

*Celebration*  
A SERVICE FOR THE LAYING OF THE  
CORNERSTONE

**"To Be Faithful To Our Heritage"**



**New Zion United Methodist Church**

Route 1, Highway 74 East  
Rowland, North Carolina 28383

**SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 1981 - 10:55 A.M.**

- Robert A. Fairley, Sr. - Minister
- Leonard Fairley - Student Associate Minister
- Dr. Joseph B. Bethea - District Superintendent  
Rockingham District
- Bishop William R. Cannon, Raleigh Area
- Edward Caple, Worshipful Master  
East Liberty Lodge No. 86, Maxton, N.C.
- Leander Isler - District Deputy, 23rd District

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## Brief History of New Zion Church

This historical statement has been developed from various deeds and books. It is dedicated to all of those named and unnamed Patriarchs who in the past so labored that we are able to share the present. God Bless them all.

Our records show that the first worship service was held under a bush on a hill in the woods. They named it New Zion Chapel. It was formed out of a necessity for not wanting to walk to Hilly Branch.

On October 12, 1883, a deed was obtained from Oslen S. Hayes for the sum of \$5.00. Trustees were Patrick Barnes, Cade McNeill, Jas. B. Thompson, Marshall Maxwell, and Tom McArthur.

Later New Zion Chapel was officially organized as New Zion Methodist Church located ten miles east of Maxton on Highway 74.

In 1942 New Zion burned down. The church was rebuilt in 1945. Trustees at that time were Mr. Lawson McArthur, Mr. Calvin Addison, Mr. John Barnes, Mr. Tom McArthur, Mr. Jacob Wallace and Rev. Sharpe was pastor during that time.

Church School has always been a vital part of New Zion, serving as Church School Superintendents are Mr. Stephen, Mr. Webster Thompson, Mr. Lawson McArthur and Mr. Harry H. Lester. Our present Superintendent, Mr. Jacob Wallace has served us well for a number of years.

One of our sons of New Zion, Rev. L. McArthur was serving a church in Baltimore, Md. when he passed away. He had also served as District Superintendent in Philadelphia, Pa. Other sons of New Zion are Rev. Webster Thompson and son Rev. Sandy Thompson, and Rev. N. Rowdy, Winston Salem, N.C.

Under the capable leadership of Rev. Robert A. Fairley, the need for a larger and more comfortable edifice was keenly felt due to the growing population. Some of the improvements done under his leadership -- with the help of members and friends, Board of Missions and the Duke Endowment--these things have become a reality.

1. Put roof on the building.
2. Put pews, carpet and pulpit furniture in.
3. Stain glass windows.
4. Central air and heat.
5. Brick veneered the church.
6. Added a beautiful new brick veneer fellowship hall with bathrooms, central air and heat.
7. Purchased drapes, furniture and appliances for fellowship hall.
8. Landscaped the grounds with beautiful shrubs.

Today we are thankful to the Board of Missions and the Duke Endowment for their generous contributions in helping us to complete our projects.

The history of New Zion would be incomplete without thanking our bishop, Bishop William R. Cannon for his interest and generous contribution to New Zion. Our District Superintendent, Dr. Joseph B. Bethea, we are grateful for his leadership, interest and concern for us. We too, are grateful to Rev. James H. McCallum and our former bishop, Bishop Robert M. Blackburn for their unselfish leadership and support.

We would like to thank Mr. James R. McVicker, our architect, and Mr. Thomas Jones, our contractor, for their patience and understanding. We are indeed proud of our "Face Lift."

On this twenty-eighth day of June, in the year of our Lord, 1981, we are graciously thankful and indebted to our ancestors for their courageous work. It was from this thought that we adopted as our theme, "To be Faithful to our Heritage!"

Listed are our local and Traveling Ministers:

1. E.L. Fletcher, 2. R.J. Shipp, 3. F.J. Lee, 4. S.J. Hayden, 5. W.S. McLeod, 6. R.S. Abernethy, 7. E.I.S. Swann, 8. R.D. Bethea, 9. E.M. McLeod, 10. D.L. Thomas, 11. B.F. Gleaves, 12. R.D. Sharpe, 13. Huley Perry, 14. W.P. Cole, 15. Jefferson McCallum, 16. Phillip Graham, 17. S.L. Townsend, 18. C.E. Strickland, 19. William F. Elliott, 20. Fred Benton, 21. W.R. Royster, 22. E.M. McNair, 23. Robert A. Fairley, Sr.

We are very happy to witness this eventful day and to have you, our noted guests and local members present to inspire us onward.

by Alice Barnes Wallace, Historian  
New Zion United Methodist Church  
Photographer, Mr. Larry Graham - Maxton, N.C.

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Before



After