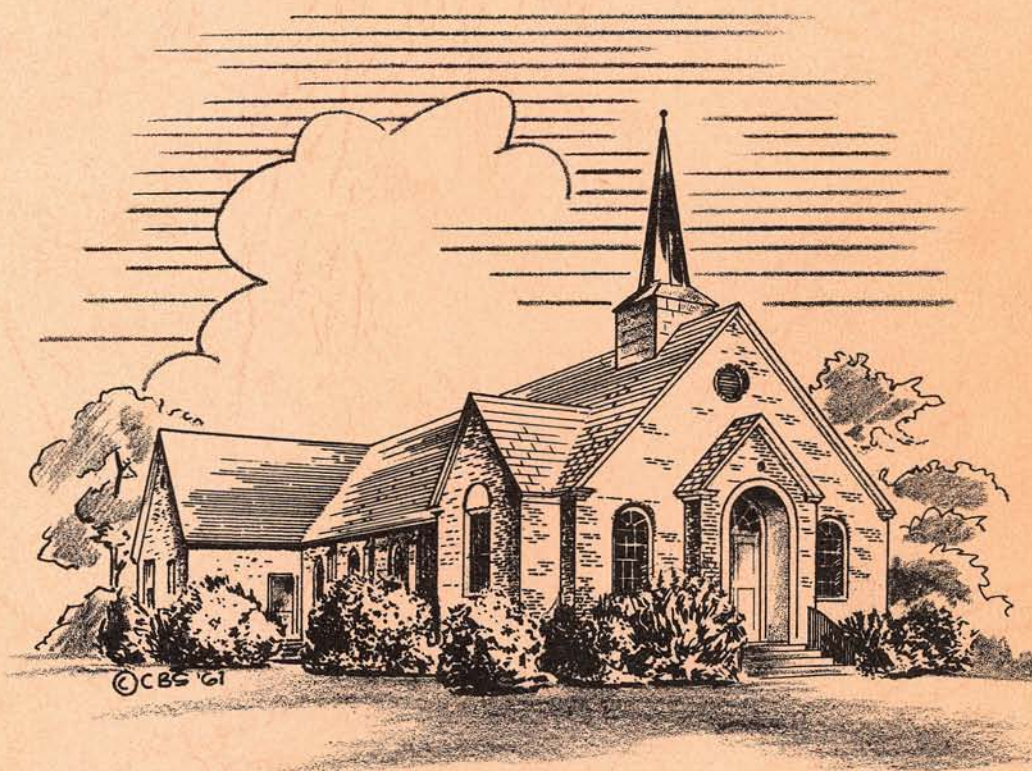


HISTORY OF
PILMOOR MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
CURRITUCK, N. C.



WHERE METHODISM BEGAN IN NORTH CAROLINA

Compiled by Margaret C. Pritchard

VOLUME I

1965

ARCL 86

HISTORY OF
PILMOOR MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
Currituck, North Carolina

Compiled by
Margaret C. Pritchard

Volume I

August, 1965

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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HISTORY OF
PILMOOR MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

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, and two years later 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 Methodist 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 to all intents and purposes had become an independent 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 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:

- (1) The eastern portion of the former North Carolina Conference of The Methodist Protestant Church.

- (2) The former North Carolina Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South.
- (3) 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:

- (1) The North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1828, at Whitaker's Chapel in Halifax County, North Carolina.
- (2) The North Carolina Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1837, at Petersburg, Virginia.
- (3) 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 were accomplished by the Unification of the three major branches of American Methodism in the United States at Kansas City, Missouri, 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)

METHODISM COMES TO NORTH CAROLINA

In the year of Our Lord 1769, the Methodist Conference was held in Leeds, England. Mr. Wesley told the conference of the appeals he had received from the Methodist that had come to the New World.

After placing this matter squarely to the Conference, he then asked, "Who are willing to go to America as Missionaries?" As a result, Richard Boardman and Joseph Filmoor volunteered.

That Annual Conference raised an amount equal to \$7.00 per member to aid Boardman and Filmoor. They landed in America at Gloucester Point, six miles from Philadelphia on October 24, 1769.

Boardman went to New York and took up work there while Filmoor remained around Philadelphia. In the fall of 1772 he turned his face southward, stopping in Maryland to preach and strengthen the work begun by Strawbridge, after which he extended his itinerary into eastern Virginia and then through eastern North and South Carolina into Georgia as far as Savannah. He was the first Methodist minister to preach in North Carolina; and his first sermon in the state was preached at Currituck Court House on the 28th day of September 1772, to Churchmen, Baptists, Presbyterians, and others, using as a text his phrase from the 11th verse of the 3rd chapter of Matthew: "He sahl baptise you with the Holy Ghost and with Fire." (taken from a copy of an article written by Rev. J. A. Tharpe)

Written proof that Joseph Filmoor preached the first Methodist sermon in the state of North Carolina at Currituck Courthouse, September 28, 1772, was found in:

American Guide Series
North Carolina
1944 edition - 1955 edition
Page 86 and 293 Page 67
Public Library at Currituck, N. C.

Sharpes Geography of N.C.
Volume 3
Page 1300
Public Library at
Currituck, N. C.

Christian Advocate
April 1, 1932

CURRITUCK, NORTH CAROLINA

In 1654 some early emigrants who had settled in southeastern Virginia ventured into Currituck Sound through Currituck Inlet. They sailed on to Roanoke Island and explored the scene of Sir Walter Raleigh's attempt to colonize this country with English people. Although Raleigh's attempt had taken place some 70 years before they located the ruins of the old fort. They mingled and created friendly relations with several tribes of Indians. We have no record of where they settled. At that time Currituck Inlet was a major means of entry for explorers and colonists. A sailing vessel of seven foot draft could easily pass through. The inlet was just north of Corolla, or Whales Head. A storm, we have been told back in ~~the eighteen~~ ¹⁸²⁸ ~~and forties~~ partially closed it for navigation. Though storms have opened it a number of times in later years it soon closes again.

This section later known as Currituck County was one of the very earliest settlement areas in North Carolina. It was formed in 1670 as a precinct in Albemarle County.

Currituck is one of four original precincts established by the Lords Proprietors and it derives its name from a tribe of Indians who once inhabited and owned the county. It is situated in the extreme northeastern portion of the state and is bounded on the north by the state of Virginia, east by the Atlantic Ocean, south by the Albemarle Sound and west by Camden County.
(a copy of a newspaper article)

CURRITUCK

Twenty-seven variations of the word "Currituck," have been found.

The oldest spelling, "Caratoke," was found in a 1654 letter, which referred to "an inlet south of Cape Henry called Caratoke."

In 1740 the General Assembly spelled the word "Currituck." From then on the clerks adopted this form and changes ceased.

A list of the variations of the word, compiled by Mr. Dudley Bagley,
is in the public library at Currituck. (taken from a librarian report)

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 Feyner 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 ~~12~~inch 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.)*

It is said that the old wood courthouse burned and most of the old records with it.

A new one and one-half story building was constructed from brick and hardware brought to Currituck by sailboat. The materials were transferred to flats and hauled to the landing. This new building consisted of a clerks office, register of deeds office, and a courtroom on the first floor. Each

room had a fireplace and mantel. The courtroom extended out the back of the building. The front entrance opened into the courtroom and stairways were on the left and right as you entered the door. There was an outside door to the clerks office and register of deeds office.

It is said that during the Civil War a group of Yankees camped at the courthouse for a few days. They used many of the valuable papers to start fires.

The courthouse was remodeled in 1897. (Minutes book B, Page 138, in Currituck Courthouse, July 5, 1897) This date, 1897, can be found on a brick at the left end of the courthouse. At this time the courthouse was made into a full two story building with bricks and hardware brought to Currituck on the freight and passenger boat "Comet." The "Comet" was a stern wheeler 125 feet in length and had 15 staterooms. This boat carried freight as well as passengers. Two rooms were added on the back and the outside doors to the clerks office and the register of deeds office were replaced by windows. By viewing the front of the building, one can see where the two doors were. (second window from each end of building) The steps from each of these doors were combined with the entrance steps, making a wider entrance. Looking at the end of the building, one will discover that the old part was about half that width. You can tell the difference in the mortar, both at the ends and under the two windows mentioned.

An old well stood at the left end of the courthouse until about 1950. Also two huge oak trees stood in front of the courthouse until about 1917. It is said they died as a result of pouring the salt water from ice cream freezers on the ground. Homemade ice cream was always sold during March and September court. The tables were made around the trees; and as the freezers were emptied of ice cream, the salt water was poured out.

The courthouse, beautifully located on Currituck Sound, was remodeled again in 1953.

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 the Tulls Creek road near N. C. highway 34, 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 of the interior of the house was the molded plaster Medallion in the ceiling of the living room, from which the chandelier hung. The house was destroyed by fire in 1962, and the property is now owned by Austin West.

On the 21st day of October, 1902, (deed book 45, p. 356) Josephus Baum, R. O. Bagley, and T. W. Baxter, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South sold the parsonage, out buildings and tract of land, located on Tulls Creek Road, for the sum of \$650 to Dr. J. M. Nuwburn. The Rev. Rufus Bradley was pastor at that time.

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, sold a certain tract of land in Moyock Village, $\frac{1}{4}$ acre more or less, to be used for a parsonage lot for the minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. In consideration of one dollar to them paid by 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) A parsonage dwelling, not to cost less than \$1500, was to be constructed and to be paid for in the period of two years. Otherwise the trustees were to pay \$200 to said Vandecarr as a purchase price.



Used as a parsonage by Baxter's Grove and Filmoor Churches 1912-1958. This building still stands. It is located next to the Moyock Methodist Church along highway 168. (Picture taken 1965)

A house has been rented from Mr. Norman Ballance for a parsonage since 1958. This house is located near Currituck on N. C. highway 34.



BAXTER'S GROVE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH



1860-1928

Baxter's Grove Church was built in 1860. It was located three miles north of Currituck Courthouse on Tulls Creek Road. The one and three-fourth acre church lot was purchased from Mr. William F. Baxter by Samuel Ferebee, Thomas L. Sanderson, William C. Mercer, Tully Halstead, Jos Hale, Wilson Sanderlin, Jasper Jerrard, and Benjamin T. Simmons, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South at a price named in the deed of \$10. The deed was made on the 29th day of September 1860. (deed book 28, p. 419, in Currituck Courthouse)

Baxter's Grove Church was a beautiful little one room wood structure painted white with stained glass windows. There were two front doors, and usually the men used the one on the right.

No church will ever have a more beautiful setting than this little church in the woods. It was peaceful and quiet, and the birds in the trees would sing along with the congregation on Sunday mornings with Miss Lucille

Baxter at the old organ. There were no notes in the hymnals, just the words. However, the congregation did very well--considering it numbered not more than forty persons.

Each Sunday in the winter a handful of members met and shivered around a little box heater. Needless to say, they were a group with a real pioneer Christian spirit.

Then there was a week long protracted meeting in the summer-time. People came in carts, buggies, and even sailboats, while those in walking distance came on foot. All were dressed in their Sunday clothes with many of the ladies carrying parasols. If the weather was extremely hot, the ladies brought along a goose wing to fan with. There were parents with their children, young men with their best girls, and old maids and bachelors.

The men would set up tables under the huge trees, and the ladies would spread them with a delicious feast. There was baked pig, corn pone, biscuits, tomato pudding, chicken pot pie, country ham, fried chicken, corn pudding, cabbage, string beans, pickles, and all kinds of cakes and pies. 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.

In the fall of 1923, there were three churches on the Moyock Circuit--Moyock, Perkins Chapel, and Baxter's Grove. Mr. R. O. Bagley, a leading steward of the Moyock Church, decided that Moyock Circuit could and ought to be a better charge. This decision was revealed to Mr. C. L. Mackey, also a steward of the Moyock Church. Mr. Mackey shared this belief; and the two stewards called on Mr. T. W. Baxter of Baxter's Grove and Mr. J. J. Forbes of Perkins Chapel, respective stewards of said churches, and disclosed to them their desire and belief. This group of men, representing the three churches of the charge, of their own volition, called upon Rev. C. B. Culbreth, Presiding Elder, and made known to him their desire, willingness, and faith.

He offered his cooperation; and as a result, the Bishop assigned Rev. C. T. Thrift to the charge during the Annual Conference.

These good men, willing to carry into effect their undertaking, at the first Quarterly Conference raised the pastor's salary from \$1,100 to \$1,600. The salary of the pastor was raised to \$2,000 the second year and then to \$2,400. The pastor's salary remained at that point until continuous crop failure forced it to \$1,800 in the years 1932--1933.

In the third year of Mr. Thrift's pastorate, Mr. A. M. Simmons, for many years an attorney and superintendent of Baxter's Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, South, passed on to his reward. Mr. Simmons bequeathed \$2,000 to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South for the purpose of helping to build a church within one and one-fourth miles of Currituck Courthouse. (will book 6, pp. 122-124) This gift was the prime factor in the beginning of the new church. At that time Baxter's Grove had a membership of 64 persons.

North Carolina, Currituck County

I, A. M. Simmons of the county and state aforesaid, do make and declare this to be my last will and testament.

- (1) I give and bequeath...
- (2) I give and bequeath...
- (3) I give and bequeath to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South two thousand dollars for the purpose of helping to build a church within one and one-fourth of a mile of Currituck Courthouse, N. C.
- (4) Balance of my property I give and bequeath to Methodist Orphanage at Raleigh, N. C.

Witness my hand and seal this 4th day of December, 1918.

A. M. Simmons

probated: May 1, 1926 (will book 6, pp. 122-124)

Some of the Ministers of

Baxter's Grove Church

- James*
 Rev. J. C. Hummer--1864 *1860 Was 33 yrs. old in the 1860 census. Wife Anna - daughter Alice - 8 mos. old.*
- Rev. J. H. Dalby--1884 *J. T. Routten - 1888 - 1889 Baxter's Grove records.*
- Rev. J. H. M. Giles--about 1898; wore a goatee; preached first and third Sundays *Joshua L. Garrett - 1867 marriage records*
- Rev. Rufus Bradley--1902; had red hair
- Rev. James Y. Olds
- Rev. S. J. Kilpatrick*
 * ~~Rev. S. J. Kilpatrick~~--married Mr. Wilse Creekmore's widow of Moyock, N. C.
- Rev. M. Y. Self--1911
- Rev. W. B. Humble--weighed 225 lbs.
- Rev. B. B. Holder
- * ~~Rev. S. J. Kilpatrick~~
- Rev. T. J. Folger
- Rev. J. B. Hurley
- Rev. B. H. Black
- Rev. A. C. Jorden
- Rev. Martin
- Rev. W. M. Hester--had a beautiful voice
- Rev. Charles T. Thrift--1923-1928; the first pastor of the charge who had a car

Churches and Pastors in Currituck County--1884

"Branson's North Carolina Directory"

(Names, Post offices, Pastors, and Denomination)

Methodist

- Moyock--Currituck Courthouse, J. H. Dalby
- Baxter's Grove--Currituck Courthouse, J. H. Dalby
- Perkins Chapel--Indian Town (Camden County), J. H. Dalby

Narrow Shore--Poplar Branch, J. H. Dalby

Ebenezer--Powells Point, J. H. Dalby

Coinjock--Coinjock, J. H. Dalby

Poplar Branch--Poplar Branch, J. H. Dalby

Baptist

Providence--Indian Town (Camden County), W. L. Maget

Rehobeth--Currituck Courthouse, W. L. Maget

Powell's Point-- Powell's Point, W. L. Maget

Shady Grove--Currituck Courthouse, O. C. Horton

Ministers Residents

(Names, Post offices, and Denominations)

Dalby, J. H., Currituck Courthouse, Methodist

Horton, O. C., Currituck Courthouse, Baptist

Maget, W. L., Currituck Courthouse, Baptist

Wicker, J. D., Fowells Point, Prim. Baptist

Miss Maud G. ...
Miss Lillian ...
Mrs. O. L. H. ...
Mrs. Russell ...
Mr. Thomas ...
Mr. Russell ...
Mr. Will H. ...
Mr. Thomas J. ...
Mr. Harry G. ...
Mr. John W. ...

On July 14, 1903, an agreement was made between the Board of Public Works (contractor of Norfolk, Va.) and the Episcopal Church, South to build the ...
... to be completed on or before ...
... pages are a copy of the articles.

THE NEW CHURCH--PILMOOR MEMORIAL METHODIST

Rev. Charles T. Thrist, knowing of Mr. Simmons will, conceived the idea of building a new church at Currituck as a memorial to Joseph Filmoor. This idea received the enthusiastic support of the members of the church. So on March 6, 1927, the pastor appointed a committee to solicit contributions for the new Methodist Church at Currituck, North Carolina.

Committee

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.)

On the 1st 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--page 259) The price of the lot was \$500.

After the purchase of the lot, the 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, Va.) 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 articles 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 CALROW, 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

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

No pastor was ever more fortunate than Rev. Thrift in having faithful and loyal helpers. Miss Maud C. Newbury, an outstanding worker, was not only loyal in hard work for the project but was also the largest local contributor to the building funds. 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 figured that until the congregation increased in size and recovered from the financial depression, they could pay the \$500 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.

The congregation moved into the new church in October of 1928 using the old pews and pulpit furniture from Baxter's Grove Church until they could pay for the new furniture, which had been ordered.



Pilmoor Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South and grounds as they looked in October, 1928.

It is believed that Miss Newbury or Rev. Thrift, just before he left the charge, 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} located about two miles north of Shawboro, with Pilmoor Methodist Church at Currituck. However, consolidation was never at any time put to a vote by the members of Asbury Church. Those who wanted to move their membership to Pilmoor did so, but there were those who wanted Asbury Church to remain in operation as long as possible. But in 1934 Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South was disbanded. The land, lot, and church building was sold for \$200 on the 30th day of June, 1934, by Sam Dudley, T. J. Taylor, A. P. Barco, R. P. Midgette, and H. L. Welsted, trustees of the church. (Deed book 67--page 191) Some of the members moved their membership to Pilmoor and their contributions of faithfulness and love have helped make Pilmoor Church the wonderful church it is today. However, there were some who never moved their membership 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.

Rev. John A. Tharpe was assigned to the charge 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. The people grew to love Rev. Tharpe. They prayed and worked together to reach their goal.

1928 before Conference
Conference on notes and
(including \$1000 from Church Extension
Fund by Lake Foundation before
total to date from all sources-----

Total balance-----

As was promised (On condition) by the
Lake Foundation

\$1000 to be paid when \$10,000 has been
raised and final \$2000 to pay entire

As was promised a loan from the
Church Extension Board (When 3/4 is

Total Gift and Loan from two Boards

Total balance-----

The total promised from the Boards
The total balance to be raised-----

We are so glad that this \$363.67 sum
which will make our gift and loan on property
made by behalf of the Church Extension Board,
and we are glad that 2/3 of the building cost. I
want to give our minds and get us about this

We all believe that this Church of
positive influence for good over the entire
district to help raise this deficit will prove
and you have been called upon to make, not in
directly perhaps. But the influence for good
has to be your neighbors and your neighbors of
your investment, for after all has been said,
children and their welfare is of far more import
and good.

Thanking each of you for your prayers
this week, I am

Yours sincerely,
Rev. J. A. Tharpe

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

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. O. L. Hall
Mrs. Olin Doxey	Mrs. Norman Ballance
Mrs. Russell Griggs	Mrs. Thomas Taylor
Mrs. Vernon Creekmore	Mrs. William Edwards
Miss Lillian Flora	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

C O P Y

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.....

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
	<i>Stewards - Miss Lillian Flora Mr. Thomas Baxter Mr. William Edwards</i>

On Sunday, November 15, 1930, the congregation of Filmoor 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 committees 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.

The Ladies Aid was one of the most active organizations of its kind. It cooperated in every undertaking of the church.

Filmoor Church was the first brick church to be built in Currituck County. It has a sanctuary seating capacity of 200.

Total cost of building, lot,
and furnishings.....\$20,207.55

Total amount raised in the
conference year 1927 and 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 and 1929..... 13,027.00

Total paid for landscaping, etc..... 1,376.00

Total.....\$14,403.00

This full amount was raised and paid in the conference years
1928, 1929, 1930, and 1931.

Total cost including landscaping.....\$21,583.55

The landscaping of the church grounds was done by Mr. Dudley Bagley at a cost of \$1,376. Mr. Joseph P. Knapp donated \$1000 of this amount and the remainder was cared for by the very splendid work of the Ladies Aid.

By 1933 the shrubery 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.

Filmoor Memorial Methodist Church is indeed a memorial church, not only to Joseph Filmoor, but to a group of real pioneer Christians with a spirit similar to that of our forefathers.

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.
January 10, 1929.

School, Theatre
and
Church Furniture

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>
	\$855.20
Balance due,	\$420.80

C O P Y

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

MINISTERS OF PILMOOR CHURCH

At the beginning of the conference year 1929-1930, the membership of Pilmoor Church numbered only 64. The congregation, unwilling to rest on their oars, found new channels of activity and service in the spring of 1931. They 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 for purchasing and maintaining a church bus was made to a church conference in June by Miss Newbury, Superintendent of the church. 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 \$1000. This bus operated free of any transportation charge and was christened "Miss Memorial" on her maiden trip 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 Norma Ballance and Louise Taylor. 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, but during the week of revival services that immediately followed, it proved to be a different story, for she 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, a merchant, who lived at Tulls Creek, about six miles from Currituck, 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 contribution of these visitors alone would finance the truck driver's salary.

At the time the bus was first put in use, the Sunday School had around

100 enrolled; but a year later, July 1932, the enrollment was 160 with an average attendance of 125. Another year later on July 16, 1933, there were 256 on roll and 154 present. (This was below average.) One class met in the bus because of the need of sufficient room.

The membership of Filmoor Church had exactly doubled by 1933.



"Miss Memorial" 1931

Men's Bible Class Give 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, Morressette 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.

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,
Raieigh, 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

Due to the steady increase in membership at Pilmoor Church and the active congregation of Moyock Church, it was decided that a two church charge, consisting of Pilmoor and Moyock churches, would be in the best interest of all concerned. After talking with the Presiding Elder, Perkins Church was put on the South Camden charge at the beginning of the next conference year. (November 1933)

Rev. E. G. Overton was assigned to the charge at the beginning of the new church year. Under the efficient leadership of Rev. Overton, the church continued to grow. In 1933 the church membership was 128, 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.

On July 14, 1935, Rev. E. G. Overton presented Pilmoor Church to the Bishop for dedication.

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."

Rev. Brown was assigned to the charge 1936-1939. He was followed by the Rev. L. T. Singleton (1939-1943).

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 Filmoor decreased considerably.

Rev. R. L. Crossno was assigned to the charge 1943-1948. He married Miss Catherine Poyner of Moyock, N. C. during his pastorate here. In the fifth year of his pastorate, Filmoor Memorial Methodist Church celebrated its twentieth year of service to the community (summer of 1948).

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.

During Rev. Crossno's pastorate, a group of friends gave the church a baptismal font in memory of Miss Maud Newbury.

Currituck Church Begins Twentieth Year of Service

The congregation of the Filmoor Memorial Methodist Church at Currituck Courthouse will celebrate the church's twentieth year of service to the community this year.

The church which was built in 1928, is named in honor of Joseph Filmoor who was sent to America by Wesley in the early 1770's. Filmoor preached the first Methodist sermon ever heard in North Carolina at Currituck Courthouse near the spot where Memorial Church now stands, on September 28, 1772.

Filmoor Memorial was constructed under the pastorate of the Rev. C. T. Thrift. It occupies a commanding position fronting on the state highway and overlooking Currituck Sound. The cost of building the edifice, including furnishings came to \$21,583.55. The greater part of the expense was underwritten by friends and members of the congregation who contributed \$12,083.55.

Other contributions were made by the North Carolina Board of Church Extension which gave \$1000, the General Board of Church Extension which donated \$500, the Duke Foundation \$6000 and the late F. W. Simmons, Currituck attorney who gave \$2000.

The edifice, which was the first brick church to be built in Currituck County has an auditorium seating capacity of 200. In addition the building contains several Sunday school classrooms and a kitchenette. The church is a center of community social activity.

Under the direction of its present pastor, the Rev. R. L. Crossno, who is entering his fifth year as head of the Filmoor Memorial Methodist Church, the congregation has increased to approximately 65 people.

On July 5, 1931, the church inaugurated what is believed to be the first regularly scheduled church bus service in the world. In dedication ceremonies the bus was christened Miss Memorial.

Rev. McClelland came to the charge in 1948-1950, followed by Rev. Jimmy Miller (1950-1951).

Filmoor 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 (1952-1955). Rev. and Mrs. Knight both had beautiful voices and Mrs. Knight played the organ. We had used the old organ from Baxter's Grove Church up until this time. So a new organ was purchased and both adult and junior choirs 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.

The church year began in November until about 1952 when it was changed to July.

Rev. R. D. Ricks was assigned to the charge in 1955-1959. In the spring of 1956 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, N. C. 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 Filmoor 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. Normen 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, the 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 the picture of Christ in memory of her son, Marvin. Chimes were installed at the church in honor of Mr. S. C. 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 Member:

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.

CHURCH DIRECTORY 1965-1966

Church School Superintendent Miss Mildred Dudley
 Assistant Church School Superintendent Vernon L. Creekmore
 Financial Secretary Mrs. Travis Morris
 Chief Usher. W. O. Doxey

OFFICIAL BOARD

Chairman. Ernest Taylor
 Vice-Chairman Carmel Walker
 Secretary. Mrs. Walton Meiggs
 Treasurer. Mrs. Walton Meiggs

ELECTIVE STEWARDS

Vernon F. Creekmore	W. O. Doxey	Alton Taylor
Vernon L. Creekmore	Mrs. M. A. Guard	Ernest Taylor
Mrs. Wallace Davis, Jr.	Mrs. L. G. Markert	Mrs. Ernest Taylor

HONORARY STEWARDS

Mr. Adrian Mathias	Mr. R. P. Midgett	Mr. C. T. Ross
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TRUSTEES

1966	1967	1967	1968
H. T. Mason, Sr.	Norman Ballance	L. A. Powell	Luther West

CHURCH OFFICIALS

Pastor	R. M. Smithson, Jr.
Church Lay Leader	Wallace Davis, Jr.
W. S. C. S. President	Mrs. R. M. Smithson, Jr.
Commission on Evangelism Chairman	Carmel Walker
Education Commission Chairman	L. G. Markert
Missions Commission Chairman	Mrs. Paul Hampton
Christian Social Concerns	Mrs. H. T. Mason, Sr.
Finance Chairman	Joe Pritchard
Communion Steward	Mrs. Paul Hampton and Mrs. Edna Lindsay

PARSONAGE COMMITTEE

Mr. Walton Meiggs	Mrs. Norman Ballance
Mrs. Walton Meiggs	Mrs. Paul Hampton
Mrs. Ernest Taylor	

PASTORAL RELATIONS

Vernon L. Creekmore, Chairman	Mrs. Carmel Walker
Mrs. Travis Morris	

CHRISTIAN VOCATIONS

Mrs. Stanley Behrendt	Mrs. L. G. Markert
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WILLS and LEGACIES

L. G. Markert

WORSHIP

Mrs. Alton Taylor	Mrs. Leola Hall	Mrs. Glenna Addison
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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.

LIST OF THE MINISTERS OF
FILMOOR 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.....	1952-1955
Rev. R. D. Ricks.....	1955-1959
Rev. Thomas White.....	1959-1961
Rev. J. J. Grimes.....	1961-1964
Rev. Rufus M. Smithson, Jr.....	1964-

LIST OF THE
CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS
1928 - 1965

Miss Maud C. Newbury

Mr. E. W. Addison

Mrs. Hilda J. Brumsey

Mr. L. G. Markert

Mr. Wallace Davis, Jr.

Mr. Edsil Porter

Miss Mildred Dudley

Mrs. Tom Taylor
Miss Beulah Harrell



Pilmoor Memorial 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 Filmoor preached his first sermon in North Carolina 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. Pritchard 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

Credits--

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