approval to a position on the Administrative Board. A new heating system was installed. The cost was \$3525 and Pikeville Heating and Air Condition installed the unit.

In May 1979 it was decided to present our outgoing minister with \$50. For a goodbye gift. A softball team will be sponsored by the church.

In June 1979, Rev. Henry Hunnings and his wife Bess were appointed to our charge. During this year, Mrs. Mable Herring audited our membership roll and was recognized for her work on October 14, 1979. As Bess Hunnings was studying to become a minister it was decided to allow her to alternate with Rev. Henry Hunnings with an 11:00 worship service each Sunday. The audit of our membership roll showed 68 members either dead or non-attending for years and will be presented to charge conference for removal.

Instead of our regular preaching service, on October 28, 1979, a song service "A Great Day of Singing" was held. This service consisted of singing by the choir, solos, duets, quartets and congregation. Almost everyone's favorite song was sung and everyone participated.

The girls softball team were the pre-season champs in the Northern Wayne Church League for the 1979 season.

On November 11, 1979, a representative of the Wayne County Mental Health Center spoke to the congregation regarding the misuse of drugs and alcohol. A church newsletter will soon be published by Penny Lancaster, Lynn Yelverton and Kathy Smith.

The February Board meeting of 1980, decided to pay our minister each week. It was also decided to place a rose on the altar each time a new baby is born in the church. During one week in February, 1980, "Proclaim The Word" event was observed. This was a time of visitation and Christian Witnessing in the Pikeville and Mt. Carmel communities. Prior to this event, visitation workers' classes were held to prepare church members for the event, and for Christian witnessing. This was to acquaint them as to the areas each was to visit so all living in the communities of Pikeville and Mount Carmel (The unchurched) would receive a visit and be witnessed to. Mrs. Jean Wooten, choir director for seventeen years, retired and Olga Davis replaced her in this position.

At the March, 1980, the Administrative Board voted to let Carolina Home Improvement place Vinyl siding on the sanctuary at a cost of \$7985. The Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Pikeville Cemetery and refreshment back at the church. The church will buy the gifts for the high school graduates in the future.

A bulletin board given in memory of Rev. Charles Wooten was recognized on April 27, 1980. The vestibule furnishings, a northex desk, and a memorial repository was given to the church in memory of J. R. (Bob) and Mrs. Maggie McCandless Talton by Ira Talton, a son, and his wife Angie. This was dedicated to the church, April 27, 1980. White paraments, given to the church by Wilbur and Bertie Pike in memory of Mr. Pike's parents, Moody and Jane Thompson Pike were dedicated to the church in July of 1980. On July 13, 1980, Rev. Jimmy Hicks, son of the late Wesley Hicks and Juanita Hicks, spoke to the congregation and baptized his grandson, Robin Allan Kelly. Sheila Benton and Cathy Lewis represented us at ACS in Fayetteville at Methodist College.

We are very grateful and indebted to all our armed services personnel and veterans. On August 17, 1980, we were honored to have Colonel Jim Hiteshew, retired Air Force veteran, speak regarding his experiences as a POW in Vietnam.

A special song service was held in 1981 with Nina Rae and John Wooten responsible for this service.

On September 20, 1981, Mt. Carmel celebrated its annual homecoming. Dedication of our church organ, given in memory of T. F. and Ellen Scott Hicks was held. The organ was given by family members and friends. Mt. Carmel observed Alcohol and Drug Concerns Sunday, November 15, 1981. Tom Uzabel of Refocus spoke at the Church School hour.

Our church membership is 150 and Sunday School membership is 107. Average attendance is 80-90 weekly. Our oldest member is Mrs. Octavia Pate who was born July 11, 1887. Mrs. Ada Smith Forehand was born November 12, 1896 and is still attending. Mrs. Forehand and Mrs. Nora Talton Lewis received birthday cards from President Ronald Reagan.

John Hicks, 73 years old, received a 17-year Sunday School perfect Attendance pin. Mt. Carmel and St. Joseph Charge was awarded a plaque for the best percentage in attendance at the Goldsboro District Lay Rally with a combined total of 45 members attending.

Mt. Carmel United Methodist Women has always been active in the Church. In March 22, 1982, they hosted the Goldsboro District Cluster Meeting. Eighty women representing six churches attended. The N. C. Conference president, Catherine Vick from Raleigh, N. C. was in attendance.

New Pews were placed in the Church April 18, 1982. Engraved plates were placed on the back of the pews. The cost of these pews was \$1176. Church members or families donated the pews in honor or memory of loved ones. Dedication for the pews was at homecoming 1982.

Paraments for all seasons of the year were presented to the church and dedicated on June 6, 1982. One set was in memory of Elma Pate Lancaster and Enness Hicks Wooten. The other sets were in honor of Ava Frances Hicks Aycock and in honor of Otto and Doris Hicks.

The Church accepted the gift of a church piano given by Otto and Doris Smith Hicks in honor of their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

One hundred thirty-five new Hymnals and fifty Pew Bibles have been donated this year. The MYF gave a \$50.00 donation to the Vietnamese family in Goldsboro who was adopted by churches in the Goldsboro District.

Rev. Dewitt Helms donated a set of Fiftieth Anniversary Edition World Book Encyclopedias to the church.

Bess Hunnings, acting co-pastor was accepted at the Duke Divinity School, in Durham, N. C. In their Master of Divinity Program. The couple will be changing appointments.

In June of 1982, Rev. Gerry Davis was appointed to Mt. Carmel – St. Joseph Charge. Rev. Charles Smith was appointed the new District Superintendent and will be our homecoming speaker in September.

Twenty-two students, teachers and friends from the Youth classes of the Sunday School went to Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Virginia on August 28.

In 1983, Rev. Gerry Davis began publishing the "News Letter" changing the title to St. Joseph – Mt. Carmel United Methodist Churches. This was also a very interesting and informative paper, keeping the members of the congregation aware of happenings at the Official Board meetings, up-coming events, and other information.

Bicentennial of American Methodism was observed during the year of 1983. During this year, Mt. Carmel hosted a luncheon for the community residents over sixty years of age.

On May 29, 1983, Freddie Pierce, Ventriloquist, from the Nahunta community, entertained the congregation with Christian entertainment. The Youth of the church were in charge of the program.

A. J. Lewis was selected Lay Person of the year for 1984 by the church. Mt. Carmel – St. Joseph was again awarded the plaque for the best attendance at the Goldsboro District Lay Rally in 1984. Organ chimes were received and installed in February 1984. Elizabeth and George Hicks in memory of their parents, Tavie Frank and Ellen Scott Hicks, and Joseph Richard and Carnie Dail Parker gave them. They were dedicated at our Homecoming, September 16, 1984.

In July 1984, benches constructed by the late T. F. Hicks in 1948 at the completion of the addition of Sunday School rooms, were made available to church members, friends and family for a donation to the church. The senior adult men and women's Sunday school classes presented a cantata, "The times of our Lives.

A Wesley Song Service was conducted, September 9, 1984. At this service, songs, anthems and responses sung by the choir and congregation were written by Charles and John Wesley. Rev. Charles Smith, our district superintendent had the scripture lesson and meditation.

Family, Fun and Fellowship (FFF) had its first observance in 1984. This event is planned for Christian fellowship for the entire family and features activities/entertainment that can be enjoyed by the entire family.

The United Methodist Women adopted for their project in 1984 "Cross-stitching Chrismons" for a Chrismon tree. An artificial tree was purchased by the church and on December 2, 1984, a Chrismon Service was held. All persons in attendance were presented Chrismons upon entering the church. Rev. Davis explained the meaning of each symbol at which time persons with that symbol placed it upon the tree.

The United Methodist Women were in charge of services on December 30, 1984 and their members presented a program entitled "The People's Court –The Kooky Computer." The choir and other adults of the church presented a Christmas musical "That Night at Bethlehem".

Pikeville – Mt. Carmel Charge, again won the attendance plaque at the Conference Lay Rally of the Goldsboro District for the 4th consecutive year.

On June 30, 1985, the adult church school classes presented a musical "Saints Alive". This was very enjoyable. During the Christmas season of 1985 the senior adult class and the Messengers' class presented a cantata entitled "Christmas in The Good Old Days". It has always been a tradition of Mt. Carmel to have our Christmas Program on Christmas Eve. The Children and youth give a Christmas Program. Some of the programs presented in the last years have been very, very good. The names of some of the better one are: MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB, THE LITTLE BELL THAT WOULDN'T STOP RINGING, LISTEN TO THE LAMBS, TWO NIGHTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS, THAT NIGHT AT BETHLEHEM, THE LITTLE LAME SHEPHERD, AND THE LITTLIEST SHEPHERD. Santa usually drops in with goodies for all which makes the children feel extra special that he took the time to stop as busy as he is on that night.

The year of 1986 brought more Family, Fun and Fellowship (FFF). A. J. Lewis was chosen as Lay person of the year. The Falconettes and Falconaires of Charles B. Aycock presented a program of beautiful music that was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day is observed yearly during the Church School hour. The oldest, youngest, the mother/father with the most children and the most recent mother/father are recognized. In 1986, silhouettes were made in honor/memory of our fathers. These were made into an attractive arrangement and later given to the one who donated them.

On June 27, 1986, an informal church service was held at the Saulston Wild Life Pond. Also, services were held at the church. Approximately 80-85 persons attended the Wild Life service. Services at the Pond consisted of testimonies from several persons. "What If" (a test of quoting hymns and scripture) followed by the sermon by Rev. Gerry Davis. Hot dogs and hamburgers were enjoyed by all. Donald Peele conducted Sunday services at the church for those who preferred to go there instead. The Wild Life service was known as the (FFF) Faith, Fun and Fellowship meeting; a religious service designed to create more interest in Christian services.

In 1986 members of the church built a handicap ramp. Also The Duke Endowment of the North Carolina Alternative Energy Corp. Asked the Goldsboro District to serve as a pilot project for the "Low Cost Weathering Project" and as a result of this project a protective covering was placed over the stained glass windows of the church to protect them. New metal doors were installed in the educational building replacing the wooden ones.

On one Sunday each year, we are honored by having a member of the Gideons International Organization speak to the congregation instead of our regular church services. A free will offering is given to the Gideons International Organization to purchase Bibles.

Lay Person of the year for 1987 was Donald Peele.

On April 5, 1987 a church conference was called to approve or disapprove purchase of approximately 2 acres of land joining church property, from Kathleen Smith for \$10,000.00 with the church paying for the deed, revenue stamps and recording fees. This was approved.

A Spiritual Gifts Workshop was led by the Rev. Charles Bryant in the Pikeville Fellowship Hall for the Charge in April. The attendance was fair and those in attendance discovered their spiritual gifts through the leadership of Rev. Bryant.

To honor our high school seniors that graduate, a gift is given each one and a dinner/lunch covered dish meal is given in their honor during the month of June. Vacation Bible School is held each year after school is out for the Summer and usually lasts for five sessions: usually closing with a program during the Church School hour or the night after the last session. A picnic lunch/supper is often enjoyed by all after the closing session or before the program.

Faith, Fun and Fellowship (FFF) meeting was again held at the Wildlife Pond in 1987. Christian activities/entertainment designed for the entire family was enjoyed by all. Rev. Gerry Davis delivered the message. Also, Donald Peele held regular Sunday services at the church.

In June of 1987 Rev. Samuel D. (Mack) McMillian III was appointed to our charge. He was a young, single man and very energetic. In a short time he married Paige Lancaster who was a very capable helpmate for Mack. They worked well with all age levels of the church especially with the youth.

Hazel Sorrells was the speaker for Women in the Pulpit on August 30, 1987. The United Methodist Women conducted the services. Our pastor took the UMYF on a trip.

For Laity Sunday, Donald Peele, Patsy Scott, Ernest Jones and Ginger Lancaster were in charge of services on November 8, 1987. The UMYF was with our pastor on a beach retreat. During this year the UMYF of Mt. Carmel and St. Joseph combined, rotating their meetings weekly.

Members of the church each year observe a "Loyalty Supper" at which time donations are made to a building fund. This fund is used for the up-keep of the present structures, additional structures and additions to the present ones. A supper of Bar-B-Que pork and chicken, slaw and various delicious dishes are enjoyed by all as well as the Christian fellowship.

Homecoming services are observed every third Sunday in September with former pastors invited as guest speakers. Speakers during the last few years are as follows. Rev. Haywood Harrell, Rev. Edwin Earnhardt, Rev. Robert Randalls, 1979 was Rev. Horace Ferguson. 1980, was Rev. Fred Dillon, 1981 was Rev. Jimmy Hicks, 1982 Rev. Leon (Dick) Lewis, 1983 was Rev. Jean Hood, 1984 Rev. Dick Lewis, 1985 Rev. Fred Dillon and 1986 Rev. Hank Wilkerson. In 1987 Rev. Bill Coddington shared the service with our pastor, Rev. Mack McMillian.

Thanksgiving services are observed by the charge, rotating between St. Joseph and Mt. Carmel. Churches of other faiths in the area are invited also. For several years Mt. Carmel Church members have been responsible for each fifth Sunday program, giving our pastor these days off or a rest from the pulpit. Bible study and meditation is a vital part of all Christians in their Spiritual life and for approximately twenty-four years for one hour each Wednesday night has been set aside for Bible study, and prayer. Those who attend are spiritually blessed.

The UMYF continues to function and has made many contributions spiritually as well as gifts, music, memorials, often earning money for their projects by having bake sales, fish fries, cleaning the church, gift wrapping and various other chores. During the year of 1979 the group made and entered a float in the Fremont Christmas parade which won second prize in the church division. Also, during the year of 1979, the "Heavenly Host" choir, a children's group contributed two loose leaf Methodist Hymnals to be used by the organist and pianist. This choir consisted of 15 to 20 children between the ages of 2-10.

The publication of Mt. Carmel's first news paper (Mt. Carmel News) was typed and edited by our youth with the help of Gaye Hare, Bobby Peele, Lynn Yelverton and many others.

The United Methodist Women have also contributed to the growth and programs of the church. During the last few years, the organization has honored several people for their outstanding work in the church and community by presenting them with a UMW pin, or burning a candle at annual conference in their honor or in other ways. Babies born in the church families have been honored with a certificate: thus contributing money to Undesignated giving fund for missions. Goldsboro District officers from our Unit are: Jean Wooten, Bobbie Barnes, Bobbie Yelverton. During the year of 1986, a new circle was organized. This Circle is the Friendship Circle and most are the younger women in the church. The established circle decided to use the name honoring one of our charter members, Ellen Hicks Circle.

**Summary:** The program of the church as indicated in the foregoing pages has been good under the leadership of our pastors and dedicated lay people within the membership of the church although there has been a gradual decrease in membership over the past years. Our attendance has gone from 109 in 1979 to 68 in 1987. Church membership in 1978 was 172. During the past ten years, death, transfer of membership to other churches and an audit of church membership rolls that showed we carried deceased members and some who had moved away and not been removed. All these are contributing factors to the decrease in numbers shown in this history.

Mt. Carmel community has grown very slowly during this time. Residents in the community have depended largely upon the sale of agriculture products for their livelihood. There has been a decline in monetary gain in these products causing many to



leave the farm and seek employment in other professions. Many of our youth have grown up, graduated from High School and College and gone into other communities and cities seeking employment. Births have declined; currently the majority of the church school membership is adults and young adults.

Although the decline in membership, we have continued to meet all of our expenditures made a few improvements and additions to the church structures and managed to increase our pastor's salary every year in spite of inflation.

I feel we have grown spiritually and under our current leadership, Rev. Mack McMillian and our faith in God, we will continue to grow spiritually and in membership as well.