

History of  
*Newland Methodist Church*  
1791-1984



*Newland United Methodist Church*  
1984

In Memory and Honor

of

Past and Present Members

of

Newland Methodist Church

All of whom have, by their faith in God, their Christian deeds and their individual support, contributed to the growth of Christianity and have established and maintained Newland Methodist Church, to the glory of God, for almost two hundred years.

This booklet is a brief history of Newland Methodist Church beginning in 1791 to the present. It is based on facts and ideas researched from various records.

I hope to have a more complete history written for the 200th Birthday of our church in 1991. Included in this book will be such information as old membership lists, miscellaneous church photos, information on and pictures of our church families, etc.

I wish to thank all of you for your interest and support of this history project. Special thanks to all those who helped, by giving information and historical records and to those who made the booklet itself. This is a result of the combined efforts of so many members and other interested people that the credit should be shared by all.

If there are any corrections, questions or any information that should be added or changed, please let me know.

Laura Sharber Parker  
Historian  
October, 1984

## The History of Newland Methodist Church

The history of Newland Methodist Church begins in 1791 as recorded in Deed Book M, page 89 (Pasquotank County Courthouse):

"This indenture made this 21st day of April, 1791 by and between Rencher Spence, Samuel Forehand, David Forehand, John Wood and James Spence, of the one part and Lodie Williams of the other part, witnessed, that in consideration of Fifteen Dollars, I the said Lodwick Williams....do firmly give.... and by these presents do....grant....unto the aforesaid Rencher Spence, Samuel Forehand, David Forehand, John Wood and James Spence, a certain parcel of land containing one acre, be it more or less, beginning at a cypruss bush, running up a little valley to a pine bush, then towards a pine stump, then down the Swamp to a cypruss bush, then along the said Swamp to the stationed cypruss bush. To have and to hold the said bargained land, all other titles and benefits forever (for the use of the Methodist Society for a Meeting House). Also, I the said Lodwick Williams, do....defend all rites and titles....forever....it being for the use above mentioned, forever as witness my hand and seal this 21st day of April, 1791."

Signed in Presence of:

Timothy Burnham

Tamer Avy

By this deed, we know that there was an interest in Methodism and a Methodist Society in Newland even before 1791. We assume these early members held their worship service in various homes until a "Meeting House" was built sometime around 1791.

The Methodist religion may have been introduced to this area through a "Camp Meeting", which was an outdoor revival type service, usually lasting for several days. A plot of land would be cleared, if necessary, to serve as the meeting place and trees that were cut down would be made into benches, for those attending and a tall platform was built for the speaker (usually a "Circuit Riding Preacher"). Thus the word of God and the ideas of this "new" religion were spread quickly and enthusiastically, wherever a Camp Meeting was held.

Through research of several deeds, written in the early 1800's, we can assume that this piece of land described in Deed Book M, page 89, was the site of the Newland Methodist Meeting House from 1791 through 1886. Today this old church site is located in the woods, across from the present Mt. Carmel Church.

The oldest deed found, which proves the existence of a Methodist Church in this area is recorded in Pasquotank County Deed Book Q, page 81, dated 16 March 1801.... ".....a certain lot situated near the Methodist Meeting House...." Also Deed Book Q, page 273, dated 17 March 1804, describes land on "southwest side of Pasquotank River....near the Newland Meeting House...."

In Volume II of "The Journal and Letters of Francis Asbury", he writes, "20 March 1801....leaving Gates County...." "21 March 1801....We came to Newland Creek, 22 miles and lodged at James Spence's.. ..myself very unwell but God enabled me to speak.... We came to M'Brides...." Though Asbury does not mention where he preached while in this area, we know that the Newland Methodist Meeting House did exist at that time as proven in Deed Book Q, page 81, as mentioned above.

The circumstances of the conclusion of worship in the Meeting House on this first site is unknown, but by 1886 the Newland Methodists felt the need for a new building in which to worship and a better location. So in 1886, Dr. Wilson Spence Temple sold 3½ acres of land to the trustees on which to build a new church.

(Deed Book 8, page 292 - Pasquotank County)

(Recorded 10 February 1887)

"This indenture made this 29th day of December, 1886, between Dr. W. S. Temple....of the first part and D. A. Sawyer, W. C. Foster, J. L. Sharber, M. S. Sawyer, and W. S. Temple, trustees in trust.... witnesseth that....in consideration of the sum of one dollar to Dr. W. S. Temple in hand paid....doth give....unto them....and their successor trustees.... a certain....piece of land situate....in....Pasquotank County and butted as follows....Commencing at the Mill Stream Bridge on the Upriver road, thence down said road to the Newland road thence up said road to the Whitney lead ditch, thence down said ditch to the Mill Stream, thence down said stream to place of beginning, containing 3½ acres, more or less, together with all....houses, woods, waters, ways, priveledges....thereunto belonging to....above mentioned....piece of land....that they (the trustees) shall erect....thereon a house of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, according to the rules and discipline which from time to time may be agreed upon and adopted by the ministers....of the said church at their general conferences and in further trust....that they shall, at all times, forever,....permit such ministers.... to preach....God's Holy Word, therein. And the said Dr. W. S. Temple, by these presents, warrant and forever defend the....described....piece of land...."

Wilson S. Temple

This church (which was the first built on the present site) was a one-room building, surrounded by large trees. It had a steeple atop a high-pitched roof and the front double door was "crowned" by a fan-shaped glass window. The center aisle lead from the front door to the altar with simple pews on each side.

Dedication services for this new church were held 16 January 1887 by Rev. J. W. Whilley, who may have been a Presiding Elder.

As the years passed, the church was in such need of repair that the members felt it was time to build a newer, more "modern" church. At the Quarterly Conference Meeting held 15 May 1913, Rev. A. W. Price named a "committee on building the church at this place...." On this committee were: William Nelson Brothers (Nels), Ethelbert Beasley Granger (Thel), William Pritchard Williams (Bill Pritch), John Gehue Sharber, Leonidas Robert Sawyer (Lee), Job Nelson Williams, William Able Foster (Bill), Joe James Brothers, and William James Williams (Jim). At the Quarterly Conference on 18 February 1916, Rev. E. L. Stack, made a "motion we go at once to build a new church...." And he then appointed William Able Foster, Joe James Brothers, William James Williams, and himself (Rev. Stack) to draw up plans for a new church for the 1913 committee to approve. After several months of planning, it was decided to build our new church by the same plans as Old Trap Church in Camden County. (Old Trap Church has since been destroyed by fire.)

In August, 1916, the old white church on the hill, was torn down. Job and Jim Williams bought some of the old boards and the fan-shaped window which were used to build a barn.

The lumber used to build the present Newland Church came from Job Williams' saw mill. The original church building consisted of the sanctuary and the four rooms across the front of the church, which were used as the vestibule and three classrooms. These classrooms were divided by a large curtain. There was a chimney in the center of the sanctuary and a wood stove on both sides of the room.

In 1949 an addition was built on the back of the church, which included the Ladies Classroom, the Nursery, the Kindergarten Classroom and two bathrooms. Also, in that same year, the sanctuary was replastered and painted, and the choir loft was built. White siding and a slate roof were added also.

In 1950 two oil burners were put in the sanctuary and two chimneys were built on the outside, thus doing away with the old wood stoves and the chimney in the center of the room.

In 1958, the altar furniture was refinished, hardwood floors were laid and carpet put down in the aisles. Also, new pews and a Conn organ were bought. On November 30 of that year a special Dedication Service was held by the Pastor, Rev. W. F. Medlin and former Pastor, Rev. Key Taylor, for these 1958 improvements.

In 1965, the kitchen, social hall, and one classroom were built and in 1980 the sanctuary was renovated.

Since 1916 there have been many changes and improvements and memorials given to beautify our church and make this building a wonderful place to worship and serve the Lord on Sundays and throughout the week as the members attend various church activities.



Ministers of  
Newland Methodist Church

(This list of ministers was copied from McBride: Mother In Methodism, by Hershey E. Spence. We have no record of the early ministers but this is a list of those who served in this area, which was published in 1892 by Dr. P. A. Peterson of the Virginia Conference.)

1791 - Jesse Richardson	1814 - Thomas Cooper
Thomas Easter	William Hyatt
1792 - Archer Davis	1815 - Samuel B. White
William Hunter	Benj. Stevens
1793 - Benj. Blanton	1816 - C. S. Mooring
Anthony Sale	Sam Wills
1794 - Joel Tucker	1817 - John F. Brame
William Wilkinson	1818 - David Browder
1795 - Edward Hardy	1819 - W. H. Starr
1796 - William Wells	1820 - Joakin Lane
1797 - James Rogers	1821 - Allen Ormond
1798 - John Bonner	1822 - Moses Brock
1799 - William Brittain	1823 - Jacob Hill
James G. Martin	1824-25 Benton Field
1800 - Joseph Rimmell	1826 - Samuel Harrell
1801 - Jeremiah King	1827 - Thomas Garrard
1802 - James Smith	1828 - Simeon Norman
1803 - Nathaniel Walker	1829 - Thomas V. Webb
1804 - C. S. Mooring	1830 - Jonathan Williams
W. Atwood	1831 - Simeon Norman
1805 - C. S. Mooring	Abner Waddell
Laniel Ross	1832 - George A. Bain
1806 - William Steward	H. Kelly
Richard Lattimore	1833 - J. Goodman
1807 - James Jennings	J. Williams
1808 - Benj. Devaney	1834-35 Alfred Norman
John Early	1836 - W. E. Pell
1809 - Robert Thompson	1837-38 George M. Kassie
William Murphy	1839 - George W. Langhorne
1810 - Humphrey Wood	J. L. Rhen
Jacob Hill	1840 - Robert Scott
1811 - Joshua Lawrence	1841 - James M. Lewis
Henry Holmes	1842 - Humphrey Billups
1812 - Henry Holmes	1843 - A. H. Steward
1813 - William Elliott	1844 - William E. Kane

Ministers of Newland Methodist Church (continued)

Newland Methodist Episcopal Church South

(Virginia Conference, Norfolk District, Camden Charge)

- 1845 - William Reed
- 1846 - John S. Briggs
- 1847 - Thomas W. Haynes
- 1848-50 Humphrey Billups
- 1851 - Stephen W. Jones
- 1852 - George W. Trimyear
- 1853 - Thomas Diggs
- 1854 - Benj. Spillar
- 1855 - H. P. Helms
- 1856 - Thomas L. Williams

(Virginia Conference, Norfolk and Murfreesboro District, Pasquotank Charge)

- 1857 - Francis Boggs

(Virginia Conference, Norfolk District, Pasquotank Charge)

- 1858-59 J. D. Lumsden
- 1860-61 J. J. Edwards
- 1862 - Jeremiah McMullen

(Virginia Conference, Norfolk District, Princess Anne and Pasquotank Charge)

- 1863 - (No preachers sent, were within Federal lines.)
- 1864-65 J. W. Honeycutt

(Virginia Conference, Murfreesboro District, Pasquotank Charge)

- 1866 - James D. Lumsden
- 1867 - Joseph H. Amiss
- 1868 - James L. Fisher
- 1869 - George W. Nolley
- 1870-72 T. L. Williams
- 1873-75 J. W. Compton
- 1876 - Joshua L. Garrett

Ministers of Newland Methodist Church (continued)

(Virginia Conference, Murfreesboro District,  
Camden Charge)

- 1877 - Benjamin Tennille
- 1878-79 William P. Jordan
- 1880-83 Alexander M. Hall
- 1884-85 John O. Moss
- 1886-89 J. W. Sewell Robins

(Virginia Conference, Suffolk District, Camden  
Charge)

- 1890 - Joseph E. Potts
- 1891-92 Charles R. Taylor
- 1893-94 C. D. Crawley

(North Carolina Conference, Elizabeth City District,  
Camden Charge, other churches on the Charge also  
were Trinity, McBride, Nashes, Concord and Wesley)

- 1895 - Johathan Sanford
- 1896 - Solomon Pool
- 1897 - James Young Old
- 1898-99 Asa Joseph Parker
- 1900 - W. J. Crowson
- 1901-04 W. E. Hocutt
- 1905-06 R. L. Davis
- 1907 - D. L. Earnhardt
- 1908 - Leonidas M. Chaffin
- 1909-12 Condor P. Jerome
- 1913-14 Andrew W. Price
- 1915-18 Elijah L. Stack
- 1919 - J. L. Smith

(North Carolina Conference, Elizabeth City District,  
South Mills Charge, including Trinity, McBride and  
Sharon Churches)

- 1919-20 Daniel Lane
- 1920-21 Robert G. L. Edwards
- 1921-23 L. M. Chaffin
- 1923-25 A. B. Crumpler

## Ministers of Newland Methodist Church (continued)

1925-29 Whiford Franklin Walters  
1929-33 James Marvin Jolliff  
1933-36 Louis Edward Sawyer  
1936-40 Edgar Wilson Downum  
1940-43 W. N. Vaughn  
1943-47 Louis Thompson Sigleton  
1947-52 Carl A. Johnson  
1953-56 Key W. Taylor

## (North Carolina Conference, Elizabeth City District, Newland-Grace Charge - began 1956)

1957-58 J. R. Couchman  
1958-59 William F. Medlin  
1960-63 Nathan H. Byrd  
1964-66 Alonzo L. Reynolds  
1967-69 Leo C. Thompson  
1969-76 Charles Graham Nickens  
1976-78 Charles H. Mewborn  
1978-82 James W. Hicks, Jr.  
1982-84 Jerry A. Jackson  
1984 Charles M. Herring

## Sunday School Superintendents of Newland Methodist Church

Redding Sawyer	1880-1883
Joseph Lockwood Sharber	1884-1886 & 1888-1899
James Mason White	1887
Ethelbert Beasley Granger (Thel)	1899-1906
William David Sharber	1907
William James Williams (Jim)	1908-1909
William Able Foster (Bill)	1910-1939
Ottis Freeman	1940-1942
James Alexander Brothers	1942-1947
Tommie Forbes Temple	1947-1950
Fred Wright Brothers, Jr.	1950-1955
Richard Hewitt Williams, Sr.	1955-1956 & 1984

## Sunday School Superintendents (continued)

Walter Ben Stallings  
Charles Bogue Sharber  
Earl Graham Williams  
William Ricks (Bill)  
James Garland Pike (Jimmy)  
Richard Hewitt Williams, Jr. (Ricky)  
Jordan Clarence Harris, III (J.C.)

### Assistant Sunday School Superintendents (on record) of Newland Methodist Church

Mark S. Sawyer	1885
Joseph Lockwood Sharber	1887
Daniel A. Sawyer	1888
William Able Foster	1891
Mark S. Sawyer	1892
William Nelson Brothers	1893-1895
Job Nelson Williams	1896
Ethelbert Beasley Granger	1897-1898
Joe James Brothers	1911
William Nelson Brothers	1926-1927
Phil Sawyer	1955-1956
J. J. Harris, Jr.	
Douglas Whitehurst	

### History of Missionary Societies of Newland Methodist Church

Missionary Societies were first organized between the years of 1869 and 1893. They were started for the purpose of helping women and children and to improve personal and community life.

Today, through the United Methodist Women, we are still continuing this mission which has spread to help all people all over the world to know what Christianity is.

There have been several "Missionary Societies" organized in our church. Some lasted only a short time but should not be considered a failure for they have spread the love of God through Christian fellowship and in giving to those in need.

One of these short-lived "societies" was listed in the church minutes of April, 1911 by Rev. C. P. Jerome as "Layman's Missionary Movement". Another was a Children's Missionary Society.

In Quarterly Meeting Reports of 1910, Rev. C. P. Jerome gives reports on the Missionary Societies of the churches on the South Mills Charge including Newland. Early in 1910 he reports.... "Our Missionary Societies are contributing something through the Sunday Schools...."

In June of 1910 he states...."The cause of missions is presented from some standpoint in many sermons....and....some literature is being distributed...." In October, 1910 he says...."Our missionary interests are being looked after.... The early crop was almost a total failure financially and we will have to collect almost entirely from the cotton crop and that has just begun to open...."

These reports may have been about the "Rosebud Missionary Society" which was the first Missionary Society of Newland Church, on record. It was organized by Rev. Thomas Campbell in Gatesville, N.C., January, 1879. His daughter, Rosebud, for whom this Society was named, helped plan it.

The purpose was to train women and children in mission work.

The Newland Rosebud Missionary Society was organized by Rev. John O. Moss 20 April 1884. According to the minutes of the Newland Rosebud Missionary Society of Earnest Workers, from 1920-1947, the meetings were held on the second Sunday of each month. The President would open the meeting with Scripture reading, a hymn was sung, and a prayer. The Secretary then called the roll and each person would put their offering on the altar. Dues during that time were 1¢, then 2¢ and 5¢. Money collected was sent to missions.

"Rosebud Society of Earnest Workers" Officers:  
(1920-1947)

<u>Presidents</u>	<u>Secretaries</u>
Louisa Brothers	J. Bruce Jones
Naomi Sawyer	Johnnie Brothers
Elizabeth Foster	Logan Sharber
Fannie Sharber	Condor Granger
Pearl Williams	Everett Brothers
Alise Sharber	Velma Brothers
Mary Temple	Mary Ellen Brothers
Frances Banks	Marshall Brothers
Esther Stallings	Jeane Bright
Loyce White	Herbert Bruce Morgan
Pallie Mae Temple	
Una Mae Brothers	

In the Quarterly Conference records of November, 1911, Rev. C. P. Jerome reports that he has organized a "Woman's Home Mission Society.... at Newland....with 16 members." A few months later, February, 1911, the report reads, "We have no special mission work to report. Our Woman's Societies are moving along in their quiet but sure way....I am using every opportunity to improve the

duty and obligation of the church to give the gospel to the whole world...." This society lasted about a year for in 1913 there are only two Women's Home Mission Societies, one at Trinity and one at McBride.

Sometime between 1913 and 1927 the Newland Ladies Aide Society was formed. Mrs. Fannie Brothers (Nels Brothers) and Mrs. Maggie Brothers (Fred Brothers, Sr.) started the Newland Ladies Aide. The meetings were held once a month, usually on Saturday afternoon at homes of members. Dues were 10¢ a month. In 1934 there were 10 members and Mrs. Fannie Brothers was President.

#### List of Members of Newland Ladies Aide

Fannie Brothers	Mabel Stallings
Sue Lizzie Granger	Addie Beamon
Maggie Brothers	Beulah Temple
Mary Ellen Brothers	Maude Carver
Anie Foster	Sue W. Jones
Willie Forbes	Mary G. Stallings
Anna Gregory	Louise Foster
Mariah Sharber	Helon Brothers
Ethel Whitney	Mae Sawyer
Gertrude Harris	Beulah Sharber
Lillian Spence	

At a Ladies Aide Meeting in 1939 at the home of Mrs. Willie Forbes, the speaker was Mrs. Sheep from Elizabeth City. Her program was to explain the new women's organization of the Methodist Church, the Women's Society of Christian Service and try to get them to change from Ladies Aide to this new society. That day 5 members joined to form the Newland WSCS; 3 of them were Mrs. Fannie Brothers, who was the first WSCS President, Mrs. Louise Foster and Mrs. Mae Sawyer.



For a while both the Ladies Aide and the WSCS were active in our church, but by 1941 the Ladies Aide was disbanded and there were 29 members of the Newland WSCS. These meetings were also held one afternoon each month, first in homes of members, then after 1949 in the Ladies Classroom here at church.

#### Purpose of the WSCS

The purpose of the Woman's Society of Christian Service shall be to unite all the women of the church in Christian living and service; to help develop and support Christian work among women and children around the world; to develop the spiritual life; to study the needs of the world; to take part in such service activities as will strengthen the local church; improve civic, community, and world conditions. To this end this organization shall seek to enlist women, young people, and children in this Christian fellowship, and to secure funds for the activities in the local establishment of a world Christian community.

In July, 1973 the Society's name changed again and became the United Methodist Women.

#### Purpose of the UMW

The....UMW shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom....thru Jesus Christ. To develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission thru participation in the Global Ministries of the church.

Over the years the women of our church have worked for missions, whether through the Ladies Aide, the WSCS or the present UMW and have come together as a society to help others. Each of us contributes in our own special way to this organization to help fulfill the mission of spreading Christianity by helping others.

### Epworth League

The Epworth League was an organization for the youth of the church. Below is a record of officers and members of the Newland Epworth League, found in an old church roll book dated 1902-1911.

#### Officers:

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| President                | - Fred W. Brothers        |
| First Vice President     | - James L. Sharber        |
| Second Vice President    | - Mrs. Fannie S. Brothers |
| Third Vice President     | - Miss Ina Williams       |
| Fourth Vice President    | - Miss Ethel Sharber      |
| Secretary                | - Wert S. Brothers        |
| Treasurer                | - J. A. Whitehead         |
| Agent to the Epworth Era | - Mary Temple             |
- (Meetings to be every second Sunday night.)

#### Members:

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| William Nelson Brothers | Ina Williams               |
| Fred W. Brothers        | Ethel Sharber              |
| James L. Sharber        | Mary Temple                |
| William David Sharber   | Goldie P. Williams (Tenie) |
| Walter K. Jones         | W. A. White                |
| Wert S. Brothers        | Fannie S. Brothers         |
| J. A. Whitehead         | Gan R. Sharber             |
| Edith Brothers          | W. Jim Williams            |
| Stephen O. Mullen       | Maude Williams             |
| Lloyd Brothers          | Erskine Brothers           |
| Bruce Jones             |                            |

It was reported at the Quarterly Conference of 1910 that there was no Epworth League at this time.

In Quarterly Conference records of the 1920's, the following report was given:  
"Report to the last Quarterly Conference held at Trinity Church, South Mills, of the Newland Epworth League, Newland Church.

Membership	-	40
Honorary	-	1
Associate	-	0
Amount Raised Thus Far	-	\$5.15
Expenditures	-	0

All departments organized and doing good work."

President, Miss Tenie Williams

The Epworth League during the early 1900's was probably organized only when there was enough interested members to join. However, in 1941, by the suggestion of Miss Velma Brothers, a new, Newland Epworth League was formed which was later named Newland Youth Fellowship. Under the faithful leadership and guidance of the Counselor, Mrs. Mae Sawyer, and by the interest and help of the pastor, Rev. W. N. Vaughn (who was instrumental in founding this League) and the contributions of the pastors that followed, this Newland Epworth League was a successful and enjoyable organization for the youth of our church.

Following are some articles about this Epworth League as published in "The Circuit Rider".

"The Young People of Newland met 9 Feb (1943) with John A. Spence and 23 Feb (1943) with David Sharber. These meetings were well attended and the programs were very helpful."

"The Young People of Newland met Tuesday night, 26 Jan 1943 with Mr. Johnnie Temple. Fifteen members were present. (They) have decided to send the "Circuit Rider" to each of the community boys in the Armed Service of their country."

"The Newland Youth Fellowship enjoyed a picnic at Nixonton, 25 June 1943."

"The topic for Newland Young People 8 March 1943 was "The Crossroad Situation". The meeting was with Miss Esther Stallings. At their 22 March 1943 meeting they discussed "Making the Christian Choice". Their counselor, Mrs. Mae Sawyer, was hostess. Attendance was good at both meetings."

"The Newland Methodist Youth Fellowship had an interesting program on the night of 22 Sept 1943. The subject was "Unselfish Giving".

Through the years, the Epworth League, Young People and Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) have been organizations in which the youth of Newland Church have been given the opportunity to learn about Christian living and enjoyed the fellowship of being together as young Christians.

#### United Methodist Youth Fellowship

The United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) is a youth organization, which is a continuation of the Epworth League. Below are several reports of the early MYF as found in Quarterly Conference records.

-1952- "The MYF of Newland Methodist Church has held its regular monthly meetings at the church. As of this year we have two groups, the Junior and Intermediate with a total enrollment of 40.

We have sent \$3.00 each quarter to the Methodist Youth Fund. We sent \$3.00 to the Upper Room Chaplin's Fund. We also purchased a bulletin board to be used in the front entrance of the church. New officers were installed at our September meeting and closed our year with \$10.44 in the treasure.."

by Adele Forbes

MYF Yearly Report: by President Bill Gregory:

"1 November 1952-30 September 1953

Members Gained 3; Loss 1

Adult Workers Gained 2; Loss 1

2 from church are in the Armed Forces and they were sent the "Upper Room".

1 from church is in college and was also sent the "Upper Room"."

MYF Yearly Report:

"1 November 1953-1 November 1954

President - Virgil Winslow

Members Gained 2; Loss 4

Adult Workers 17

Special efforts to deepen the spiritual life of the youth: Bible School and organized 2 youth choirs.

2 youth are in college are sent "Power"."

MYF Yearly Report: 1955

President - Adele Forbes

Members Loss 2

Adult Workers 14

Special efforts: Youth sponsor Singspiration and the youth take charge of Sunday morning worship service once each month.

3 in the Armed Forces and one in college are sent the "Upper Room".

MYF Report: 1956

President:- Janice Brothers

Members Gained 5

Made a contribution of \$150.00 to the new parsonage.

The United Methodist Youth Fellowship of today and the MYF of yesterday have contributed to many church projects. Today's programs, as those of the earlier years concentrate on the spiritual growth of the youth of the church and try to teach them how to deal with today's problems through Christian living. By the leadership and devotion of their counselor for the past several years, Ben Stallings, the youth have had a strong and growing fellowship in his organization. Mary S. Temple and Edna Bagley have been counselors this past year also and have been very dependable helpers with the activities of this youth fellowship.

#### United Methodist Men

The Newland United Methodist Men's Fellowship held its Chartering Service and installed the officers on 11 September 1983. The service was conducted by our pastor, Rev. Jerry A. Jackson. The meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at 7:30 A.M. in the church social hall. A delicious breakfast is prepared and served by the members before their meeting.

Even though the United Methodist Men is a "new" organization at Newland Methodist Church, its dedicated members have worked together to help the church in several projects.

Officers: President: Roger Crane

Secretary-Treasurer: Douglas Whitehurst

## Sunday School

Sunday Schools were first organized in the Methodist Church in 1835. Previously it was thought that Newland Church was organized in 1837 as recorded in old Bible records but we know it has existed since 1791 as found in deeds mentioned earlier in this booklet.

Possibly, 1837 was the founding of the Newland Methodist Church Sunday School. However, the oldest Sunday School records found are dated 1884.

Officers and teachers for Sunday School for 1884 were:

- 
- |                |   |                         |
|----------------|---|-------------------------|
| Superintendent | - | Joseph Lockwood Sharber |
| Secretary      | - | James Mason White       |
| Librarian      | - | William R. Williams     |
| Treasurer      | - | James W. Brothers       |
| Teachers       | - | James Mason White       |
|                |   | Sarah F. Williams       |
|                |   | Rencher Spence          |
|                |   | Nannie L. Williams      |
|                |   | Job N. Williams         |
|                |   | Elizabeth Bottoms       |

## Bicentennial

When the leaders of the United Methodist Church at the General Conference authorized a wide-ranging celebration of the Methodist heritage, their purpose was to let Methodists relive their heritage, to celebrate the story of God's continuing revelation in the United Methodist Church.

We celebrate the past today, to pay tribute to those who paved the way for us. By their faith in God and dedication to the cause of Methodism, they established a strong foundation for future Methodist to build on. Today's Methodist are given the task of continuing to build on that foundation by supporting the growth of our own church.

### 1984 Bicentennial Observances

Under the leadership of Rev. Jerry Jackson and Rev. Charles Herring, the Bicentennial Committee has planned many special occasions for 1984. They are:

Bicentennial pins were given to each member of the Bicentennial Committee.

In March a Reception was given in honor of Mrs. Edna Brothers (custodian for 25 years), Mrs. Evelyn Gregory (organist for over 40 years), Mrs. Mae Sawyer (Sunday School teacher for over 50 years), and Mrs. Beulah Sharber (Sunday School teacher for over 50 years).

In August Appreciation Certificates were given to all 1983-84 Sunday School teachers.



In September certificates were given to past Superintendents (1940-1988) and our present Superintendent, Richard Williams, Sr. was given a pin.

Also in September the 1984 Church Treasurers were given Appreciation Certificates.

Our Bicentennial Play - "Newland: Scenes From the Past" was given on Sunday, 30 September 1984.

Our Homecoming is today, 14 October. We dressed in early American or Colonial dress in the spirit of the Bicentennial. We had special music during the worship service, after which we were served a delicious lunch, enjoyed by everyone.

A Singspiration/Reception will be held 28 October to honor all choir members, choir directors, and past organists.

In January and February Pastor Jackson lead a Study on the History of Methodism.

On 29 April, a special part in the worship service was in memory and honor of the "Rosebud Missionary Society".

In December we will be honoring other church officials.

On 11 November will be the "Great Day of Singing" Service.

On 23 December we will have a Special Christmas Eve Service to commemorate the service held in 1784 at Lovely Lane Meeting House in Baltimore, Maryland.



*Newland Methodist Episcopal Church South  
(about 1895)*