

# NEWBEGUN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WEEKSVILLE

ELIZABETH CITY, NORTH CAROLINA



## HISTORY

COMPILED

SEPTEMBER, 1974

## PART I

Members of Newbegun United Methodist Church are very proud of the wonderful heritage that is ours. We are most grateful for those who led the way -- those who have gone on before.

We are not certain of the exact date of the organization of our Church Fellowship. There are two dates now under study and consideration by our Historical Committee.

It has been said that there was a Methodist Meeting House on Newbegun Creek during the 1790's. Also, it is thought that Asbury, the first Methodist Bishop in America, preached in this vicinity during the days of the "Circuit Riders."

It is a fact that this present building was erected in 1828 and at that time the Church was a member of the Virginia Methodist Conference. Also, it is interesting to know that the original name of our Church was Rehobeth, but later came to be called Newbegun Methodist Church because of its location near Newbegun Creek.

In the late 1890's, near the turn of the century, there came a Doctrinal Misunderstanding among the membership causing a split in the Church at which time a group pulled out and organized Eureka Northern Methodist Church in another area of the community.

I am sure there are some members here today who remember how this original building looked when the entrance faced the road and there were two doors in the vestibule. The men

entered one door and sat on their side of the Church. The women entered the other door and sat on the opposite side of the Church.

Down near the front was a very active, effective, and highly respected "Amen Corner." Above the vestibule was a Slave Gallery that housed the worshipping slaves for many years.

As time marches on - changes take place - and so it has been with Newbegin.

It was in the 1920's when the first major renovation program took place. While this work was being done, the congregation held services in the local Episcopal Chapel.

At this time, the entire basic design of the Church was changed to the beautiful, worshipful Sanctuary it is today.

It was about this time, or the early 1930's that the first piano was bought, and electric lights replaced the old-fashioned hanging and the Victorian wall-bracket reflector oil lamps that had illuminated the building for the first one hundred years.

In the vestibule, you will be able to see one of these old lamps that was salvaged a few years ago by one of our members.

You will also be able to see the old Communion Set that was used many years ago. Perhaps some of you remember drinking from those silver chalices.

These are cherished possessions from our past and we are most grateful for them.

In the late 1940's and 1950's, hardwood floors and new carpet were installed and our first Electric Organ was bought. The balconies were enclosed and made into class rooms to take care of our membership.

During the late 1950's and 1960's, our Educational Building and vestibule were added to our edifice. We also acquired new Hymnals and Choir Robes about the same time.

In 1971, the beautiful Cathedral Lights were installed and last Fall (1973), we were able to get a much needed new organ and piano. The women of the Church gave the money for the piano because they had been working, giving, and saving for this project for several years. These instruments were paid for when they were bought because we collected the money first. Thanks to many of you.

We are a little late getting around to having these instruments dedicated, and we are delighted to have you with us today to share in our Dedication Service and we do hope you enjoy our Old Fashioned Homecoming.

## PART II

Now, we are happy to report that all the work and progress at Newbegun has not been in physical ways only, but in Spiritual Ways as well.

In the late teens or early 1920's, the Women's Missionary Society, Ladies Aid Society, and Bright Jewel Band, the children's groups, were organized.

The women and the children were studying about Missions and were giving of their means to spread God's work around the world. After a number of years, these organizations died out.

In 1937, the Epworth League was organized. This was a Missionary and training group for young people. For several years, Hall's Creek youth met with our group, and later Union youth members met with our Methodist Youth Fellowship. Many of our young people have attended A. C. S. (Annual Conference Session) throughout the years.

For many years, a Bible School was conducted for our children. Also, they received Missionary and other Christian education in connection with their Junior Choir rehearsals for a number of years.

In 1939, a Missionary Society was reorganized in all four churches on the Pasquotank Charge, including Hall's Creek, Mt. Herman, Newbegun and Union. These organizations are still active today.

We all became Charter Members of the Woman's Society of Christian Service in 1940. The first Elizabeth City District Secretary of this new organization came from Newbegun Church.

We were happy to have honored many of our faithful members by presenting them with Life Membership Pins. Also, many Baby and Junior Life Memberships were presented to the children of our Church.

The first Honorary Life Patron Membership in the Elizabeth City District was presented to one of our members. This was the highest honor bestowed by the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

We have had two members who served as District Officers and on the Executive Committee of our Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service.

In recent years, we have also had two women members to serve on several Boards and Commissions of our North Carolina Annual Conference Boards of Missions, Temperance, Christian Social Concerns, and Ecumenical Affairs.

Newbegun men are always active and co-operative in the various programs and projects of our Church. One of our young men was the Charge Delegate to Annual Conference this past year.

We hope to continue our "Family Night Suppers" in our present organization of United Methodist Women. At these times, men, women, and children enjoy Christian Fellowship, Educational Films, and Mission Studies.

Several young men and one young woman from Newbegun served their Country well during World Wars I and II, Korea, and Viet Nam. We have a plaque on our wall in memory of one of our members who made the Supreme Sacrifice for his country during World War II.

In recent years, some of our young men did outstanding work in "The Boy Scouts of America." One of our members was presented his "God and Country Award" here at the altar of his home church, Newbegun. We were very proud that this young man, along with two other Newbegun members, attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

During the past three years, our former pastor directed a Cub Scout Pack that met quite often in our Educational Building.

We are delighted to see our adult members taking their places in the business, professional, and political world. The fact that our young people are studying and preparing themselves for future positions of leadership and service pleases us greatly.

Within the past few years, we have had three of our college students to study in foreign universities: France, England, and Mexico.

We are happy to report that three young men went out as Ministers from our Church many years ago. They were: John Wesley Brothers, Tyndell Brothers, and Ambrose (Boss) Burgess.

In recent years, we had one member who had his "Local" Preacher's License and served for several years as a Lay Speaker when needed.

Today we are delighted to have a "Grandson" who is a minister and a "Granddaughter" who is a doctor.

One of our young ladies is married to a young man who is now studying for the ministry.

At the present time, we are proud to have one young man who is preparing to be a hospital administrator and one who is studying to be a lawyer. Also, one of our young ladies graduated in June and is now working as a Registered Nurse.

We have among our membership several secretaries, teachers, librarians, bankers, electronic technicians, postal workers, merchants, and others. We have one accountant, one architect, and one college professor.

There are several service men among our membership, one who is a Major in the Air Force. Many of our members are prominent farmers and produce men.



And we certainly want to recognize our many outstanding Homemakers. So much of our success at Newbegun depends on them.

At various times through the years, we have had members to serve on the Board of County Commissioners, with one serving as Chairman for several years.

Also, we have had several men to serve on local Boards of Education in years past. Today, we are proud to have one of our ladies serving in this capacity.

Quite a number of men and women are members and serve unselfishly in many of the Civic and Service Clubs of our area.

Surely, you will be interested in knowing that we have several pilots among our membership. One is a professional pilot while the others usually fly for business or personal pleasure. Please note that one of these pilots is a young lady. She is teaching school and is now studying for her degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

By now, we are sure you know that "Women's Lib" has really come to Newbegun Church.

From the early days of our Church until recently, we had always been a "Four or Five Point Circuit." During all these years, the parsonage was in Elizabeth City, and for many years the minister drove a horse and buggy to the different communities to serve his membership.

We are happy to report that today we have Union and Newbegun Churches making up a "Two Point" circuit with the parsonage in our local community for which we are most grateful.

While we know we have fallen short in many ways in the past, we enjoy our Church work and hope to live more dedicated lives in the future. We love Newbegun Church and hope to make it a bulwark for Christianity in our beloved Weeksville Community.

## MINISTERS OF NEWBEGUN

Rev. W. W. Kennedy - 1840	Rev. Stack (8 Years)
Rev. Thomas Williams	Rev. Phipps
Rev. James C. Compton	Rev. Underwood
Rev. J. L. G. Kennedy	Rev. Ben Boone - 1932
Rev. M. S. Collonna Wiler	Rev. F. R. Davis
Rev. E. N. S. Blogg	Rev. A. C. Lee
Rev. A. J. Bradshaw	Rev. W. J. Watson
Rev. Joshua Garrett - 1875	Rev. Vance Lewis
Rev. Marvin Wiles - 1880	Rev. A. J. McLelland
Rev. Herrick	Rev. Z. V. Cowan
Rev. Hocutt - 1897	Rev. A. S. Lancaster
Rev. Reid	Rev. L. A. Greene
Rev. Harrison	Rev. L. C. Bissett
Rev. Jones	Rev. Robert Pullman
Rev. Porter	Rev. J. M. Carroll
Rev. Olds	Rev. Harold Chrismon
Rev. Pyland	Rev. Russell Knowles
Rev. Royal	Rev. J. C. (Jack) Raisor
Rev. Stack	Rev. Russell Stott
Rev. Bradley - 1916	Rev. E. H. Overman (1974)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

A. W. Stanton - 1892	H. A. (Pete) Reid
F. P. Markham, Sr. (About 1900)	M. H. Stevenson, Sr.
J. W. Harrison	Gaston Small
Dr. R. B. Davis	Clarence H. Jennings
H. C. Meads	Howard Hodges
B. C. White (About 1958)	Beverly Markham Small (1974)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We want to express our appreciation to all those who helped in any way to make this document possible. We want to make special recognition of and express personal gratitude to these particular members and friends:

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Mrs. Lucille J. Brickhouse  
Dallas Brickhouse, Jr.  
Fred P. Markham, Jr.  
Mrs. Goldie Lister Markham  
Fred P. Markham, III

These are the ones who helped with the many hours of research and the gleaning of much valuable information necessary for the writing of the History of Newbegun United Methodist Church. Without their help and M. S. Raper and Associates, this project would have been impossible.

*Irva Porter Pendleton*

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Mrs. Glenn W. Pendleton  
Chairman, Historical  
Committee