

The History of
Noble's Chapel United
Methodist Church

1938-2005

Reverend Howard M. McLamb, who began his ministry on the Pink Hill charge in 1935 went to the home of Miss Annie D. Noble in 1937 to inquire if she thought a Sunday School could be started in the Noble's Crossroads community. Miss Annie, who was a member at the Pink Hill United Methodist Church was very interested and with help from Mrs. Tharon H. Jones surveyed the community. Interest was shown and they decided to organize a Sunday School as soon as a meeting place could be found

Mrs. Annie S. Howard was very interested in getting a Sunday School started. She and her husband, Carl Howard, owned the old Lawson School building and donated the use of this building.

On the first Sunday in March, 1937 we met and Rev. McLamb was present to help get us organized. Mr. McLamb asked Miss Annie to serve as superintendent. She accepted and served in this position until 1953.

Each first Sunday afternoon of the month, Mr. McLamb held church service. Interest grew and in August, 1937 we held revival services which were well attended. During this revival ten people joined the church—six by profession of faith (PF) and four by certificate of transfer (CT).

Mr. Robert E. Hicks, PF	Miss Annie Davis Noble, CT
Mrs. Nettie Noble Hicks, PF	Mrs. Emma Smith Noble, PF
Mrs. Mary Johnson Hill, PF	Mrs. Helen Spivey Noble, CT
Mrs. Annie Smith Howard, CT	Mrs. Glennie Lee Smith, PF
Mrs. Effie Noble Howard, PF	Mrs. Carrie Mae Grady Sparrow, CT

We continued our services through the fall and winter. Interest continued to grow and we were sure we could organize a church. On May 15, 1938, Noble's Chapel was established with 29 members on roll. Rev. Howard M. McLamb was the first pastor.

A building site was the next order of business. Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Hicks donated land near Noble's Crossroads. Mr. Hicks was appointed chairman of the building committee. The Duke Foundation was contacted for help with funding. Mr. Hicks and Rev. McLamb made many trips to Durham to have the papers drawn up. They procured plans for the church building and money to begin. Interested friends and

neighbors donated money, materials, and labor. Box suppers were held in the Lawson School building to make money for construction. Construction began in 1938.

Soon we were faced with a problem. Mr. Howard needed his schoolhouse for farm tenants so we had to move. Our building was just beginning and fall and winter were approaching. Mr. Howard let us use his pack house as a meeting place until May, 1939 when we moved into our new building. We only had the subflooring in and used planks for seating but well-wishers from other churches came to our aid. Webb Chapel United Methodist Church gave us an organ. Pink Hill United Methodist Church gave us a table. Lee's Chapel United Methodist Church was closing its doors so we were given their pews.

By the time World War II had begun, we had accumulated some money to finish the interior of the church but materials were frozen for public purchase and work on our building came to a halt. It was 1945 before the sanctuary was completed. We needed new pews and ordered them in 1946 but were told the materials needed to build them could not be obtained. It was April 28, 1948 before we were able to get the new pews and have them installed. The debt incurred was paid off in December 1950. The members of the Methodist Youth Fellowship donated the pulpit furniture.

So far we had not been able to complete the Sunday School classrooms. We kept working, and with two more donations from the Methodist Conference, we were able to meet our goal.

On September 29, 1957, Reverend Howard M. McLamb, our first pastor, preached our Dedication Service. He dedicated Noble's Chapel to the glory of God and to the service of mankind.

In November 1958 gas heaters were installed in the sanctuary. They replaced the old wood stove we had used so long.

Our first Homecoming service was held October 18, 1959. A decision was later made to have homecoming on the anniversary of the first service in our building. Homecoming would be the second Sunday of May each year thereafter.

In 1962 we needed to begin repairs on our building. We also wanted space for a fellowship hall, which would double as Sunday School classrooms. A kitchen, two bathrooms and a heating system were also needed. We were off on another building

program. The Duke Endowment made us another gift and a loan was obtained from the Methodist Conference. We also received donations from members and friends.

In 1965, with the beginning of Rev. Douglas R. Woodworth's pastorate at Noble's Chapel, our church went station. Church every Sunday was quite a change for us. In 1968 we voted to carpet the sanctuary. Carpeting was installed April 1968. In December 1969, light fixtures were installed in the sanctuary. The roof was replaced and outside lights were mounted in 1972.

Rev. Howard M. McLamb, now District Superintendent, held a Founder's Day service May 13, 1973. He outlined the history of Noble's Chapel from its beginning. He paid homage to the members of Noble's Chapel who had lived and died in the faith. He said, "We are better people and the world a better place because of them." He paid tribute to Miss Annie Davis Noble who helped found the church and was still an active member.

In 1974, aluminum siding was put on the church to eliminate painting. In 1975 and 1976, central air conditioning, glass doors at the front entrance, and storm doors at the side entrances were added. Storm windows were also installed.

For nineteen years (1965-1984), Doug and Erma Woodworth and their family served us faithfully and enriched the lives of all here at Noble's Chapel. We all shared a love and respect for one another through our Lord and Savior.

The Reverend Linwood Jones began his ministry at Noble's Chapel in July 1984 and remained with us through June 1988. During his tenure, we experienced some joyous occasions and some sorrowful times.

In October 1984, Noble's Chapel congregation and friends honored our oldest member, Mrs. Pluma King (Cameron) Howard on her eightieth birthday with a dinner. Our service was built around "Miss Pluma" to show her our love and gratitude for the blessing she has brought us with her presence and loving heart. Her grandchildren, Clifford and Kathy Tyndall presented her a beautiful rose and the church members presented her with a plaque.

Through the years we have gained and lost many members. Some have gone on to their eternal reward, others transferred their memberships, and a few we lost track of completely. Each one brought a blessing to us and is missed.

Our charter members were the backbone of Noble's Chapel. They have gone on to their Heavenly reward but are fondly remembered. One of our first ladies, Helen S. Noble, deserves a special tribute for her devoted service as our Church treasurer from the beginning of Noble's Chapel until 1978, when she retired for health reasons. At that time, Janice Barwick, Mrs. Noble's daughter, assumed the duties of treasurer.

We have had many gifts and acts of love shown us. All have been noted, appreciated, and loved.

Gifts given to the church

Percolators	Mrs. B. E. Jones (Tharon H.) Mrs. Vera S. Prince
Pitcher and glasses, kitchen utensils	Mrs. Carrie Mae Sparrow
Scarf on the piano, kneeling pad recovered	Mrs. Douglas Woodworth
Cross, made and given	Glendale Stroud
Electric stove	Mrs. Shirley Noble Rouse
Carpet and curtains for classroom	Ronnie and Jane Pridgen
Hymn and Bible racks	Miss Annie D. Noble Mr. J. B. Noble
Curtains for classrooms	Mrs. Carrie Mae Sparrow Mrs. Effie Nan Harper Mrs. Frances H. Stroud
Sanctuary, classrooms painted	Mr. and Mrs. Al Youmans

Gifts in Honor and Gifts in Memory

Baldwin Electric Organ In memory of Mary Ethel Spivey	Mrs. Helen S. Noble Miss Lela Mae Spivey Mrs. Adelaide S. Whitted
Altar paraments In honor of Mrs. Carrie Mae Sparrow	Mrs. Vera S. Prince Mrs. Verona S. Meeder

Folding table and chairs In memory of Rexford C. Noble Hugh Noble	Mr. and Mrs. Al Youmans
Lamps for piano and organ In memory of Debra Vause	Church congregation Memorial Fund
Church sign in memory of Annie Davis Noble	Church congregation Memorial Fund
Portrait of Miss Annie In memory of Annie Davis Noble	Mr. and Mrs. Al Youmans
Shutters for kitchen pass through In honor of Doug and Erma Woodworth	Youth Group
Pew Bibles In memory of Robert E. Hicks	Mrs. Nettie Noble Hicks
Methodist hymnals In honor of Amos M. Sparrow	The Sparrow Family
Christian and American flags In memory of Mrs. Nettie N. Hicks	Rodney and Margaret Ann Hicks
Altar rail In memory of Paul G. Noble, Sr. and Helen S. Noble	The Morris and Janice N. Barwick Family
Table, Deacon's bench, light fixture In memory of Amos M. Sparrow	Carrie Mae Sparrow

Church Steeple
In memory of
Rexford C. Noble

Adele S. Noble

Carillons
In honor of
Adele S. Noble

Elaine N. Blake
Glenda N. Johnson
Martha N. Woodall

On May 12, 1985, our 26th annual Homecoming Service was held with Rev. Haywood Harrell bringing the message entitled "Family Life." His wife, Dorothy, and several other family members came to celebrate with us. The service was well attended and good fellowship was enjoyed with a bountiful meal afterward.

Since honoring Mrs. Pluma Howard on her 80th birthday in 1984, we have made it a tradition to honor members reaching the same milestone. Samuel James Hill reached 80 years of age on March 6, 1986. Janice Barwick presented a plaque and a poem to his family on behalf of the church. Mr. Hill was too ill to attend the service.

Adelle Smith Noble reached 80 years of age on August 30, 1987. She was presented a plaque at our 1987 Christmas party due to a conflict of dates earlier. Another joyous event in 1988 was the christening of Hilary Hardy, daughter of Timothy and Kimalie Smith Hardy.

On May 8, 1988 we gathered to celebrate, to remember and to speak of all those who, over the years, we had loved, had wonderful fellowship with, and yes, sorrowed for even though we knew they had gone on to greater things in their heavenly homes. Those who went to their eternal reward during Rev. Linwood Jones' ministry were Mrs. Carrie Mae Sparrow (August 2, 1984), Jerry Lee Smith (August 28, 1985), Preston Leroy Stroud (December 6, 1985), Emma Smith Noble (January 24, 1986), and Samuel James Hill (March 16, 1986).

Reverend Sally Plowman began her pastorate in July 1988. She served Noble's Chapel faithfully through June 1989. During her brief ministry, another dear member, Mrs. Tharon Howard Jones, passed away (February 3, 1989).

In July 1989 Reverend Nancy Pierson followed Rev. Plowman. Her term, too, was brief but during the time, Brian Harper joined the church. It was also during this time that the roof had to be replaced. Bryant Roofing did the work.

Reverend Robert Hill began his ministry in July 1990 and remained with us until June 1992. During his ministry, we grieved the passing of our last charter member, Mrs. Mary Johnson Hill (June 10, 1991). Mrs. Pluma King Howard went to be with Jesus On October 25, 1991.

Reverend Douglas Woodworth came back in July 1992 and served Noble's Chapel loyally until July 1998. During this time period many repairs and additions were made—a slate floor was put in the foyer; a used refrigerator was purchased; floodlights were purchased; and, repairs to the roof and carillon were made. In 1996, Hurricane Fran hit hard and caused extensive damage. With much gratitude to Duke Endowment, we were able to replace our steeple, roof, aluminum siding on portions of the building, and sheetrock in the sanctuary. There was a lot of painting, electrical work, and window repair also. While this work was being done, Brian Harper and some of his friends set up the pews and other furniture in the back Sunday School rooms so we could continue to meet for church services.

On February 3, 1997 James Philemon Smith passed away. Vera Sparrow Prince passed away April 8, 1998.

Reverend Douglas Woodworth left in June 1998. He was followed by Reverend William Street who was unable to continue because of health problems.

In 1999, Reverend Nina Paul Vinson became our pastor. Since she was involved with classes in Divinity School in Durham and was still working in the Greene County School system, we had several visiting ministers.

During September 1999 we were again hit by a hurricane. This one was Floyd, the notorious one that brought so much rain. Luckily, we only sustained wind damage and had to have more siding restored. Other repairs were minimal.

In July, 2000, 2001, and 2002, Reverend Vinson continued her studies in Divinity School. Her convocation was held July 21, 2002 at Duke University.

At the beginning of Rev. Vinson's ministry, our membership had dropped drastically because our children had left for various reasons—college, marriage, moving to new areas. The decline continued with the passing of older members—Mrs. Adelle Noble (April 2, 2002) and Mrs. Hazel Smith Grady (November 8, 2003). However, new members began to come to us. Shawn Edwards and Neal Beirise moved their

memberships from other churches. Martha and Charlie Woodall and Shirley Howard Cauley moved their memberships back to Noble's Chapel. Jonathan Edwards and Caroline Edwards were baptized. We welcomed them with open arms.

In January 2005, we met to discuss spiritual goals and the necessity for repairs and replacements for the building in preparation for Homecoming. We wanted to start a Sunday School, to update the membership directory and to encourage prospective members. We discussed procuring a new sign, repairing the heating system, pressure washing the exterior of the building, repairing the ceiling in the fellowship hall, making repairs on kitchen and bathroom floors and purchasing a new refrigerator. To date, most of these goals have been met and the others are still pending.

As new pastors have come to us, each has brought us the blessing of their dedication and determination to carry on the work that Jesus Christ left for his disciples. *Jesus said unto them, Go ye into the world and preach the gospel to creatures.* Mark 16:15

Pastors who have served us:

Howard M. McLamb	1935-1940
Robert E. Walston	1940-1943
J. R. Jolly (student)	1943
M. E. Cotton	1944
R. N. Wells	Short time
? ? Goodchild	Short time
Thomas Horner	1948-1950
Daniel C. Boone	1950-1954
J. R. Regan	1954-1957
Haywood L. Harrell	1957-1962
D. A. Petty	1962-1964
D. W. Charlton	1964-1965
D. R. Woodworth	1965-1984
Linwood S. Jones	1984-1988
Sally Plowman	1988-1989
Nancy Pierson	1989-1990
Robert Hill	1990-1992
D. R. Woodworth	1992-1998
William Street	1998- Jan. 1999
Nina Paul Vinson	1999-

Compiled by Janice N. Barwick with the help of the history written by Miss Annie Noble, February 1959 and that written by Mrs. Mary J. Hill, May 1985.

Sunday School Superintendents

Annie Davis Noble

Wilbur Andrew Tyndall

Preston Leroy Stroud

Walter Stephen Turner

Emma Smith Noble

Lenwood Glendale Stroud

Vera Sparrow Prince

Mary Ann Lively

Frances Hill Stroud

Howard Timothy Hardy

Membership of Noble's Chapel – Past and Present

(PF – profession of faith; CT – certificate of transfer)

Andrews, Anne S.	PF (transferred to different church)
Barwick, Morris E.	PF
Barwick, Janice N.	PF
Barwick, Melanie	PF
Barwick, Dale	PF
Barwick, Rose	PF
Beirise, Neal	CT
Beirise, Nancy	PF
Brown, Carolyn S.	
Buck, Manena M.	PF
Cauley, Shirley Howard	CT
Collier, Margaret A.	CT (transferred to different church)
Edwards, Catherine Caroline	- Preparatory
Edwards, Johnatha Thomas	- Preparatory
Edwards, Kelly Stroud	PF
Edwards, Shawn	C
Grady, Hazel Smith	CT (deceased)
Gray, Jean Elizabeth Noble	PF (transferred to different church)
Hardy, Howard Timothy	CT
Harper, Bryan	PF
Harper, Effie Nan	PF (deceased)
Harper, Rom McCoy	PF
Harper, Carol M.	CT (deceased)

Heath, Mercer	PF
Hicks, Robert E.	PF (deceased)
Hicks, Nettie N.	PF (deceased)
Hill, Lottie	PF (withdrew)
Hill, Marvin	PF (transferred to different church)
Hill, Hazel Howard	CT (transferred to different church)
Hill, Patricia Ann	CT (transferred to different church)
Hill, Joseph Michael	PF
Hill, Samuel James , Jr.	PF
Hill, Samuel James, Sr.	PF (deceased)
Hill, Mary M. Johnson	PF (deceased)
Hill, Clara Catherine	PF (transferred to different church)
Hobbs, James	PF)moved)
Hobbs, Lila	PF (deceased)
Hobbs, Alma	PF
Howard, Annie Smith	CT (deceased)
Howard, Marianna	PF (transferred to different church)
Howard, Pluma	CT (deceased)
Jones, Tharon H.	PF (deceased)
Jones, Linwood	CT
Jones, Phyllis	CT
Jones, Tracy Ann	CT
Jones, Clifton R.	PF
Lively, Charles	CT
Lively, Mary Ann	CT
Lively, Patricia	CT

Lively, Saundra	CT
Lively, Charlotte	CT
Moody, Brooke S.	PF
Noble, Annie D.	CT (deceased)
Noble, Helen S.	CT (deceased)
Noble, Paul G.	PF
Noble, Emma S.	PF
Noble, Douglas	PF (transferred to different church)
Noble, Patricia L.	CT
Noble, Vonnie Lou	PF (transferred to different church)
Noble, Rex	PF (deceased)
Noble, Adelle S.	PF (deceased)
Noble, Elaine	PF (transferred to different church)
Noble, Glenda	PF (transferred to North Carolina Conference of UMC)
Pridgen, James Ronald	CT (transferred to different church)
Pridgen, Jane	CT (transferred to different church)
Prince, Vera S.	CT (deceased)
Prince, Roderick L.	PF
Prince, Denise	PF
Prince, Teresa	PF
Rouse, Shirley N.	PF
Smith, Glennie Lee	PF (deceased)
Smith, Barbara	PF (transferred to different church)
Smith, Eleanor	PF (transferred to different church)
Smith, Earl Milton	PF (deceased)

Smith, Debra	
Smith, Florie	PF (moved – unknown location)
Smith, Glennie S.	PF (deceased)
Smith, Lille Mae	PF (deceased)
Smith, Keith	PF
Smith, Jeanette N.	PF
Smith, Kimalee	PF
Smith, Marybeth	PF
Smith, Leslie	PF
Smith, James	PF (deceased)
Smith, Wilson	PF (transferred to different church) (deceased)
Smith, Dorothy H.	PF (transferred to differed church)
Smith, Sue	PF (transferred to different church)
Smith, Wilson George	PF (transferred to different church)
Smith, Roger Clayton	PF (transferred to different church)
Sparrow, Amos M.	PF (deceased)
Sparrow, Carrie Mae G.	CT (deceased)
Stanley, Ann T.	PF (transferred to different church)
Stroud, Lenwood G.	PF
Stroud, Preston L.	PF (deceased)
Stroud, Frances H.	PF
Stroud, Leroy R.	PF (transferred to different church)
Stroud, Susan J.	PF
Stroud, James T.	PF
Tyndall, Wilbur	CT (transferred to different church)
Woodall, Charles	CT

Woodall, Martha N. CT
Woodworth, D. R. CT (transferred to different church) (deceased)
Woodworth, Erma CT (transferred to different church)

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On January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2003, two (2) little folks were Baptized and placed on the “Preparatory” role as it is called at the present time. It was a distinct privilege and honor for me to Baptize and welcome them into the church family – the body of Christ at Noble’s Chapel United Methodist Church. These two are brother and sister:

Catherine Caroline Edwards

Johnathan Thomas Edwards

and they have, indeed, added much joy and spirit to our church.



## HOWARD McKINNON McLAMB

1910 - 1999

The Reverend Howard McKinnon McLamb, 88, of Raleigh, died on February 24, 1999, at Rex Hospital after a short illness. A native of Sampson County, he was born December 21, 1910, the son of the late Enoch Carr McLamb and Pearl Daniel McLamb. He graduated from Clinton High School, received AB and BD degrees from Duke University, was ordained deacon in 1937 and ordained elder in 1939. On September 21, 1938, he was married to Azile Guinevere Brock.

He joined the North Carolina Annual Conference in 1935 and retired in 1978, after serving 43 years in 10 different appointments: Pink Hill, 1935; Raleigh: Fairmont, 1939; Ahoskie, 1945; Hamlet: First, 1949; Goldsboro District Superintendent, 1954; Jarvis Memorial, 1960; Davis Street, 1961; Exec. Dir., Brd of Evangelism, 1965; Greenville District Superintendent, 1970; and Apex, 1975.

Howard was truly a man who loved and served his Lord, his church and humankind. Evangelism was his every effort, organizing several churches in the NC Conference.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 am on February 27, 1999 at Millbrook UMC. Interment was at Raleigh Memorial Park.

He is survived by his wife, Azile Brock McLamb of 163 Springmoor Drive in Raleigh; son, Howard McKinnon McLamb, Jr. of Mill Valley, CA; grandson, Keith McLamb; brother and sister-in-law, M. P. and Opal McLamb of Clinton; sisters and brothers-in-law, Loreen and Ed Osborne of Wake Forest, Lucy and David Thompson of Clinton, Pearl and Preston Page of Raleigh, and Jean and Clint Jones of Richmond, VA.

Howard was preceded in death by his daughter, Guinevere Brock McLamb; brothers, Kenneth McLamb and Enoch C. McLamb.

The Family



## ROY OLIVER BURGESS

1919 - 1999

Roy Burgess was born in East Templeton, MA, on December 18, 1919. He was the second son born to Russell and Edna Burgess. When he was 5 months old, his family moved to the Isle of Pines in Cuba, where his grandmother owned a pineapple plantation. At the age of five, his family settled in Miami, FL.

In 1949, Roy met and married the former Gladys Eleanor Whitfield. From this union two children were born: Carol Janice Sanford of Gainesville, FL, and Robert Wayne Burgess of Westport, CT. He had five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He owned and operated a bicycle shop in Miami until he was called into the ministry, and he served churches in both Florida and NC Conferences. He received his AB degree from Florida Southern College, followed by the Conference Course of Study.

His appointments in Florida were: Tavernier, 1952; Kathleen, 1954; Welaka, 1958, again in Tavernier, 1961; Woodstock Park, Jacksonville, 1964, Riverview, Jacksonville, 1968; and McIntosh, 1971. After transferring to the NC Conference, he served at Wanchese, 1973; New Hope-Woodland, 1978; and Atlantic, 1980. He retired in 1985. Roy and Gladys moved to Gainesville, FL, in 1998.

Roy Burgess passed away in the early morning hours of March 2, 1999. The Reverend John Davenport of Gainesville presided over the funeral at Wesley UMC on March 5 at 11:00 am. Reverend Davenport had performed the wedding ceremony for Roy and Gladys 50 years earlier. Roy Burgess was laid to rest in Forest Meadows Cemetery in Gainesville.

