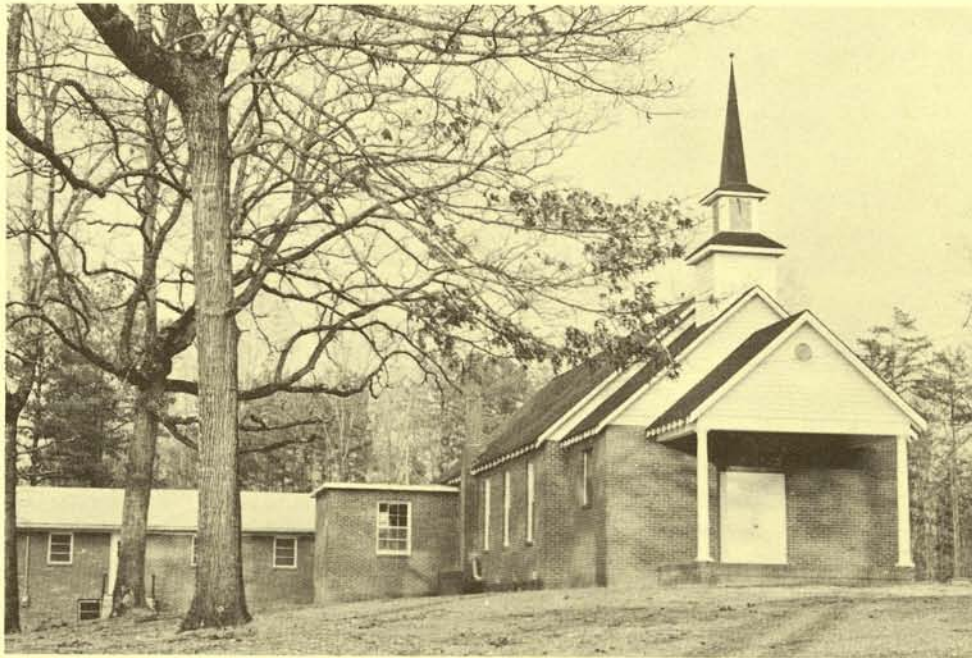


# One-Hundredth Anniversary

★ 1878 - 1978 ★



## PARSONS GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

★ ★ ★ *Memorial Service* ★ ★ ★

**AUGUST 13, 1978**

ROBERT N. BLACKBURN  
Bishop, Raleigh, N. C.

REV. CLYDE McCARVER  
District Superintendent, Sanford, N. C.

VIRGIL L. FREE  
Minister, Pekin, N. C.

# Centennial Observance - 1978

## To The Members and Friends Of Parsons Grove United Methodist Church:

*It is a thrill for me to be the Pastor of Parsons Grove United Methodist Church when we celebrate the first One hundred years in the history of this great church. Indeed, it is a unique pleasure and experience.*

*There are two thoughts that occur to me in this event. First, that we are indebted to the past. When you read the church's history in this printed program you will appreciate the discomforts endured by those attending a worship service back in the "good ol' days." We should never forget the sacrifices made by those who have made possible the comfortable church in which we worship God today. The present facilities for the church school for our children and adults are adequate for our present needs. Recognizing indebtedness to the past, let us strive to be worthy of what has been given for our use today.*

*The second thought that occurs to me is derived from a statement made by Bishop Paul N. Garber, our first bishop of the Raleigh area. Bishop Garber said it was his personal hope and his hope for the church in his day "to so live in the present that the future will be indebted to us." This a good motto for us here in Parsons Grove United Methodist Church. We should not rest on the successes of the past but look to the present days' needs for service. It is my hope and prayer that future generations will look back upon the second hundred years and see that the people of Parsons Grove United Methodist Church continued to build upon the deeds of their heritage.*

*While the present day may not call for large construction of buildings there are some specific needs in this area. There are needs for: adequate parking facilities, recreational facilities for our youth who will lead the church of tomorrow and possibly some renovation of the present church sanctuary and the installation of stain glassed windows. There is the hope of greater evangelism for our church in reaching the un-churched and inactive members in our community. Truly the fields "are white already to harvest."*

*Today we thank God our Heavenly Father for this joyous centennial observance and ask His Divine Guidance for the future.*

**Virgil L. Free, Minister**

## Credits

Photos - Cecil Campbell

History - Darlene Wright  
And Barbara Greene



Research and Preparation Of List Of Ministers Dating  
Back to 1879 By Rev. Virgil Free,  
Barry Wright and Jackie Greene.



To All Of The People Who Have Worked In The  
Church And Have Been A Part Of It; To Keep It  
An Active Instrument For God's Work These  
Past 100 Years, And Who Have Made This  
Centennial Celebration Possible.

# Church History

Parsons Grove United Methodist Church was founded in 1878 by Duncan Livingston Parsons. The church originally began by holding meetings in a brush arbor. The brush arbor was used until the first church could be finished. Duncan Livingston Parsons donated the land for the first church, which was built across from Duncan's house in a grove of trees.

The boards in the old church were very wide hand-planed forest pine. The sills were put together with heart of pine pegs. There was only one large room in the old church and was used as the sanctuary.

There were three separate sections of pews. The women sat on the right, the men on the left and the middle section was used by anyone who wished to sit there, such as married couples.

There was no musical instrument in the old church until an organ was purchased. Prior to that time the congregation sang and carried out their worship service with no music.

Preaching was only held on the second Sunday of each month. Sunday school meetings were begun regularly around 1913.

A few of the family names who attended the old church were Harris, Parsons, Blake, Bruton, Campbell, McDonald, Kelly and Boyd. This is by no means the complete list.

In 1948 a new church was begun and was finished in 1949. This modern brick building replaced the older wooden structure. The windows in the old church were used in the new one. The organ was used in the new church until a piano was purchased.

Among the firsts for the new church were:

First Sermon - J. H. Parish, who was pastor at the time

First Funeral - Samuel Thomas Parsons

First Minister to originate from the congregation: William A. Parsons

First Formal Wedding - Sarah Parsons and Herbert Harris

The new church has grown tremendously since 1949. In 1968 the vestibule and steeple were added on to the front of the church. In 1969 the church was fully carpeted. The Fellowship Hall was begun in 1972 and finished in 1973. In 1976 the porch was added on and is the main entrance today. In 1977 the R. L. Bruton Family donated the brick sign down by the road to better identify our church. Also during the same year a central air conditioner was installed. To beautify the grounds the churchyard was enlarged.

Our present goal which we are striving for is to purchase stained glass windows. It should not be much longer until this goal is reached. Who knows what might be next, there is no end to what can be done to make our church grow and prosper through Jesus Christ.

## Our Church Life . . .

Weddings play an  
important part in our  
Church Life . . .



Son of the founder of  
Parsons Grove United  
Methodist Church,  
Mr. and Mrs.  
Duncan Parsons

The Interior View  
Of Our Church



Our Fellowship Hall



**Young Adult  
Sunday School  
Class**



**Adult Sunday  
School Class**

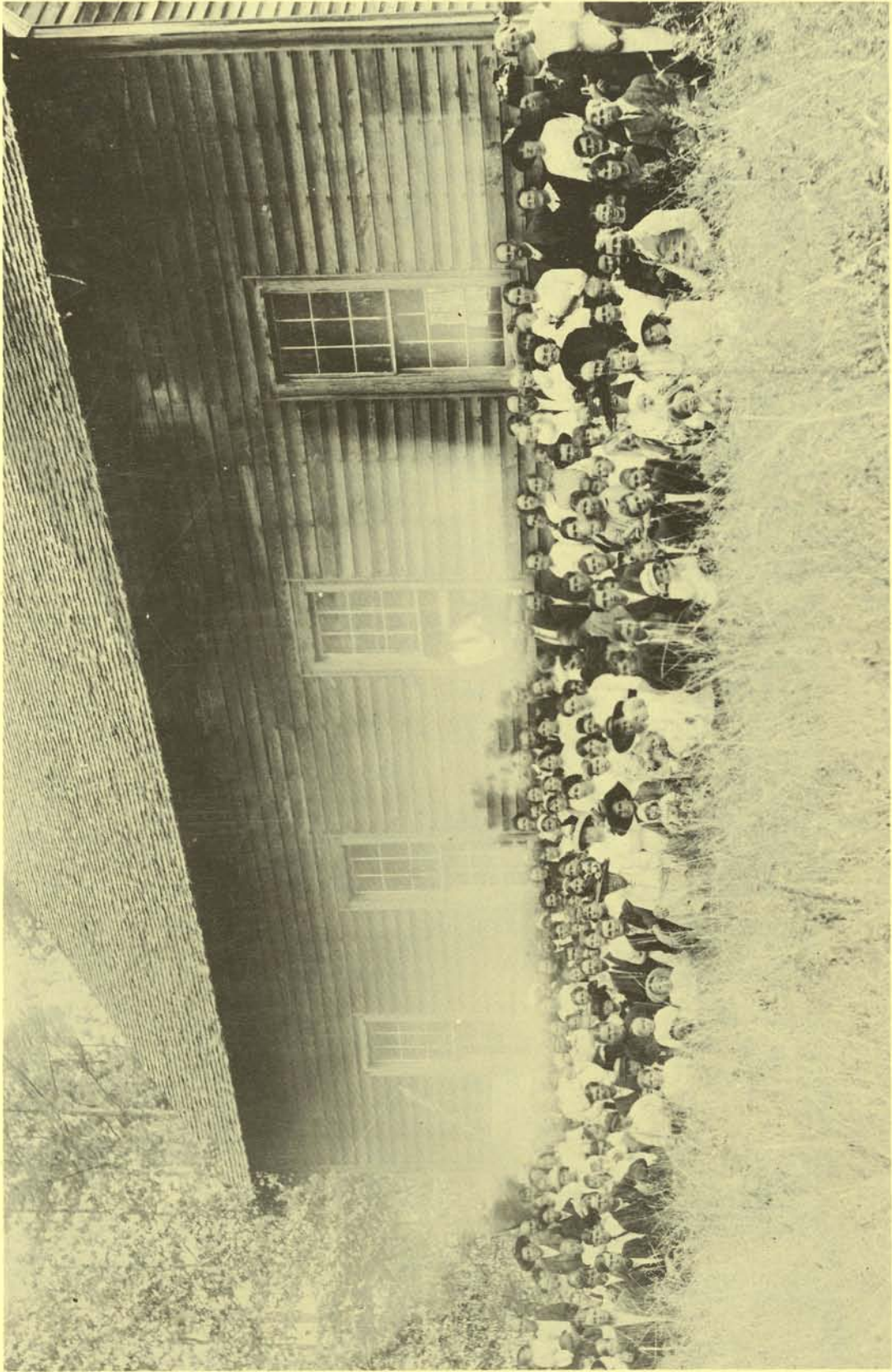


**Primary  
Sunday School Class**



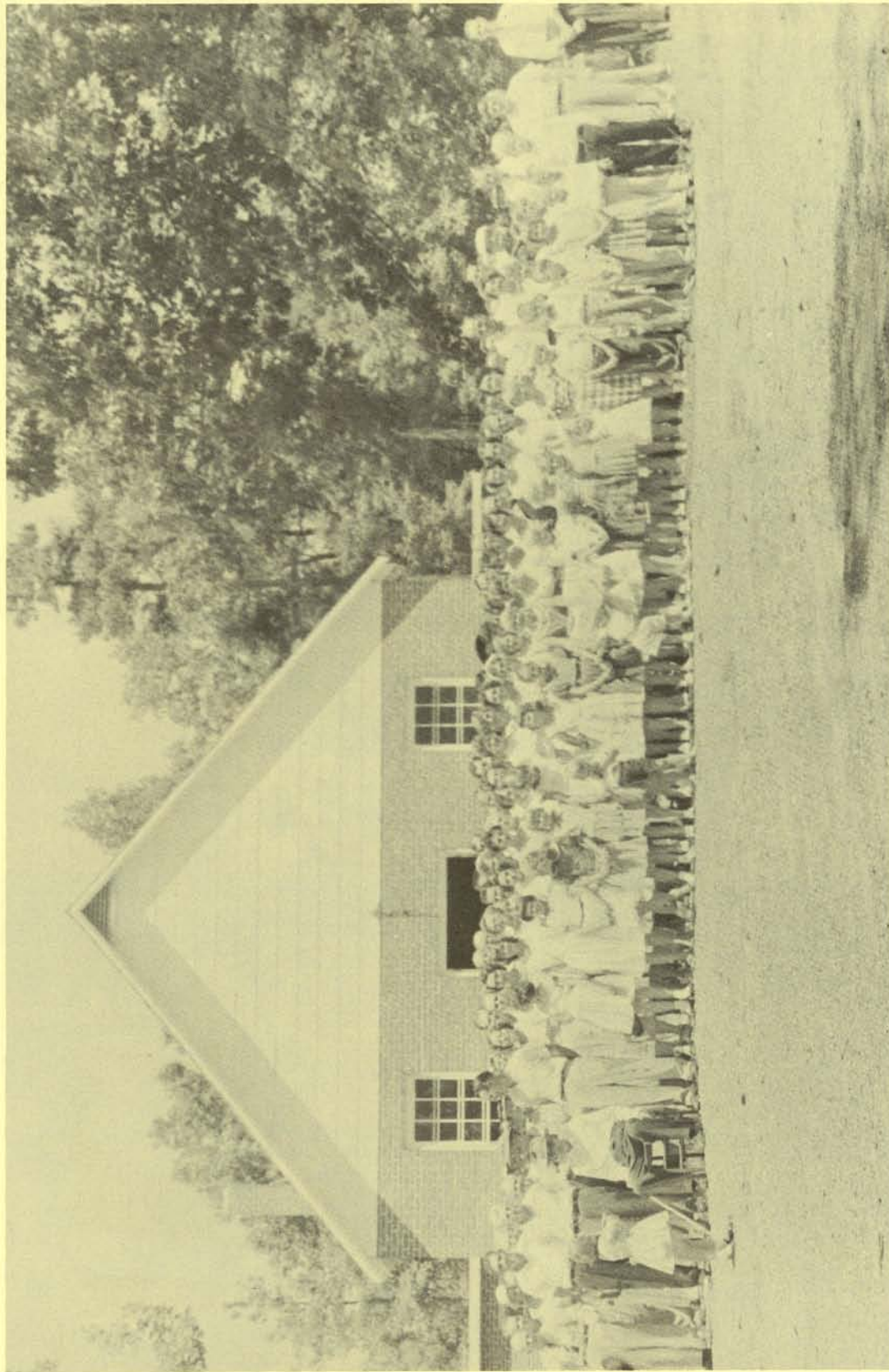
**Junior  
Sunday School Class**

# Parsons Grove Reunion Of 1912



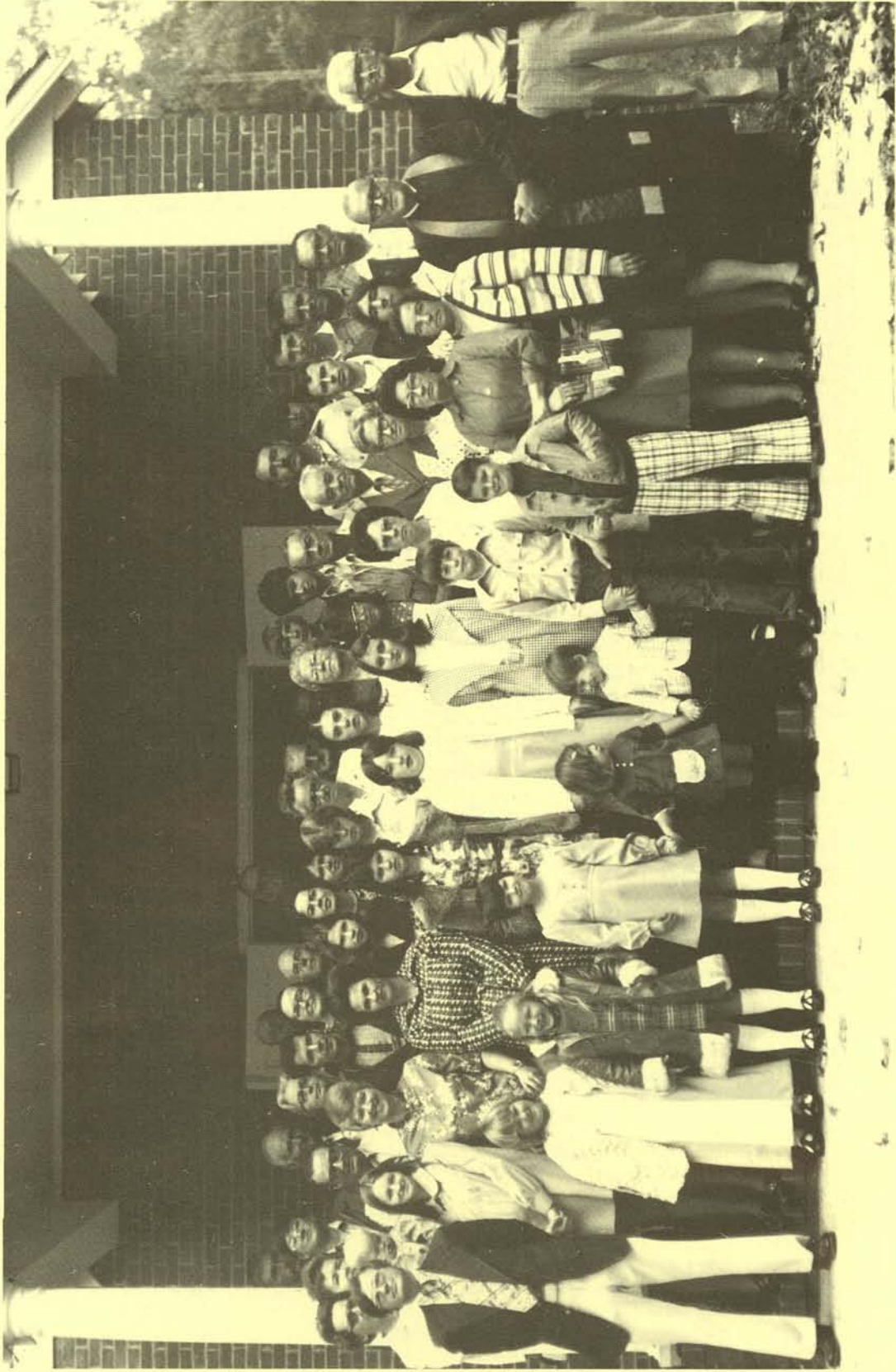
Parsons Grove Reunion of 1912

# 1954 Homecoming At Parsons Grove





Church Group Picture - 1976



Church Group Picture - 1978



# Some Of Our Largest Families . . .



# Church Memories







# Pastors Who Have Served

## Parsons Grove United Methodist Church

The oldest record we have of pastors who served the church goes back to the year 1879. The names of the pastors are listed below:

Date of Appointment	District	Charge Name	Pastor
1879	Greensboro	Uwariah	T. P. Hampton
1880	Greensboro	Uwariah	W. C. Crawford
1881	Greensboro	Uwariah	
1882	Blue Ridge	Uwariah	W. M. Bagby
1883	Greensboro	Uwharrie	
1884	Greensboro	Uwharrie	H. D. Christenbury
1887	Statesville	Troy	F. A. I. Clark
1889	Statesville	Troy	Wiley Perry
1890	Statesville	Troy	H. D. Christenbury
1892	Greensboro	Montgomery	W. B. Beamon
1893	Glade Stone	Eldorado	John Hopkins
1894	Glade Stone	Troy	W. C. Haltum
1895	Glade Stone	Troy	W. J. Evans
1897	Glade Stone	Troy	C. C. Norris
1898	Glade Stone	Troy	W. S. Moore
1899	Statesville	Troy	J. H. Gillespie
1902	Statesville	Troy	S. C. Williams
1905	Statesville	Troy	J. M. Heath
1906	Statesville	Troy	J. B. Tucker
1907	Statesville	Troy	F. A. I. Clark
1909	Statesville	Troy	A. B. Dennis
1910	Statesville	Troy	J. L. Dennis
1911	Statesville	Troy	W. F. Graham
1912	Albemarle	Troy	J. M. Heath
1914	Statesville	Troy	K. L. Haga
1916	Coast	Troy	O. L. Hawkins
1918	Coast	Troy	W. A. Parsons
1919	Washington	Troy	W. A. Parsons
1921	Washington	Troy	C. W. Guthrie
1924	Washington	Troy	T. H. Stamey
1925	Washington	Troy	O. C. Melton
1927	Winston-Salem	Troy	C. W. Guthrie
1928	Statesville	Troy	Turner Brown
1929	Statesville	Troy	S. N. Bumgarner
1930	Statesville	Troy	E. W. Mills
1936	Statesville	Troy	C. K. Wright
1938	Statesville	Troy	E. V. Arthur
1939	Fayetteville	Eagle Springs	Ted Coleman
1940	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead	N. B. Strickland
1944	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead	W. J. Underwood
1945	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead	J. H. Parish
1949	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead	W. M. Wells, Jr.
1950	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead	F. B. Brandenburg
1956	Fayetteville	Mt. Gilead	J. M. Short
1958	Fayetteville	Pekin	J. M. Short
1964	Fayetteville	Pekin	Clay J. Morgan
1965	Fayetteville	Pekin	W. C. Currie
1967	Fayetteville	Pekin	George E. Hawkins
1970	Fayetteville	Pekin	William B. Farmer
1971	Sanford	Pekin	Dr. M. Glover
1972	Sanford	Pekin	Odell Matthis
1975-1978	Sanford	Pekin	V. L. Free

## Church Directory - 1978

Robert N. Blackburn  
Clyde G. McCarver  
Virgil L. Free  
Dottie Pope  
Robert Bruton  
Sarah Harris  
Arlie Haywood  
Allie Key  
Victoria Branson  
Allie Key  
Lucille Bruton  
Gladys Parsons  
Barbara Greene  
Lucille Bruton  
Allie Key  
Darlene Wright  
Marie Bruton  
Vancy Scott  
Gladys Parsons  
Barbara Greene  
Barbara Greene  
Gladys Parsons  
Lucille Bruton  
Elgie Parsons  
Bessie Dennis  
Vancy Scott  
Vancy Scott  
Vancy Scott  
Esther Campbell

Resident Bishop  
District Superintendent  
Minister  
Lay Leader  
Chairman, Admin. Bd.  
Financial Secretary & Treasurer  
Chairman, Trustees  
Chairman, Council on Ministries  
Missions  
Chairman, Education  
Chairman, Stewardship  
Chairman, Evangelism  
Social Concerns  
Worship  
Childrens Ministries  
Youth Ministries  
Adult Ministries  
Family Ministries  
Superintendent--Church School  
Director of Music & Pianist  
Membership  
Health and Welfare  
Pastor - Parish Relations  
Committee on Nominations & Personnel  
Communion Steward  
Recording Secretary - Charge Conference  
Chairman, Parsonage Committee  
Records and History  
Ecumenical Affairs

### Members At Large

Bell Parsons, Reddick Parsons, John Parsons, Clayton Parsons, Maggie Parsons,  
Molly McDonald, and Jennie Richardson.

### Trustees

Arlie Haywood, Robert Bruton, Jackie Greene