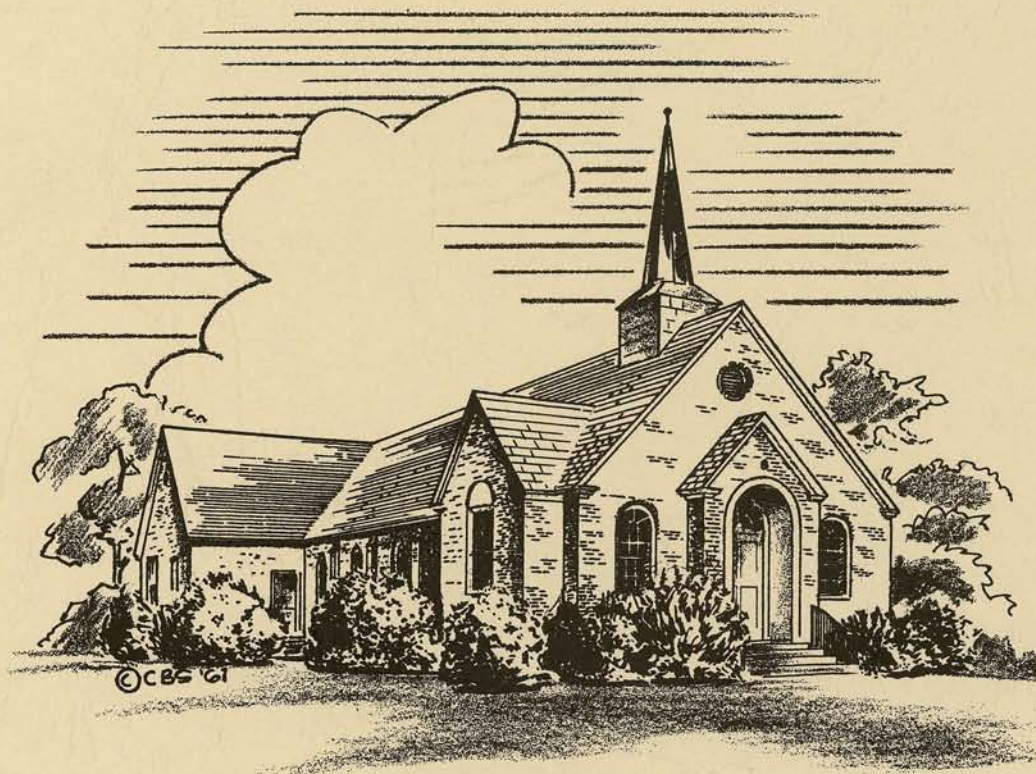


**HISTORY OF
PILMOOR MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
CURRITUCK, N. C.**



WHERE METHODISM BEGAN IN NORTH CAROLINA

Compiled by Margaret C. Pritchard
Revised Edition 1984

VOLUME I

1984

ARC # 86.

HISTORY
OF
PILMOOR MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
Currituck, North Carolina

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Volume I
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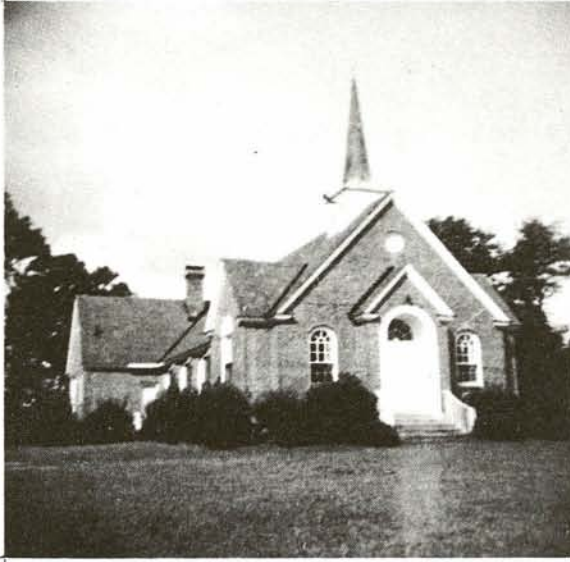
August, 1965
September, 1984

Dedicated to the Memory
of
THE REVEREND CHARLES TINSLEY THRIFT



also to

Baxter's Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, South,
whose former members
are a constant source of inspiration to me



Pilmoor Memorial Methodist Church, 1965

No one has seen the wind,
No, not you or I,
But when trees bow down their heads,
We know the wind is passing by.

No one has seen God,
No, not you or I,
But when men bow down their heads in prayer,
We know that God is standing by.

Ben Wyche Tillett

I want to thank those whose assistance in compiling this volume was most helpful...

Mrs. Jessie Tharpe Humphries, for the use of the scrapbook in her possession

My mother, Mrs. Vernon Creekmore, for her knowledge as a former member of Baxter's Grove Church

Mrs. O. L. Hall, for her knowledge as a former member of Baxter's Grove Church

Mr. Ray Midgette, for his knowledge as a former member of Asbury Church

Members of Pilmoor Church, for the use of the folder consisting of the correspondence of Miss Maud Newbury during the building of the church. This folder has been returned to the church.

Mr. William Brumsey, Register of Deeds, for permitting me to examine the old deeds

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THE METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church is a church of Christ in which "the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments duly administered." This church is a great Protestant body, though it did not come directly out of the Reformation but had its origin within the Church of England. Its founder was John Wesley, a clergyman of that church, as was his father before him. His mother, Susanna Wesley, was a woman of zeal, devotion, and strength of character, who was perhaps the greatest single influence in Wesley's life.

Nurtured in this devout home, educated at Oxford University, the young John Wesley, like a second Paul, sought in vain for religious satisfaction by the strict observance of the rules of religion and the ordinances of the church. The turning point in his life came when, at a prayer meeting in Aldersgate Street, London, on May 24, 1738, he learned what Paul had discovered, that it is not by rules and laws, nor by our own efforts at self-perfection, but by faith in God's mercy as it comes to us in Christ, that man may enter upon life and peace.

The gospel which Wesley thus found for himself he began to proclaim to others; first, to companions who sought his counsel, including his brother, Charles, then, in widening circles that took him throughout the British Isles.

Wesley did not plan to found a new church. In his work he simply followed, like Paul, the clear call of God; first, to preach the gospel to the needy who were not being reached by the established church and its clergy, second, to take care of those who were won to Christian life. Step by step, he was led on until Methodism became a great and transforming movement in the life of England. He appointed leaders. He found men who were ready to carry the gospel to the masses, speaking on the streets, in open fields, and in private homes. These men were not ordained ministers but lay preachers, or "local preachers," as they were called. He appointed these men, assigned them to various fields of labor, and supervised their work. Once a year he called them together for a conference, just as the Methodist preachers meet in their Annual Conference sessions today.

From England, Methodism spread to Ireland and then to America. In 1766, Philip Embury, a lay preacher from Ireland, began to preach in the city of New York. At about the same time, Robert Strawbridge, another lay preacher from Ireland, settled in Frederick County, Maryland, and began the work there. In 1769, Wesley sent Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmoor to America, followed two years later by Francis Asbury, who became the great leader of American Methodism.

Methodism was especially adapted to American life. These itinerant preachers served the people under conditions where a settled ministry was not feasible. They sought out the scattered homes, followed the tide of migration as it moved west, preached the gospel, organized societies, established "preaching places," and formed these into "circuits." Thus by the close of the American Revolution, the Methodists numbered some fifteen thousand members and eighty preachers.

In the beginning, Wesley had thought of his fellows not as constituting a church, but simply as forming so many societies. The preachers were not ordained, and the members were to receive the Sacraments in the Anglican Church. But the Anglican clergy in America were few and far between. The Revolution had severed America from England, and Methodism, for all intents and purposes, had become an independant church. Wesley responded to appeals for help from America by asking the Bishop of London to ordain some of his preachers. Failing in this, he himself ordained two men and set aside Dr. Thomas Coke, who was a presbyter of the Church of England, to be superintendent, "to preside over the flock of Christ" in America. Coke was directed to ordain Francis Asbury as a second superintendent.

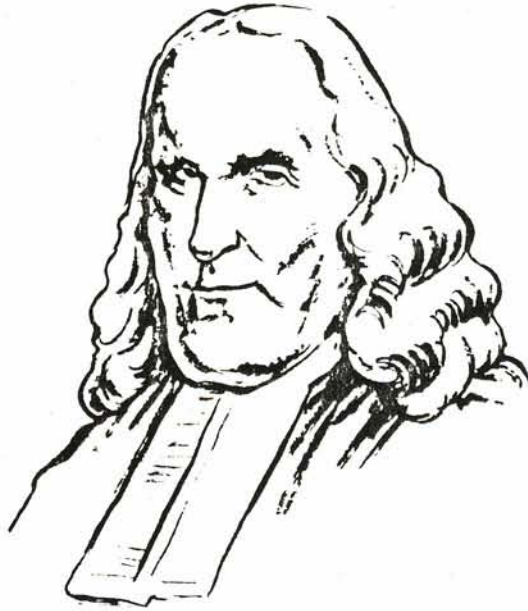
At the Christmas Conference, which met in Baltimore on December 24, 1784, some sixty preachers with Dr. Coke and his companions organized the Methodist Episcopal Church in America. Wesley had sent over the **Sunday Service**, a simplified form of the **English Book of Common Prayer**, with the "Articles of Religion" reduced in number. This book was adopted, adding to the "Articles" one which recognized the independence of the new nation.

In the history of Methodism, two notable divisions occurred. In 1828, a group of earnest and godly persons, largely moved by an insistence on lay representation, separated and became the Methodist Protestant Church. In 1844, there was another division, the cause being construed by some as the question of slavery, by others as a constitutional issue over the powers of the General Conference versus the episcopacy. After years of negotiation, a Plan of Union was agreed upon; and on May 10, 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church united to form the Methodist Church. (Taken from the **Discipline of the Methodist Church**)

**THE NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
OF
THE METHODIST CHURCH**

(Southeastern Jurisdiction)

- I. Composition - The North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church is composed of the following:
- A. The eastern portion of the former North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church
 - B. The former North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South
 - C. The coastal region of the former Blue Ridge-Atlantic Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church
- II. Organization - The Organizing dates of the three former Conferences were as follows:
- A. The North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1828, at Whitaker's Chapel in Halifax County, North Carolina
 - B. The North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1837, at Petersburg, Virginia
 - C. The Blue Ridge-Atlantic Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1879, at Greensboro, North Carolina; first named Southern Central Conference, two years later, 1881, renamed Blue Ridge-Atlantic Conference
- III. Union - The unification of the North Carolina Conferences was accomplished by the unification of the three major branches of American Methodism in the United States at Kansas City, Missouri, on May 10, 1939, with the following Declaration of Union:
- "The Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church are and shall be one United Church." To this historic statement the delegates responded, "We do so declare." (Taken from the **Journal: North Carolina Conference**)



Joseph Pilmore

Joseph Pilmore was the first pastor of Old St. George's United Methodist Church in 1769. He was a persuasive preacher and an important figure in early Philadelphia history. The University of Pennsylvania conferred on him an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. His *Journal*, now first published, is a delightful footnote to the history of colonial America.

Line drawing by Jane Castle

METHODISM COMES TO NORTH CAROLINA

JOSEPH PILMOOR

Methodism reached America through several poor people who came here to settle. But the first missionaries sent to America by John Wesley were Joseph Pilmoor (note: Pilmoor used three different ways of spelling his name - "Pillmore, Pilmore, and Pilmoor") and Richard Boardman.

Pilmoor was born on October 31, 1739, in the village of Tadmouth, Yorkshire, England. His parents were members of the Church of England. "At age sixteen Pilmore became acquainted with John Wesley" who guided him into Methodist work. "He was educated at Wesley's Kingswood School near Bristol." And having preached the Gospel in many parts of England and South Wales, he had a desire to visit America.¹

At the Methodist Conference which met in Leeds, August, 1769, "Joseph Pilmore and Richard Boardman volunteered to go to America to assist the Methodist already there." An offering was taken at the Conference, and twenty pounds was to be used for the passages of Pilmore and Boardman.

On August 21, 1769, Pilmore and Boardman set sail on the ship **Mary and Elizabeth**. The voyage across the Atlantic Ocean took nine weeks and on October 21, 1769, Pilmore and Boardman finally landed at Gloucester Point, New Jersey, opposite Philadelphia.

"Pilmore left Philadelphia on May 26, 1772, on his journey which was to take him as far south as Georgia." He stopped in Maryland briefly and then sailed from Annapolis to Norfolk, Virginia. He remained in the Norfolk-Portsmouth vicinity until September, 1772, when he journeyed into North Carolina. His first day was very hot, and he traveled through the woods. He stopped at many little houses on the road, but could get nothing for his horse to eat until late in the afternoon when he found a place to dine. After inquiring, he found that he was nearer his journey's end than he had expected, so he decided to spend the night there. He left the next morning, September 28, 1772, and arrived at Currituck Courthouse a little before noon. The people had already gathered, so he began his sermon without delay, preaching to a congregation of Churchmen, Baptists, and Presbyterians. He used as a text a phrase from the 11th verse of the 3rd chapter of Matthew: "He shall baptise you with the Holy Ghost and with Fire." This was the first Methodist preaching in the Carolina Colony. When Pilmore had finished, the people expressed their gratitude. Colonel Hallowell Williams invited him to his house where he was received with "true primitive hospitality."

¹Fredrick E. Maser and Howard T. Maag, eds., **The Journal of Joseph Pilmore** (Philadelphia, 1969), p. 236. The information contained in the next three paragraphs was taken from this source, pp. 237, 239, 156, 157, 168, 169, 170, 247, 243, 241 consecutively.

CURRITUCK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Currituck County, located in the extreme northeastern portion of North Carolina, is bounded on the north by the state of Virginia, south by the Albemarle Sound, west by Camden County, and east by the Atlantic Ocean. It was one of the very earliest settlement areas in North Carolina. It was formed in 1670 as a precinct in Albemarle County and is one of the four original precincts established by the Lords Proprietors.

Most of the first settlers of the Carolina Colony came down from Virginia. Some, however, ventured into Currituck Sound through Currituck Inlet. They made their homes along the banks of the Currituck Sound and various rivers and creeks. Water offered the best means of transportation, a bountiful supply of food, and the safest method for defense should the Indians attack.

The Colony was greatly divided by water. The Outer Banks and Knotts Island are separated from the Currituck mainland by the Currituck Sound. The only contact between the Banks, Knotts Island, and the mainland, until the 1900's, was by boat. Gibbs Woods is separated from the mainland by water and the state of Virginia.

The County retains the name originally given by the Indians. The present area is 237 square miles, and the population is approximately 7,500.

Reverend William Gordon and Reverend James Adams, two Episcopal clergymen from England, reached Carolina in 1708. In a letter dated May 13, 1709, to the Secretary in England, Mr. Gordon wrote, "Curratuck is the easternmost precinct, including the Sand Banks and some part of the south side of the Sound: a very incommodious place for damp colds in winter and musquitoes in summer."¹ Mr. Adams resided in Currituck in 1709-1710, and he wrote on October 4, 1709, "I have lately lived mostly in Caratauk, but it is a precinct of so large an extent, and so much divided by water, that I have not yet been able to get passage into all the extreme corners of it."²

By 1757, there were several chapels in Currituck. They were places of Christian worship, subordinate to and smaller than a church. The trustees were empowered to employ, from time to time, a minister of the Church of England and to perform Public Worship according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England.³ Later, these Anglican Chapels were often used by the Methodists.

¹Francis L. Hawks, DD, LLD, **History of North Carolina** (Raleigh, 1857), II, p. 308.

²Ibid., p. 311.

³William L. Saunders, ed., **The Colonial Records of North Carolina** (Raleigh, 1886-90), Book 5, p. 818.

CURRITUCK COURTHOUSE

In Edenton in 1722, the General Assembly met and passed an act instructing justices of the peace to secure an acre of ground in each county as a site for a courthouse. If necessary, the justices were to condemn the land, provided no orchard, garden or enclosed ground be damaged. The building itself was to be thirty feet long and eighteen feet wide. The justices were to raise money by poll tax not to exceed five shillings per poll per annum for the courthouse that had to be erected in six months. (**State Records**, Book 23, pages 100-102)

During this meeting, the General Assembly made provision for a courthouse for Currituck County. To decide the location of the courthouse, the justices were to choose between the adjoining lands of William Peyner and William Parker.

In 1723, while Thomas Davis was justice of Coratuck precinct, Robert Peyton got the contract. Specifications called for the thirty- by eighteen-foot building "with fashinable framed work," standing upon cedar blocks. The roof was to be covered with cypress shingles and the sides and ends with boards. Twelve feet of the floor was to be elevated "two feet from ye grounde by planke," providing space for the judge's bench, chair, and clerk's table. The upper floor of the building was to be planed smooth and there were to be "stares from flow to flow." Peyton failed to complete the building and was sued. (**North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register**, Vol. 2, page 134)

THE METHODIST PARSONAGE

It is believed that a parsonage was rented near Currituck from about 1860-1879 for the benefit of the Currituck circuit.

On the 19th day of September, 1879, Thomas Sanderson, Josephus Baum, and William C. Mercer, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, bought four acres of land, a house and out buildings from L. M. Bell for the sum of \$1,000. (Deed Book 35, page 460) Located on Tulls Road, this was to be used as a parsonage for the benefit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and especially for the benefit of the Currituck circuit.



Used as a parsonage by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1879-1902 (Picture taken 1960)

The old Methodist parsonage was known as the Ben Sivills place, also as the Will Edwards place. The house was constructed with wooden pegs. Some of the windows with nine panes in the upper sashes were still intact when the preceding picture was taken. The original panelling was there and also the old mantel. The kitchen stood at the back and right of the main part of the house. The hall was at the left end of the house and the living room at the right. One point of interest in the interior of the house was the molded plaster medallion in the ceiling of the living room. The house was destroyed by fire in 1962, and the property is now owned by Austin West.

On the 21st day of October, 1902, while Rufus Bradley was pastor, R. O. Bagley, Josephus Baum, and T. W. Baxter, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, sold the parsonage, out buildings and tract of land, located on Tulls Road, for the sum of \$650 to Dr. J. M. Newbern. (Deed Book 45, p. 356, Currituck Courthouse) It is said that a parsonage was rented at Moyock for the minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, from 1902-1912.

On the 22nd day of February, 1912, C. R. Vandecarr and wife, Elizabeth, donated one-fourth acre, more or less, of land in Moyock Village to T. W. Baxter, P. N. Bray, Dr. S. M. Mann, and M. L. Jacobs, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. (Deed Book 52, p. 239) This land was to be used as a parsonage lot for the minister of said Church, and a parsonage dwelling, not to cost less than \$1500, was to be constructed and paid for in the period of two years. Otherwise, the trustees were to pay \$200 to C. R. Vandecarr as a purchase price.



Used as a parsonage by Baxter's Grove and Pilmoor Churches 1912-1959. This building still stands. It is located next to the Moyock Methodist Church along Highway 168. (Picture taken 1965)



This house was rented from Mr. Norman Ballance and used for a parsonage from 1959-19 . It is located near Currituck on N. C. Highway 34.

BAXTER'S GROVE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH



c. 1860-1928

As early as 1800, according to an old newspaper article, there was a church served by Methodist preachers on the Baxter's Grove site. On September 29, 1860, while James C. Hummer was pastor, William F. Baxter donated the lot "on which stood the house of worship" to Samuel Ferebee, Thos. G. Munden, Thos. L. Sanderson, William C. Mercer, Tully Halstead, Jos. Hale, Wilse Sanderlin, Jasper Jerrard, and Benjamin T. Simmons, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. (Deed Book 28, p. 419, Currituck Courthouse)

Baxter's Grove Church, located two miles north of Currituck Courthouse on Tulls Road, was a one room wood structure measuring about thirty by forty feet and was painted white. It was constructed with wooden pegs and the sills were hand hewn. There were the traditional two front doors - usually, the men used the one on the right. Oil lamps hung from the side walls and a wood stove stood near the center of the church.

A Church Conference was held at Baxter's Grove on Sunday, November 2, 1888. Rev. J. T. Routten, pastor at the time, requested that he be appointed as a special committee to see two of the members relative to their not attending church. Mr. Dey and Mr. Frost were appointed "to assist in the assessing of the members of the church for this

preacher," and Mr. T. W. Baxter was elected secretary. The membership of the church in 1889 numbered 29.

One project of the women was to obtain carpet for the church. Sheep were raised on most every farm, and one spring, after the sheep had been sheared, the ladies gave a certain number of pounds of wool to have carpet made for the church.

Communion was administered every third month. Mrs. Ella Walker, the communion steward, made the wine during the grape season. On communion Sunday, she placed the wine and home-baked bread in a basket and made her way to the church. There, the silver cup, the church's most priceless possession, was passed to the worshipers kneeling at the altar.

There was a protracted meeting during the summer which usually lasted at least one week. People came in carts, buggies, and even sailboats, while those in walking distance came on foot. All were dressed in their Sunday clothes. The men would set up tables under the huge trees, and the ladies would spread them with a delicious feast. There was always a barrel of lemonade and a freezer of homemade ice cream to sell. After dinner they went into the church for services.

Miss Lucille Baxter played the church organ in the early 1900's. The stops had to be set to produce a certain type of tone, and the pedals had to be pumped constantly while playing to get the air through the reeds or there would be no sound. There were no notes in the hymnals, just the words; however, the congregation did very well - considering it numbered not more than forty persons.

In 1923, while C. B. Culbreath was presiding elder, Rev. Charles T. Thrift was assigned to the Moyock Circuit which included Moyock, Baxter's Grove and Perkins Chapel. The Thrifts had three children - Charles, Jr., Susie Webb, and Laura Nell. None of the family wore jewelry since Rev. Thrift believed it to be a sin. He even wore a shoestring for a watch chain. However, he was one of the first pastors of Baxter's Grove to have a car.

At the first quarterly conference, the pastor's salary was raised from \$1,100 to \$1,600. The second year it was raised to \$2,000, then to \$2,400 and later to \$3,000. The pastor's salary remained at this point until continuous crop failures forced it to \$1,800 in the years 1932-1933.

About 1925, an organizational meeting of the Ladies Aid Society of Baxter's Grove was held at the home of Mrs. Leola Hall, Currituck, North Carolina. Those attending were Leola Hall, Nell Ballance, Helen Walker, Inez Doxey, Blanche L. Creekmore, Mary Lee, Margaret "Mag" Baxter, Etta

Brumsey, Mary Taylor, Lucille Edwards, and Adgie Deford. Mary Taylor was elected president, and the dues were to be ten cents per month.

In the third year of Rev. Thrift's pastorate, Mr. A. M. Simmons of Currituck, an attorney and superintendent of Baxter's Grove Sunday School for many years, passed on to his reward. Mr. Simmons bequeathed \$2,000 to the Methodist church that would build a church within one and one-fourth miles of Currituck Courthouse. This gift was the prime factor in the beginning of Pilmoor Church.

After Mr. Simmons death, Miss Maud C. Newbury, superintendant of the Currituck County schools, served as superintendent of Baxter's Grove Sunday School. She lived at the Currituck teacherage and encouraged the teachers living there to attend Baxter's Grove Church. Through the devotion of such leaders, the membership of Baxter's Grove increased to 75 in 1926.

SOME OF THE MINISTERS
OF
BAXTER'S GROVE CHURCH

James C. Hummer, 1860 - 33 years old; wife, Anna;
daughter, Alice, 8 months old

No report from Currituck, 1861-1865

Joshua L. Garrett

*G. W. Garrett, 1867

T. L. Williams

* _____ Naden, 1869

J. J. Edwards

*C. E. Hobday, 1872

T. L. Sanderson

Edward M. Jordon

*Henry C. Paulett, 1877

**J. B. DeBerry

J. H. Dalby

**J. T. Routten

**J. H. M. Giles

Rufus Bradley, 1902

**James Y. Old

B. H. Black

A. C. Jordan

S. J. Kilpatrick

M. Y. Self, 1912

J. A. Martin

John E. Blalock

J. A. Martin

W. M. Hester

T. J. Folger

J. B. Hurley

W. B. Humble

Charles T. Thrift, 1923-1928 - stayed five years

*Recorded in Baxter's Grove Bible, dated 1857

**Stayed four years, newspaper article, July 17, 1928

THE NEW CHURCH

PILMOOR MEMORIAL METHODIST

Rev. Charles T. Thrift, knowing of Mr. Simmons will, conceived the idea of building a new church at Currituck as a memorial to Joseph Pilmoor. This idea received the enthusiastic support of the members of Baxter's Grove. So, on March 6, 1927, the pastor appointed the following committee to solicit contributions for the new Methodist Church at Currituck, North Carolina:

Miss Lillian Flora
Mrs. W. H. Edwards
Mrs. Vernon Creekmore
Mrs. O. L. Hall

Mrs. Olin Doxey
Mrs. Norman Ballance
Mrs. Tom Taylor
Mrs. Russell Griggs

(This same committee was reappointed June 4, 1928, by the pastor.)

The committee's first trip to solicit money for the new building at Currituck did not proceed exactly as they had hoped. The clouds were low and threatening rain as Lillian Flora, Blanche Creekmore, Inez Doxey, Lucille Edwards, and Leola Hall headed for Elizabeth City. The window on the car's passenger side of the front seat would not close, but Lillian had brought along an umbrella in case it rained. As they drove in the yard to pick up Lucille, the first drops of rain began to fall. Blanche poked the umbrella out the window, opened it, and drew it close to the side of the car. By the time they reached Elizabeth City, the rain had stopped, allowing the eager committee to embark on their mission.

Lillian's father ran a country store at Tull's, and she had visions of huge donations from the wholesale dealers, whom she knew, and the bankers. However, these people were also feeling the economic crunch and didn't give as generously as Lillian had expected. Even though this first attempt was a little disappointing, the committee was determined to bring their efforts to a successful conclusion.

On the first day of October, 1927, a lot was purchased in Currituck village from Mr. O. L. Hall by T. W. Baxter, C. C. Walker, C. M. Caton, J. B. Lee, and W. H. Edwards, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. (Deed Book 63, p. 259) The price of the lot was \$500.

After the purchase of the lot, the following Building Committee was appointed:

- Miss Maud C. Newbury, Chairman
- Miss Lillian Flora, Secretary
- Mrs. O. L. Hall, Treasurer
- Mrs. Russell Griggs
- Mr. Thomas W. Baxter
- Mr. Russell Griggs
- Mr. Will H. Edwards
- Mr. Thomas J. Taylor
- Mr. Henry G. Dozier
- Mr. John W. Sanderlin

On July 14, 1928, an agreement was made between E. E. Weddle and Company (contractor of Norfolk, Virginia) and the Building Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to build the new church. The work was to begin at once and to be completed on or before October 15, 1928. The following three pages are a copy of the contract.

THE STANDARD FORM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN CONTRACTOR
AND OWNER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS.

THIS AGREEMENT made the Fourteenth day of July in the year Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-eight by and between E. E. Weddle & Harry E. Kerlin doing business as E. E. Weddle & Company hereinafter called the Contractor, and The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Currituck County Court House, North Carolina By Its Building Committee hereinafter called the Owner, WITNESSETH, that the Contractor and the Owner for the considerations hereinafter named agree as follows:

Article 1. Scope of the Work--The Contractor shall furnish all of the materials and perform all of the work shown on the Drawings and described in the Specifications entitled

Building For Currituck Church, South, Currituck Court House

N. C. and revised drawings and specifications showing certain changes to the original drawings, said revised drawings being dated July 12, 1928.

prepared by CAIRO, BROWNE AND FITZ-GIBBON

acting as and in these Contract Documents entitled the Architect; and shall do everything required by this Agreement, the General Conditions of the Contract, the Specifications and the Drawings.

Article 2. Time of Completion--The work to be performed under this Contract shall be commenced at once and shall be substantially completed on or before October 15, 1928.

Article 3. The Contract Sum--The Owner shall pay the Contractor for the performance of the Contract, subject to additions and deductions provided therein, in current funds as follows:

Fifteen Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-two and 00/100 Dollars (\$15,222.00)

Article 4. Progress Payments--The Owner shall make payments on account of the Contract as provided therein, as follows:

On or about the tenth day of each month eighty-five per cent of the

value, based on the Contract prices, of labor and materials incorporated in the work and of materials suitably stored at the site thereof up to the first day of that month, as estimated by the Architect, less the aggregate of previous payments; and upon substantial completion of the entire work, a sum sufficient to increase the total payments to ninety-five per cent of the contract price

Article 5. Acceptance and Final Payment--Final payment shall be due Thirty days after substantial completion of the work provided the work be then fully completed and the Contract fully performed. . . .

Article 6. The Contract Documents--The General Conditions of the Contract, the Specifications and the Drawings, together with this Agreement, form the Contract, and they are as fully a part of the Contract as if hereto attached or herein repeated.

Article 7. It is understood by the parties hereto that this contract includes the following items not included in the original submitted, but illustrated, described and covered by the revised drawings referred to in Article 1 of this contract.

Enlarging Church	\$818.00
Plumbing, inc. fixtures	350.00
Septic Tank	<u>110.00</u>
	\$1278.00

WITNESSES

(The Daily ...)

Sir,
and Pr...

This Place ...

Contract
for the building
structure will
be over \$10,000
about \$12,000.
Contractors,
Rev. C. T. ...
... ..

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have executed this Agreement, the day and year first above written.

E. E. WEDDLE & COMPANY

By-

F. W. Dunn

E. E. Weddle

F. W. Dunn

Harry E. Kerlin

Attest:-

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH,
CURRITUCK COUNTY C. H., N. C.
by its Building Committee

Secretary

Chairman

C O P Y

METHODISTS TO BUILD CHURCH AT CURRITUCK

(The Daily Advance, Elizabeth City, N.C., July 17, 1928)

Site Chosen is Just Below Court House
and Presents a Beautiful View of Currituck Sound

UNIQUE DISTINCTION

This Place Was Birthplace of Methodism in North Carolina
One Hundred and Fifty Years Ago

Currituck, July 17. Contracts were signed yesterday for the building of a Methodist church at this place. The structure will be of brick and the contract price is a little over \$15,000. The furnishings will bring the cost up to about \$17,000. E. E. Weddell & Company of Norfolk are the contractors. The building committee is composed of Rev. C. T. Thrift, chairman; Miss Lillian Dale Flora, secretary; T. W. Baxter, Miss Maud Newberry, Henry G. Dozier, W. H. Edwards, T. T. Taylor, J. W. Sanderlin and Russell Griggs. Mrs. O. L. Hall is treasurer of the building fund.

The site chosen for the new building is just below the Court House on the right hand side and presents a beautiful view of Currituck Sound. The lot contains a little over one and a half acres and will afford ample room. Many have expressed themselves as believing the site to be one of the most beautiful in the county for a church.

The auditorium will have a seating capacity of 200. There will be five class rooms of good size for Sunday School work. This will be a great forward movement in Sunday School work in Currituck and it is expected that the young people will not be slow to avail themselves of these improved facilities.

This new building will take the place of Baxter's Grove which is two miles away on the road to Tull's. Much interest has been shown in this enterprise by the people of this community who are anxious to see the work begin. It may be the dawning of a new day for Currituck Court House. It may mean a new era for religion for this section for it may be the beginning of a consolidation of churches comparable to the consolidation of schools which has resulted in putting Currituck County to the front in education. Time will tell for no effort will be made to force consolidation. That is a matter which will have to grow but encouragement and direction will be given to it.

This place has the distinction of being the birthplace of Methodism in North Carolina. One hundred and fifty-five years ago last September, Rev. Joseph Pilmoor came from Norfolk and preached at this place. This was the first

Methodist sermon ever preached in the Old North State. In the little more than a century and a half which has passed since then Methodism has spread from the sea to the mountains and covers North Carolina as with a blanket. She numbers her adherents by the hundreds of thousands.

The new church building will doubtless be made a memorial to the beginning of Methodism in this state. Last week the Elizabeth City District Conference at South Mills gave its endorsement to this idea and an opportunity will be given every Methodist in North Carolina to give as much as one penny for this purpose (of course many will want to give more) that the memorial may be a state-wide rather than a merely local affair. This should make a strong appeal to every Methodist in the state.

The movement for a new church at Currituck had its inspiration in the bequest made by the late Albert Simmons, a lawyer, who had lived at Currituck for many years and whose death occurred a little more than two years ago. In his will he left \$2,000 for the building of "a Methodist Church within a mile and a quarter of Currituck Court House." When the movement began to take shape it was not known by those who had the matter in hand that Methodism in North Carolina had its beginning here. That discovery gave added impetus to the movement. The Methodists in particular and the community in general will be happy when they can see this building completed.

In the church there will be placed a memorial tablet to A. M. Simmons.

Francis Asbury who was the first Bishop of the Methodist Church in America was the second Methodist preacher to come into Currituck. Asbury Church near Coinjock was named after him. Rev. Jesse Lee who planted Methodism in New England was once presiding elder here. In 128 years Rev. J. B. DeBerry, Rev. J. T. Routten, Rev. J. H. M. Giles, Rev. J. Y. Old stayed four years. The present pastor is Rev. C. T. Thrift, who is closing up his fifth year.

C O P Y

CORNERSTONE LAID

The cornerstone of Pilmoor Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was laid on Sunday, September 30, 1928. Mr. T. W. Baxter (oldest member) and Miss Mildred Edwards (youngest member) signed their names on a piece of paper - this paper, a piece of money, etc. were placed in the cornerstone at a ceremony formally beginning the erection of the church, although the church was nearing completion. Due to bad weather, the service was moved from the church ground to the auditorium of the Currituck School. The rain storm that morning made the crowd at the morning service very small. Those who went, however, were stirred by the address of Professor James Cannon, III, of Duke University.

For the 2:30 P.M. service a much larger crowd was present. The balcony and the auditorium were both filled to the last seat, and a few people had to stand. Bishop Mouzon of Charlotte was introduced by Rev. C. T. Thrift, pastor of the church, who said this was the first time in 150 years that a Bishop had visited Currituck County. Referring to the new Memorial Church, Mr. Thrift said he "hoped it would mean a great deal to the present generation and more to the generations to come." Bishop Mouzon said, "Memorial Church is for all the community."

Also attending the afternoon service was Rev. M. T. Plyler, former presiding elder in this district and associate editor and business manager of the **Christian Advocate**. He made a brief announcement with reference to the publication and stated that he was glad to be among the people of Currituck again. Other preachers in the congregation who were introduced to the audience were Rev. F. S. Love of Elizabeth City, Rev. H. P. Clark of Norfolk, Virginia, Rev. R. L. Beasley of Hatteras, Rev. W. F. Walters of South Mills, Rev. A. J. Parker of Winfall, and Rev. B. H. Black of Gatesville.

The services were opened with prayer by Rev. H. L. Glass, presiding elder of the Elizabeth City District. Rev. B. H. Black of Gatesville, a former pastor of Baxter's Grove, pronounced the benediction. "Worship the King" was the opening hymn and "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" was used as the closing hymn. The music was under the direction of Miss Henry of Currituck. After the services at the school, many among the crowd went through the new church.

OCTOBER 21, 1928 - AN HISTORIC DAY

No pastor was ever more fortunate than Rev. Thrift in having faithful and loyal helpers. Miss Maud C. Newbury was not only loyal in hard work for the project but was also the largest local contributor to the building fund. Furthermore, no congregation, in proportion to its means, could have given more generously. Needless to say, they were supported partly by a missionary aspiration. The average person in the congregation made only a living. The one person in the congregation receiving a generous salary pledged and paid \$675 toward the erection of the church and furnished the Sunday School rooms at a cost of \$400.

This being an entirely rural county, the people depended on farming for a living. In 1928, many of the farmers had to borrow money to pay their own taxes. Potatoes sold for about \$1.00 per barrel, which was less than cost, and floods injured the corn and soybeans. Hence, the \$25,000 in pledges had to be paid very slowly. However, the chairman of the building committee and the members of the church thought that until the congregation increased in size and recovered from the financial depression, they could pay the \$400 a year on the loans from the church Extension Boards. The note to the local bank covering the remainder of the debt could be paid as the pledges from the local people came in. No group of people ever worked harder to collect the pledges.

On Thursday, October 18, 1928, the keys to the new building were turned over to the chairman of the building committee. The congregation moved into the new church using the old pews and pulpit furniture from Baxter's Grove Church until they could pay for the new furniture, which had been ordered.

Rev. Charles T. Thrift preached the first sermon in the new church on Sunday, October 21, 1928, at 3:00 P.M. Baxter's Grove Church was sold, moved and used as a dwelling until it burned in the late 1930's or early 40's.

PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mrs. Maud New
Carrick's teacherage
Church. she told
responsibility." The
process of Pilmoor Ch.

Tomie Gregory the
School teachers at Pilmoor
Class every year.



beginning in 1929,
superintendent of the

Mrs. Sherrod (Dun)

**Pilmoor Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South,
and grounds as they appeared in October, 1928**

Mildred Raffield

Under her leadership
and in the early winter
new members.

Mrs. Tom Taylor

Newbury as superintendent

Soldie Warrell

superintendent of the
Sunday School class.

Edna J. Brussey

superintendent of the

Will W. Ballance

Church and Mildred Raffield
she was away.

PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS GIVE STRONG SUPPORT

Miss Maud Newbury encouraged those who lived at the Currituck teacherage to teach Sunday School at Pilmoor Church. She told them "they were capable and it was their responsibility." Their contribution to the educational program of Pilmoor Church was unequaled.

Tommie Gregory (Brumsey) was one of the first Sunday School teachers at Pilmoor Church. She taught the Primary Class for many years, beginning in 1928.

Miss Buchan taught the Intermediate Class.

Miss Metcalf was the first superintendent of the children's department. Under her supervision the children assembled in one of the large rooms in the back for a song, scripture reading and prayer before going to their classes.

Jessie Tharpe (Humphries) taught a children's class, beginning in 1929, and followed Miss Metcalf as superintendent of the children's department.

Bess Sherrod (Dunton) taught the Young People's Class, beginning 1930, and later the Women's Bible Class.

Mildred Raffield taught the Young People's Class. Under her leadership the class grew in size and attendance, and in the early winter of 1931, her class gave a party for new members.

Mrs. Tom Taylor taught a class and followed Miss Newbury as superintendent of the Sunday School.

Goldie Harrell (Meekins) followed Mrs. Taylor as superintendent of the Sunday School. She also taught a Sunday School class.

Hilda J. Brumsey taught the Women's Bible Class and was superintendent of the Sunday School for many years.

Nell W. Ballance was the first organist of Pilmoor Church and Mildred Raffield and Muriel Combs filled in when she was away.

CONSOLIDATION CONSIDERED

It is believed that Miss Newbury and Rev. Thrift conceived the idea of consolidation of Asbury Methodist Church, founded in 1846 and located two miles north of Coinjock, and Perkins Methodist Church, founded in 1850 and located about two miles north of Shawboro, with Pilmoor Methodist Church at Currituck. However, according to a former member of Asbury, consolidation was never put to a vote by the members of Asbury Church. Those who wanted to move their memberships to Pilmoor did so, but there were some who wanted Asbury Church to remain in operation as long as possible. In 1933, Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was disbanded. The land, lot, and church building were sold for \$200 on the 30th day of June, 1934, by Sam Dudley, T. J. Taylor, A. P. Barco, R. P. Midgett, and H. L. Welsted, trustees of the church. (Deed Book 67, page 191) Some of the members moved their memberships to Pilmoor and their contributions helped make Pilmoor the special church it is today. However, there were some who never moved their memberships to any other church and were grieved that Asbury Church could no longer operate. No doubt the membership of Perkins Church has grown since it is still in operation (1965) with a very active congregation.

BAXTER'S GROVE - MEMORIAL

The following information was compiled by C. Franklin Grill, Conference Historian.

1926	Moyock Circuit	C. T. Thrift, pastor	75 members
*1927	Moyock Circuit	C. T. Thrift, pastor	-----
1928	Moyock Circuit	J. A. Tharpe, pastor	67 members
1929	Moyock Circuit	J. A. Tharpe, pastor	85 members
**1930	Moyock Circuit	J. A. Tharpe, pastor	108 members
1931	Moyock Circuit	J. A. Tharpe, pastor	119 members
1932	Moyock Circuit	J. A. Tharpe, pastor	141 members
1933	Moyock Circuit	E. G. Overton, pastor	164 members

*There are no individual church statistics in the 1927 Journal.

**Pilmoor Church was paid for during this year. Asbury was still in operation with a membership of 85, and H. B. Baum was pastor.

ASBURY CHURCH

1926	Currituck Circuit	L. E. Sawyer, pastor	111 members
1927	Currituck Circuit	L. R. Gains, appointed G. C. Wood, served as pastor	-
1928	Currituck Circuit	W. R. Hardesty, pastor	93 members
1929	Currituck Circuit	J. P. Bross, pastor	93 members
1930	Currituck Circuit	H. B. Baum, pastor	85 members
1931	Moyock Circuit	J. A. Tharpe, pastor	46 members
1932	Moyock Circuit	J. A. Tharpe, pastor	45 members
1933	Moyock Circuit	E. G. Overton, pastor	40 members

C. Franklin Grill

C. Franklin Grill

Conference Historian

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1928

Rev. C. T. Thrift left Moyock last week for his new charge at Rosemary. He served the charge five years, increasing the salary from \$1,100 to \$3,000, changing the old program of preaching twice a month at the three churches* to every Sunday and the custom of observing the Lord's Supper once in three months to once a month. He edited the **Albemarle Methodist**, a church paper, and obtained for it the greatest circulation that any similar venture in these parts has enjoyed. During his last year the new Memorial Methodist Church at Currituck was built under his management.

*Moyock, Baxter's Grove/Memorial, and Perkins Chapel

C O P Y

REV. J. A. THARPE

ASSIGNED TO MOYOCK CIRCUIT

Rev. John A. Tharpe was assigned to the Moyock Circuit at the beginning of the new church year, November, 1928. He found an indebtedness of \$14,403, but he also found a group of members who were faithful to their church obligations. During his first building committee meeting in Memorial Church, Rev. Tharpe suggested that a financial statement be sent to the members and friends of the Church and to ask ten members of the Church to pledge themselves to raise \$400 each. In 1928, the membership of Pilmoor Memorial numbered 67.

The following persons

pledged \$4,000 immediately:

Mrs. Thomas Dextel

Mrs. Olin Doney

Mrs. Russell Griffin

Mrs. Warren Speck

Miss Lillian Fiers

This is not an inquiry

made in the letter and make

with the idea in mind that we

are interested for the children

and find a way to meet our

need best, I feel sure.

Sincerely,

Currituck, N. C.
December 13, 1928

To Members and Friends of Memorial Church:

At a meeting of the building committee in Memorial Church last night it was decided to make a financial statement to members and friends of the church and to ask ten members of the church to pledge themselves to raise \$400 each. These two suggestions were made by our new pastor, Reverend John Tharpe, a copy of whose letter to the congregation is enclosed.

The following persons were named as a committee of ten to raise \$4,000 immediately; or \$400 each.

Mrs. Thomas Baxter
Mrs. Olin Doxey
Mrs. Russell Griggs
Mrs. Vernon Creekmore
Miss Lillian Flora

Mrs. O. L. Hall
Mrs. Norman Ballance
Mrs. Thomas Taylor
Mrs. William Edwards
Miss Maud C. Newbury

This is not an impossible task. Let us use our best judgment in the matter and make some sacrifices to meet our obligations, with the idea in mind that we are making possible higher educational opportunities for the children of this and nearby communities. We must find a way to meet our obligations. We can count on you to do your best, I feel sure.

Sincerely yours,

Maud C. Newbury

Chairman Building Committee
Memorial Church

C O P Y

Currituck, N. C.
Dec. 12, 1928

To Members and Friends of Memorial M.E. Church, South,

Kind Friend:

In view of the fact of the very splendid work done by all concerned in the building of "Memorial Church" and in view of my being a new pastor in the field, I believe it will be well worth while to check up on this splendid work and also to make a complete financial statement that we all may know just where we are.

Statement,

Total cost (without new pews yet unprovided for main auditorium)	\$18,500
Total amount paid by congregation and local friends (Including lot) before Conference -----	\$ 6,011.13
Paid since Conference on note and interest (Including \$1000 from Church Extension Board)---	2,105.00
Paid by Duke Foundation before Conference-----	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total to date from all sources-----	\$ 9,116.13
	\$18,500

Total balance-----\$ 9,383.87

We are promised (On condition) By the Duke Foundation

\$1000 to be paid when \$10,000 has been raised and final \$1000 to pay entire debt----- \$ 2,000

We are promised a loan from the Conference Church Extension Board (When 3/4 indebtedness is cleared----- 3,500

Total Gift and Loan from two Boards promised \$ 5,500

Total balance-----\$ 9,383.87

The total promised from the Boards----- 5,500.00

The total balance to be raised-----\$ 3,883.87

Note carefully that this \$3883.87 must be raised before the boards will make said gift and loan on property. Let me also state here in behalf of the Church Extension Board, that they in no case lend more than 25% of the building cost. I feel that this statement ought to clear our minds and set us about this very splendid task.

We all believe that this Church at Currituck will be a tremendous influence for good over the entire county. Giving it your support to help raise this deficit will prove one of the best investments you have been called upon to make, not in dollars and cents directly perhaps. But its influence for good to you and your children and to your neighbors and your neighbors children should repay your investment, for after all has been said, we all realize that our children and their welfare is of far more importance than our silver and gold.

Thanking each of you for your prayerful consideration of this matter, I am

Yours sincerely,
Rev. J. A. Tharpe

Copy

Quarterly Conference at Memorial Church.

The first quarterly conference of the new church year was held at Memorial Church Thursday at 3 P. M. with the following officials present and answering to the roll call: Messrs J. J. Forbes, J. Ferebee, & G. C. Boswood; stewards of the Perkins Church; Messrs Thomas Baxter and William Edwards and Miss Lilliam Flora, stewards of Memorial Church; and Mr. C. N. Baughan, steward of Moyock Church; Miss Maud C. Newbury, chairman of the building committee and superintendent of Memorial Sunday School was elected secretary.

The new pastor of the charge, Reverend John Tharpe, expressed to the quarterly conference his pleasure in being the pastor of a group of churches whose members were so faithful to their church obligations and so generous in their treatment of himself and family. He made the statement that he had never been happier anywhere than during these first few months of his stay among the people of Currituck County.

When the stewards made their financial reports, Reverend O. E. Dowd, the presiding elder, declared that it was the best financial report made by stewards on his district. Those in a position to know realized that much credit was due to the new system in use by the stewards of Moyock Charge; the stewards of at least two of the churches having met several weeks prior to the quarterly conference and appointed women from the Ladies Aid Societies to assume part of the responsibility for collecting weekly contributions from the members of the congregation.

The presiding elder made a short talk on the need for the replacement of individualism by the group spirit; the need for developing the charge, the district, the conference, the church-at-large spirit to take the place of the smaller one church spirit. Mr. Dowd declared this to be the day of larger things, of larger schools, larger Sunday Schools, larger Epworth Leagues, larger churches, larger vision. He expressed his delight in finding that Memorial Church had projected the idea of consolidation in the county; he pledged his whole souled support to the church and cautioned the members against being too discouraged if all of their problems were not solved as quickly as they might wish. When told by the pastor, Mr. Tharpe, that there was no Epworth League on the charge, Mr. Dowd said he wished that the charge would try out the idea of a charge Epworth League if it could be held but once a month.

The quarterly conference for Moyock Charge went on record as favoring an application for a donation from the General Board of Church Extension of \$2,000 to help finance the consolidation project launched at the county seat.

At the close of the quarterly conference the members were delightfully surprised to receive an invitation to supper in one of the social rooms of the church. Here the Ladies Aid Society of Memorial Church served a delicious buffet supper consisting of chicken salad, assorted sandwiches, pickles, olives, home made fruit cake, and coffee.

At the supper the ladies expressed their appreciation for the support of the new pastor and the new presiding elder in their church enterprise and divulged the fact that they were preparing for a community church party to be given Saturday night, January 19th by the Ladies Aid. The group about the attractively laid.....

1929

CHURCH DIRECTORY 1928-1929

Pastor.....	Rev. J. A. Tharpe
Superintendent.....	Miss Maud C. Newbury
Secretary.....	Mrs. O. L. Hall
Treasurer.....	Mr. O. L. Hall
Trustees.....	Mr. T. W. Baxter Mr. C. C. Walker Mr. C. M. Caton Mr. J. B. Lee Mr. W. H. Edwards
Stewards.....	Miss Lillian Flora Mr. Thomas Baxter Mr. William Edwards

FINAL PAYMENT MADE BY DUKE FOUNDATION

On Sunday, November 15, 1930, the congregation of Pilmoor Memorial Methodist Church rejoiced. Their pastor notified them that the last thousand dollars had been received. They realized that the check for a thousand dollars would enable the Church to cancel the debt that made the building possible. This last thousand dollars made a total of six thousand dollars received from the Duke Foundation.

The complete cost of the project was \$21,583.55 and was paid through the combined efforts of the people, their friends, and the cooperation and assistance of the Church boards. The conference Board of Church Extension donated \$1,000; the General Board of Extension, \$500; and the Duke Foundation, \$6,000. One thousand dollars was donated by the Moore Brothers of New York City. It was with the deepest gratitude that these gifts were accepted. The committee and membership had prayed and expressed their faith by hard work and service. They felt that God had heard their petitions and rewarded their efforts.

Pilmoor Church was the first brick church to be built in Currituck County. It is of colonial design, and the architects, Calrow, Browne and Fitz-Gibbon, of Norfolk, Virginia, also drew the plans for the Currituck and Knotts Island schools. The sanctuary of the Church will seat 200. There are five Sunday School classrooms and a kitchenette. Two of the classrooms can be opened as part of the sanctuary.

Miss Buchan, County Nurse, gave the draperies for the Sunday School rooms; Miss Metcalf, County Supervisor, gave the dishes for the kitchenette; and Miss Maud C. Newbury, Superintendent of Public Schools, finished paying for the pews which cost \$1,300.

The landscaping of the Church grounds was done by Mr. Dudley Bagley at a cost of \$1,376. Mr. Joseph P. Knapp donated \$1,000 of this amount, and the remainder was paid for through the very splendid work of the Ladies Aid.

By 1933, the shrubbery had grown to full beauty and there was no better kept lawn and rural church in the entire state. The beautiful grounds stretch down towards the Currituck Sound that reaches out toward the sea.

Total cost of building, lot and furnishings	\$20,207.55
Total amount raised in the conference year 1927-1928 and paid on project by Rev. C. T. Thrift	7,180.55
Indebtedness as found by the new pastor, J. A. Tharpe, conference year 1928-1929	13,027.00
Amount paid for landscaping, etc.	<u>1,376.00</u>
Total owed under J. A. Tharpe	\$14,403.00
This full amount was raised and paid in the conference years 1928, 1929, 1930, and 1931.	
Total cost of building including landscaping	\$21,583.55

A M E R I C A N S E A T I N G C O M P A N Y

General Offices
14 E. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago

Factory
9th and Broadway
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

School, Theatre
and
Church Furniture

January 10, 1929.

Miss Maud C. Newbury
Currituck, N. Carolina

Re: ORDER #386440
MEMORIAL M. E. CHURCH
CURRITUCK, N. C.

Dear Madam:

The work on the church furniture has now been completed and it is being held in our factory awaiting shipping instructions from you in accordance with our letter of December 21st.

We sincerely trust that you have been able to make satisfactory arrangements, so that you can instruct us promptly to let the shipment come forward.

May we not hear from you within the next few days, in regard to this matter? We shall appreciate it very much.

Yours very truly

AMERICAN SEATING COMPANY

R. D. Wallis
Church Sales Div.

RDW:DDN.

C O P Y

April 8, 1930.

The American Seating Company,
14 East Jackson Boulevard,
Chicago, Illinois.

Gentlemen:

We have finally, we believe, gotten our affairs in such shape as to be able to suggest definite terms under which we can take care of the pews.

We can, we feel, take care of the furniture if you will allow us three years in which to do so. The understanding being that we will pay \$300 when the furniture is installed, and the remainder within a three year period. The balance of the money will be secured by notes signed by members of the building committee whose ability to pay can be vouched for by our local bank. Interest on the amount due, after the making of the first payment, will begin after the installation of the pews.

If you are willing to deliver the pews on these conditions, I shall be very glad to hear from you.

I have had nothing definite to write heretofore, and for this reason have kept silent.

Yours very truly,

Maud C. Newbury

MCN:K

C O P Y

Currituck, N. C.
November 23, 1930.

Mr. C. B. Markham,
Duke University,
Durham, North Carolina.

Dear Brother Markham,

The congregation of Memorial Church rejoiced on Sunday, November 15th, when our pastor notified us that the last thousand dollars had been received. They realized that the check for a thousand dollars would enable the church to cancel the debt that made the building possible.

We have been appointed a committee representative of the entire Memorial Church congregation to express to the trustees of the Duke Foundation the heartfelt gratitude of the congregation for your contribution. This last thousand dollars makes a total of six thousand dollars received from the Duke Foundation.

We thank you for the kindness and generosity that have made possible our lovely little village church. It ministers to a congregation the members of which live as far as fifteen miles from the church.

Sincerely yours,

C O P Y

HIGHLAND FARM



Breeders--Growers--Selected Seeds

Bulbs
Native Plants

Wholesale Trade Only

MOYOCK, N. C.

SOLD TO

December 12, 1929

Building Committee,
Memorial Church,
Currituck, North Carolina.

Terms:

Highland Farm gives no warranty, express or implied, as to description, quality, productiveness, or any other matter of any seeds, bulbs, or plants it sells, and will not be responsible for the crop.

To contract price for grading and filling,	\$630.00
To contract price for finishing and completing lawn	407.00
To contract price for plants and planting,	<u>239.00</u>
Total,	\$1276.00
Ten per cent of total to be paid Jan. 1, 1930	\$127.60
Ten per cent of total to be paid Jan. 1, 1931	127.60
By check received Oct. 28, 1929	<u>600.00</u>
	\$3855.20
Balance due,	\$420.80

COPY

Estimate, Cost of filling, grading, seeding and planting Church Grounds
at Currituck, N. C. furnished for
Miss Maud C. Newbury,

Filling, grading and building walks and drives.....\$630.00
Smooth grading, seeding, fertilizing lawn..... 407.00
Plants and planting (see list of plants below)..... 239.00

- 30 Myrtle 3 ft. collected.
- 6 Red Cedar 6 ft. (sheared)
- 30 Dwarf Duetzia 18 to 24 inches.
- 13 Yaupon, 2 to 3 ft. collected.
- 3 Oaks, 8 to 10 ft.
- 6 Local trees 8 to 10 ft.
- 20 Spirea Van Houtte, 4 to 5 ft.
- 9 Trees for Low Ground, 8 to 10 ft. (Tulip Poplar)
- 3 Bush Honeysuckle 4 to 5 ft.
- 11 Forsythia, 2 to 3 ft.

C O P Y

January 19, 1932.

Mr. Dudley Bagley,
Moyock, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Bagley,

The church grounds look very pretty indeed at the present time. I am under the impression that everyone is delighted with the work.

I will submit your question to the building committee and to the ladies' aid society in the very near future thus giving everybody a chance to react "now or never".

With appreciation for the splendid contribution you have made toward giving us a lovely village church, I am

Sincerely yours,

Maud C. Newbury.

MCN:K

C O P Y

FIRST MARRIAGE AT PILMOOR CHURCH

J. Wenton Poyner, Jr., the son of J. Wenton and Maud Poyner of Poplar Branch, North Carolina, and Sybil P. Munn, public school teacher and daughter of Author G. and Sue Munn of San Fernando, California, were married on May 22, 1929, at Pilmoor Memorial Methodist Church by J. A. Tharpe, pastor. Later, they moved to California and Wenton died there. (Marriage Book 2, page 137, Currituck Courthouse)

FIRST CHURCH BUS

At the close of the conference year 1929, the membership of Pilmoor Church numbered 85. In 1930, it was 108, and in 1931, it was 119. The congregation felt a great need for some means of regular transportation for those who cared to attend church and Sunday School over a distance of some 16 miles. The proposal to purchase and maintain a church bus was made at a church conference in June, 1931, by Miss Newbury, Superintendent of the Sunday School. The proposition was received and adopted by unanimous vote of the conference. A committee, to be assisted by the pastor, was appointed and work was immediately begun. No committee ever found a more hearty response. A new Ford truck with carrying capacity of 48 was purchased for about \$1,000. This bus operated free of any transportation charge and was christened "Miss Memorial" on her maiden trip on July 5, 1931. The speakers on that glad occasion were J. A. Tharpe, pastor, and Miss Maud C. Newbury. The christening was done by young Misses Eleanor Hampton, Norma Ballance and Jeannette Gray. This bus was dedicated "to the good and service of man and to the glory of God."

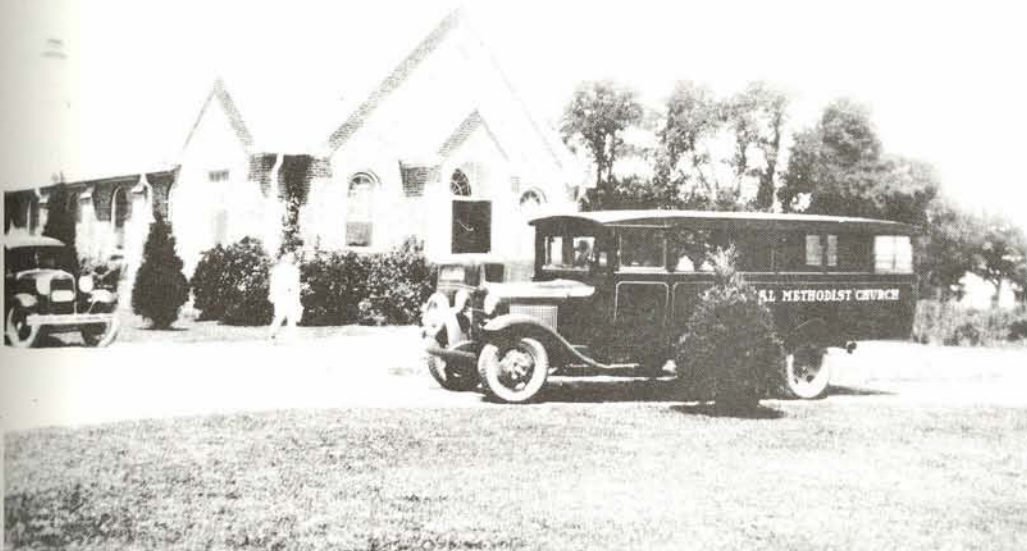
The first trip looked like a failure. "Miss Memorial" carried only sixteen people. But during the week of revival services that immediately followed, it proved to be a different story. "Miss Memorial" came overloaded and continued to be a true servant of the church. It is believed to have been the first regularly scheduled church bus service in the world. In addition to the new Ford bus, Mr. W. R. Lee, a merchant who lived about six miles from Currituck at Tulls Creek, drove his truck and carried from 15 to 25 to church every Sunday during the pastorate of Rev. Tharpe.

The enthusiasm and interest created by the experiment brought in an average of eighteen visitors each Sunday. The contributions of these visitors alone would finance the truck driver's salary.

At the time the bus and truck were first put into use, the Sunday School had around 100 enrolled; but a year later, July, 1932, the enrollment was 160 with an average attendance of 125. In 1933, one class met in the bus because of the need of sufficient room. The membership of Pilmoor Church was 141 in 1932 and in 1933, it was 164.



"Miss Memorial" 1931



Adrian Mathias, Secretary of the Sunday School, making the rounds. One class met in the church bus, c. 1933.



Congregation standing beside "Miss Memorial", c. 1933

**"MISS MEMORIAL," FIRST CHURCH BUS,
DEDICATED AT CURRITUCK ON SUNDAY**

(The Daily Advance, Elizabeth City, NC, July 6, 1931)

Little Girls in Impressive Ceremony at Door of Church
Dedicate Vehicle which is Pioneer in Solving
Rural Church Problem

Currituck, July 5.--Standing on the hood of a big black bus, her eyes aglow with pleasure and excitement, little Miss Eleanor Hampton said solemnly:

"We dedicate this bus, 'Miss Memorial,' to the glory of God and the good of man in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost."

As she uttered the dedicatory words, little Misses Norma Ballance and Jeannette Gray, standing on the fenders, poured pure H₂O upon the first church bus in Currituck County, and so far as is known hereabouts, the first in the State, and indeed, the pastor of Currituck Memorial Church believes, the first bus, owned by a church making regular scheduled trips to bring the people to the house of worship, in the world.

The dedicatory exercises for the big new bus, "Miss Memorial," were held Sunday morning between 10 and 11 o'clock. The three little girls who took the leading parts were daughters of Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Hampton of Coinjock, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Ballance of Bell's Island, and Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Gray of Churches Island, respectively.

The utmost quiet and reverence prevailed as the bus was christened at the church door, after having brought the first load that morning to worship.

Just before the christening, Miss Maud Newbury, Currituck County Superintendent of Education, and the pastor, Rev. J. A. Tharpe, spoke in the church, explaining the movement to bring the rural people to the church services as they have been brought to the schools.

The bus starts at the north end of Churches Island, and comes to Currituck, stopping at Coinjock and other points along the way. Unloading at the church, the bus then goes to Sligo and brings the people from that part of the county. This is the regular Sunday morning schedule, but during the revival which will be held this week, the bus will not make the Sligo trip. The trip from Churches Island to Currituck is about 11 miles, crossing half of Crawford Township and

part of Poplar Branch. The revival schedule will be to leave Churches Island at 6:30 P.M., stopping at Coinjock at 7:15 P.M., and arriving at the church in time for the evening service.

It is particularly appropriate that the first church bus in Currituck and in North Carolina should be owned and operated by Currituck Memorial Church which was built three years ago on the site where 156 years before Joseph Pilmoor had preached the first Methodist sermon in North Carolina.

C O P Y

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS GIVES FISH FRY

A membership and attendance contest between the Women's and Men's Bible Class of Memorial Church ended on Sunday, March 23rd, with the women ahead.

The men had agreed to give the women a fish fry if they were beaten in the contest.

The fish fry was given Monday night, March 31st, by the men in honor of the winning class.

Mr. Norman Ballance, president of the class, caught the fish. Messers Ray Morse and Olin Doxey made two trips across the Sound to bring the fish to shore in time and prepared them for frying.

Mr. Russell Griggs of Hampton Lodge brought his cook, who fried great quantities of fish a rich golden brown. Rev. J. A. Tharpe and Messers Will Edwards, Morrissette and Will Doxey acted as waiters and served the piping hot fish and coffee.

The Women's Bible Class showed their interest by attending in large numbers. They furnished old fashioned sweetened corn pone and worked to help the men make the event a success.

The fish fry came to an end with the women singing to the men.

Memorial Church members are like the early followers of Christ in observing the customs of eating together occasionally. They believe that it promotes kindly feelings and neighborliness.

The church is fortunate in having a pastor and wife who are never too serious nor too busy to join their flock on such social occasions.

C O P Y

Memorial Sunday School--Report for Quarter Ending

February 13th, 1931

Several rainy Sundays and sickness have caused a drop in attendance during the past quarter. The average attendance for the quarter was 88.7. The average collection was \$10.79. The increase in average collection was due to a special thank offering for the orphanage amounting to \$58.16.

The Cross and Crown system of rewards for faithful attendance is bearing fruit. During the past quarter gold pins have been awarded for faithful attendance over a period of an entire year.

The Women's Bible Class has during the quarter continued to carry on the clothing of an orphan and has expended on this project. The Men's Bible Class has undertaken the erection of a two room house for a very poor negro family in the community whose house was about to fall down over their heads. They have expended, up to date on this project.

The Women's Bible Class has held a reception and given a shower in honor of a newly married couple in the adult classes. This class took over also the responsibility for providing a Christmas party for the children of the Sunday School.

The women of the Bible Class and Ladies Aid Society have provided bountiful and well cooked lunches on the first Monday in each month to raise funds to finish paying for grading and landscaping the church grounds.

The Young People's Class under the very capable leadership of Miss Mildred Raffield has grown in size and in faithfulness in attendance. The class gave a party in the early winter to new members.

We cannot claim growth in numbers during the past quarter. We hope we have grown in faithfulness and in love for the cause that the Sunday School represents.

Respectfully submitted,

Superintendent Memorial Sunday School

C O P Y

Memorial Sunday School Report
for
Period beginning July 12th, ending Nov. 2nd.

The average attendance for the seventeen Sundays between July 12th and November 2nd was 97. The offering for the period averaged \$6.53 per Sunday.

During this period eleven members of the Sunday School joined the church.

During the month of July the entire Sunday School with their friends enjoyed a delightful day at Ocean View. More than a hundred enjoyed the picnic and voted to make it an annual affair.

Promotion Day was observed during the month of October. Each class in the children's division or department gave a summary in dramatic form of the subject covered by their lessons during the year just closing. Promotion certificates were awarded by the superintendent to all pupils who were ready to do the work of the group just above their own.

The fifth Sunday in the month is happiness Sunday in Memorial Sunday School. On that Sunday the collection is set aside to buy flowers for any member of the Sunday school who is in the hospital or who has lost a loved one. A committee has been appointed who has been authorized to send some token of affection and sympathy from Memorial Sunday School to any member who is in trouble. The idea is to bring a bit of cheer into the lives of these in trouble of any sort.

The women's class continues to provide clothing each year for the orphan adopted over a year ago. The men's class has taken over the responsibility of providing comfortable shelter for a negro family whose house is about to fall down over their heads and whose shelter is not as good as that provided for many animals.

During the past seventeen Sundays, aside from amounts contributed for clothing the orphan and for other purposes, a total of \$111.06 has been raised in Memorial Sunday School. This amount has been expended as follows: Orphanage \$41.70; missions \$23.59; Sunday School literature and janitorial service either expended or set aside for this purpose, \$45.77.

Respectfully submitted,

Superintendent, Memorial Sunday School

C O P Y

July 7, 1931.

Reverend A. S. Barnes,
Methodist Orphanage,
Raleigh, North Carolina.

My dear Mr. Barnes,

For several years our Sunday School, formerly known as Baxter's Grove, contributed our collection one Sunday each month to the orphanage.

It seems, however, during those years that we failed to pay in full our conference collections, one third of which go to the orphanage.

Our Sunday School continues to set aside the collection once each month for the orphanage but it goes to pay the orphanage part of our conference collection assessment. This plan was adopted on the advice of our pastor.

The special that we sent you in the fall shortly after the beginning of the conference year of something like sixty dollars is the only special that we feel we can carry during this conference year.

We are sorry not to be able to do more, but a bumper crop of potatoes has sold for less than the cost of production. The people are at a loss to know where money to feed their own children is coming from.

We appreciate the splendid service you are rendering and wish we might do more.

Sincerely yours,

Superintendent of Memorial
Sunday School

MCN:K

C O P Y

September 30, 1933.

Reverend J. W. Lineberger
Rougemont, North Carolina.

Dear Mr. Lineberger,

I am referring your letter of September 25th to the Reverend J. A. Tharpe whose wise leadership made possible the purchase of a truck for the Memorial Methodist Church. Aside from the regular truck purchased for the use of a community at least thirteen miles in extent, we have a potato truck that also serves the church. Mr. Tharpe who has been responsible for putting both of these trucks into operation can give you more details in regard to the experiment than it would be possible for me to do.

We have a church building that cost at least \$20,000. I am under the impression that the truck cost about \$1,000. As superintendent of the Sunday School I am aware of the fact that the two trucks have more than doubled the size of our congregation. The doubling of the congregation naturally solved the problem of financing the cost of operating the truck. In other words by making our church investment \$21,000 instead of \$20,000 or by adding five percent to our initial investment the minister and the church stewards were able to add a hundred per cent to the number of people whom the church served.

Viewing the problem not from the standpoint of finances but from the standpoint of psychology the number added to the congregation by the use of the trucks has been larger than the number who rode in the trucks. The enthusiasm and interest created by the experiment has brought in an average eighteen visitors each Sunday for the past year. The contribution of these visitors alone would finance the truck driver's salary.

I am answering these questions merely as a superintendent who has had an abundant opportunity to observe the experiment.

In regard to the attitude of the people transported I can certainly vouch for their enthusiastic loyalty to the church.

The same group that assumed the responsibility for erecting the church, for the expenses of heating and janitorial service has been responsible for the purchase of one of the trucks. The minister and the official board of the church view the truck as they do the church building. They consider it an investment by which they can reach a larger number of people with the gospel of right living. Just as county and state officials in North Carolina have felt responsible for bringing to the child living in the most remote community the advantages of the modern school, just so the minister and the official board of Memorial Church have felt responsible for bringing the advantages of a modern church to the unchurched communities in Currituck County within a radius of eight to fifteen miles of Memorial Church. The minister went at the problem from the standpoint of a desire to reach more people. Looked at from a monetary standpoint the trucks more than pay their way. Memorial Church is the one church on the minister's charge, according to reports at quarterly conference,

that usually pays its obligations in full.

I appreciate your interest in the experiment that Mr. Therpe has worked out so successfully.

Sincerely yours,

Maud C. Newbury.

MCN:K

Dictated but not read
by Miss Newbury.

C O P Y

LADIES AID AND MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The Ladies Aid and Missionary Society was one of the most active organizations of its kind. It cooperated in every undertaking of the church. Some of the ladies were just members of the Ladies Aid; others were members of both organizations. Ladies Aid members paid dues of ten cents, and the Missionary members paid twenty-five cents.

The regular fall meeting of the Currituck Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs was held in Memorial Church in October, 1932. The Missionary Society of the Church sold lunch to those attending.

Currituck County News

By CHESTER R. MORRIS
Associate Editor for Currituck

Where You Can Get A Real Meal Cheap

If anybody should inquire as to where, on the first Monday of any month, or during the Currituck Superior court, they can get the best dinner for a quarter that they have ever eaten, the answer will always be "at Currituck Memorial church." The lady members of that church believe in doing things the right way. About two years ago they started serving meals on first Mondays and during court week. At first they only had a few customers, but on Monday of this week, the first day of court, you would have thought when you got in line to go in that church, that you were walking into the biggest and busiest cafe or cafeteria this side of Washington, D. C. Men were lined up awaiting their chance to get to the table. And did those church women serve a good dinner? It was the best you ever tasted.

John Hall of Elizabeth City told some of the ladies after the meal that Martin Simpson got in the far corner of the dining room and in the rush was served two dinners and two desserts and only paid for one. That must have been one of Mr. Hall's innocent lies, but it is a fact that Mr. Simpson stayed in there a long time, and the cashier upon hearing John Hall's statement was about to believe that there was some truth in it. You bet Martin will be watched from now on.

Friday, March 10, 1933.

REV. E. G. OVERTON ARRIVES

Rev. E. G. Overton was assigned to the Moyock Circuit at the beginning of the new church year, November, 1933. Under the efficient leadership of Rev. Overton, Pilmoor Church continued to grow. In 1933, the church membership was 164, and at the end of the conference year 1935, the membership numbered 200. In addition to his obligations, Rev. Overton preached at Ebenezer Methodist Church and Sharon Methodist Church twice a month.

It is said that, during Rev. Overton's pastorate of Pilmoor Church, the silver communion set belonging to Baxter's Grove, was sold to Mrs. Mary Baxter Sanderson of Norfolk, Virginia, for \$15.

In February, 1934, Miss Newbury handed the Board of Education her resignation, effective June 30. Miss Newbury came to Currituck in 1923 and, during her eleven years of school and church work, had chaired the building committee for Pilmoor Church. She would be missed in the school system, and Pilmoor Church was losing a good friend and hard worker.

In November, 1934, the Moyock Circuit became a two church circuit - Moyock and Pilmoor Churches. On July 14, 1935, Rev. E. G. Overton presented Pilmoor Church to the Bishop for dedication.

MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

This church is a memorial to North Carolina Methodism. It being located on the site where Joseph Pilmoor preached the first Methodist sermon in North Carolina, on September 28, 1772. The text of that sermon was, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." Matt. 3:11.

A bequest of \$2,000 by the late Albert M. Simmons, in whose memory we are today dedicating the pulpit furniture, gave impetus to the movement for starting the new church building. The building was begun and completed under the splendid ministry and leadership of Rev. C. T. Thrift—for five years, 1923-28, pastor of the Moyock-Memorial Charge. In 1928 Rev. J. A. Tharpe was appointed to the charge. Because of his untiring efforts and perseverance for another five years an outstanding debt of several thousand dollars was practically liquidated. Mention should be made here of the great contributions of Miss Maud C. Newbury, County Superintendent of Schools. Because of her beautiful spirit of co-operation and wise leadership Miss Newbury will always be loved by Memorial Church. We are soon to erect a Community House on these grounds in her honor and memory.

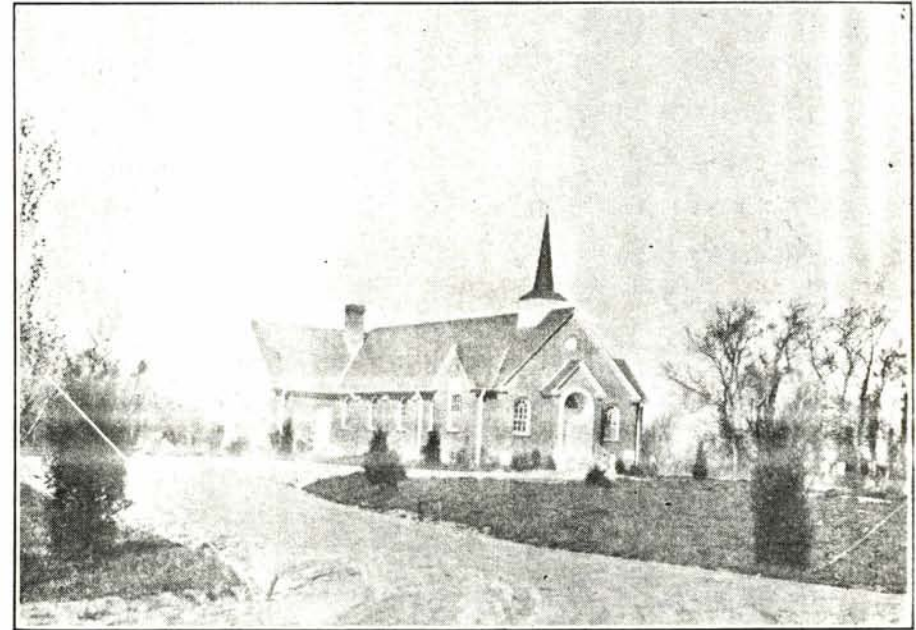
Today the church is free of indebtedness with a membership of two hundred and an excellent program of Christian Education. A beautiful spirit of brotherly love prevails here and the influence of this church is evident in North Carolina Methodism. Our Heavenly Father is leading in a marvelous way.

DEDICATION SERVICES

Memorial Methodist Church

Currituck Court House

Currituck, N. C.



"How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts!"—Psalm 84:1

Sunday, July 14, 1935

Rev. E. G. OVERTON, Pastor

Morning Worship

Eleven O'clock

ORGAN PRELUDE

INVOCATION SENTENCE—Choir *Harrington*

HYMN 661 *William E. Evans*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYER, CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM—"Praise the Lord, O My Soul" *Harker*

PSALM 122

THE GLORIA

SCRIPTURE LESSON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

IN MEMORIAM *Rev. C. T. Thrift*

HYMN 208 *Timothy Dwight*

DEDICATORY SERMON *Bishop Paul B. Kern, D.D.*

HYMN 207 *Samuel J. Stone*

PRESENTATION OF MEMORIAL CHURCH TO BISHOP

PAUL B. KERN FOR DEDICATION *Rev. E. G. Overton*

DOXOLOGY

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Afternoon Service

Two-Thirty O'clock

HYMN 106 *Robert Grant*

PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

ADDRESS *Reverend J. A. Tharpe*

HYMN 461 *George Keith*

ADDRESS *Reverend C. T. Thrift*

HYMN 180 *Edward Perronet*

GREETINGS FROM FORMER PASTORS AND FRIENDS

HYMN 50 *Henry F. Lyte*

BENEDICTION

PRESENT GAVEL TO BISHOP KERN

Gift One of Features of Dedication of Pilmoor Methodist Church

Currituck, July 17, 1935--Bishop Paul B. Kern, who preached the dedicatory sermon at the Pilmoor Memorial Methodist Church here Sunday morning was presented a gavel made of willow grown on the site of the first Methodist church in North Carolina.

The Bishop said that he would use this gavel when he presides over the sessions of the North Carolina conferences this year.

In presenting the church to the Bishop for dedication, the pastor, Rev. E. G. Overton, said

"This church is a memorial to North Carolina Methodism, being located near the site where Joseph Pilmoor preached the first Methodist sermon in North Carolina on September 28, 1772.

"A bequest of \$2,000 by the late Albert M. Simmons, in whose memory we are today dedicating the pulpit furniture, gave impetus to the movement for starting the new church building, which was begun and completed under the splendid ministry and leadership of Rev. C. T. Thrift. Rev. J. A. Tharpe followed him and a debt of several thousand dollars was paid during his term. Miss Maud Newbury, then Superintendent of Education in Currituck County, made a fine contribution of leadership in the building of the church and we are soon to erect a community house on these grounds in her honor and memory.

"Today the church is free of indebtedness with a membership of 200, and a beautiful spirit of brotherly love prevails here. The influence of the church is evident in North Carolina Methodism."

Bishop Kern spoke on "Jesus the Chief Cornerstone."
(Copy of a newspaper article)

OTHER MINISTERS OF PILMOOR CHURCH

Rev. A. E. Brown was assigned to the charge 1936-1939. He was followed by the Rev. L. T. Singleton, 1939-1943. When visiting his church members, Rev. Singleton always carried an empty bushel basket in the trunk of his car. If anyone had extra vegetables, etc., to give to him, he was well prepared.

The enthusiasm and interest in the church bus seemed to decline, and by about 1940, the bus was out of operation. On December 7, 1941, World War II was declared, and it became necessary to ration gas. People began to attend the church nearest their home, and a great number of our young people left the county. The congregation at Pilmoor decreased considerably.

Rev. R. L. Crossno was assigned to the charge 1943-1948. He married Miss Catherine Poyner of Moyock, NC, during his pastorate here. In the fifth year of his pastorate, Pilmoor Memorial Methodist Church celebrated its twentieth year of service to the community (summer of 1948). During Rev. Crossno's pastorate, a group of friends gave the church a baptismal font in memory of Miss Maud Newbury.

Rev. Crossno, like the other ministers who followed Rev. Overton, continued to preach at Ebenezer and Sharon churches until about 1947. The war was over in 1945, so many of our young ministers were beginning to take over their duties here at home. Ebenezer and Sharon churches were put on the Currituck charge.

Rev. McClelland came to the charge in 1948-1950, followed by Rev. Jimmy Miller, 1950-1951. Pilmoor Church was Rev. Miller's first assignment. He was assigned to another charge the next year and was given the responsibility of building a church. The congregation was grieved at his leaving the charge, and his last sermon was tearful for both the congregation and Jimmy.

Rev. Schuyler was assigned to the charge in 1951-1952, followed by Rev. Norman Knight, 1952-1956. Rev. and Mrs. Knight both had beautiful voices, and Mrs. Knight played the organ. The old organ from Baxter's Grove Church had been used up until this time. Finally, a new organ was purchased. The Wurlitzer Company allowed \$50 for the old organ, which was loaded on the truck and hauled away. Both adult and junior choirs were started. The adult choir was under the direction of Mrs. Ken Wilson, and Mrs. Knight directed the junior choir. Choir robes were made, and both choirs were considered among the best in the county. The church grounds were re-landscaped during the pastorate of Rev. Knight. Also, the church year had begun in November until about 1952 when it was changed to July.

Rev. R. D. Ricks was assigned to the charge in 1956-1959. In the spring of 1957, the idea of redecorating the church was brought before the congregation. This idea received the enthusiastic support of the members of the church. It was decided that the contract would be given to Martin Decorating Company of Elizabeth City, NC. The church was redecorated down to the last pew. The people were pleased, and their generous contributions made it possible to pay in full when the job was completed. The M. Y. F. paid for having the altar cushions and chair cushions recovered.

In the spring of 1959, the members of Moyock Methodist Church conceived the idea of becoming a station church. Rev. Heath, District Superintendent, encouraged the proposal and presented plans to Pilmoor Church as to how it could become a station church. The congregation accepted the plans, and for the first time in the history of our church, we were to have a full time pastor.

A house was rented from Mr. Norman Ballance for a parsonage. Pilmoor Church received \$500 from Moyock Church for their part of the furniture from the Moyock parsonage. The people worked hard to furnish the parsonage and had it ready for the new minister - Rev. Thomas White (a student preacher) who was assigned to Pilmoor Church in 1959-1961. Needless to say, this was a new experience for both the minister and the congregation. However, Rev. White and the people worked together to make Pilmoor Church a station one.

In the fall of 1960, Rev. White stated to the official board the need of another Sunday School room. It was decided that the kitchen wall would be removed, turning the hallway (on the right) and kitchen into one room. This is the only change that has been made to the original plan of the interior of the church.

Rev. J. J. Grimes was assigned to Pilmoor Church in 1961-1964. During Rev. Grimes' pastorate, Mrs. Alice Minges gave the church the beautiful altar set in honor of her mother, Mrs. Ina Hampton, and in memory of her Grandmother Midgett. Mrs. O. L. Hall gave the communion rail in memory of her late husband. Mrs. Glenna Addison gave a Bible, and M. Y. F. gave two lecterns.

Rev. Rufus M. Smithson was assigned to Pilmoor Church in 1964. The church attendance doubled the first year of Rev. Smithson's pastorate. Mrs. Inez Doxey gave the church a picture of Christ in memory of her son, Marvin. Chimes were installed at the church in honor of Mr. S. G. Chandler, whose faithfulness and services to Pilmoor Church for the past thirteen years shall never be forgotten. The M. Y. F.

and W. S. C. S. have donated a film projector and screen to the church. The membership roll has been completely revised, and Pilmoor Church has a membership of 152 (at the end of church year 1964).

FACULTY MEMBERS WILL BE HONORED AT PILMOOR CHURCH

Currituck--Pilmoor Memorial Methodist Church will honor Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Chandler and family, Mr. and Mrs. Edsil Porter and family, Miss Judy Phillips, Graham Smart and the faculty of Knapp High School and their families, Sunday, at a covered dish luncheon on the church grounds. Mr. Chandler, who resigned as Superintendent of Schools, has been chairman of the official board of the church, a church and district lay leader and a Sunday School teacher.

Mr. Porter has been Sunday School Superintendent. He and his family are to move away from Currituck soon. Miss Phillips and Mr. Smart, Knapp High teachers who will not return, have been active in Methodist Youth Fellowship work. Only two members of Knapp's 12 teacher and principal faculty will return next fall.

At the morning service, recently installed chimes at the church will be dedicated, provided that donations enough have been received before then to finish paying for them. They were installed in honor of Chandler. Fifty-five dollars are needed to make up the necessary amount.

The chimes consist of an amplifier with two speakers and a record player. They have been in use two Sundays, with music being played for 15 minutes before Sunday School. (Copy of a Sunday, June 6, 1965, newspaper article)

July 7, 1965

Dear Church Members:

Another Church Year has ended. It was a big year for our church since it was our first year as a fully self-supporting station church. At the beginning of the church year we asked each member to support their church with their prayers, attendance, and contributions. We are extremely happy and proud to report that your church did meet all its financial obligations; not only did we meet our obligations, but we met them prior to our Pastor going to Annual Conference. Of the thirty seven churches in this district, Pilmoor was among the twenty whose Pastor could report paid in full at the time the conference began. Also the church attendance more than doubled during the year, and it was evident that many prayers were offered in support of the church.

Your Pastor and this committee wish to thank you for your support.

Now we are already beginning a new year. Enclosed is your copy of the budget and a statement for the fourth quarter ending June 30.

You will notice that the new budget has only a slight increase over last year; however, we must call your attention to the fact that we will lose several good church members this summer due to job changes, etc. We are again asking you to continue the kind of christian support that was evident throughout last year.

If our church is to grow each of us must take an active interest in the following:

1. Attend church regular and encourage others in our area to come to our church and worship with us.
2. Support the Official Board and other committees with our time and talents.
3. Study the budget and, if possible, keep our obligations paid on a monthly basis. If we get behind, it is difficult to catch up.

In closing we are happy to inform you that our Pastor was returned to us for another year and is looking forward to seeing you in church next Sunday and throughout the year.

J. M. Pritchard, Chairman
Finance Committee
Mrs. Frances Morris, Sec.

P. S. We would like to remind you that this committee considers its members as your servants. If you have any suggestions on how we can do a better job, please let us know.

BUDGET FOR PILMOOR CHURCH 1965-66

BY

PILMOOR MEMORIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

Current Expense.....\$1,808.00
Pastor's Salary..... 3,050.00
Pastor's Travel..... 850.00
Utilities..... 400.00
Conference Moving Fund 25.00

TOTAL LOCAL WORK.....\$6,133.00

District Work.....\$ 86.00
2% Pastor's Salary
and Expense
Episcopal Fund..... 61.00
2% Pastor's Salary
District Superintendent 168.00
5½% Pastor's Salary
Conference Pension 488.00
16% Pastor's Salary
Minister's Retirement 61.00
2% Pastor's Salary
Minimum Salary Fund.. 142.00
Benevolences.....500.00

TOTAL CONFERENCE WORK\$1,506.00

TOTAL BUDGET.....\$7,639.00

Local Expenses Itemized:

Building Improvements.....\$ 175.00
CS Literature..... 330.00
Fuel, electricity..... 300.00
Church Insurance..... 128.00
Parsonage Rent..... 420.00
Organist..... 130.00
Miscellaneous.....325.00

TOTAL.....\$1,808.00

Special Offerings:

- Church School Rally Day
- Communion Sunday
- Race Relations Sunday
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Mother's Day
- Methodist Student Day
- Methodist Home for Children

Free-will offerings will be taken on a designated Sunday for each of the above.

A contribution of \$146.90 per Sunday will pay this budget. This is an increase of \$2.69 per Sunday.

C O P Y

**LIST OF MINISTERS
OF
PILMOOR MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH**

Rev. Charles Tinsley Thrift	-1928
Rev. John A. Tharpe	1928-1933
Rev. E. G. Overton	1933-1936
Rev. A. E. Brown	1936-1939
Rev. L. T. Singleton	1939-1943
Rev. R. L. Crossno	1943-1948
Rev. Aubrey McClelland & Rev. Ambrose Burgess	1948-1950
Rev. Jimmy Miller	1950-1951
Rev. Phillip Schuyler	1951-1952
Rev. Norman Knight	1952-1956
Rev. R. D. Ricks	1956-1959
Rev. Thomas White	1959-1961
Rev. J. J. Grimes	1961-1964
Rev. Rufus M. Smithson, Jr.	1964-

CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

(1928-1965)

Miss Maud C. Newbury

Mrs. Tom Taylor

Miss Goldie Harrell

Mr. E. W. Addison

Mrs. Hilda J. Brumsey

Mr. L. G. Markert

Mr. Wallace Davis, Jr.

Mr. Edsil Porter

Miss Mildred Dudley



Pilmoor Church and grounds
as they looked in 1965

The church, fronted by the beautiful Currituck Sound, stands about 200 yards south of the old Currituck Courthouse, where Joseph Pilmoor preached his first sermon in the Carolina Colony on September 28, 1772.

To the best of my knowledge and the materials available to me, this is the true history of Pilmoor Memorial Methodist Church, Currituck, North Carolina.

It is believed that this history will be of great value to the ministers who come to Pilmoor Church, and it is requested that they add a brief summary of their pastorate at Pilmoor to Volume II.

Margaret C. Pritchard

This volume, compiled by Margaret C. Fritchard as the true history of Pilmoor Memorial Methodist Church, Currituck, North Carolina, has been read and approved by:

Members of Pilmoor Church:

Jessie J. Humphries
Blanche L. Cuckson
Lesla B. Hacc
Ray P. Midgitt

Chairman of the Official Board:

Ernest W. Taylor

Pastor:

Rev. R. M. Smithson

Revised Edition 1984,

Margaret C. Fritchard

Pastor:

Rev. Raymond K. Withman

Credits

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Poem used on page 3 taken from the 1964 **North Carolina Conference Journal**, page 159.