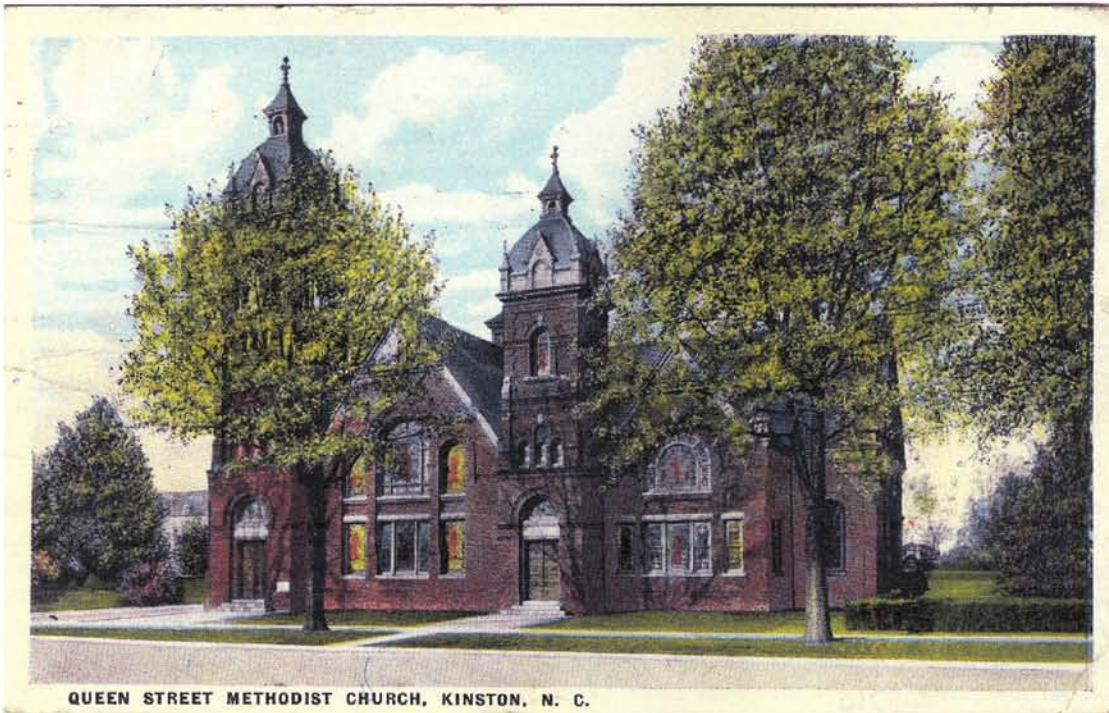


# *Our Christian Heritage*

Faith Through the Ages



## **Queen Street United Methodist Church**

*Heritage Sunday*  
**November 19, 2006**

*A Church with a Heritage Serving in the Present*

**HERITAGE SUNDAY COMMITTEE**

Mary Catherine White, Co-Chairman  
Millie Matthis, Co-Chairman

Ronald and Mary Catherine White  
George and Millie Matthis  
William H. and Dot Rowland  
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HELPERS: Sarah White, Cameron Steele, Teresa Smith, Betty Lou Trimboli, Belinda Huggins, Chester Hooten, Rachel White Parrish, Bert Alexander, Anne Johnson and Betty Blaine Worthington

**DEDICATION**

This book is dedicated to the Glory of God in thanksgiving for His blessings upon this great church and in memory of those men and women who have served Him through the ages as members of Queen Street United Methodist Church.

**FROM THE COMMITTEE**

Our work for Heritage Sunday has been a labor of love for God and for this Church. We have attempted to gather as much information as possible in the short length of time we have had to plan and organize. We are certain that mistakes will be found and omissions discovered, but they are unintentional. This is just the beginning of a greater "work in progress" in anticipation of our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011. Only one small scrapbook, compiled during the pastorate of Dr. W. Stanley Potter, has been found containing our church history. The Woman's Society is the only church program with records all the way back to 1879. All of the minutes of the administrative boards over the years were believed to had been lost. (Some records were discovered in a cabinet the day this book was being finalized). A scrapbook which contained pictures of each of the charter members has been misplaced over time. With this discovery, we realized what a mammoth project we were facing.

The information contained in this book has been derived through searching the microfilm files of early newspapers at Lenoir Community College, the Woman's Society records, and the small scrapbook, which we unearthed. We invite you to make us aware of those things which have not been included and to help us correct any errors which are discovered. In addition, Millie Matthis has spent many long hours putting together our Heritage Sunday display boards and memorabilia. There is some information which appears on the display boards which is not covered in this book. It is the committee's intention to consolidate all of this information into one book before our centennial celebration. This book would never have been completed without the assistance of Sarah White, who took off from work several days to finalize the formatting of this book.

The purpose in rushing to put this together has been our desire to honor and to record the memories of the older members of our church family. Over the past couple of years, so many precious stories about this church, which could have enriched its written history, have been lost to us along with those saints of the church who lived them. We have been made even more aware of this in 2006. Our great desire is to record the heritage of this wonderful church before anymore of its history and the personal recollections of that are lost forever.

Queen Street United Methodist Church is a church with a grand and glorious history, striving to build upon that heritage as we go forward into the future. On Heritage Sunday we glorify God, honor the past, celebrate the present, and pray for the future.

Mary Catherine White

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

We would like to thank everyone who helped make this project possible through contributions of pictures, history, and family stories. We are truly grateful to Mary Catherine White and Millie Matthis for spending many long nights digging through old papers, books, and artifacts, and combining them to make this wonderful book and displays. Through their efforts, we can better understand the heritage that we celebrate today.

Jacob Mewborn

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## HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

### THE HERITAGE OF OUR CHURCH

Methodism in Kinston dates back to the earliest days of the denomination's activities in the new world and stems from the preaching activities of America's first Methodist Bishop. Bishop Francis Asbury, in 1785, held services in the courthouse in Kinston. While Methodism cannot boast having the first church in Kinston, this was probably the earliest organized religious service held in the community. Bishop Asbury's diary indicates that he made more than one visit through this section of North Carolina and found enthusiastic friends along the banks of the Neuse River.

In 1836, there were Methodist Church services in Kinston, as part of the Snow Hill charge. The services were held in the courthouse. The pastor at that time was the Reverend Daniel Culbreth. The congregation prospered and services were moved to the newly built Episcopal Church, which the community had helped to fund since there was no other adequate meetinghouse in Kinston. By 1839, the Rev. Nathan A. Hooker, a Methodist Circuit Rider from Greene County, was preaching regularly in the town. The membership in Kinston was small for some time. Among those members from the early days were Nathan Blount, Mrs. William Holland, Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Strickland, and the Gatlins, of military fame. According to the *1899 Industrial Edition of the Kinston Free Press*, the Methodists, in the year 1851, through the efforts of the Rev. N. A. Hooker and the Rev. James B. Webb, organized the first Sunday School to be held in the town. Mr. Robert C. Hay was Superintendent.

Contrary to articles written in later years, it appears that the Methodists purchased their first lot from town officials. Although it has been stated that the church received the land as a gift from the John C. Washington family and Betsy Bulger, research indicates otherwise. The early deed books from Dobbs and Lenoir County were destroyed when the courthouse burned in 1878; however, the Grantee Index from 1746-1880 was saved. It shows the following deed indexed in a book that was burned: Book 34, page 227, Indexed as Commissioners of Kinston deed to Trustees Methodist Church. A lengthy article in the *1899 Industrial Edition of the Kinston Free Press*, attributed to two of the earliest Methodist ministers in Kinston, stated that the lot was bought from the town on June 23, 1855. *The History of Kinston and Lenoir County*, compiled by Lewis School Students as a project for the Mosley Bright Chapter DAR in 1936-1937, states that Miss Bulger and Dr. John Washington contributed toward the building of the Methodist Church. A notice ran on September 14, 1855, in *The American Advocate* advertising for construction bids for the building of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in the town of Kinston. The contract was let September 18, 1855 for a Methodist Episcopal Church to be built at the corner of Caswell and Independence Streets. Construction was completed in the summer of 1856.

The new white framed church, built in the Greek Revival style, rested on a high brick foundation. The gable front had a one story, pedimented vestibule. A louvered bell tower with a tall octagonal spire rose majestically over the town's skyline. Rev. J. W. Tucker of New Bern preached the dedicatory sermon on August 17, 1856. With the establishment of a permanent building, Kinston separated from the Snow Hill Circuit and became a station known as the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. In 1860, during an electrical storm, the building was struck by lightning and burned, destroying both the building and all of the early records of the church. Plans were made at once to build on the original foundation, and the following year the congregation began the rebuilding of the structure. The construction process was interrupted by the Civil War, during which time the unfinished church was used as a hospital for wounded Confederate and later Yankee soldiers. Many stories still circulate telling of how soldiers stabled their horses in the basement of the church to prevent them from being stolen. Even then God was at work using this church to His purpose. During one of the Yankee campaigns, Kinstonians began seeking places to hide their own valuables as well as Confederate supplies. Rev. J. B. Webb operated a factory, which was manufacturing horseshoes for the war effort. Neighborhood children helped Rev. Webb climb to the belfry of the church to hide Confederate supplies, including horseshoes. By 1867, much of the restoration had been completed. The Methodist congregation moved from their temporary quarters, below the Odd Fellows Hall, back into their church home.



Many of the names of Kinston's most prominent citizens were found among the membership rolls of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. These men and women were responsible for the early growth of Kinston and for the growth of the church as well. They were the "movers" and "shakers" of the times. Historical articles on these early members reflect their desire to give back to the community and to their church some small measure of that which

God had so richly bestowed upon them. They served in city and county governments, promoted education, supported health care, held memberships in various civic organizations, and gave assistance to the Negro population. They were the benefactors of many charitable causes.

In May of 1896, the eighteenth annual meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the North Carolina Conference met in session at the church on Caswell Street. The following December, the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, convened there. In preparation for these events, the interior of the church was remodeled and a small section added to the rear of the building. The pump organ was also replaced with a pipe organ. The *Kinston Free Press* reported that the women of the church had been laboring zealously to raise money towards church improvements in anticipation of these conferences. Evidently the women were successful, and Kinston's hospitality was praised by the *Raleigh News and Observer* following the December meeting. The paper stated, "It is not too much to say that, though many times larger than Kinston, the city of Raleigh cannot hope to surpass the character of the entertainment given in Kinston. The people of all faiths and callings united to throw open their homes to the entertainment of the delegates and visitors." This was only the first of four North Carolina Methodist Conferences to be held at our church.

From the beginning of train service in Kinston, the Methodist Sunday School Classes began taking excursions to Morehead City and sometimes to New Bern. Train cars were rented, and the classes would leave early in the morning and return that night. This was a big event for the town and great fellowship for the church. On June 15, 1910, the *Semiweekly Kinston Free Press* included the following article, "The Methodist Sunday school will operate an excursion from Kinston to Beaufort on Friday, 24. Extensive preparations are being made to make this the most pleasant of all the excursions that have been conducted by the school. The train will leave Kinston at 7:30 a. m. and on the return reach Kinston about 9 p. m. Round trip fare for adults \$1.25, children under 12 years of age 65 cents."



By the turn of the century, the Methodist congregation was outgrowing their building and plans were made to purchase two lots, a portion of which would be used for a new parsonage and the remainder for a more commodious church. Lots were purchased on Gordon and Independence Streets and interviews with architects were begun. The development of Kinston as an industrial city was to put an end to those plans. Three of Kinston's most influential businessmen - Jesse W. Grainger, Lemuel Harvey, and William Council Fields - were also members of the Board of Stewards at the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. These men formed a partnership which was to become Kinston's first planned, large-scaled, residential development. With the introduction by Jesse W. Grainger of tobacco into Lenoir County and the building of cotton mills by Lemuel

Harvey and W. C. Fields, Kinston and Lenoir County were thrust into a new era of growth and prosperity. As late as 1860, Gordon Street represented the northernmost town limits; but with the rapid growth of Kinston in the later part of the 1890's, Kinston began to expand to the north and to the west. At the turn of the century, under the aggressive leadership of these three men, the Methodist congregation determined the church should be nearer the urban center. The lots on Gordon Street were sold; and on July 1, 1903 during the pastorate of Rev. E. H. Davis, a lot on the northwest corner of Queen Street and Peyton Avenue was acquired from Mrs. Fannie Hartsfield as the site for the congregation's new church building.

During the ministry of Reverend D. H. Tuttle, plans were made for the construction of an imposing brick structure. The design is attributed to Charles Hartage, a German architect who resided in Raleigh. He is credited with building churches in Wilson and Wilmington. His design used the cruciform plan and, according to *Coastal Plain and Fancy*, resulted in Kinston's grandest high Victorian church. He ingeniously combined Victorian and Romanesque elements in an eclectic design of gabled and turreted ornamentation. In 1909, work was begun on the new building; and in August of 1911, during the pastorate of the Rev. F. S. Love and with Y. T. Ormond as the official board chairman, the congregation moved into their beautiful new church. The new edifice was touted as having the most modern conveniences in the state and a sanctuary as grand as any in North Carolina. An article found in the March 9, 1910, edition of the *Kinston Free Press* stated, "The city electric light plant management is having installed in the new Methodist church a system of lighting that will make it one of the best illuminated church edifices in this part of the country. There will be about one hundred and sixty-five Tungsten lights for the building." A very small portion of the members of the congregation, mainly those who



lived on King Street, chose to remain at the original building on Caswell Street. The new church became known as Queen Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and the congregation that remained at the earlier building became known as the Caswell Street Church. Within 13 years, the small congregation at the Caswell Street location moved to Queen Street M.E. Church and sold their building to the Jewish community for use as the first Synagogue in Kinston. At this time, the tall spire on the building was removed leaving a short belfry. The vestibule, which one

entered from a door facing Caswell Street, was changed to a porch with wide steps leading off of Independence Street. The building is still standing today.



with a certain feeling of sadness. The old place is circled with many hallowed memories to them." The Dedication Ceremony was held the third Sunday in September 1911, following very closely upon the occupancy. Since church law required that a structure be completely paid for before it could be dedicated, the implication is that the building was paid for at the time of completion.

On November 22, 1911, Queen Street Church hosted the 76<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Once again, the city rolled out the red carpet for the visitors who crowded the balconies and aisles of the sanctuary. At this conference, Queen Street Church reported a membership of 633 and a Sunday School Enrollment of 790. The church property valuation was reported as \$39,000; and the parsonage valuation was reported as being \$4,000. The new facility was declared a success, and the members and leaders of Queen Street Church were praised for their diligence and dedication.

Sunday School convened each Sunday morning in various areas of the church including the balconies, the stair landing under the bell tower, the offices, as well as the Prayer Meeting Room off the Sanctuary. It soon became evident that the initial structure was not adequate for the ever-expanding congregation. On February 23, 1915, a lot, complete with a "quaint" house to be used for additional Sunday School space, was purchased from Mrs. Hartsfield, fronting on Peyton Avenue and directly behind the church. On March 20, 1919, additional land was purchased on the north side of the church on Queen Street, adjoining both the church and Sunday school lots. In 1920 after renovating the house, a number of the Sunday School classes moved into that facility. The rapid expansion of the church membership made it apparent that this structure was not adequate to meet the needs of the congregation. A building committee was appointed with Mr. C. Felix Harvey, Sr., Chairman, Mr. Webb, Mr. Whitaker, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Bowles, and Mr. Jordan as members. On October 25, 1925, during the pastorate of Rev. C. K. Proctor, a meeting was held for the purpose of looking into the beginning of a program for erecting a Sunday School building. The tentative plans called for a proposed outlay of \$40,000. A motion was made by J. C. Hood endorsing the proposal and was seconded by G. L. Jordan. Mrs. E. Y. Speed presented a pledge of \$1,000 from the Mamie Webb Auxiliary, and Mrs. Joe Temple announced one for \$500 from the Susannah Wesley Bible Class. The next month Rev. H. M. North was assigned to this charge. Although he was destined to remain at Queen Street only one year, his ministry was successful in canvassing subscriptions towards the building fund.



In January of 1927, under the pastorate of Rev. E. Frank Lee and while C. Felix Harvey, Sr. was Chairman of the Board of Stewards, construction of a state of the art educational building began. A historical sketch prepared at that time by Mrs. N. B. Moore gives us the following description of the new structure, "When completed and thoroughly furnished it will represent an outlay of approximately \$70,000 and will afford a roominess and facility for service not excelled anywhere in the eastern part of the state." The three-story facility was not completed until May of 1928 during the tenure of Dr. Eugene C. Few. It was said to be the finest of its kind anywhere east of Raleigh. The congregation from the little church on Caswell Street had come a long way; but from the very beginnings of Methodism in Kinston, we see evidence of the importance of Christian education. They understood the necessity for rearing children with a strong Biblical foundation and reinforcing those same principles in adults. The Sunday School was the feature of the morning worship service on May 20, 1928, in an impressive program by the youngsters of the church in what was designated as "Sunday School Day." That night, the Baptist Choir joined with the Methodist Choir for a special evening service. Rev. C. M. Infinger of Georgia was the guest speaker.



The church had owned a parsonage for a number of years. Although, no record of its location has been found, a number of newspaper articles as well as the minutes of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society make reference to its existence. On March 28, 1929, a lot was purchased from J. T. and Vera Whitfield on the northeast corner of W. Lenoir Avenue and N. Pollock Street to be used as a parsonage. The following year a new two-story brick manse was constructed. Rev. and Mrs. E. C. Few were the first family to reside there. It served our ministers and their families well for many years.

That same year from October 30 through November 4, 1929, Queen Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was host to the 93<sup>rd</sup> Session of the North Carolina Annual Conference. As pastor and Chairman respectively, Dr. E. C. Few and C. Felix Harvey had the honor of extending a cordial welcome to the guests. Approximately 400 visitors were entertained throughout the community. Kinston had two of its members chosen to be among the representatives of the North Carolina Methodist Conference at the quadrennial General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Dallas, Texas, in the spring of 1930 - Rev. Few and Mr. Harvey.

With the arrival of the depression, the congregation found themselves with a fine new building but a heavy indebtedness. Under the able leadership of C. Felix Harvey as Board Chairman and George L. Jordan as Finance Chairman and with the spirited cooperation of the dedicated members, the debt was liquidated during the pastorate of Rev. Walter C. Ball. Many thrilling stories were remembered, by the congregation, of the innovative ways these men encouraged sacrificial efforts of the members in meeting the debt requirements during those years. Year after year, Mrs. Winnie Lester told stories to her Sunday School classes of being asked to pay a penny a brick to help pay for the Educational Building.



The 1930's brought many changes to the church. With the death of C. Felix Harvey, Sr., who had grown up in the church and had become one of its greatest and most farsighted leaders, the chairmanship of the Official Board was assumed by Mr. L. P. Tapp, an able church leader in his own right. Mr. Tapp had been brought to Kinston by Jesse W. Grainger to manage Kinston's first tobacco warehouse, and he sold the first pound of tobacco ever sold on the Kinston market. The Tapp family, like the Graingers and the Harveys, had become an integral part of our church. Following his death, the leadership role was undertaken by Mr. Richard Churchill, a well respected member of the congregation. During World War II, a succession of dedicated men gave their leadership to Queen Street Methodist Church including Mr. George Jordan, Dr. Paul F. Whitaker, and Mr. T. W. Heath, Sr. All of these men are remembered with a deep sense of respect and admiration by the members of the church.

With the end of the war, Kinston experienced a rapid population explosion. It became evident that Queen Street Church was inadequate to care for the increasing number of Methodists in the city. According to one Methodist publication, Kinston achieved the distinction of being the only urban center since 1950 to experience a membership growth greater than the growth of the local population. In 1952, at the Annual North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church, Queen Street Church was recognized as the outstanding church of the conference. Many large churches never organize new churches or embark upon extension programs, fearing a loss of their own membership. In October of 1951, believing that Methodism in Kinston could best serve God and the community by an extension program, Rev. Mark W. Lawrence presented a proposal to the Official Board calling for a new church to be begun in west Kinston. The board promptly approved the plan for a new church and set up \$1,200 in the budget to offset the salary of its new minister. A committee, comprised of Rev. Lawrence, Mr. Felix Harvey, III, Mrs. L. B. Jenkins, Mrs. John C. Hood, and Mr. H. J. Hearn, was appointed to study the recommendation.



December 9<sup>th</sup> of that year, the first service of the West Kinston Church, as it was then named, was held in temporary quarters. The following fall a tract of land was purchased in northwest Kinston for \$10,000. The membership of Queen Street Church raised all but \$1,500, which was given by the N. C. Board of Missions. Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Jenkins, members of Queen Street, presented the newly established congregation with a gift of \$10,000 on the first anniversary and promised a gift of like amount if an equal sum could be raised. The members of Queen Street Methodist Church raised the total needed within one week. By December, the membership of Queen Street had raised almost \$31,000 in cash towards the building. Many of the circles, classes, and departments at Queen Street contributed funds in addition to this. The church also included another \$600 per year in its budget through 1954 to help with the salary of the Westminister's pastor. The name of the church was changed to Westminister Methodist Church after a misprint in the *Raleigh News and Observer*.

In the fall of 1952, Queen Street Methodist Church voted to establish a second new Methodist church in another rapidly growing residential section of our city. Approximately \$11,000 was given for the establishment of St. Mark's Methodist Church on the corner of Larkspur and Ivy Roads in northeast Kinston. Construction began in March of 1954. Many members of Queen Street gave individual cash gifts to this work. Queen Street added into its budget an additional \$50 per month to be given to the new church. Beginning in October 1954, Queen Street employed Miss Priscilla Steger to work and minister among the population of Southeast Kinston. In June of 1955, a minister was assigned to this work; and \$6,000 more dollars was added to the budget to help support this program. This was the beginning of the third church to be birthed by Queen Street Methodist's expansion program, St. John Methodist Church, which was organized October 30, 1955, in southeast Kinston on Independence Street.

In an article in one Christian publication, a lay member of the "mother church" of Methodism in Kinston was quoted as saying, "our church extension movement has done us more good than anyone else." Rev. Lawrence very eloquently stated, "Our people have been caught up in a great vision, a vision of Christ, and a great passion to serve Him in a new and more purposeful way. The Queen Street brethren have found a new and richer life by losing themselves in a great and purposeful endeavor. The abundant harvest that its congregation will continue to reap far exceeds any material costs or physical efforts they have expended." During that time period, Queen Street Methodist Church was ahead of all churches in reaching and exceeding all Conference goals by fifty percent or more. Our church had the largest scholarship program, including the first foreign scholarship. The *Christian Advocate* reported, "Very seldom is there a Methodist church which carries on as extensive and effective a program of Christian Vocations education and recruitment as does Queen Street Church. Two of its young men are in college preparing for the ministry, and four of its young women are also in college studying for careers in full-time Christian service. Five of its young men in high school decided the last year to enter into the ministry, while at the same time four of its young ladies in high school made decisions to prepare for some type of Christian service." Queen Street also had more members in the Ten Dollar Club than any other church in the North Carolina Conference.

In 1955, two events happened which Queen Street Methodist Church counted as great blessings to the spiritual life of the congregation. In April 1955, the Rev. Dr. Purnell Bailey of Centenary Methodist Church in Richmond, Virginia, arrived for a full week of Revival services. This was to be the first of two trips to Queen Street as preacher for evangelistic services. Miss Charity Holland, one of Queen Street's members, was hired as Director of Religious Education. This proved to be one of the best decisions ever made in our church's history. From the beginning she went far beyond what was expected of her and became fully involved in every aspect of church programming. She was loved by the children and the youth, who flocked to her office every afternoon after school. Queen Street Church had become a gathering place; "the" place to be for all the young people in town. Where the children went, the parents soon followed and the halls of the church resounded with activities. The membership of the church school grew from 731 to 958. These were the golden years of our church's history.



During Rev. Lawrence's pastorate, the parsonage on W. Lenoir Avenue was redecorated. Three rooms were completely refurnished, and the kitchen renovated. In gratitude for all that he had accomplished at Queen Street, he was given a trip to the Holy Land by members of the congregation. The local paper reported that the members said that whatever success Queen Street had experienced was because Rev. Lawrence had so convincingly demonstrated to the people of the church and the community that "God is Love." He made Christ come alive in the hearts of his people.

When word was received that Rev. Lawrence would be going to Trinity Church in Durham, an editorial in the Kinston Daily Free Press stated, "Methodism has made its greatest advance in many years under the leadership of Mr. Lawrence. More new churches have been formed and more progress in church and college support has been encouraged. He has also been active in civic and community affairs. Kinston is a much better place as a result of this service." His charge was reminded that the Great Commission is to bring about a better world wherever there is a need.



During this era of extraordinary achievements in Christian education and outreach, a worthy successor, Rev. T. Marvin Vick, Jr. was sent to Queen Street Methodist Church in 1956 to lead its members. He effectively continued the programs established by Rev. Lawrence and became one of Queen Street Church's greatest ministers. Rev. Vick has often been referred to as a visionary. He realized that in order to retain the current membership and attract new members, the church had to enhance its own facilities. The property was completely renovated at a cost of \$75,000. The features of the renovation



program included air conditioning both buildings and modernizing the Education Building with improved classroom facilities. In 1956, Nancy Sutton Collier, a Queen Street member, was hired as church secretary to replace Mrs. Virginia Mayo, who was expecting. Mrs. Collier became Administrative Assistant, serving the church for 18 years. In 1962, the purchase of a new organ was negotiated even though it would be 1967 before the organ would be completed and installed. June 18-21 of that year, the 200<sup>th</sup> Centennial of the North Carolina Conference convened at Queen Street Methodist Church. Bishop Paul N. Garber, who had led N. C. to be referred to as the "miracle conference of Methodism," presided. Guests were welcomed by Mr. John G. Page, Chairman of the Official Board of Queen Street Methodist Church. The church choir furnished the music for all events under the direction of Mrs. Alma Johnson, director of music at Queen Street; and the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the church furnished the flowers.



October 23, 1961, Queen Street Methodist Church celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Five of its former pastors, Dr. F. S. Love, Rev. A. S. Parker, Rev. W. C. Ball, Dr. H. I. Glass, and Rev. M. W. Lawrence, returned for the celebration. Dr. Henry I. Glass, who was fondly remembered by many of the remaining charter members, delivered the sermon on "Let Us Also." A luncheon for charter members and out of town visitors followed the service. An editorial in the *Kinston Daily Free Press* stated, "Statistics alone cannot reveal the scope or the merit in the service rendered in this great church during half a century.

Fourteen pastors have served the flock in the interim, including some of Methodism's most outstanding leaders. A 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary can be a wholesome period of review for any church or congregation. It certainly brings to mind in this community the many avenues of service, dedication, leadership and sacrifice this church has given to Kinston and the worldwide challenge Methodism envisions today. As leaders and members of Queen Street Church look back over 50 fruitful years, they can take heart at the progress achieved and re-dedicate themselves to even greater things yet to be."

The fine old organ, which had been a part of Queen Street Church since the church was built in 1911, was removed from the Sanctuary on December 26, 1966. The old organ was given to a member of the staff of Duke University for removal. While the congregation waited for the new organ, which had been ordered for some time, a piano was used for the morning worship services. The new Schlicker was finally installed and played for the first time at the morning worship service May 28, 1967. The Organ Dedication Service was held Sunday, October 15, 1967. Mr. Thomas B. Griffin, Trustee, Chairman of the Official Board presided over the presentation. Mrs. Alma Whitfield Offutt, longtime Director of Music at the church, played and the Rev. W. S. Potter gave the dedicatory prayer. This organ replaced the Moeller two manual organ, which had served the congregation for half a century.



During the pastorate of Rev. Harold Leatherman, the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church united April 23, 1968, and the name of the church became Queen Street United Methodist Church. With the name change, a new church vocabulary was introduced. The Official Board became Administrative Board, and the Quarterly Conference became Charge Conference. In 1970, the church was the receiver of a number of gifts. New hymnals were given to the church, as well as new paraments in keeping with the different seasons of the church year. A Latin Cross, the form on which our Lord was crucified, standing on three steps signifying faith, hope, and love, was presented. This Calvary Cross, symbolic of finished redemption, was placed on the altar table. Two Candles, symbolizing Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, appearing on either side of the altar and symbolic of the Divine and human nature of Christ, were also given to the church. These beautiful symbols of the Christian faith still adorn the altar table of the sanctuary. The following year an automatic chime system was installed in the belfry, the tones of which rang throughout the downtown for many years.

The Administrative Board voted unanimously on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, for Rev. Leatherman to accept an invitation to attend a preaching mission in Great Britain October 15 - November 5, 1970. He was the only minister from North Carolina to be selected by the conference to attend this preaching mission. The church was proud that he had been chosen, but rejoiced at his return. The Leathermans had become like family to the church and the town, involving themselves in every activity in the church and many in the community. Rev. Leatherman was invited to preach at churches throughout the area and give programs for community civic organizations. He is considered by many to be Queen Street's greatest orator. Few people know that he was asked to give the invocation for President Jimmy Carter's 2<sup>nd</sup> term, but Carter lost the election.



February 26-28, 1971, the church was urged to "Give God the Weekend" by participating in a Lay Witness Mission and Youth Enlightenment Time. This was a new experience for the church. The response was tremendous. Over three hundred attended the event. In a newsletter Rev. Leatherman stated, "I have never witnessed such a tremendous sense of the presence of God and Christian Love as we shared during these days together and is still evident." On October 10, 1971, Queen Street United Methodist Church celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Ministers of the church present for the celebration included Rev. M. W. Lawrence and Dr. E. C. Few, as well as Rev. Leatherman. Mrs. H. I Glass, the widow of Rev. Glass, also attended. Claude and Martha Barrett served as the co-chairs of this special celebration. The

morning worship service was followed by a picnic dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Twenty-four of the charter members of the church were remaining at this time. The church issued a special thank you to the Barretts for their work in arranging such a wonderful celebration. Mother's Morning Out, a new program for the church was begun. All mothers with children aged 3 months to pre-kindergarten were invited to use this service. A nursery attendant and volunteers were on duty from 10 o'clock until 1 o'clock every Tuesday to care for the children. This program was very successful.

The congregation of Queen Street United Methodist Church determined that a new parsonage was needed. Under the able leadership of Mr. Thomas W. Heath, Jr., building plans were considered. \$29,000 was given towards a new parsonage, with a proposed total cost of \$50,000. Plans called for four bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, family room, study, two baths, laundry room, and a double car carport. On October 17, 1971, a Charge



Conference was held. Rev. Leatherman presided and called upon Mr. Heath to present the plans. A resolution was presented by Mr. Heath that the church approve buying the lot, building the described house, selling the Lenoir Avenue parsonage, and borrowing any additional money needed. A motion to accept the resolution was made by Mr. Ray S. Barbre, seconded by R. L. Corr and approved by the congregation. On Nov. 1, 1971, the church was deeded lots on Woodberry Road in northwest Kinston for a new home for its ministers. The Rev. and Mrs. Leatherman moved into a beautiful new one story brick home with all the modern conveniences. Today, it still serves as home to each of Queen Street's ministers. Our church home also received its share of attention with the installation of a new furnace for the Sanctuary, the sandblasting of the exterior, and the painting of the Education Building.

A dream of Mrs. Marjory Barrett, a past president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, began to materialize about this same time. She had long dreamed of a ladies' parlor for the church. Two Sunday School classrooms on the ground floor of the Education Building were combined, and a lovely room was furnished with funds raised by the Woman's Society and memorial gifts given by members. The lovely parlor was completed and used during 1972.

Several other dreams of the church were fulfilled during the pastorate of Rev. Kermit Braswell. A commodious suite of offices for the staff was converted from classrooms in the Education Building, and the staff moved from



their old, cramped quarters in the main building. With the move, room became available in the main church for a Bridal Parlor. Through a memorial gift in memory of a charter member, the old DRE office was converted into an exquisite Bride's Parlor. The Joy Group, the Prime Timers, the Young Adult Fellowship Class, and the MYF, among others, shared in the joy of having a Church bus. Many members fondly remember trips in the bus with Kermit at the wheel. The church was a vibrant, alive congregation and many happy hours were spent in fellowship with each other.

Two significant events in the history of the church were held in 1976, the Bicentennial of the United States of America. On April 11, 1976 Lenoir County United Methodists held a Holy Week Bicentennial Celebration at Queen Street United Methodist Church. Mr. Jacob "Jake" West, a member of Queen Street, alerted the area

ministers to the fact that Bishop Francis Asbury visited and preached in Kinston on April 11, 1785. He assisted Rev. Braswell in planning a special celebration of the history of Methodism in Lenoir County, coordinating the event with other Bicentennial celebrations taking place in the area. With Rev. Braswell as host, the ministers of Trenton United Methodist Church, Lane's Chapel United Methodist Church (formerly Cox Meeting House), and Rainbow United Methodist Church - the hub of Methodism during Asbury's travels - participated in the service of worship. The Rev. R. T. Commander, District Superintendent of the Greenville District, delivered the sermon. The choir was comprised of members from Queen Street, Saint Mark and Westminster United Methodist Churches with Mrs. Alma Whitfield Offutt as organist and director. A brass ensemble also participated with musical renderings. One of the highlights of the event was the arrival by horseback of Bishop Asbury, portrayed by David Oglesby Jarman. He had ridden from 800 S. Heritage Street, the site of Bishop Asbury's first sermon in Kinston, to the door of Queen Street United Methodist Church's Sanctuary. A large number of visitors were present to commemorate this event in the heritage of the church.



On December 5, 1976, during that same year, Queen Street celebrated the Golden Anniversary of its Education Building. Rev. Braswell presided over the morning worship service and Rev. Harold Leatherman delivered the sermon. That evening a covered dish supper was held in the Fellowship Hall followed by a special musical program. Queen Street's Children's Choir sang; and Rev. Nat Burgess, a former opera singer, sang some of the great old hymns. Following the program an Open House of the new office complex was held.

In the fall of 1980, Rev. Herman Winberry used the slogan "A Church With A Heritage Serving In The Present" as the title for the church's financial campaign. This slogan was so appropriate for Queen Street Church we chose to use the slogan on the cover of our Heritage Sunday book. Construction was begun in 1981 on Six Church Plaza, an affordable housing tower. It was so named because six of the town's churches recognized the need for this and were responsible for its inception. In 1982, Queen Street was instrumental in planning the Meals on Wheels program to provide a hot meal in the middle of the day for those unable to get out or prepare themselves. Queen Street had approximately 25 members who volunteered their time to this program. In 1982, under Rev. Randall Baker, extensive improvements were made to the Education Building including the installation of double pane insulated aluminum frame windows. The nine restrooms were refurbished, and the interior of the education building and the exterior of both buildings were painted. Rev. Baker and his family were active in all church activities including the youth program and UMW. They loved Queen Street and Queen Street loved them. Rev. and Mrs. Baker bought a home before moving from Kinston in anticipation of their retirement. Queen Street United Methodist Church was blessed to have them return as a part of the church family when that happy day finally arrived.

During the pastorate of Rev. Baker, in 1983, the Supportive Community Chairperson for the United Methodist Women represented Queen Street United Methodist Church at a meeting of nine churches to evaluate community needs and possible responses. As an outgrowth of this meeting and through the cooperative effort of the community churches, the doors of ICOR were opened in the fall of that year. This ministry was staffed by volunteers and included the services of a food pantry as well as financial aid for emergency or crisis situations. Queen Street United Methodist Church is credited with having conceived the idea and initiated the groundwork for the existence of this fine local relief organization. A need was seen for an agency, which could combine the resources of all area churches rather than just those in the downtown area, to meet the needs of those less fortunate individuals who sometimes slip through the cracks in the Social Services system. It was also felt that a better system of checks and balances could be developed by a central group whose sole focus was aid to those in need. With the help of volunteers, many of who are members of Queen Street Methodist Church, that organization continues today to serve the needs of the citizens of our community. Rev. Baker was also responsible for setting-up a \$100,000 trust fund for the church, the interest to be used for maintenance. This has been of great benefit to Queen Street.



Beginning in 1987, Queen Street experienced another great period of growth. With Rev. Edward Privette as the minister, the "God's New Thing" building program was undertaken. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, forty-three members of the Charge Conference met with District Superintendent Rev. E. M. Thompson, Jr., for the purpose of electing a building committee. The Committee on Nominations and Personnel nominated a slate of persons to serve as the Building Committee. The Charge Conference unanimously elected the persons nominated, Mr. Frank Brooks, Chairman, Mrs. Carol Barfield, Mr. Wil Hardy, Mrs. Millie Matthis, Mr. Dan Oliver, Mrs. Mary Mac Ritch, and Mr. Tom Rivers. On Palm Sunday morning, the

committee met to determine a meeting schedule and the methodology to be used to complete the task and to have general discussions on the project. Mr. Michael Dunn, project engineer for the East Group, was chosen as the architect to carry out the renovations. The program included the replacement of the Sanctuary roof, asbestos removal, the refurbishment of the Sanctuary, and the installation of new heating and air-conditioning systems for both buildings. Mrs. Eleanor Privette began the Christian Theater Guild, which became known throughout the state and well represented Queen Street wherever they performed. Jubilee Singers was added to the music program and also represented Queen Street well with their performances throughout North Carolina. They received the honor of being asked to perform for the White House Christmas Program.

Under the leadership of Rev. Whit Warren, Queen Street excelled in many areas of ministry and a number of new Christian Education programs were begun. He became the leader for the first Stevens Ministry, which cared for those in crisis. He instigated the first Disciple Bible Program and the first Ten Brave Christians Program. Our church experienced a renewal of Christian commitment and witness. As the members ardently studied the Word and learned how to reach out beyond themselves, God's love filled our church. Many members remarked upon feeling the Holy Spirit at work within their lives and the life of the church. During his ministry, the formation of a 100 member prayer ministry began. "Preacher Whit," as he was affectionately called, was beloved by the youngsters of the church. As part of a Christian education program for children, the King's Kids program was developed. Marla Ham was instrumental in its development and, as Music Director at Queen Street, incorporated music into its format. This was one of the church's most successful endeavors in Christian programming for children.



The church was saddened over the sudden loss of its beloved pastor. Rev. Warren suffered a stroke following major brain surgery. Even though he was never able to return to the pulpit, prayers brought him back home to Queen Street United Methodist Church where he remained until his death. His daughter, Kristie Warren Brennan, and her family remain members of the church and bring back happy memories of "Preacher Whit." Even through this tragic event, God was watching over His church and its members. Having retired to Kinston, Rev. Randall Baker took over the pastorate of the church once again and filled out the remainder of Rev. Warren's year. The church was also fortunate to have Rev. Craig Ham as its Assistant Minister, who had been sponsored in ministry by this church.



Members of Queen Street United Methodist Church received a letter the first of June, 1999, from Rev. M. Francis Daniel asking the membership to keep him in their prayers as he prepared to assume the pastorate of the church. He requested the church to pray for God's blessings upon his ministry at the Church. Through this letter, he introduced himself and his family to the family of Queen Street Church. Upon his arrival at the church later that month, he immediately began an initiative to visit with each member of the church through neighborhood group meetings in member's homes. The Daniel's became a part of the church family like many others before them. They shared their many musical talents with the congregation through

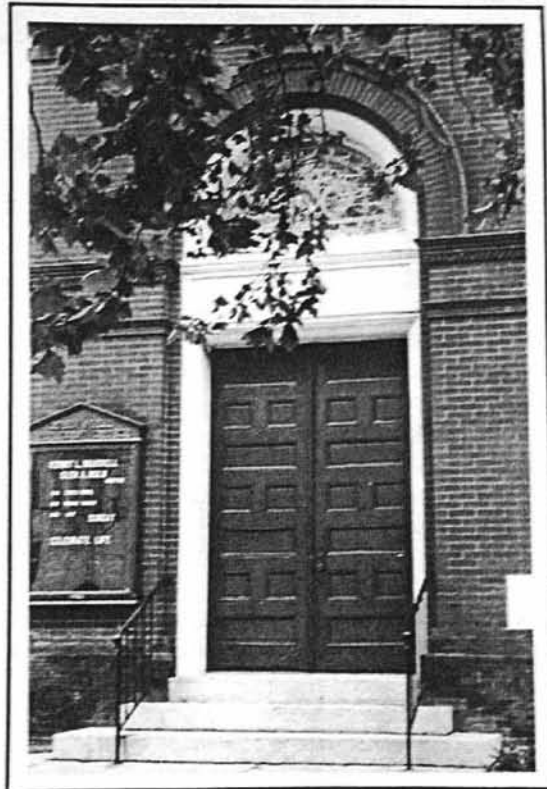
the guitar, the piano, the drums, singing, and band concerts. Impact was the first of several Christian band concerts, the first being held in the Fellowship Hall.

The congregation was constantly amazed at Rev. Daniel's memorization abilities. His monologue of "The Rag Merchant" and "The Leper" were awe-inspiring and remain strong in the minds of his charge. His sermons were spellbinding. Members of the church made every effort to attend services regularly for fear of missing another great discourse. During his pastorate, a new Thursday night service, Crossroads, was started. The service, held in the Fellowship Hall, was a time for fellowship, skits, music, and worship. Rev. Craig Ham, the Assistant Minister and a former member of the Dixie Melody Boys, and his wife Marla, the Director of Music, played a combination of Southern Gospel and Praise Music. They were often joined by Rev. Daniel on guitar and his son Michael on drums. A large cross-section of the congregation attended. As part a part of nurture, cluster groups were formed to encourage fellowship among the members of the church. An early morning worship service, featuring more contemporary Christian music, was also initiated during his ministry. Sammy Hudson became the Youth Director during this time period. With his arrival, he became a member of the church band and led Impact events. With the appointment of Rev. Ham to Fayetteville, the current church organist and music director, Jacob Mewborn, was hired. He has continued to carry on the fine music tradition which Queen Street United Methodist Church has been known for throughout the history of the church and has carried the program to even greater levels.



In June of 2004, Rev. George D. Speake assumed the pastorate of Queen Street Church. The church resumed Wednesday night fellowship dinners and a number of Bible studies were held. In July 2006, a charge conference was held for the purpose of approving a proposal for the refurbishment of the Schlicker organ, which had fallen into disrepair. The console will be replaced by an Allen Digital console, and the pipes will be revoiced by Jim Lauck. The slider wind chests will be replaced with new all electric wind chests, which will eliminate the background noises and slowness. At the current time, the church is anxiously awaiting the installment of the organ and the re-voicing of its pipes in November 2007.

For the past century and a half, Methodism in Kinston has flourished through the dedication of men and women of the earlier church on Caswell Street and the current church on Queen. The church has accumulated a rich and proud heritage. Through the years this magnificent church has ministered to the needs of its members and the community. The Mother Church of Methodism in Kinston has contributed greatly to the community. It has birthed three churches, comforted the sick, nourished the hungry with God's Word and with sustenance, contributed to the moral and religious edification of God's children, and served as a beacon of hope to the hopeless. With God's great providence, may Queen Street United Methodist Church continue its great works for Christ throughout the centuries to come.



## THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

### LEMUEL HARDY ALDRIDGE AND ELIZA HARVEY ALDRIDGE

The *PAX, LVX, Wheat* Window - "Peace and Light," "The Bread of Life"

Lemuel Hardy Aldridge was born December 29, 1818, the son of Drewry Aldridge, Jr., and Edith Hardy Aldridge. He was named for his maternal grandfather. He married Elizabeth Harvey about 1844. She was born April 22, 1827.

Mr. and Mrs. Aldridge resided in the Contentnea District of Lenoir County where they farmed and reared their family. Joshua Taylor Aldridge; Martha Aldridge; Mary E. Aldridge; Patsy Ann "Pattie" Aldridge who married a Mr. Taylor; John T. Aldridge; William A. Aldridge; Emma Aldridge; Julia Aldridge; Lemuel H. Aldridge.

Lemuel Hardy Aldridge died October 12, 1875; and Elizabeth Harvey Aldridge died April 17, 1909. At least one of their children, Patsy Ann "Pattie" Aldridge Taylor, became a member of the Caswell Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, joining in 1884.

### CORINNE B. PATRICK DIXON

The *Fides Spes, Lillies and IHS* Window - "Faith and Hope," "Symbol of Easter and Immortality," "Jesus"

Corinne B. Patrick Dixon was born March 5, 1862, the daughter of John Patrick of Greene County, North Carolina. Mr. Patrick was the owner of a flourishing general merchandise and farm supply business in Hookerton.

In 1875, at the age of nineteen, David V. Dixon began clerking at Mr. Patrick's store. David was born August 26, 1856, the son of William T. and Susan J. Dixon, also of Greene County. Corinne B. Patrick and David V. Dixon were married May 1879. Afterwards, the firm became Patrick & Dixon and remained under that name until Mr. Patrick retired and David became the sole owner. He was also elected Mayor of Hookerton. At the height of his business' success, he left his brother to run the firm and moved to Kinston.



D. V. Dixon.

Corinne and her husband moved to Kinston in 1898 and joined the Caswell Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, by transfer of membership in February of that year. David V. Dixon became a member of the Board of Stewards and was a charter member of Queen Street Church and its Official Board. David entered into partnership with Jesse W. Grainger whose wife was Clara Dixon. Grainger & Dixon was an enterprising firm dealing in buggies, wagons, machinery and fertilizer. Several years later, Dixon and Hooker Hardware was opened.

The family prospered and Mr. Dixon became a director of the Bank of Kinston and Kinston Cotton Mills. Corinne and David moved into an ornate home on the northwest corner of Blount and McLewean Streets where they reared their five children: Errol P.; David L.; Mabel; Lucille H.; and William J. The Dixon family remained active in the life of the Methodist Church and, in 1911, moved to Queen Street M. E. Church, South. A stained glass window was given in Corinne B. Patrick Dixon's honor at the new church. She died September 21, 1914, following an operation in Baltimore, Maryland. Her body was returned by train to Kinston for burial. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. H. A. Humble, the pastor at Queen Street M. E. Church, South. According to her obituary in the *Kinston Free Press*, Mrs. Dixon was a "woman of splendid character, traits, and attractive manner," with many friends in the city and vicinity.



Corinne Patrick Dixon's Hymnal, dated 1879, from the Caswell Street Church was located in a drawer in our lady's parlor while searching for items for Heritage Sunday. A note in the hymnal referred to the stained glass window.

## WILLIAM COUNCIL FIELDS AND AGNES PEARCE FIELDS

### *The Come Unto Me Window*

William Council Fields was born January 12, 1847, in Lenoir County, the son of Sheriff William B. Fields and Christine W. Smith Fields. He attended Horner's Military Academy. In June 1864, he joined the Confederate forces. During the Civil War, he saw action at the Battle of Bentonville.



W. C. FIELDS.

When the war ended, W. C. Fields farmed for two years before opening a farm supply business in Kinston in 1868. He also dealt in fertilizers and real estate. The following year he married Agnes Pearce of Kinston on December 15, 1869. Agnes, born January 2, 1849, was the only daughter of Margaret Ann Pearce by a first marriage. After Margaret was widowed, she later married John H. Stevenson when Agnes was still a toddler.

William and Agnes Fields had a commodious home on King Street. It was there that they reared their children: Lena P. Fields who married W. H. Hickson; Anna C. "Annie" Fields; Mabel B. Fields who married Dan Quinerly; William Carlyle Fields; and Cora Fields. The family joined Caswell Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, where W. C. served on the Board of Stewards and was one of the driving forces of the church. Mrs. Fields was a charter member of the Sue D. Swindell Auxiliary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.



This is a Dec. 12, 1969, photo of the Dan Quinerly house at 608 N. Queen St. The house was built in a "briar patch" during 1897 by W.C. Fields for his daughter, Mrs. Mable Fields Quinerly. In need of repair, the house was torn down June 10, 1970, because the owner felt it was an "eye sore." Kinston Housing Authority's main office is located on the property today. The photo was taken and submitted by William H. Rowland and is part of the William H. Rowland papers, Special Collection Department, Joyner Library, East Carolina University.

W. C. Fields later opened an office at 131 N. Queen Street where he dealt in a wide variety of business interests including real estate, fertilizers, cotton brokerage, tobacco brokerage, insurance, and carriage manufacturing. In addition, he was one of the pioneers of truck farming in eastern North Carolina. He was President of the Kinston Cotton Mills, Vice-President of the Bank of Kinston and Vice-President of Orion Knitting Mills. The 1899 Industrial Edition of the *Kinston Free Press* stated that everything W. C. Fields touched yielded a substantial revenue. He was credited as being one of the most intelligent men of affairs in the area.

Agnes Pearce Fields died December 3, 1884. W. C. married again September 7, 1892 to Mrs. Alice Jackson Kennedy. William Council Fields died October 14, 1902 after a two-month infirmity attributed to a brain tumor. At the time of his death, he was the richest man in Kinston. His epitaph in the *Kinston Free Press* declared, "In his death Kinston and Lenoir County loses one of its most valuable citizens. He was a public spirited man and his life has been of benefit to many people. He was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and an exemplary citizen."

## ANNA WALKER GOODSON

### *The Jesus With the Children Window*

Anna Street Walker Goodson was born March 20, 1865, the daughter of Alexander Walker and Harriet R. Bailey Walker of Durham, North Carolina. Her father was a tobacconist. On December 13, 1882, she married John William Goodson of Caswell County, North Carolina. Like Anna's father, John W. Goodson was also a tobacconist.

After their marriage, the couple resided in Durham with Anna's mother who was, by that time, a widow. Three of their four children were born in Durham: Nannie Albert Goodson who married first Charles Albert Read, a Methodist minister, and later married Leslie Powell Howard; William Alexander Goodson; and Magaret Pinnix Goodson who married Henry Tull of Kinston.

When tobacco began to flourish in the eastern part of North Carolina and the tobacco industry began opening warehouses and processing plants in Kinston, John and Anna moved to Kinston with their family. It was here that their fourth child, Harriet Goodson, was born. In 1901, they took their vows of membership at the Caswell Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and became active in its ministries. John became Superintendent of the Sunday

School and was Chairman of the Civic Improvement Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. Anna taught Sunday School, was one of the church's earliest organists, and was involved in the Women's Society. They lived at 214 W. Washington Avenue.

Anna Walker Goodson died August 12, 1906, in Kinston. Her husband later married Lola Marquette, who was a graduate of Greensboro Female College and a teacher at the Kinston Grammar School. She also became a member of the Caswell Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South.



When Queen Street Methodist Church was built, the Sunday School classes gave the stained glass window in the Prayer Meeting Room in Anna Walker Goodson's memory.

## HENRY F. AND JESSE W. GRAINGER

*The Garden of Gethsemane Window*

### Henry Franklin Grainger

Henry Franklin Grainger was born September 10, 1879, in Kinston, North Carolina. He was the youngest son of Captain Jesse Willis Grainger and Sallie Lucretia Coward Grainger, who were originally from Greene County. He died April 20, 1892, of pneumonia after a three week illness. His funeral service was conducted by Rev. F. M. Shamburger of the Caswell Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

### Jesse Willis Grainger

Jesse Willis Grainger, son of Henry Grainger and Sarah Cunningham Grainer, was born in Greene County, North Carolina, on October 15, 1845. He received his education at Hookerton Academy and Trinity College. During the Civil War, he served in the Junior Reserves of the Confederate Army, attaining the rank of Captain.

At the close of the war, Captain Grainger returned to his native county and entered into farming. In 1868, he married Sallie Lucretia Coward. She was born September 17, 1849, the daughter of John Holliday Coward and Mary Elizabeth Dixon Coward. Four of the couple's five children were born in Greene County: Capitola Coward Grainger who married Dr. Daniel Thomas Edwards; Herman Holliday Grainger who married first Sudie Parrott and second Jeannette McFarlan; Mary May Grainger who remained single; and Sallie "Saddie" Grainger who married William Alexander Pierce. In 1878, the Grainger family moved into a home on the northwest corner of McLewean and Blount Streets. During this period, Henry Franklin Grainger, their fifth child was born. The entire family had become active in the Caswell Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South.



Captain Grainger formed a partnership with W. C. Fields and Lemuel Harvey, two of the board members of the M. E. Church, and purchased the John C. Washington Estate. This partnership was the beginning of the first large scaled, planned, residential development enterprise in Lenoir County. When the lands were divided between the three men, Jesse Grainger won the draw to determine which one would get the portion of the estate where the Washington home was situated. The Grainger family moved into "Vernon Heights" and began an extensive renovation project. Setting aside a section of the land, Captain Grainger donated half the cost of the lot for the first public high school in Kinston. For many years, Grainger High School, which replaced the earlier one which burned, bore his name.



Coastal Plain and Fancy states that:

*The twentieth century, The Tobacco Century, can properly be considered to have started in 1895 when Jesse Willis Grainger, with five hundred dollars worth of tobacco seeds which he had purchased, became the Johnny Applesseed of tobacco by inaugurating tobacco cultivation in Lenoir County and the surrounding areas. Cotton had dropped to its lowest point in many years and farmers were desperate for a new cash crop. Grainger distributed the seeds to county farmers, promising to provide an auction warehouse in Kinston for their tobacco if they would cultivate and cure it. In the first year tobacco sales exceeded 800,000 pounds. One week later the newspaper crowed: "A New Era For Kinston!"*

Jesse Grainger held many public and professional offices: County Commissioner, member of Lenoir County Finance Committee, Chairman Democratic Executive Committee, delegate to two National Democratic Conventions, member of the State Democratic Executive Committee, representative to the General Assembly, first President of the Kinston Board of Trade, President of The Chamber of Commerce, Vice-President of three banks, and President of State Mutual Insurance Company.

Sally L. Grainger died June 3, 1883; and Captain Grainger married Clara Albritton Dixon in 1884. Jesse Grainger died February 22, 1910. An editorial in the *Kinston Free Press* stated:

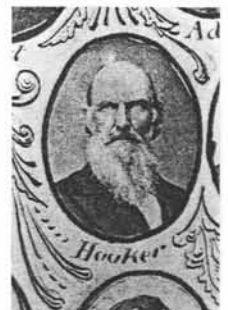
*No one has been more active in advancing the industrial, moral, political and religious life of the city. To him is largely due the rise of Kinston from a small country village to a city of influence and comparative wealth. He was probably the best known of Kinston's citizens throughout the state. One of his most charming and attractive characteristics was his deep interest in young people. Never - especially if there was a possibility of the development of a young man or woman - did he deny the appeal for assistance in obtaining an education and many young people in this section can point to him as their benefactor - the real friend who made it possible for them to acquire educational advantages. Religiously, he was keenly alive to the growth of his church - though by no means a narrow denominationalist - and contributed largely to the various branches of church work. He was a large contributor to the building fund of the new Methodist Church.*

At his funeral, one of the speakers who eulogized him said, "Whatever grand and glorious records that have been ascribed to him; whatever grand and glorious deeds he accomplished as a citizen; whatever grand and glorious missions in life he has performed, the crowning virtue of Jesse W. Grainger's life is that he was an humble, Christian gentleman." The window was given by his children who were members of Caswell Street and later Queen Street Methodist Church, South, at a cost of \$300.

## REV. NATHAN A. HOOKER

The *Lamp* Window - "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet."

Born October 10, 1816, Rev. Nathan A. Hooker was the son of James W. Hooker of Greene County, North Carolina. The Hookers were a prominent family in the community of Hookerton, which was named for them. Rev. Hooker joined the North Carolina Methodist Conference in 1840. He succeeded the Rev. Benjamin R. Newcomb on the Rainbow Circuit, preaching in Greene County as well as Lenoir County. At that time, the Rainbow congregation outside of Snow Hill, was the only group in that circuit to have a meeting house. In Kinston, Rev. Hooker preached in the courthouse and the old academy building on the corner of Queen and Caswell Streets. After St. Mary's Episcopal Church was built, the first church erected in Kinston, they allowed the Methodist congregation to use their building for some services. In 1856, when the Caswell Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was completed, Rev. Hooker became its pastor.



In 1844, he married Catherine Hall Fulford of Carteret County. They moved to Kinston and resided at what later became the northwest corner of King and Independence Streets where they reared their five children. Mary E. "Bettie" Hooker, who never married, became a teacher and was a lifetime member of the Caswell Street and Queen Street Churches. She was a charter member of the Sue D. Swindell Auxiliary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. Susan J. Hooker, a dressmaker, never married. Sarah Fannie Hooker, also a charter member of the Sue D. Swindell Auxiliary, married E. B. Whitehurst. Julia Hooker married H. W. Kinne. James T. Hooker, the only son of Rev. and Mrs. Hooker, died at an early age.

Rev. Hooker served in an active capacity for 48 years before going on the superannuated list in 1888. On Sunday, June 4, 1899, he attended worship at the Caswell Street Church and dismissed the congregation at the close of the service. He died three days later on June 7, 1899. The Revs. J. A. Lee, W. S. Rone and R. B. John officiated at the funeral.

At the time of his death, Rev. Hooker had been a member of the Methodist Conference longer than anyone. His obituary in the June 10, 1899, issue of the *Kinston Daily Free Press* read:

*We do not believe there was a better man in Kinston than Rev. Mr. Hooker. It would be difficult to find a more consecrated, unselfish man of God than the one who has just left us. His whole life has been spent in active service for that which is noble, good, and just. There is no reason why we should inform any one who knew him that he was a Christian. His whole life fully demonstrated this fact.*

## CHARLES THOMAS RANDOLPH AND ADDIE WATERS RANDOLPH

### The Master Shepherd Window

Charles Thomas Randolph was born in Washington, North Carolina on September 5, 1856, the son of John and Nancy Tolson Randolph of Beaufort County. Commencing at the age of eleven, he served a nine year apprenticeship in a carriage factory in Washington.

On September 5, 1886, he married Addie Julia Waters of Pantego, North Carolina. Addie was the eldest daughter of Guilford R. and Julia A. Waters. In 1890, the C. T. Randolph family moved to Kinston after having lived in New Bern for three years. Here C. T. Randolph established a carriage factory on North Street. Within seven years the business had expanded into a three-story brick building, which he erected on Queen Street. The business flourished and over 700 carriages a year were shipped throughout the southeastern United States from Florida to Virginia.



Randolph Carriage Works



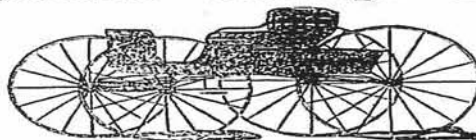
C. T. Randolph

The Randolphs moved into an elegant home on North Queen Street where they reared their eight daughters and one son: Bessie Addie who married John Edgar Hudson; Hattie Louise who married John Francis West; Annie Laurie, who married Dr. A. F. Elvington; Nancy Elizabeth "Nannie," who married Theodore Stainback; Julia Anna, who married Albert Bruno Hoft; Bertha Olivia, who never married; Charles Thomas, Jr., who married Virginia DeLoach; Hildon Myrtle "Hilda," who married William Allen Erwin; and Adelaide H. who married William Martin Carter. The family was active in the Caswell Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Addie J. Waters Randolph died August 12, 1906. On November 14, 1907, C. T. Randolph married his first wife's sister Olivia Waters. Then, on October 15, 1910, Charles died as a result of complications arising from diabetes. The funeral was a joint service conducted by Rev. J. H. Hall, pastor of the Caswell Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Pythian Lodge. The *Kinston Free Press* ran two lengthy obituaries. The paper stated in part:

*Since coming to Kinston, Mr. Randolph has always been regarded as one of the city's wisest and most enterprising business men. He was a good citizen, a devoted father and loving husband. He took a prominent and active interest in public affairs, and his influence was widespread. His death will be learned with deep regret throughout Eastern Carolina, where he is well known and in this community especially, to which his loss will be great.*

**C. T. RANDOLPH,**  
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**C. T. RANDOLPH,**  
KINSTON, N. C.

## MARGARET ANN STEVENSON

### The *Mary and Martha* Window

Margaret Ann Pearce Stevenson was born in 1830. She was a widow with one child, a daughter named Agnes, who later married William Council Fields, one of Kinston's wealthiest and most prominent businessmen.

Margaret married John Hamilton Stevenson, who was born September 28, 1823 in Craven County. After their marriage they lived for a time in the former Pollock Hotel, a splendid building on the southwest corner of Queen and Caswell Streets, which John Stevenson had purchased from Dr. W. A. J. Pollock.



Their children were: Cora Stevenson; Ida Stevenson who married Lemuel Lamm Harvey; Junius Stevenson who later owned the hotel and changed the name to the Lenoir House; Bella Stevenson who married John Bryan; and Eula Stevenson. The family joined the Caswell Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South. After Margaret Ann's death in 1872, John H. Stevenson remarried in November of 1874. His second wife was Mary Bell.

When Queen Street Methodist Church was built, a stained glass window was given by Ida Stevenson Harvey and her siblings in memory of their mother.

\*Ida Stevenson Harvey

## REV. JAMES B. WEBB

### The *Bontonee Cross* Window - "The Apostles or Budded Cross"

James Barney Webb was born December 6, 1823 in Westbrook, Maine, the son of James Webb, Jr. of Maine and Sophia Bell Webb of Carteret County, North Carolina. His father, descended from a long line of seafarers, was lost at sea off the coast of North Carolina on February 24, 1833. Several years later, Sophia Bell Webb returned with her children to her native state and apprenticed her son to a carriage manufacturer in New Bern.

On January 16, 1843, James B. Webb married Margaret Ann Laughinghouse of Perquimons County. A year later he moved with his new wife to Kinston and began manufacturing buggies in the old courthouse building in 1847. James Barney Webb was also a Methodist minister.

Having had an inheritance left to him from the family estate in Maine, Rev. Webb started out on a trip to claim the portion due him. Upon reaching Washington, D.C., he became trapped between the opposing armies as the Civil War erupted. He returned to North Carolina and served as a Chaplain for the Confederacy. Since he was unable to return to Maine to claim his inheritance, it reverted back to the State of Maine. The James B. Webb Machine Shop, a division of his carriage manufacturing business, helped in the fabrication of the plating on the CSS Ram Neuse.

Rev. Webb and his wife reared nine children before her death February 14, 1880. Sophia Ann Webb; Mary M. Webb; Benjamin T. Webb who married a Miss Della; Martha Jean Webb who married Lewis Llewellyn Mayo; George Bell Webb, Mayor of Kinston, who married first Agnes Pittman and then Emma Pittman; Nancy Maple "Nannie" Webb who married Herbert G. West; John William Webb who married Annie Elizabeth Boyd; Carolina J. Webb who married Dayton R. Midyette; Emma Webb who married Rev. Thomas W. Noland. After the death of his first wife, Rev. Webb married a Miss Chadwick and had one son, Walter Webb, by that union. In 1898, having become a widower once again, Rev. Webb married "Miss Lina" that same year, his son George became the Mayor of Kinston.

Rev. James B. Webb died on August 2, 1901, after a brief illness. He was the oldest male resident of Kinston and was affectionately known as "Uncle Webb" by the townspeople. The service was conducted by Rev. D. H. Tuttle at the Caswell Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, with a standing room only crowd. A large number of carriages followed the hearse to the cemetery, trailed by hundreds of friends of both races who walked. He was laid to rest with full Masonic rites. The trustees of St. Augustus African M. E. Zion Church adopted resolutions of respect for the good works done by him to help all people. Webb Chapel is named for him.

His obituary in the *Kinston Free Press* stated,

*He was one of the best known men in Eastern North Carolina. Nearly every man, woman, and child knew him, and had heard his voice from the pulpit. He had been a minister of the gospel for 50 years and leaves a vacancy in the Methodist Church here and in the hearts of our people that cannot be filled. His cheering presence in the sickroom will be sadly missed. We are appreciative of the splendid life-work of this departed minister, who gave fifty years to faithfully serving the Master. We think there is perhaps no one who was more loved by the people of Kinston and of the country for many miles around than Rev. J. B. Webb.*

### **FIRST WEDDING AT QUEEN STREET METHODIST CHURCH**

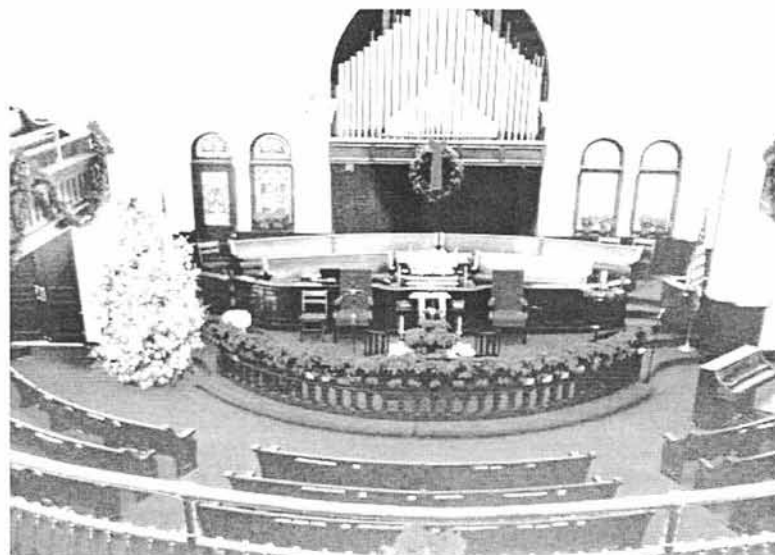
On Wednesday, November 15, 1911, at 6 o'clock in the evening, the first wedding service to be held in Queen Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was conducted. Miss Mamie Virginia Herndon, of Kinston was married to Mr. Ernest A. Herman of Hickory. The ceremony was performed by Rev. F. S. Love.

According to an article in the *Kinston Free Press*, the church was filled to its capacity and the affair was purported to be one of the prettiest that has taken place in the city. The maid of honor was the bride's sister, Miss Sallie Herndon. Mr. Frank Henderson, of Hickory, was best man. The ushers were Messrs. George Jordan, Frank Webb, John Hood and Will Hooker. Mrs. Kate Hayes Fleming, of the graded school faculty, presided at the organ, and Mrs. Dan Quinerly, as soloist, delightfully rendered "Because," just before the wedding party entered the church. Mrs. Fleming played several beautiful and appropriate selections as the crowd was assembling. Of the bridal party the maid of honor entered first, and, carrying a large cluster of white chrysanthemums, slowly proceeded to the chancel, where the pastor was in waiting. The groom came next, with the best man; and a few minutes later the bride entered, leaning on the arm of her father. The bride carried a large shower bouquet of bride's roses and lilies-of-the-valley. As the bridal party was assembling, Lohengrin was played by the organist, and after the impressive ceremony was said, the party left the church as Mendelssohn's march was being skillfully rendered.

Miss Herndon was the beautiful and accomplished daughter of Capt. J. A. Herndon, who was general manager and superintendent of agencies of the North State Life Insurance Company and one of the leading businessmen of the state. Mr. Herman, the groom, was a young man of excellent character and habits. For a number of years he had been chief clerk in the post office of that hustling mountain city.

### **FIRST BAPTISM**

The first baptism to be held at Queen Street was the baptism of Miss Brownie Taylor Jackson on September 3, 1911. The baptism was performed by Rev. F. S. Love.



## OUR MINISTERS

### TIMELINE OF SERVICE

Daniel Culbreth .....	John Hubbard Hall.....	1909-1910
James B. Webb .....	Franklin Swindell Love .....	1910-1913
Benjamin R. Newcomb .....	Hilary Augustus Humble.....	1913-1917
Nathan A. Hooker .....	Magruder Hill Tuttle .....	1917-1918
I. P. Keerans .....	Charles Lewis Read.....	1918-1922
Washington D. Meacham .....	Creasy Kinion Proctor .....	1922-1925
John R. Brooks .....	Henry M. North .....	1925-1926
James Wilson.....	E. Frank Lee .....	1926-1927
Charles C. Dodson.....	Eugene C. Few .....	1927-1932
J. B. Simpson.....	Roger Edgar Brown.....	1932-1935
William Calvin Gannon.....	Albea S. Parker.....	1935-1940
John W. Jones.....	Walter Conn Ball.....	1940-1944
Nathaniel M. Jurney .....	Henry Iverson Glass .....	1944-1950
Jesse H. Page .....	Mark W. Lawrence.....	1950-1956
William Samuel Rone .....	T. Marvin Vick, Jr. ....	1956-1962
George Gamewell Harley .....	William Stanley Potter .....	1962-1968
Frederick Mebane Shamburger .....	Harold F. Leatherman.....	1968-1973
James Orin Guthrie.....	John T. Maides .....	1973-1975
Jacob Alexander Lee .....	Kermit L. Braswell .....	1975-1980
Daniel Herndon Tuttle.....	Herman S. Winberry.....	1980-1982
Nereus E. Coltrane .....	M. Randall Baker .....	1982-1987
Edward Hill Davis .....	Edward W. Privette .....	1987-1993
Roderick Belton John .....	M. Whitfield Warren .....	1993-1998 (Dec.)
Jesse David Bundy .....	M. Randall Baker .....	1999-1999 (Jan.-June)
Frederick Dallas Swindell .....	M. Francis Daniel.....	1999-2004
Franklin Swindell Love.....	George D. Speake.....	2004 - Present

### PERSONAL REMEMBERANCES FROM OUR PASTORS

**MARK W. LAWRENCE, 1950-1956** (Submitted by Dorothy Lawrence Lichtwardt, Member 1950-1956)

Queen Street United Methodist Church provided the happiest, most satisfying years in the life of my father, Mark Lawrence (Marquis Wood Lawrence) who served there as senior minister from 1950 to 1956. Often in years afterward, and during those six years at Queen Street, he expressed how loving, responsive, and generous were the people of the church. Kinston was in an expansion phase at that time because Dupont Company was bringing in hundreds of new people and it was thought there would be a need for new churches. The bishop wanted my father to enable our congregation, with the help of the conference, to start new churches to serve these people. Both St. Mark's and Westminster were started during this period as well as one old downtown church reopened. My dad thrived on the enthusiasm, generosity, and missions of the people. What a happy time for Methodism in Kinston - and for my dad! He was very proud of the several young men from Queen Street who became ministers.

The first minister appointed to the newly formed Westminster Church was Jimmy Miller who ended up marrying our Director of Religious Education, Susan Waller. How well I remember that after the New Year's Eve candlelight service at Queen Street that first year that Jimmy was there, having just been appointed at conference in November, seeing Susan and Jimmy sitting on the front corner steps of the church deep in conversation and becoming better acquainted. Later Susan reported they'd sat there until 2 AM.! The parsonage on Lenoir Street was where Susan stayed the night before her wedding. As a teenager loving romance, I felt that we were a part of this exciting event that seemed to have started at Queen Street.

Soon after we'd moved to Kinston, the Parsonage Committee had decided to redecorate the minister's home. Since several committee members had recently redone their own homes, they pushed for quality furnishings, decorative items from New York, and lovely furniture. They took special care to include a desk and pretty curtains for the resident teenager, and I enjoyed these beautiful surroundings for several slumber parties through those years.

Every Sunday my dad stood at the entrance to the Educational building to greet those arriving for Sunday School. One special memory that remained with him was the gift of a rose for his lapel every Sunday from the Mock girls, Peggy and Frances.

And of course, Charity Holland has continued to love all of "us young people" for these many intervening years after her time at Queen Street. The bonds and friendships formed in our MYF and high school groups have sustained the test of a lifetime. The leaders who helped instill values at that time were like extra parents and without extra diversions of TV, cars, computers we sought out wholesome gatherings at the church. Queen Street Youth Group was the in place to be!

**T. MARVIN VICK, JR., 1956-1962** (Submitted by Paul Vick)

The demands of my father's life as a Methodist Minister were seldom easy or predictable, as he tried to provide vigorous and wise spiritual leadership while pasturing the church flock, fathering his own family, and moving his family frequently in the tradition of the Church. In the summer of 1956, Marvin Vick, my father, went to the Annual Conference with the confidence that he would spend another year in Mebane. God, however, had a different plan and so the Vick family moved to Kinston to become a part of the Queen Street family. We were all very happy to be in Kinston especially my father, who initially chose to join the North Carolina Eastern Conference, in part, because of his love for the coastal areas of the State. Kinston was as close to the beach as his appointments in the Church ever took him.

The parsonage at 411 West Lenoir Street was the Vick family's home for the next six years, a very happy period for both my father and the other members of the family. It was the largest congregation he had served and the largest town the Vick family had lived in, so it took us a little while to adjust to the "big time." But my father was quick to throw himself into the work that God had for him, and he and my mother were soon facing the new challenges presented by the church community. For the first time, my father was in a community with three other Methodist ministers, and he greatly enjoyed the communal and spiritual fellowship with these men. In addition to this new opportunity, he found like-minded pastors of other denominations who were interested in working together for the good of the community. My father's relationship with these churchmen were also rewarding to him, especially his relationship with Rabbi Jerry Tolocho.

I believe that one of my father's valuable contributions was the advancement of the youth program at Queen Street. He worked hard to offer Christian experiences as alternatives to the many secular influences for the teenagers in the community. Perhaps having two teenager sons gave him added motivation! He drew special joy from the youth participation in the Sunday evening services and the social gatherings that followed. His insistence that each young person attend the evening service in order to go to the after-church socials informed and shaped the program and the young people, as it increased participation.

My parents' service to God and this church is still deeply felt by all of their children. Tommy, Cathy, Sally, and I admire our example as a church family and we will always be grateful for the influence of our parents and the members of this church in our lives.

**HAROLD F. LEATHERMAN, 1968-1973**

Dear Friends in Christ, from Harold, Wilma and Family

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. "Ph 1:2

As these words are being written there is a deep reeling of joy and thanksgiving as the years 1968-1973 are recalled. The five years we served as your minister and parson-age family were some of the happiest years of our ministry. Your support of the many local and Conference programs were recognized by the annual Conference.

We will ever be grateful for the love and concern for your minister and family. You were there to support when my father died. You were there when our first grandchild was born. You were there when our youngest daughter graduated from high school and went away to college.

We hope to be present for the celebration on Heritage Sunday. However, if this is not possible, please know our thoughts and prayers of thanksgiving will be with you, not only on this day, but during the days to come. You have a wonderful heritage and strive to keep it alive.

### **KERMIT L. BRASWELL, 1975-1980**

In the spring of 1975, I received a call from the late Bishop Robert M. Blackburn indicating that Mr. Tom Harvey, Chair of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee at Queen Street wanted to take Alice and me out to lunch and he was giving me permission to do this. This was the beginning of my connection with Queen Street United Methodist Church. We enjoyed a delightful lunch with Tom and were very excited about my appointment to Queen Street. My ministry at Queen Street was five happy years in ministry.

I have so many pleasant memories at Queen Street; however, space will only allow me to lift up a few. The formation of new ministries was exciting. A young adult fellowship was formed which ministered to many young adults. As a result of the young adult fellowship, members were added to Queen Street. The prime timers was a special ministry for those in middle age. The JOY group (Just Older Youth) was formed as a ministry for seniors involving a monthly trip for fun and fellowship. I would be remiss if I did not express how much I enjoyed working with our youth.

I will never forget the bus and the joy it provided for all age groups including a number of one-day trips and the annual week-long trips to Lake Junaluska for youth and seniors as well as ski trips for the youth. I recall the excitement that we all experienced with our financial campaigns when we would over subscribe the budget. A great joy for me was preaching, receiving new members, visiting in the homes and performing other pastoral duties. The fulfillment found in my five-year ministry at Queen Street and the friendships established will remain with Alice, Lou and me for the rest of our lives.

### **RANDALL BAKER, 1982-1987**

I came to Queen Street United Methodist Church in June of 1982. I was not planning on moving, however I received a telephone call from my D.S asking me to accept a move to Queen St. U.M.C. Most of my moves have been upon the request of my D.S. or the Bishop for special purposes to the churches that I have served. The only time that I had been in Kinston was in 1960 for the Annual Conference held at Queen St. Church. I realize that my appointment came as a surprise to many of the church members. Freda and I were graciously received and our five year appointment began and ended with another telephone call from our bishop asking me to serve on his cabinet in 1987.

I found the church to be in good shape in attendance, finances, active in the ministry in Kinston. The Rev. Gerald Peterson was my associate pastor who remained in this position for the next two years. Gerald and I had a good working relationship, and I was sorry to see him go. One of the first things I asked for was a list of all church members listed by the street address. I started my visitation by taking a street at time and knocking on each member's door. If for some reason no one was at home, I would leave a note and would set up a later appointment. However this type of visitation was only in relation to my general visitation for special needs of the membership.

The Rev. Tom Hollis was appointed as my associate, but only stayed for nearly two years when my D.S said he needed him in another church in our district which left me without another helper. But the lord has a way of looking at our needs, and this help came with the hiring of Rev. Laura Early who created more programs with children, youth, and adults that gave an all around growth in the major needs of the church. Laura and I left Queen St. at the same time to the Elizabeth City District.

During my ministry here I organized the Seeker Sunday School class and taught it until I moved. I taught a weekly morning Bible Study, helped in forming ICOR, and with the help of Judge Rodney Goodman we set up the \$100,000 trust fund to use the interest for maintenance. I was also the bus driver for the senior citizens outing program. I drove to many activities from Durham the to coast and had a great relationship with this part of our membership

My years at Queen St. have continued with my retirement here in Kinston and my prayers are still that our church will remain a vital influence in our city.

### **M. WHITFIELD WARREN, 1993-1998 (DEC.)** (Submitted by Barbara Warren)

Whit and I were very happy to be assigned to Queen Street UMC in 1993. We found a loving home in Kinston with warm, welcoming people. There were many challenges as well. The church was overextended financially and there were 30 deaths in the church family the first summer we were in Kinston. Some past hurt among the members was still there, so Whit's ministry called him to be a pastor, an educator, a healer, and a business executive.

The things that helped unite the church again were the Disciple Bible Studies, Stephen Ministry, and other small-group activities that helped people get to know each other on a more personal level- a sharing level. The vision of Queen Street began to be more involved and to show outreach to the greater community.

During this time, the church helped to shepherd Craig Ham to a ministry degree, it accepted Maria Ham's music with enthusiasm, and most importantly, it did not give up. The Lenten services attracted business people from all over town, with Bemice Hardy heading up the luncheons with zeal. Tom Harvey and others shepherded Whit and guided him into the nature of Queen Street and its needs. In the Stephen ministry, many of us became close to those we "adopted." Whit visited shut-ins and members and referred those who needed more care to Stephen ministers. I, personally, grew to love those I visited as well as those I grew in faith with in Disciple Bible studies and Stephen Ministry.

Of course, sadness came to our family when Whit became sick. I will always treasure the memories of Anne Courtney and Doris Petteway who took Whit to the doctor and ministered to him while I was working. There are so many who served on boards, who were teachers, financial advisors to the church, and faithful attendees. These people along with the youth and children really made the church grow toward Christ's purpose. Now, of course, Kristie, Rich and Sloan are at Queen Street and I pray they will continue to have the love and support you gave to our family, and that they will give back to the church in any way possible. I pray that the Whit Warren Scholarship will continue to be funded to help the children of the church to know that Queen Street loves and supports them and that "to whom much is given, of him is much required"—one of Whit's favorite quotations.

I see Queen Street as one of Christ's witnesses to the community and world, and pray it never becomes just an inward-looking church as many churches become - self satisfied, with lost purpose to go into the world and spread the gospel. I pray that Queen Street will always seek God's will for its purpose in this community and world. I thank God for sending us to Queen Street and may God bless its future ministry as it seeks God's will always.

#### **M. FRANCIS DANIEL, 1999-2004**

What I Remember About Ministry at Queen Street:

I am very grateful to God for the privilege of serving Queen Street UMC from 1999 to 2004. During that time I came to appreciate the Christian Witness of so many of the people, those who were present and those who had finished their work and had gone home to be with the Lord. As I think of those five years, I shall always appreciate the encouragement and support I received in the sermons that I preached. I have often said that I felt more at home preaching at Queen Street than any other church I have served.

Of all of the memories that I have, I believe one of the most vivid is winning the chili cook-off. Of course, I probably gained a lot of sympathy points, having fallen down the stairs with a big bowl of chili in my hand. I spilled the chili and myself all over the new carpet. I guess every minister hopes to leave his mark on the churches he serves but I didn't think that mine would be left in the carpet, (although I understand that it has now been removed).

In the 21/2 years since I have left Kinston, my mind has often recalled those who loved me unconditionally. I appreciate them so much. I see their faces and call their names in my memory. Some of them have now received their eternal reward but all that they shared with me continues to live on. I thank God for the saints he has placed in my path and the way he has blessed me through them. I pray God's blessings upon QSUMC. In Christ, Francis

#### **GEORGE D. SPEAKE, 2004-Present**

Many thoughts come to mind when I think about my time at Queen Street. First, I can't ignore the long line of pastors who preceded me who spread the Gospel in this church over the past 95 years. Not a Sunday passes that I don't think of them as I stand in this pulpit. Secondly, I am aware of the empty seats. Seats that were once filled with your parents and grandparent, your children and their friends. Many of you have pointed out where you and your family sat year after year. Some of you continue that tradition, by faithfully filling your "family pew" week after week. As a United Methodist pastor who moves from church to church Myra and I have missed being in one community long enough to witness the working of God from generation to generation. Most of all, I am aware of God's hand upon our church and this ministry. Knowing what God has done in the past only fuels my enthusiasm for the future. One question remains unanswered: What great things will we celebrate in five years and what greatness will be celebrated in thirty years. May God continue to bless your homes and families as we minister together. Pray that God continues to bless this church and her outreach in the name of Jesus.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION THROUGH THE AGES

The earliest records available state that through the efforts of the Rev. Nathan Hooker, from Greene Co., and those of the Rev. J. B. Webb, a Methodist Sunday School was organized in 1951 with Robert C. Hay as its first Superintendent. Church records were burned when the church on Caswell Street was struck by lightning in 1860, so many records from the early years were lost. Through the years, even before the congregation had a church building, a Sunday School was in existence. This is indicative of the desire of the congregation for Christian education for both children and adults. From the beginning of train service in Kinston, the Methodist Sunday School Classes began taking excursions to Morehead City and sometimes to New Bern. Train cars were rented, and the classes would leave early in the morning and return that night. This was a big event for the town and great fellowship for the church. The following is a list of some of the Sunday School classes, past and present.

### PAST

#### **Baraca Class**

The Baraca Class was one of the two oldest classes of the Sunday School. This class was begun in the old Caswell Street Methodist Church, former home of the congregation of the church. About a year after the move was made to Queen Street, a membership drive was undertaken. At the suggestion of Mr. John C. Hood, the class was organized and became the Baraca Class in July 1912. The meeting place was in the rear of the church sanctuary.



Later the class met in the small dwelling which was on the lot now occupied by the Education Building. It was the one class for adult men. After the Educational Building was built the Baraca room was located off of the fellowship hall. Among those who have served as teacher during the years are Captain Hawks; J. C. Hood; Judge Allen; C. Felix Harvey; and Mr. Jasper Phillips, who taught the class for many years.

#### **Philathea - Susanna Wesley Bible Class**

The Susanna Wesley Bible Class was also organized in 1912, as the Philathea Class. It met in a small room upstairs for a number of years. Mr. Y. T. Ormond was the first teacher of the organization.



When the Educational Building was completed, the class moved in to that building where it occupied a room for 32 years before moving into the former "Prayer Meeting Room" in the Church building. The name was changed about the time the move was made into the Educational Building to the Susanna Wesley Bible Class. It was one of the most active classes in the Sunday School and had as its major project the giving of scholarships to young people preparing for the ministry. Among the teachers who served through the years since Mr.

Ormond are Mrs. Nan Howard; Mrs. O. L. Wilson; Mrs. T. W. Heath, Sr., who served for 25 years; Mrs. R. B. Hooker; and Mrs. John Steinert.

#### **Ruth Stanford - Fidelis Class**

The class, begun in 1948, served senior women. The class sought to understand the Holy Word through lectures based on lessons in Adult Bible Studies. Christian fellowship was promoted by luncheon meetings for special occasions. After Ruth Stanford, some of the teachers were Sally Chadwick and Mae Womble.



## PRESENT

### **Adult Men's Class**

This class, one of the church's oldest, was originally begun as the Young Men's Class. This class explores the Word of God through lectures and group discussions. Class fellowship is promoted by enjoying a hot cup of coffee before class. Teachers have included Tom Griffin and Rev. Randall Baker.

### **Christian Home Class**

The Christian Home Class, formed in 1988, is geared toward couples and individuals. This class offers an array of topics from studying a book in the Bible to studying a topic concerning today's family. Lively discussions are always a part of this class. Teachers have included Keith Thompson, Steven Gower, and, currently, Bill Gastmeyer.

### **Frank Mock Class**

More than half a century has passed since a small group of young adults not "headed" for college met on a Sunday morning to form the Young Adult Class. We really can't remember for sure, but some of us believe that was probably about 1947 and Bob Foster was probably the first teacher. We quickly learned that coming together on Sunday morning was nice but we needed more than that to keep us going. We reached out to newcomers to the church and for people not coming to Sunday School. Members called on others not just by phone but by going to see them and urging them to visit with us. We very soon began to focus on needs within our church and how we might meet some of those needs. We were a fun loving group who decided we'd plan some entertainment and what did we decide on - "A Womanless Wedding"! Now five decades later we probably would not choose this as the most appropriate fellowship experience for a church group. However it does stand out as one of the most fun things we ever did.



Our church is the recipient of many "pieces" from the labors of the members of this class. We sponsored many meals with lots of cooking and fixing including the use of an old gas stove in the church kitchen that upon lighting it one evening it singed the stockings off of Martha Daughy and Rachel Ellington. This class bought and installed the only refrigerated water drinking fountain in the church. Members raised money and purchased a refrigerator for the church kitchen. Members built playground equipment for the church school, a serving table for the kitchen, housekeeping furniture for the church nursery and countless other items were donated through the years.

This group is known for maintaining and keeping beautiful their meeting area. We started out in the prayer room, moved from there to a room at the north end of second floor in the education building and our group presently meets in an area on the ground level of the education building. We have always painted, papered, made draperies and curtains and bought chairs for our meeting area. We have been most blessed to have talented members among us who gave their very best. The name of this class has evolved as the make-up of its members changed. We began as the Young Adult Class, then as the years passed and members were not as young the name changed to the Couples Class. Now some among us have lost spouses through death and we have claimed for ourselves the name the "Frank Mock Class." Mr. Mock taught our class for a number of years and was our teacher at the time of his death in 1978.

Our group is a fun-loving eating group. We are famous for the many annual pig pickings and fish stews that carry many stories. The class enjoyed many evenings of hymn singing and eating at Martha and Elwood Daughy's and Hamp and Doris Petteway's. Another important fellowship experience for our group is our Christmas party with gift giving that has brought gift exchanges that were kept from year to year as payback. Lots of numbers have made fishing trips that made a supportive community of tellers and listeners about who caught what. In 1999 we grew beyond our foolishness Christmas giving and each bought a nice toy for another member, which after the party was taken for children who were flood survivors in our community.

This class is mainly composed of couples who are in their 40's and over. Though Mature Years is the literature for the class, discussions often center on events in the news and their relationship to biblical teachings and Christian life. Teachers include Gene Ormond and Mary Dell Rhodes.

### **Foundations Class**

In December 1997, Reverend Craig Hamm asked Debbe Gastmeyer if she would be willing to start a young adults' Sunday School class. She agreed; and in January 1998, the Foundations was started. Later in the life of the class they decided to do a book study and other ages asked to come to the study; it was agreed upon and the Foundations class has become a class of all age adults. They study a variety of curriculum.

### **Kumdublers – Wesleyan Class**

The Wesleyan Class started as the Kumdublers class in the 1950's. Over time the class evolved from just a couple's class to include other young adults, and the name was changed the Young Adult Class. The last name change was to the Wesleyan Class. No matter what the name, the class has been very active in the life of the church. We have fed the homeless shelter, painted numerous classrooms, given dinners in honor of the older classes in the church, given money to Meals on Wheels, Boys and Girls Club, ICOR, Salvation Army, and participated in the Christmas opportunities. In addition, we have had Christmas caroling for shut-ins and an active prayer group.

Over the years we have been blessed with many good and dedicated teachers. These include Gerald Peterson, Bob Borgman, Chris Collins, Dan Oliver, Dan Blair, Frank Brooks, Craig Ham, Randall Baker and our latest Margie Jones. These dedicated Christians have led our class and helped all of us grow in knowledge. We hope that we will continue to learn and grow in our faith as the years fly.

### **The Seekers Class**

While serving Queen Street United Methodist Church in the mid 1980's, Reverend Randall Baker along with several other folks founded the Seekers Sunday School Class. The lessons were Biblically based, and Reverend Baker became its first teacher.

After Reverend Baker moved, John McNairy took the responsibility of the Seekers Sunday School teacher and the class started to grow. In a few years, the Seekers Class had close to sixty members...wow! Over the years and for one reason or another, the members of the Seekers Sunday School Class started dismantling and the class dramatically declined in members. Allen Smith became the next Seekers Class teacher in the mid 1990's. Allen kept the class together and it remained a Biblically based Sunday School Class for several years. He continued teaching God's word until 2003. A period of almost a year went



by without a full time teacher. Van Braxton, Norma Daniels, Ann Brinson and Jackie Jones filled in as teachers until David Steele was asked to be the Seekers Class teacher in 2004. David accepted and has had much support from the members of the class. Alfred Seymour, Norma Daniels and Van Braxton fill in when David is unable to teach.

Currently, the class has twenty-one members. As the name "Seekers" implies, members continue to "seek" God's wisdom through studying the Bible and Bible study series by Charles Stanley. Mr. Stanley's series has inspired the Seekers Class to learn more about our Lord and enhance their Christian walk with Christ. Lessons have included Relying on the Holy Spirit, Forgiveness, Listening to God, Overcoming the Enemy and Preparing for Christ's Return.

Every Sunday morning there are always prayers, laughter, tears and discussions, but always there is learning about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The closeness that the Seekers Class share with God and each other allows everyone to feel free to express themselves, discuss issues – even personal issues without the fear of what someone else might think or say. The Seekers Class has become a close nit family and it remains a Biblically based Sunday School Class learning more every Sunday about our Lord. Please feel free to visit and/or join us as we continue to "Seek". We would love to have you. - Submitted by David Steele

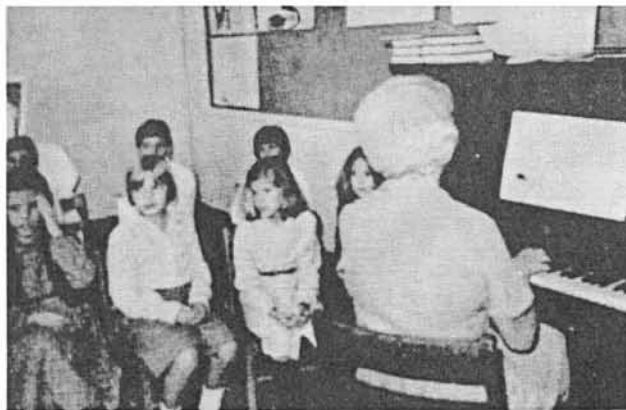
### Woodard Speed Class

The Woodard Speed Class, originally the Young Adult Women's Class, has been in existence about eighty years. This class was organized about 1927 as the Young Women's Sunday School class. Mrs. Woodard Durham Speed was the teacher for almost fifty years. The class size increased through the years and as the years passed the young women were not so young anymore.

Reluctantly, they changed the class name to the Adult Women's Class. After the resignation and death of Mrs. Speed, the class name became Mrs. Speeds Class. Teachers following Mrs. Speed were Wilma Leatherman and Charity Holland. Charity moved to Cypress Glen and a weekly rotation of teachers began including Phyllis Whitaker, Mayree Rouse, Marilyn Gay, Audrey Power, Millie Matthis, and Carol Adams. Woodard Heath currently serves as President and Ann Dawson as Secretary. The class, which meets in the Ladies' Parlor, uses the Adult Bible Study. It is primarily a lecture class but is always open for discussion.



### CHILDRENS' SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AND VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PHOTOS



## WOMEN IN SERVICE THROUGH THE AGES

### WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

In 1879, soon after the appointment of Rev. F. D. Swindell to Kinston station, an auxiliary to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was organized in the old church at the corner of Independent and Caswell Streets, by Mrs. Swindell with twenty-four members. Officers elected were as follows: Mrs. F. D. Swindell, President; Mrs. E. E. Midyette, Recording Secretary; Miss Bettie Hooker, Corresponding Secretary; and Mrs. Henry Dunn, Treasurer.

Mrs. Swindell remained President of the Auxiliary during her husband's four years pastorate. The sainted Mrs. Robert C. Hay was an active member and earnest and zealous worker, and it was through her Christian influence that many were brought into the Society. Very early, Methodist women knew that some provision must be made for those unanticipated "at hand" expenses which were not budgeted in order for us not to drain our giving to the mission program. The March 17, 1903, record shows that Mrs. J. J. Bizzell, Secretary of the Auxiliary, "called attention to the fact that no provision was made in the Society to defray expenses of postage money orders, etc. and it was decided to have a mite box for thank offerings or any voluntary contributions the members cared to make to defray expenses of the Society." This practice continues to the present day. This is the same Mrs. Bizzell who a few years later went with another member of the Society to the "Board of Stewards" and secured their permission to use a recently purchased small frame building back of the "new Church" to hold missionary meetings with children during the week.

The minutes for April 1910, while the congregation was still meeting in the Caswell Street Church, shows as a goal "to increase our membership to 100 if possible." The record shows a membership of 42 that year, preceding the congregation's move to the new structure on Queen St. the following year, 1911. Eight years later they had more than doubled their growth with a membership of 96 in 1919. The first recorded financial report shows the amount of \$41.03 as the total amount received for the year ending March 1, 1899. Twenty years later in December 1919, the Missionary Society had raised \$540.19 and the Ladies Aid Society had raised an additional \$425.00.

In February of 1913, the home and foreign work were combined; and the Society was reorganized with Mrs. F. S. Love, wife of the pastor, as President. On May 12, 1916, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. F. A. Whitaker and Mrs. Heath were appointed a committee to see that flowers were placed in the church. This practice continued as a responsibility of the Society for the next four decades with various circles assuming responsibility each month. In 1917, a mission study class was organized with Miss Bettie Lee as leader. Also in this year, the Society obligated to clothe a child at the orphanage. This project was a privilege of the Society for more than fifty years. Reports from 1917 also show that Mrs. Mary Jackson and Mrs. C. F. Harvey each supported a Bible Woman from China, which the Society had done as a whole several years prior to this time.

In December of 1918, Mrs. Bettie Lee, President, presented for signatures a paper putting the Society on record as favoring the granting of laity rights to women. After some discussion the paper was signed by a majority of those present. In 1921, the Society was first divided into circles and had a total membership of 85. In 1927, the name Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was changed to the Sue D. Swindell Missionary Society in honor of its organizer and first President.

### YOUNG WOMEN'S AID SOCIETY

On February 28, 1921, a group of about 40 young women of the church met in the home of Mrs. E. V. Webb and were organized by Mrs. Webb into a Young Women's Aid Society. The officers were Mrs. Ray (Leoria) West, President; Miss Nell Broome, Secretary; and Mrs. Myrtle Whitaker, Treasurer. In 1924, the Young Women's Aid Society became the Mamie Webb Auxiliary and continued to function as a parsonage and local aid society. Dues in 1921 were ten cents and increased to twenty-five cents in 1928.

### SUE D. SWINDELL MISSIONARY SOCIETY

In 1927, the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was changed to the Sue D. Swindell Missionary Society in honor of its organizer and first President. By April of 1934, all of the twenty-four charter members had all passed on except Mrs. L. Harvey, who did not attend the meetings because of deafness but was still an interested and loyal member.

## MAMIE WEBB AUXILIARY

Organized in 1921 as the Young Woman's Aid Society this group functioned under this name until 1924 when its name was changed to the Mamie Webb Auxiliary in honor of its founder Mrs. E. N. Webb. The Young Women's Aid Society became the Mamie Webb Auxiliary and continued to function as a parsonage and local aid society. But in 1929 the Auxiliary assumed a program of work as outlined by the Woman's Missionary Council and became a missionary society.

In 1940, this group combined with "The Sue D. Swindell Missionary Society" to become the "Woman's Society of Christian Service." Through the intervening years many fine contributions were made to the parsonage and the church in furnishings and service.

## WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

In September of 1940, following the union of the Northern and Southern Methodist Churches, the Sue D. Swindell Missionary Society and the Mamie Webb Auxiliary combined to form the Woman's Society of Christian Service. In so doing they brought together a combined membership of 253 (described in a record written by Mrs. Sallie Jordan in 1954 as "capable and zealous women eager to aid the needy, and propagate the Gospel, both at home and abroad.") The first officers of the new Society were Mrs. R. B. (Lucille) Hooker, President; Mrs. Paul (Winnie West) Bennett, Secretary; and Mrs. George L. (Sallie) Jordan, Treasurer. Members of the Society gave honorary life memberships to babies in the church.



In 1940, a night circle was organized for young business women with Miss Anne Jordan as leader and Mrs. E. Y. Speed as Counselor. This circle became the nucleus of the Wesleyan Service Guild, which was organized in 1944 with 40 members. The record of April 12, 1948 states that Mrs. H. I. (Mary) Glass presented to the Society a large record book to be used as a roll of life memberships in the Woman's Society of Christian Service of Queen Street Church. Mrs. Glass returned the album of photographs of Life Members of the Society to the President, Mrs. Doris Montgomery, in November 1950; and Mrs. Ray (Leoria) West was asked to be custodian of the book and to complete it.

In 1949, the Woman's Society of Christian Service changed its year to run from June through May each year. Mrs. Mary Glass reported in June 1949, of the same year that she had organized a new circle of young married women with no members. In September of that year, the circle had a membership of 25. Mrs. Doris Montgomery, President, announced in August of 1950 that the tenth anniversary of the organization of the Woman's Society of Christian Service was being commemorated by a chain visitation and that we were to visit Webb's Chapel as part of the anniversary program. The visiting Society gave a birthday cake with eleven candles, each candle representing a feature of the work of the Society. The birthday cake given by the La Grange Society was brought to the table. The candles were lit one at a time by different members and a verse spoken appropriate to the theme. The candle to grow on was lit by our President, Mrs. Montgomery.



## WESLEYAN SERVICE GUILD

This organization is a branch of the Woman's Society of Christian Service. The local group was organized in 1944 during the presidency of Mrs. T. W. Heath. A night circle of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, of which Miss Anne Jordan was President, became the nucleus of the Wesleyan Service Guild.

Miss Nancy Sutton was President, and Miss Neva Whitaker was Treasurer. This group sought the membership of business women who were unable to attend afternoon meetings. In 1954, this organization had four circles and 75 members and 46 members in 1965. The list of names of those persons serving as leaders for Wesleyan Service Guild is included with the local history along with the list of Presidents who have served the women of the Church since its organization.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

On November 4, 1968 the charter meeting of the W. S. C. S. becoming United Methodist Women was held at Queen Street Church. Members had until the end of December to become Charter members. In February of 1973, it was the recommendation of the Task Force on re-organization of Wesleyan Service Guild and Woman's Society of Christian Service to become United Methodist Women.

The women of Queen Street continue playing a vital role in the life of the church. As of this writing there are nearly 100 members of the United Methodist Women pretty evenly divided into five circles. We meet monthly from September to May. Our general meeting each month is a luncheon meeting, and four of the circles meet following the luncheon meeting. Circle #5 is the only night circle, and they consist of women who work outside the home and are unable to attend during the day. Each circle takes it turn preparing and serving the monthly luncheon.

We have interesting and informative programs at our meetings and our members participate in study courses from books and other materials from the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church. These studies are usually done with members in other churches in the Greenville District. We have spiritual retreats at the district and North Carolina Conference levels also.



For the past several years our major money-making project has been a gigantic "yard sale" held in our fellowship hall. The UMW has a budget this year of \$5,700, and the money comes from individual pledges and the yard sale. \$4,175 went to "Conference Work" which includes administrative expenses of district and conference officers and to the Women's Division for administrative expenses and mission projects.

The women contribute to local ministries e.g. ICOR, Meals on Wheels, and Kinston Church Women United. Our women also help take care of the children in the nursery each Sunday. There is great cooperation and fellowship among the women of Queen Street.

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**Hostess for Watch Night** - December 1950 - Rev. Lawrence spoke of his desire to re-install the custom of having a watch night prayer service and asked the group to be responsible for light refreshments for a social period prior to the midnight service. The group accepted this responsibility.

**Vibrant Mission Study** - In 1954 Mrs. T. C. (Adelaide) Lewis served as Vice President and received a vigorous creative program of study and missionary education. She urged participation in Conference School of Mission, at that time being held at Duke. Numbers of people participated, and she was then able to involve many people in local church mission study programs.

**\$500 Bond Gift Matures** - May 10, 1954 - A \$500 bond given by Mrs. Fanny Whitaker to the Sue D. Swindell Society 20 years ago has matured. \$200 will be given to St. Mark Church and \$300 will be used at Louisburg College as a loan for a needy student.

**Indian Affairs** - Jan. 1956 - Mrs. Doris Montgomery recommended that we write Glen L. Edmonds, President Eisenhower, and the House and Senate members in Washington urging their support for improved conditions for our American Indians. It was moved and seconded that our Christian Social Relations Chairman write to these people and the President of our local Society sign them. Mrs. Lucy Heath made the motion that \$25 be contributed for the Indian work at Cherokee.

**Fortieth Anniversary** - In 1960 the membership of 296 women celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Woman's Society. Rev. George Megill spoke to the women before leaving for the mission field, and the pastor Rev. Marvin Vick spoke on the requirements for missionaries.

**Lest We Forget** - In 1961 Mrs. S. B. (Mabel) Law, a devoted worker in the program of Methodist Women as Secretary of Children's Work for a life time, told of a visit her husband made to see Mrs. E. V. Webb in a nursing home in Yanceyville.

**Food! Food!** - During the decade of the fifties and sixties the record contains endless accounts of the women being involved in serving meals for various church related groups. Mrs. Eddie (Ola) Stroud, Mrs. Betty Hearn, and Mrs. Pauline Alexander must have dished up some thousands of plates of food.

**Cook Book Project - 1969** - A cook book was published and dedicated to Mrs. Eddie (Ola) Stroud, who had served as Chairperson of the kitchen committee for many years. The Cook Book was sold for \$1.00, with the profit going into a special fund toward the purchase of a new church organ.

**Beyond the Local Church** - Through the years the women of Queen St. Church have had the privilege of serving in varied capacities beyond the local Church in the District and Conference. Among the people who have given leadership in these areas are: Mrs. Irene Temple, Mrs. John (Kate) Shute, Mrs. Adelaide Lewis, Mrs. Anne Steinert, Mrs. M. R. Pipkin, Mrs. Mary Glass, Charity Holland, Mrs. Catherine Vick, Mrs. Ivey Wooten, Mrs. Cooper Stanton, Mrs. Marian Potter, Mrs. Lucille Hooker, Mrs. Mary Ann Ivey, Mrs. Julia Woolard, Miss Tempie Smith, Mrs. Wilma Leatherman, and Mrs. Helen Grady. The local records indicate that the founder of the Kinston Missionary Society, Mrs. Sue Swindell, was very actively involved in leadership beyond the local Church.

**U. N. - Washington Study Tours** - Several youths and as many as two adults through the years have been encouraged to participate in the U. N. - Washington Study Seminars through some partial funding from local Methodist Women.

**Letters to Washington** - In 1964 a letter was written to Congressmen and Senators protesting the removal of the words "Under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance to our U. S. of America flag.

**Photographs of Pastors** - In 1966 the Society voted to ask Mrs. George (Sallie) Jordan to be responsible for securing, framing, and appropriately hanging photographs of all past and present senior ministers. The women of the Church would adopt this as a continuing project.

**Love Offering Instead of Letters** - In 1966 Mrs. Anne Steinert proposed that the Society dispense with the practice of writing resolutions to honor a deceased member and instead to give a yearly gift of a love offering honoring all deceased members.

**General Meeting Becomes Luncheon** - In September 1968, under the leadership of Mrs. Alice Dixon as President, the monthly general meeting time was changed from the afternoon to a noon luncheon meeting. A circle was to be responsible for the luncheon each month with members attending to pay a nominal charge for the meal.

**District Hostess** - Queen Street Church was hostess to the W. S. C. S. of the Greenville District on April 21, 1970 with Mrs. Wilma Leatherman, wife of the pastor of Queen Street Church, serving as District President. The Guild was hostess to the Greenville District on Sunday afternoon, October 12, at 2:30 p.m.

**Handbook for Members** - In February 1970 it was voted to make a handbook for each member, containing the membership names and phone numbers of the ten circles. To defray the cost of printing each member was to pay \$.25 to help with expense, this is no longer in practice.

**Nursing Scholarship** - A Nursing Scholarship was established by the children of Mrs. Mary Spence Thompson in her memory, to be administered as a loan by the organization of United Methodist Women. Committee to supervise scholarship is Mary Spence Midgett, Anne Courtney, and Sandra Brooks.



**Serve and Grow** - In 1979 with Mrs. Anne Steinert as President the budget was increased \$500. The theme for the year was "See and Know - Serve and Grow." It was asked that our support for our Methodist Children's Home be directed to the Home rather than to individuals.

**Meals for Family of Deceased Members** - In 1979 the Pastor made a request that each Circle's Extra Miles responsibility include the serving of a meal when a member of the Church dies if that member of the Church is not in a circle or a Sunday School class.

**Supportive Community** - Mrs. Sebie Hewitt, as Chairperson of Supportive Community, initiated plans for monthly fellowship activities for our senior citizens. She has continued the practice of assigning the shut-ins of our Church to the various circles for monthly visitation by members and quarterly distribution of Mature Years.

**Sermon Tapes for Shut-Ins** - In May 1980 Mrs. Lib Jordan, as Chairperson of local Church responsibility, accepted assignment for regular distribution of a tape of the Sunday morning service to shut-ins desiring this service.

**Ramp Fund** - January 5, 1981 - Because of their concern for making the Church accessible to persons with handicapping conditions, the women voted to give \$1,500 toward providing a ramp.

**Africa - Camp Don Lee Rest Rooms - Library** - December 1981 - The women voted to send \$1,000 to Camp Don Lee for the upgrading of the rest rooms; \$100 to the new library; and \$100 to the African Development Fund.

**Host to District Conference** - October 1982 - United Methodist Women planned and prepared for the hosting of the Greenville District Annual meeting of the United Methodist Women at Queen St. Church on October 20, 1982.

**Sock Dolls for Pediatric Patients** - December 6, 1982 - The women voted to become involved in an ecumenical community project of making stuffed sock monkeys for patients on the pediatric wing of Lenoir Memorial hospital. This project, under the direction of Mrs. Doris Petteway, provides loving durable "warm fuzzies" for children to hang on to during anxious days and nights.

**Food Pantry** - In December 1982 a food pantry was set up in the local Church by the women. The pantry was to be maintained by volunteer contributions as women come to circles and general meetings.

**Centennial Celebration Era** - As Methodist women moved into their second century of missionary work, each local unit was challenged to set as a goal the research and writing of their history and the celebration of their heritage. The Centennial Celebration at Queen St. Church included programs, skits, displays, history and an Honor Roll booklet printed each of the three Centennial years (83, 84, 85) where for contributing \$1.00 members listed the names of women of the past and present who had added meaning to their lives.

**Tablecloths of Color** - A few United Methodist Women on a shopping tour found pastel and printed sheeting on sale and envisioned the tables in the Church fellowship hall arrayed in splendor with bright cloths, napkins and aprons. With lots of cutting, hemming, and stitching involving lots of women, the investment dream became a reality. The sight was so pleasing the women voted to sponsor an after Church turkey dinner in November, so everyone could see the beautiful new additions. The dinner was a profitable money making project for the treasury of United Methodist Women.

**Global Concerns** - The Chairperson of global concerns promoted a systematic plan for each circle adopting a missionary (retired or active) from the listing in the prayer calendar and keeping in touch through correspondence. She also sponsored volunteer supplementary giving by lifting up a specific need in some area and challenged the women to give a token offering from their abundance - such as \$.01 for each pair of shoes they owned - to fight infestation of hookworm.

**Love Made Visible** - The December 1983 program included the total Church with a covered dish supper with the women sharing in skit form a summary of their work during the year. The climax of the program was the presentation of a \$500 gift to missions and a \$800 gift to Meals on Wheels from the Church membership, honoring the local President of United Methodist Women.

**Adopt a Cabin** - The 1982 gift of \$1,000 for Camp Don Lee bathrooms motivated the women to adopt a cabin at Camp Don Lee for spring cleaning in 1983 and 1984. The following year the women appealed to the Administrative Board and the Church adopted the maintenance and annual cleaning of the cabin as an on-going project.

**Visions of Shalom** - Supplementary volunteer giving during 1985 will be directed to Meals on Wheels, ICOR, or UMCOR.

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**United Methodist Women who have served on the District Level:** Jean Barr, Sandra Brooks, Norma Daniels, Mrs. H. I. Glass, Charity Holland, Lucile Hooker, Wilma Leatherman, Millie Matthis, Margaret Reese, Kate Shute, Sara Moore, Cooper Stanton, Ann Swartzman, Catherine Vick, Betsy Westbrook, Sarah White, and Julia Woodard.



## METHODIST YOUTH

A children's society, the Little Workers, was organized by Mrs. Swindell in 1881. Later, in 1895, a children's group under the name of the Juvenile Missionary Society had as its lady manager Miss Capitola Grainger, the late Mrs. D. T. Edwards. An article that appeared in the *Kinston Free Press* on August 15, 1914, reported on a camping trip taken by the Knights of Ezelah under the leadership of H. A. Humble, pastor of the Methodist church, who was assisted at the encampment by Mr. John A. Herndon, Sr., and Ray Jordan. There was not a dull moment with prayer service being held twice daily and lots of food, games and swimming. The Knights of Ezelah were organized in 1906 by Rev. Humble, who was at that time stationed in Laurinburg. With but few changes it was adopted by the Epworth League as the boys organization of the Methodist Church. Its purpose, which was never forgotten in camp, was to



develop boys into Christian manhood and to teach boys that they could be good boys and manly boys at the same time. The boys were very fond of their leader, Rev. Humble, and voted him a complimentary sail on the evening before they broke camp. In later years, the church sponsored Boy Scout Troop No. 62 for many years. The Scoutmasters were Mike Strain, Frank Brooks, Rodney Edmondson and Bob McCain. In addition, the church also sponsored a Girl Scout Troop. For many years, Queen Street had a Kindergarten and First Grade. A number of our members remember attending.

## EPWORTH LEAGUE

The work with young people had always been a vital part of the church program. At the time of the beginnings of Queen Street Church the young people's group was called the Epworth League. The Epworth League was organized in 1889 within the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. It was a form of voluntary activity in the field of religious effort. Many leaders in the church among both men and women were recruited through the leagues in the churches across the nation. This was true in Queen Street Church, as well for many members of the Official Board and members of the Woman's Society of Christian Service had been were members of the League many years ago.

The League was particularly active during the pastorate of the Rev. H. A. Humble. The project of the League was about to be used by the missionaries at the mission station in the Congo. Wembo-Nyama was a familiar name to the Leagues. Mr. Humble said that this particular group "married itself to death!" Of course others young people were recruited and the League continued to function with volunteer leaders, among whom were Nellie Jones, Connie Calahan and Katie Herndon. As often happens, the League had its "ups and downs." At the time of the pastorate of the Rev. A. S. Parker, the League was quite small. Anne Jordan offered her service to work with the young people. The group was built up to a membership of 40 through the leadership of Anne and the very excellent counseling and encouragement of Rev. A. S. Parker.

In 1943, Miss Kitty Wilson was employed as the first paid Director of Christian Education. Miss Wilson served as Church Secretary. Since Miss Wilson's tenure of office, there have been a number of others who have served as Director of Christian Education among whom were: Miss Helen Butner, Miss Susan Waller, Miss Elizabeth Ann Hogan, Miss Charity Holland, Mrs. Harry Litchfield, Mrs. William Stewart and Miss Louise Green. Following the resignation of Miss Green on February 1, 1966, Mr. John H. White assumed the position of Minister of Education for Queen Street Methodist Church. He left Queen Street in June 1969, for pastorate in Hamlet, North Carolina. The Rev. James Earl Sutton was assigned to Queen Street Methodist Church as Associate Pastor at the Annual Conference which met in Chapel Hill in June 1969. His primary duties were with the youth in MYF. On October 11, 1970, Mrs. Kenneth Smith began work on a part time basis with the youth in UMYF.

## BRIGHT JEWELS

Continuing the children's work, in 1906, Mrs. E. V. Webb became the leader of the "Bright Jewels" Division. Because of her consecrated and efficient leadership this division received the banner from the conference society for the best Baby Division for ten consecutive years. Mrs. Webb resigned as Leader of this group in 1933. One of the members of the "Bright Jewels," Orville Jobson, later became a missionary to Africa. When the Home and Foreign work were combined in 1913, the Society was reorganized with Mrs. F. S. Love as President.

Mrs. E. V. Webb (Mamie) became the leader of the Bright Jewels (children's) Division. Because of her consecrated and efficient leadership, this Division received the banner from the Conference Society for the best Baby Division for ten consecutive years. The local annual report for 1916 shows 75 members of Bright Jewels with 23 new members, nine members of the Baby Division with 2 new members. This same year \$100 was raised by the Bright Jewels through dues and pledges. Four years later in 1920 the record shows they raised \$300. Mrs. Webb reported in May 1921, that the Bright Jewels made \$15.30 at a Box Party. In 1933 Mrs. Webb resigned as leader of this group.

### MYF AND UMYF

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### **Sammy Hudson (2000 – Present)**

Youth ministry at Queen Street has always been an important part of the life of this church. Many stories have been told over the years of what the youth program has meant to so many of the members of this congregation. In 2000, it was decided by the church council to hire a full time youth and young adult ministries coordinator, and this position was filled by Sammy Hudson. With this new position being added it brought some new energy and new ideas. Some of these included the coffee house ministry, missions and outreach, Erasing The Lines, and much more.



The coffee house ministry began as an outreach to the youth in the surrounding community in the fall of 2002. The funds for the renovations on the third floor were raised by the youth or given to this ministry by private donors. This ministry has been such a blessing and has grown significantly over the three years it has been going. The average attendance on a given Friday night is between 60-70 youth. Many of these who come are un-churched or not actively involved in a church. Over the past few years this ministry has been the fastest growing ministry at Queen Street and has even been set as an example by the City of Kinston on how the city needs to be reaching out to the youth of our community.



Missions have also been a huge part of the youth ministry program. Since 2000 we have been on several inner city mission trips, including trips to Nashville, TN; Washington, DC; Philadelphia; and McDowell County, WV. Out of these trips our youth realized that in helping others God was giving them so much more. They in fact were the ones most blessed! Out of these mission trips a new ministry vision was given to the youth and youth counselors. In 2003 "Erasing The Lines" began as an outreach mission to our own community. The first summer we had 26 participants from four different churches. It has grown over the past three years to now include over 150 youth participants from 14 different churches. During this one-week mission the youth have built more than 10 wheel chair ramps, painted the boys and girls clubs, fed the homeless, visited rest homes, led 3 different vacation bible schools, and so much more. This event has impacted our city in many great ways and will continue to reach out as God directs it. Many other mission and outreach projects have been a part of the youth ministry programs such as feeding the homeless at Christmas, and adopting a child across the globe, and even giving out Christmas gifts to folks at the "Tree." These missions have deeply impacted our youth and also shown them the importance of becoming the hands and feet of Christ.

Our Sunday night youth group time has continued to be Bible focused and relevant to teens. Our mission has continued to be that which is given to us in the great commission. It has been our goal to equip every teen that leaves to go off to college with the ability to stand on their own faith. We have continued to have strong volunteers to help us have a successful Sunday night program. One that I will mention that has been a significant part through the years is Jeannie Smith who worked many years as our meal coordinator. Every week we could count on having a quality meal that was carefully prepared to serve during UMYF. The help of Jeannie and many others is what has made this youth group so successful over the years.

Another aspect of UMYF that has made a huge impact on our youth is our annual retreats. We have been on several youth Ski trips, attended Pilgrimage, Camp Don Lee, Lake Junaluska, and many others. When we go away as a group we find it easier to draw close to the spirit God. All of these trips aren't just recreation events. They are designed to build each other up in our walk with God. These trips have truly been an opportunity to seek the face of Christ.



All of this said, we have realized that programs do not create a successful UMYF. The greatest success hasn't been measured by how many come to our meetings or how dynamic the program was. The only thing that has made this youth ministry successful is the Grace found in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Many of our youth have accepted Christ as their savior and have continued to minister to others even after they have left. As the youth leader I can honestly say that I can take no credit for most of the ministries that have happened while I was here at Queen Street. Grace is not mine to give and the true blessings have come from God and God alone. If He is not the source of our ministry then it is probably no ministry at all.



## MUSIC MINISTRY

### MUSIC MINISTRY AT CASWELL STREET CHURCH

Methodist have always loved to sing. In the early days of the Caswell Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the organist played on an organ which had to be "pumped." However, the choir was composed of members with musical voices; and the music was a fine addition to the church services both in its quality and in its inspiration. *The American Advocate* carried an article on May 29, 1859 contributed to the "Rambler" titled "A Sunday in Kinston." The article read,

*We have two Singing Schools here which are attracting some attention – they are free to all. One is held at 2 o'clock at the Baptist Church, the other at 5 at the Methodist church. The little folks appear to be improving rapidly. It is a pleasant, useful recreation for them. It is said that "music hath charms to calm the savage beast!" The gentlemen engaged in giving instruction appear to know what they are about. This kind of singing is altogether new here. They sing many of the hymns and songs that were sung in the North, with so much cheerfulness and often attended good. We are truly glad these schools meet the entire approval of the community. It is pleasant to attend them. Suppose you drop down and look in, they won't hurt you.*

In addition, an early issue of the *Kinston Free Press* included the following article,

*At the Methodist church Sunday morning the congregation was delighted by an unusually charming musical program. In addition to a solo, duet and quartet by members of the choir, Miss Lula Kate Mewborn rendered several violin selections to the accompaniment of the organist. Miss Mewborn's style is unexcelled and those who have heard her can appreciate the pleasure and inspiration to the Methodist congregation Sunday morning.*

In 1896, the women of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, raised money for a new pipe organ to replace the pump organ. The women of the church were very involved in raising money for the organ fund. The following is only one of many projects which they undertook to accomplish this:

In this month of flowers and sunshine  
You no doubt have gone a-maying  
But tell me this, now tell me true,  
Did you ever go a-weighing?

This invites you to a weighing party  
On the second day of the next week  
At the home of Mrs. M. H. Canady,  
The place is not hard to seek.

One penny for each four pounds of your weight  
We ask of you this sum  
And offer you music, ices and cakes  
And an evening filled with fun.

So come ye matrons, come ye maidens  
To our party the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May,  
Oh come ye Bachelors for our Organ Fund's sake  
We are giving girls a-weigh, (away).

### OPENING ORGAN RECITAL AT QUEEN STREET CHURCH IN 1911

The inaugural organ recital was held August 5, 1911 at Queen Street Church. Mr. Henry H. Freeman, choirmaster at St. John's Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C. rendered the following program:

1. (a) Concert overture in E-flat major. Faulkes; (b) Chanson de Matin (Morning Song). Gaul; (c) Serenade. Helmund.
2. Nocturne in G major. Frysinger.
3. Gavotte from the opera Mignon. Thomas.
4. Vocal number.

5. (a) Staccato in D-flat major. Bohm (arranged for the organ by H. H. Freeman); (b) cantabile in E major. Demarest.
  6. (a) Postlude in E-flat major. Wely; (b) first Andantino in D-flat. Lemare.
  7. Vocal number.
  8. (a) Spring Song. Mendelssohn; (b) Marche Militaire. Schubert (arranged for the organ by W. T. Best).
- Mr. Freeman will be assisted by Mrs. William Spicer and Mrs. Lloyd Wooten, soloist.

### MUSIC MINISTRY AT QUEEN STREET CHURCH

Queen Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was equipped with an excellent pipe organ, a Moeller two manual organ. This organ served the church until its replacement. The members of the church and residents of the town enjoyed "Organ Recitals" then and now. The organists who worked with the volunteer choir members through the years, whose names have been recorded, were: Mrs. J. W. Goodson, Mrs. Nan Goodson Howard, Mrs. Capitola Grainger Edwards, Mrs. Thomas Harvey, Mrs. McDowell, Mrs. Wallace Webb, Mrs. Lucy Farabow, Mrs. Alma Offutt, Mr. Mike Reagan, Mr. Kim Beamon, Mrs. Bess Sawyer, Mrs. Marla Ham, and Mr. Jacob Mewborn.

In the early years, Mrs. Lula Gill served as choir director, as well as Mr. Walter. Mrs. Alma Whitfield Johnson Offutt was the organist and choir director for many years. Mrs. Offutt was followed by Mr. Joseph Jackson, Mr. Mike Reagan, Mr. Kim Beamon, Mrs. Bess Sawyer, Mrs. Marla Ham, Mrs. Elizabeth Blair, and Mr. Jacob Mewborn.



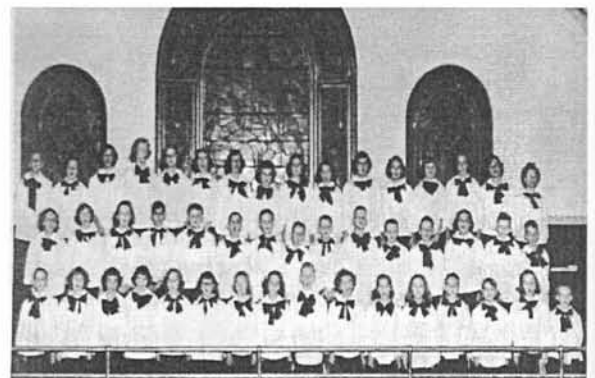
Members of the original choir whose names can be recalled were: sopranos - Mrs. Dan Quinerly, Kyle Hargett, Virginia Herndon Herman, and Sallie Herndon; altos - Irene Broome; tenor - Bill Hood; bass - Bill Edwards and Dr. O. L. Wilson. Many fine men and women have donated their time over the years to raise their voices in song for the Glory of God.

In 1967, during the tenure of Mrs. Alma Whitfield Offutt, a new three manual Schlicker organ was installed. In July of 2006, Queen Street United Methodist Church signed a contract for the refurbishment and revoicing of the present organ. The work is to be completed in November of 2007.

Many extraordinary programs of music at Easter, at Christmas, and on special occasions have given the congregations both inspiration and enjoyment through the years. The church has been blessed through the talents of our organists, our directors, and our choirs.

### **ALMA WHITFIELD JOHNSON OFFUTT**

My mother, Alma Offutt, was the organist and choirmaster at Queen Street United Methodist Church for more than thirty-five years. She was born on December 23, 1913 to Vara Spence and John Thomas Whitfield. She had three siblings - the late Doris Whitfield, the late Johnny Whitfield and Herbert Whitfield - all members of Queen Street. She was married to Henry Johnson and they had two children, H. Harris Johnson and Vara J. Bell. After Henry's death, she later remarried the late Dr. Vernon Offutt. She had three grandchildren - Herbert Whitfield Johnson, Elizabeth Brooks Johnson and Parker Elizabeth Bell. She died on April 28, 1998. She was a life long member of Queen Street Methodist and her love for God, her Church and music never waned.



Mother graduated from Grainger High School and UNC-G where she majored in piano and minored in organ and voice. She studied with Dr. Wade Brown, Dean of Music at UNC-G. She did additional work at UNC-CH. Her interest in piano was developed by the late "Miss Jesse" Moseley. She studied organ with such masters as E. Power Biggs and Arthur Howes at the Organ Institute at Andover, Mass. She studied voice with Homer Moe.

From the time my mother was seven years old, she had always wanted a career in music. She taught piano for numerous years and especially enjoyed playing the organ and directing the Church choir. Over the years her choir performed such works as St. Saen Christmas oratorio, the three Bach cantatas No. 93, For Unto Us a Child is Born and Jesus, Priceless Treasure. Other highlights were Mozart's Glory, Praise and Power, Vivaldi's Gloria (with a string Quartet) and the Faure Requiem. At one time she was directing six choirs, including a boy's choir.

My mother was elected a diaconal minister in 1977 by the Methodist Conference. She was a member of the American Guild of Organists and served as dean of the regional chapter. She was a member of the National Fellowship of Methodist Musicians. At the annual conference in 1966, she was ordained as Director of Music of the Methodist Church.

Mother was quite accomplished in her music fields. In addition to playing the piano, the organ and directing the Church choirs, she helped many select music for weddings and funerals. I was recently talking with someone she helped select wedding music and it brought back many memories. She loved what she was doing and it showed in her music. When my son, Whit, was born she would come daily to see him and was always singing La la la la. Appropriately, he named her La La as she was lovingly called by all of her grandchildren. Both of mother's granddaughters enjoy singing, but unfortunately never shared her enthusiasm for the piano. Nevertheless, she encouraged them both to pursue the voice lessons as she did many other choir members over the years. Thank you for including her at this time and for remembering her. Harris

#### MARLA HAM

My QSUMC Memoirs!!!

Do YOU remember...

Tuesday Evening Fellowship, Jubilee Singers, Kindermusik, "The Last Mailing Day Before Christmas," Miss Bessie and the Homecoming Gang, the QS Show Troupe when Marla stood between Rodney Goodman and Jan Lamm and sang "I'm so glad" at the WRONG time, the first Disciple Bible Study class, Kings' Kids, Methodist Handbell Festivals and Terrific Tuesdays????

And do you remember...

when Jamie & Laura Thompson were quiet, withdrawn children (LOL)

when "little" Sarah Goforth was Miriam in the play with a burst eardrum

when "little" Levin Jones was in the Christmas play with chicken pox scars

AND do you remember...

the Pat Barfields, the Dan Olivers, the Edwin Dales, the Dan Blairs, the John Walsh's, the Mark Mangums, the Steve Snyders, the Joe Genet's, the Bob Millers, the Dixon Pearsalls, the Robin Rouse's, the Mike Watsons, the Peter Watsons, the Kirk Thornburgs, and the Brad Camerons?



Oh what a long heritage of families and ministries that QSUMC had during the Ham years! So many memories flood me as I think about all of the children, youth and adults that I had the privilege of serving in music ministry. Some great and yes, some not so great! But, oh well... hopefully a seed was planted, has been watered and now has matured to loving, serving Christians in the Kingdom of God. I know my life has been changed and blessed by many you that are still there and so many that have gone on. Thank you for the great years!



## JACOB MEWBORN (August, 2001- Present)

Queen Street United Methodist Church continues its long-standing tradition of high-quality music programs. Present programs include Queen Street Chancel Choir, Queen Street Bells, Queen Street Ensemble, and Christian Theatre Guild. Under the direction of Jacob Mewborn for the past five years, we have provided strong leadership in weekly services, presented special dramatic presentations, and brilliant choral events.

During the Advent and Christmas seasons, the congregation looks forward to choral presentations by the Chancel Choir. Recent presentations include George F. Handel's *Messiah*, Joseph Martin's *The Winter Rose*, and Hal Hopson's *Festival of Lessons and Carols*. Queen Street Bells "ring in" the Christmas season by providing special Christmas music. With help from the Christian Theatre Guild, the music program has presented moving Holy week services recreating the Last Supper and providing music and dramatic elements for the Friday evening Tenebrae Service. These services make the Sunday morning Easter service even more magnificent as we open with the sound of organ, timpani, brass, and voices singing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today!"



Congregational fellowship opportunities are created during the summer months through presentations by the Christian Theatre Guild. These presentations have included talent shows, musical revues, a recreation of *Hee-Haw*, and the ever-popular *Smoke on the Mountain*. The Christian Theatre Guild looks forward to continuing this tradition with our next event being *Sander's Family Christmas*, a sequel to *Smoke on the Mountain*.

A large part of the music program continues to revolve around the Queen Street pipe organ. Being over forty years old, it is in need of major repairs. To ensure the continued availability of this mighty instrument, Queen Street has entered into a contract to upgrade and restore the present organ. We look forward to the culmination of this project in November 2007, when we will experience the best musical instrument ever to be heard in Queen Street United Methodist Church.

We are truly grateful for our many vocal and instrumental soloists and small groups. They provide accompaniment for the normal music selections, as well as provide special music to enhance our worship experience. Additionally, they participate in presentations for United Methodist Women, Senior Adult Ministry, and events throughout our community. Through these individuals and our large groups, we strive to continue our tradition of musical excellence, providing the best that we can, as worship to our Lord and God.



## STEWARDSHIP

### GOOD STEWARDSHIP

My fellow Methodists, I have been asked to make a statement this morning to the congregation of our Church in regards to the every member commitment. Those of you who have been in attendance recently have heard several able speakers make talks on the subject of sharing and supporting the work of our church. Most of you will attend one of the congregational dinners to be held on Monday and Tuesday night of this week at which time you will be given specific facts and figures on just what our church program will include in the year ahead.

During the past several years, death and retirement have removed from our membership many of our Church's most substantial contributors. At the same time, the cost of carrying on the program of Queen Street Church has increased. Our appeal for funds during the past year has failed to produce the revenue needed to carry on the full program of our Church. The programs planned for next year will require increased giving on the part of our membership above this present year.

Look about you this morning. What do you see? Stained glass windows unequalled in beauty to any that I know of in any other church. Our physical plant - the Sanctuary and Sunday School Building - are more than adequate and they are paid for. We have an organ, a splendid choir, and a music program that continually receives favorable comments from those visiting in our Church. We have a youth program with a capable leader, and a Pastor who is a dedicated servant of God. Do you know of a congregation more blessed than we are?

It is my strong opinion that we want this program continued. I do not believe the membership of Queen Street Church will be content with anything less than the program we have had in the past. Though we have failed this year to completely underwrite our program, I refuse to believe that this membership is incapable of completely subscribing the budget proposed for the year ahead. Please give the request for additional support for next year's program your prayerful consideration. Queen Street Church needs and deserves your support as it has never needed it before.

Tom Harvey  
April 26, 1970



## MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH

### MEMBERS IN CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Members of Queen Street UMC who have gone into the ministry or served in other related vocation:

Bobby Alexander	Ashley Gower	Warren Petteway
J. C. Alexander, Jr.	Craig Ham	Charles "Chuck" Plowman
Claude Barrett, Jr.	Rodney Hamm	Sally Steinert Plowman
Vera Johnson Bell	A. P. Hill	Mary Ella Nelson Pollock
Margaret A. Biddle	Ducix Hinds	Elizabeth Hagen Price
Helen Butner Boone	Tracie Holder	Alma Offutt
Jim Boone	Charity Holland	Ben and Jeanne Rouse
Jay Bower	Orville Johnson	Benjamin C. Rouse
Stanley Broadway	Laura Jones	Hayward Smith
A. Ray Broadwell	G. Ray Jordan	Teresa Smith
Ed Childers	Margaret Leatherman	Harold Stanley
Nancy Collier	Doris Litchford	Mr. and Mrs. Bill Stewart
Bill and Edith Crowder	Ruth Hooker Matthew	Libby Taylor
Ron Cyr	Nell Harris Page	Sandra Thompson
F. Owen Fitzgerald	George DuBose	L. Glen Tyndall
Robert Foster	Bruce Petteway	C. J. Watson

### INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVENTY OR MORE YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Those who took membership vows 75 or more years ago:

Nancy Sutton Collier	May 15, 1927
Edna Grady Harvey	May 15, 1927
Stella Heath White	May 15, 1927
C. Felix Harvey, III	April 8, 1928
Thomas W. Heath, Jr.	October 13, 1929 (passed away during 2006)
Thomas Harvey, Jr.	April 8, 1929 (passed away during 2006)
Rachel Edwards Taylor	April 20, 1930
Thomas Galbreath, Jr.	April 19, 1931
Irene M. Moore	April 19, 1931

Those who took membership vows 70 or more years ago:

Mary Spence Midgett	October 23, 1932
Lucy Taylor Grady	April 16, 1933
Sebie Midyette Hewitt	April 16, 1933
Myrtilla Harvey Brody	April 21, 1935
Lillian Parrott	April 28, 1935
Harriett Whitaker Howard	April 12, 1936
William K. Taylor	April 12, 1936
John R. Taylor	April 12, 1936
Wilma Hemby	September 26, 1936

## FAMILY HISTORIES AND PERSONAL REMEMBERANCES OF OUR MEMBERS

### **ED AND CAROL ADAMS**

*Our testimony:* Queen St. UMC has become home for us after being in this fellowship for 17 years. We joined in 1989 under the ministry of Ed Privette and Ray Broadwell. We have come to love each one that worships here at Queen St. and have enjoyed serving our Lord and Savior here in this place. Caring relationships helped us through the death of our son and mother. Our daughter and family, after moving here, deciding to join and serve at Queen St. has enriched our lives. We are looking forward to worship and service here at Queen St. in the years ahead.

### **DEE ADKINS & FAMILY**

Mark's job brought us to Kinston in July of 1989 when Brendan was almost 18 months old. We were invited to QSUMC by his associate's wife and the minute I saw the sanctuary, it reminded me of the church I was raised in. People were welcoming, there were many, many kids Brendan's age and it soon felt like home. Eventually, Sean came along and both boys were baptized in the church. It has been "home" ever since.

QSUMC provided "connections" and a church family in a new town. It was wonderful to soon recognize familiar church family members in the mall or grocery stores, and Kindermusic kept the boys actively engaged with new friends outside of Sunday School and church. The wonderful thing about QSUMC was that it was a loving, open, tolerant church. There were such a range of viewpoints and opinions, so many perspectives and so many good Christian people to learn from and everyone blended. No one was wrong if there was a difference of opinion or interpretation. We were all one in our Christian growth.

From altar guild and polishing the always tarnished offering plates with a four year old Brendan "helping", to managing the church nursery toys and cleaning, planning Children's Church programs, joining UMW circle, choir, VBS crafts and now Hand in Hand, there have always been wonderful ways to serve God, His church and the community. I fondly remember watching Brendan ski for the first time on an MYF trip to West Virginia. I will always remember Whit Warren giving Sean his own private Children's Church moment when Sean misunderstood and went to the altar instead of upstairs (when he was about four) – the child never knew he made a mistake nor did Whit embarrass him.

The kindness and love of our QSUMC family will always be a part of our memories. Dear Friends have move away or passed on but, they will always be part of the heritage that is Queen Street – and we are privileged to be a part of this place and its memories and more importantly, it's future.

### **BRYANT T. AND JEAN ALDRIDGE - Rocky Mount, NC**

In December 2006, Bryant and I will celebrate our 51st Wedding Anniversary. We were married at Queen Street Methodist Church on a cold winter day, and surely this stands out as our most significant memory of this lovely church. Before that wonderful day in our lives, we had been touched in many ways by our association with Queen Street, and only time would have us realize how important this had been in laying the foundation for our Christian Faith, security in life, and an inner peace that only comes from such a beginning.

We have been blessed, because we as a couple, having grown up in this church together, share many of the same memories. Susan Waller Miller, "Susan" to us, made a huge impact on our lives. Not only was her office door always open for us, so was her heart, for advice and Christian guidance. We remember Tootie and Jimmy Thomas, there for us, directing our Christmas pageants, Easter pageants, and loving us through our growing pains. We will always be grateful to our Sunday School teachers for the direction they gave to our lives. Coming to MYF on every Sunday night was a highlight of the week for, not only for us, but many of our friends from other churches. How can we forget the fun we had there, the bonding with sweet friends, pimento cheese and always potted ham sandwiches?

We marveled at Alma Johnson directing the choir, her arms gently directing as her feet magically played the peddles of the organ. From that same choir loft, we learned under her dedicated direction, hymns and anthems that today ring in our ears, taking us back to Queen Street. This is where we learned to sing, from "Jesus loves Me," "The Doxology" to "The Hallelujah Chorus". I remember Alma Johnson making it possible for my brother. Sandy Peake, to use the church piano to practice his piano lessons. We had no piano at home, she recognized his special talent, and the church doors were always open to help in a time of need.

We were blessed with wonderful ministers in Mark Lawrence and Jimmy Miller during our high school years. We loved them as our ministers, and as our good friends throughout the years. Who could not be moved by "Beautiful Savior" being sung by the choir in Queen Street Methodist Church's lovely sanctuary surrounded by the priceless, beautiful stained glass windows? Yes, "Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place," and we have those memories. It has been over 50 years since we have been members of this church, but it will always remain in our hearts as home.

We congratulate you on this 95th Celebration, and consider it a privilege and an honor to have the opportunity to be a part of this Heritage. May God continue to bless this stately church and its congregation.

#### **BERT AND LINDA ALEXANDER**

Bert and Linda Alexander lived in Georgia, Tennessee, and South Carolina before returning to their hometown of Kinston, North Carolina. Regardless of where they were living, they were always actively involved members of a local church. Both of them had been reared in Christian homes and had always been encouraged to take part in every aspect of church life.

In 1992, Bert sold his extensive business holdings, and they moved back to Kinston and back home to Queen Street United Methodist Church. Bert is one of the three sons of Pauline and Culbreth Alexander and has many fond memories of this church and the staff who served here. The first minister that Bert remembers was Rev. Glass who always wore a formal cut-a-way. He remembers Rev. Lawrence who taught his parishioners how to be good stewards of what God had graciously given them. He is credited with leading this church to become the Mother church of three Methodist churches in Kinston. This had a tremendous lifelong influence on Bert, extending not only into his church life but his professional life as well. Rev. Marvin Vick is remembered as a progressive visionary who, upon leaving Queen Street Methodist, became the Pastor at Edenton Street Methodist Church in Raleigh, N.C., at that time the largest Methodist congregation in the Southeastern United States. Bert states that Charity Holland, a past Director of Religious Education for Queen Street, has perhaps had more influence on the lives of the people in this church than any one person in its 95 year history.

Bert agrees with the expression his mother often used that this church has been the anchor in their lives through both good and trying times. Linda has become actively involve in the choir, United Methodist Women, fund raisers, the outreach committee, Church Council, etc. Bert has been involved in various boards, fund raisers, Helping Hands, etc. Bert's sound business acumen is often sought by church leaders. The Alexanders are glad to be back home, and once again the name Alexander is listed on many of the ministries of this great church.

#### **ED "BUDDY" AND LORETTA ALEXANDER - Emerald Isle, NC**

Jack and Sallie Alexander became active, regular members of Queen Street UMC when they were married. Sallie's Sister, Margaret, who was a lifetime member of Carlton's Chapel in Duplin Co. followed them to Queen Street as a faithful and regular attendee. Jack and Sallie had two sons Edwin "Buddy" Frederick and Thomas "Tommy" Allen. Buddy and his wife Loretta Perry of Lenoir Co. have two sons, Edwin F. II in 1963 (No "Jr." for us) and Joseph Perry in 1966. Employment for "Buddy" with E.I. DuPont Co. in Kinston resulted in relocating to Martinsville, VA for 12 years; Wilmington, DE for 10 years and Richmond, VA for 10+ years. "Grumpy" is now retired from Du Pont and living in Emerald Isle with "Happy".

Edwin II "Rick" is living in VA and has a beautiful 4 year old daughter, Sophia Mae. "Perry" is living in Jack & Sallie's "home place" with his beautiful wife, Catherine...and the FOUR kids, Jackson Niles, 8; Caileigh Loretta, 7; Braxton Cunningham, 2; and William Camden, 4 months. They have 2 dogs, 1 cat and 1 gecko. Life is good.....Jack, Sallie and Maggie would be SO proud of all of them.....as are we.

Ed and Loretta Alexander, 7806 Ocean Dr., Emerald Isle, NC 28504

#### **JOSEPH C. ALEXANDER, JR., PH.D.**

My memories of Queen Street Methodist Church begin with my childhood when my mother and father, Pauline and Culbreth Alexander, managed to get me and my two brothers, Bert and Bob, to Sunday School and church nearly every Sunday. I remember very well that the Church was important in my parents' lives and in our lives as well. I think of and I am grateful for the many fine Sunday School teachers who probably influenced me more than I realized at the time. I am sure that there were times when I tried their patience but I remember that they were kind and loving and forgiving.

I remember what it was like to sit in church and listen, not always very attentively, to the preacher. When my mind would wander, I remember that I studied the beautiful stained glass windows which I think are very inspiring. But, as a child, I especially remember all the people who sat in the same area that we sat on the left side facing the pulpit. I always felt some comfort because the same people were there all the time. However, after I became a teenager, I remember how important reaching that milestone felt because I could now sit in the back balcony with other teenagers. To the adults in church, it probably did not appear to be anything very significant but it certainly was a bit deal to us.

I have wonderful memories of the MYF and all the great times that we had together in worship and fellowship. I have great admiration for our youth leaders, especially Charity Holland who will always have my love and respect. I think that she probably had more influence on many of us than she will ever know. The MYF meeting on Sunday nights was also a great place to bring my girl friend, Sue Dail, who later became my wife. What better place to take your date than church?

One final memory I will share is the opportunity I had to preach in the Queen Street United Methodist pulpit. After graduating from Duke, as an undergraduate, and Duke Divinity School, I was invited to preach in my home church. I considered that an honor and a great privilege to preach to my family and my fellow church members who had such great influence on my life. I am not sure anyone remembered anything I said that day, but I will always remember how it felt to stand where all those other ministers had stood before me and how kind all of you were to me that day. I will never forget all the great memories of the people of Queen Street United Methodist Church who did so much to influence me during my life as a United Methodist Minister and also as a college professor and dean. I thank God for you and wish you his continued blessing.

#### **PAULINE AND J. C. ALEXANDER, SR.**

Pauline and Culbreth Alexander were married in 1930 at Pauline's home in Duplin County. As newlyweds they moved to Kinston and lived at the Caswell Hotel. While growing up, Pauline had been a member of Charity Methodist Church near Rose Hill, N.C. The first week that they were in Kinston, Pauline explained to Culbreth that she had always been an actively involved member of a church. Therefore, she intended to talk with the minister at Queen Street Methodist Church in Kinston concerning moving her membership. That first Sunday, the couple attended the service at Queen Street. When the minister extended the altar call, Pauline went to the front to join by certification. Upon reaching the altar, Pauline looked over her shoulder and discovered that Culbreth was right behind her. He had never been baptized nor been a member of any church. That Sunday morning he asked Rev. E.C. Few to baptize him right there; and, he joined Queen Street Methodist Church with his new bride.

They later moved to 3300 Carey Rd. where they reared their three sons: Dr. J. C. Alexander, Jr., Bert Alexander, and Dr. Bob Alexander. All of the boys were actively involved in the life and ministries of Queen Street Methodist Church along with their parents. The boys were among the many youth of Kinston who became known as Charity's kids during the many years that Charity Holland served the church. J. C. latter became a Methodist minister, serving ten years, before earning his PhD. He retired as Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Western Carolina University. Bob became a Methodist Chaplain at the University of S.C., but later earned his PhD. also. He retired as the Chancellor of the University of S.C. at Aiken. Bert went on to become a very successful entrepreneur with extensive business interests throughout the United States. Truly, the Christian environment in which they were reared was a significant influence on the children.

Pauline and Culbreth Alexander remained devoted members of Queen Street Methodist Church until their deaths, Culbreth's in 1967 and Pauline's in 1995. Pauline often remarked that, "this church is the anchor of our lives." She would then add that when her boys were growing up the church was the "spark" in their lives as well.

#### **ROBERT E. (BOB) ALEXANDER**

When I think about Queen Street United Methodist Church, I am reminded of the meaning of Christian Nurture. Sunday School and Bible School evoke very warm and happy memories. The two programs were significant partners along with my mother and father in shaping my Christian faith and my attitude toward the world. However the youth programs (MYF) under the leadership of Charity Holland were critical to my development as a Christian adult. First, there was the expression of unconditional love modeled for all of the youth involved. Everyone knew what God's love must be like because of the daily reflection of this love they experienced from Charity. Secondly, the intellectual stimulation from the programs involving lectures and readings that directly dealt with the questions, fears and speculations of young people helped me and many others negotiate this awkward and difficult period without serious harm to anyone. These experiences were important in shaping our career decisions and whatever

success we have realized. Finally, there was the fact that the Church as manifested through Charity Holland was always present to us and for us regardless of circumstances.

#### **TOMMY ALEXANDER - Roxboro, NC**

I have wonderful memories of Queen St. United Methodist Church. Queen St. was the church of my parents Jack and Sallie Alexander. They were devoted, active members for many years and their church family was a vital part of their lives. Queen St. was also the adopted church of my very special Aunt Margaret.

Queen St. was the church I grew up in. It was the where I attended Sunday School and Worship Services, place where I attended Bible School and sang in the youth choir, where I participated in MYF on Sunday evenings.

Queen St. was my church home until my wife Barbara and I moved to Roxboro and became members of Long Memorial United Methodist Church. Even so, for 31 years Queen St. was where we worshiped when we visited Jack, Sallie and Margaret; and with the exception of one year, where we always attended Christmas candlelight services. From 2001-2004, Queen St. was where we celebrated the passing of Jack, Margaret and then Sallie.

Thank you Queen St. for being a part of my life and for the role you played in developing a faith that keeps me strong.

#### **HELEN BUTNER BAME**

My mother and father, Rufus Ernest and Etta Bame, moved to Kinston in 1941 with their 11 children. We all joined Queen Street Methodist Church. I went away to college, returned home for a year to teach, and was in San Francisco for the next two years. Returning home in 1946, I started attending my home church again. In February of 1946, while Dr. H. I. Glass was the minister, I was asked to become the Director of Religious Education. I remember Dr. Glass and his wife, Mary, with fond memories. I continued in my position until June of 1947 when I was married in the magnificent Sanctuary of Queen Street Church to Rev. Bob Bame. He was a Methodist minister from the Rocky Mount District. So, his District Superintendent, Dr. Thomas Grant, assisted Dr. Glass with the ceremony. Alma Johnson played for our wedding, and Miss Mary Jordan sang. I had sung in the choir the year after I finished college and resumed when I returned home in 1946. I was a member of Mrs. E. Y. Speed's class when I was at Queen Street. I remember Nancy Sutton Collier, Nancy Fitzgerald (now Norton), Mary Jordan, and her sister. The Woman's Society presented me with a large silver tray when I married. It is beautiful.

I remember the church, my friends, the beautiful Sanctuary with the windows that depict the Bible stories. So many wonderful memories. I think of Queen Street often and how much it meant to me and has continued to mean to me over the years., even though I have lived away for many years, moving with my husband from church to church. I'm sorry I can't be there with you for Heritage Sunday, but my health doesn't allow me to get out anymore without someone to tend to me. I just wanted to tell you what a special church Queen Street is. The Lord just pushed me to pick up the phone. Since I don't write very well anymore, I thought someone may be able to listen and write it for me. I send my greetings and my love for all of you on Heritage Sunday. I will be thinking of you that day.

#### **BARFIELD-TRIMBOLI FAMILY**

After James Walker Taylor moved to Kinston in the early 1900's his children (including my Mother) began attending Queen Street Methodist Church. After my parents, Gladys Taylor and Oscar Hampton Barfield were married their children also attended QSMC. Three of the girls were married in Queen Street: Dorothy H. Barfield to the Reverend Albert Harold MacKenzie, Jr. in 1951; Alma C Barfield to Edgar Allan Clayton in 1959 and me, Betty Lou Barfield to Paul Rocco Trimboli in 1961. The oldest daughter, Ruby L. Barfield never married, but was the favorite aunt to five Barfield grandchildren.

I became a member of the church at age ten and Paul joined in early 1961 prior to our September wedding. We have one daughter, Dina, who has been a lifetime member. She married Michael E. Whitley in 1986 and soon afterwards he joined Queen Street Church. After their son Walker Alexander Trimboli Whitley was born in 1996 he was baptized in Queen Street Church.

Some of my best memories of growing up at Queen Street were being in Mr. Charlie McCuller's Sunday School class for two years. Mr. Mac was with the Chamber of Commerce and his office was in the old Hotel Kinston building just across in front of the church. Ours was a Sunday School class of about 8 or 9 girls and we were always welcome at his office where his secretary would have refreshment available for us. Mr. Mac took us deep sea

fishing several times. Of course, none of us could bait a hook or take the fish off if we were lucky enough to catch one. All of the work fell to dear Mr. Mac.

Another favorite memory is MYF with Charity Holland. She has made more pizzas, chili, etc. for us than you can imagine. Once at a retreat at Louisburg College someone from another church asked us how old Charity was. We thought about it for a minute and decided she was a little bit older than we were because she had driven us to Louisburg. In our mind she was “one of the girls.” Once, while still in high school I had to write a paper about the person I most admired and I chose Charity as the subject of my paper. I continue to admire her.

Queen Street Church will always be home to us.

#### **F. T. BAYNOR FAMILY**

Fenner Tilden Baynor and his wife Annie Katie Betts Baynor moved to Kinston in 1928. Queen Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was only a few blocks from their home. They attended one of the services and found the congregation to be warm and the atmosphere inviting. Mr. and Mrs. Baynor joined the church by transfer of certificate as did their three children, Maude Henson Baynor Foy, David Betts Baynor, and Rachel Clark Baynor. The family loved Queen Street and attended faithfully. Katie and her two daughters became active in the Woman’s Missionary Society, Sunday School, and activities of the church. Fenner and David also became active in the Sunday School and various boards. Mr. Baynor was a kind and gentle man, beloved by all who knew him. He was a very humble man and took life slow, savoring each moment. As a part of his Christian principles, he always had a kind word for everyone. He believed in the power of prayer, gave to benevolent causes and organizations, and loved people. He had friends from every socio-economic class. He was a Mason and a Shriner. Although he never played a musical instrument, he loved music and the old hymns of the church, his favorite being “The Old Rugged Cross”. After retiring, he often walked from his home at 701 N. Queen downtown or to the church to chat with friends. He was never heard to say an unkind word about anyone. Mrs. Baynor enjoyed both civic clubs and church. She taught Sunday School, and she was recognized by the State of NC for her involvement with the Red Cross and the USO. She loved socializing and people. The Christmas Story was one of her favorite Bible stories; and, because of that, loved that season of the year. This was quite evident when she became the first person in Kinston to place the 7- tiered electrified candles in each of the multitude of windows in their large home at Christmas. The glow could be seen all the way down Queen to the church, seeming to illuminate Queen Street! Katie loved Queen Street Church and her family. Their daughter, Maude, married Judge Kenneth Alexandra Pittman. Rachel Clark married Madison Estridge Stroud, a member of Queen Street. Both daughters were married in home weddings, popular at the time, by Queen Street ministers. When their son David’s first wife, Hughlene Parham, died, he married Julia Parham Stanley in the Sanctuary of Queen Street Church. Both of Fenner and Katie’s granddaughters were baptized and grew up at Queen Street and became members, Maude Baynor Foy and Mary Catherine Stroud (now White).

#### **CATHERINE JOHNSON BETTS**

Many of my earliest and dearest memories are of Queen Street United Methodist Church. I remember playing in the nursery, Sunday School classes with Miss Merle Scott and Mrs. Winnie Lester, and running upstairs to my parent’s Sunday School class, the “Kumdublers,” to get cookies after Sunday School ended. I will never forget choir practice with Mrs. Offutt, Halloween carnivals in the Fellowship Hall, UMYF ski trips, riding the church bus, UMYF on Sunday night, and sitting with my friends in the balcony of the sanctuary during Sunday worship.

However, my most vivid memories are of the people who make up Queen Street’s congregation—the familiar faces that greeted my family and me every Sunday. In a world that was, and still is, changing at a rapid pace, our church family was constant and true. Even now when I visit the church, I see Jinx Hinds sitting in her usual place in the balcony, Tommy Smith hands me a bulletin and leads me to a seat, and most families sit in the same pews they sat in 25 years ago. There are people who have been singing in the choir since I was a child, their commitment still strong after all these years. When my father died, this faithful congregation surrounded our family with love and care, as they have done for countless others for 95 years.

It was in this place that I learned to love the Lord, and in this place that I learned from my parents what it means to honor the promises we make when we join the church—promises to “uphold it with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service.” I am profoundly grateful to my parents for raising me in such a caring church family. Queen Street Methodist Church has, and always will be, an important and meaningful part of my life.



## **JIMMY AND RUBY BOONE**

Jimmy and Ruby Boone were married on November 21, 1948 in a small Methodist church in Hookerton, NC. We settled in Kinston and one of our first visitors was Dr. Glass from Queen Street Methodist Church. He invited us to visit and join Queen Street church. Jimmy and I were overwhelmed at the size and beauty of this church. We later joined and were taken in by Mrs. Speed's Sunday School class and the men's class for Jimmy. Jimmy grew up at Gordon Street Christian Church. He often teased me and said he was a "Christian" until he married a Methodist.

As our family increased, the babies were christened at the church. They attended Sunday School, and MYF until they left for college. Jim, Jr. was in Sebie Hewitt's kindergarten. I have movies of those boys and girls marching in the rhythm band. They were so cute.

I also remember the MYF suppers and choir programs they participated in. Jack also attended kindergarten at Queen Street. We had moved to West Road by the time Mary Margaret was in kindergarten and she attended the kindergarten class at Westminster Methodist Church. She did marry at Queen Street Methodist Church.

Jim moved to Florida and they attend church there. Mary Margaret and her family attend Westminster United Methodist Church. Jack continues to worship at Queen Street. Jimmy is gone now but I still have an interest and love for Queen Street United Methodist Church.

## **KRISTIE WARREN BRENNAN**

I moved to Kinston in January of 1994 after graduating from NC Wesleyan College. My father, Whitt Warren, had been appointed as Senior Pastor at Queen Street UMC in June 1993. I immediately became involved in the chancel choir and as a youth counselor. I got to know many members right away and became fast friends with one particular "younger" gentleman - Reese Walter. Anyone who knew Reese remembers his zest for life. He always had a fanny story or a joke to tell and I can honestly say I have never met anyone quite like him. My dad was unable to take shagging lessons at LCC with me so he asked if Reese could fill in and sure enough he did. We had a wonderful time and even took guitar lessons once shagging lessons were over. We didn't learn a lot but we had a great time.

Another wonderful experience came in the fall of 1998. Debbe Gastmeyer sponsored me on my Walk to Emmaus. My father, "Preacher Whit" had become physically disabled through a surgical accident that summer and this experience was a very healing one for a grieving daughter.

I married my husband Rich in June 1999 at Queen Street and it was a very special day. My father was able to walk me down the aisle and Craig Ham presided over the ceremony. Tammy Dawson sang and I remember the church was overflowing with church family members. What a wonderful day!

Although I accepted Jesus as my Savior at the early age of 12, I remember when members from our church attended the Billy Graham Crusade in Greenville in the 1990's, I rededicated my life to His service at the crusade. This was a powerful spiritual memory.

There are so many other memories about Queen Street. Working with the youth groups over the years has been a highlight under the leadership of Craig Ham and then Sammy Hudson. Tremendous work has been done in Kinston and beyond because of the youth of our church along with the counselors. Inner city mission trips to Washington, DC and Philadelphia, PA are highlights.

Church members coming by the parsonage to drop off holiday goodies or other presents at the door was always fun as was hearing about the pranks and jokes Doris Petteway would play on my dad and others. Hearing my dad preach each Sunday and singing the Books of the Bible sung at the Children's Moment is a priceless memory now. He always encouraged the children to reach out and hold hands while he closed their time in prayer.

The church baby shower for our baby in January 2006 and having our daughter baptized and dedicated in July 2006 will always be special memories. In fact, all of these memories are just a few of the many wonderful ones in my mind I wish I could play for you like a movie.

## **BROOME FAMILY**

My grandfather, Lemuel Broome, orphaned in the 1850's while in Mississippi, was returned by his slave nurse to his aunt and uncle, The Reverend Cunningham, Headmaster of the Institute in Institute, North Carolina, where he grew up and became educated. He married my Grandmama, Helen Hooker, whose family had been very active in helping

establish Methodism throughout eastern North Carolina. When their nine children became teenagers and needed better schools, the family moved to Kinston from their farm at Aurora and built a home on their farm on what is now Rhodes Avenue. They became active in the Methodist Church in Kinston helping to build the new sanctuary on Queen Street. As a ten year-old girl, my mother joined the new Queen Street Methodist Church in 1911. After graduating from Greensboro College, she married Dr. Frederick Philips Brooks in Queen Street and lived several years in Chapel Hill before moving to Greenville, North Carolina. Her sisters, Irene Temple and Sally Hill reared their children in Queen Street UMC with the help of two of her other sisters, Nelle Broome and Mary Broome.

After I, Frank Brooks, graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill, I moved to Kinston and became involved in the life of Queen Street UMC and soon met and married Sandra in a beautiful wedding in Queen Street UMC, June 25, 1960 with Reverend Marvin Vick presiding. We have enjoyed rearing our family, James Phillips Brooks and Richard Franklin Brooks, who were baptized and joined with Queen Street. As a family, we have enjoyed rearing our family and participating in most activities in Queen Street UMC and appreciate sharing with the many saints making up this congregation.

### **NELLIE CALLAWAY**

In 1964 our family moved from Fayetteville to Kinston because Dave was promoted to District Branch Sales Manager with Monroe Systems for Business. At that time our three daughters, Jane, Peggy, and Joyce were 7, 5 1/2, and 4 years old. In searching for a new church home, we were very impressed with Queen Street Methodist Church because it reminded us of Hay Street Methodist Church that we were leaving. Reverend Stanley Potter was pastor and Alma Offutt was choir director. After we moved our membership, Mrs. Floyd Wooten visited our home and welcomed us to Queen Street.

Our children enjoyed Sunday School and had many wonderful teachers; such as, Mrs. Winnie Lester and Mrs. Mina Curtis. Our daughters were confirmed when Reverend Harold Leatherman was here. They participated regularly in the children choirs and in MYF. There were youth activities in which Haywood Smith and Ray Broadwell made a tremendous Christian influence in their lives.

All three of our daughters enjoyed art and they were called on often to prepare bulletin boards, banners, etc. Jane, our oldest daughter and her classmate, Jackie Cauthen, spent many hours during the summer following their junior year in high school at the church painting "The Lord's Supper" on the wall of the youth room located on the third floor of the Educational Building. It is hard to realize that the painting has been there 31 years now and the colors are still vibrant for today's youth to enjoy.

Dave and I have served the church in many capacities which have enriched our faith in God. Dave was Superintendent of Sunday School for several years and I taught the third and fourth grade Sunday School classes. We have served on the administrative board and other committees. We both have been members of the Chancel Choir for over thirty-five years. Our church has had some wonderful choir directors and those we remember are as follows: Alma Offutt, Kim Beamon, Michael Reagan, Bess Sawyer, Maria Ham, Elizabeth Blair, and our present director, Jacob Mewborn. Good music in our church helps me to worship more deeply, not only during the worship service, but all during the week, the words and melodies run through my mind during prayer.

In 1995 when Reverend Whit Warren was pastor, our family received the devastating news that our four year old granddaughter, Rebecca, had been diagnosed with leukemia. Immediately, Anne Courtney placed her name on the church prayer list and it remained there for over two years while Rebecca was receiving chemotherapy treatments. I know the many constant prayers of our church family were answered, because today Rebecca is a beautiful healthy teenager participating in soccer, cheerleading, etc.

So many things come to my mind when I think of what Queen Street United Methodist Church means to me. I must mention our wonderful Frank Mock Sunday School Class. I have learned a lot from the following teachers: Frank Mock, Anne Steinert, and Gene Ormond. Our class is such a close and caring group of people who are always willing to help others. We have had some real enjoyable socials and we feel like family. I am so thankful to have such a magnificent place to worship our Heavenly Father. I have so many fond memories of happenings there which I will cherish forever, including the marriage of two of our daughters and the celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary. Most of all, I cherish the many good Christian people that I have come to love, and they are really "THE CHURCH."

## **THE HARRY CIVILS FAMILY**

On May 18, 1924 my grandparents, John Harris and Willie B. Civils joined QSUMC. This began our family's relationship with Queen Street.

My father's Mother died when he was eight years old and he went to live with his aunt. He attended Lane's Chapel Methodist Church with her. He transferred to Queen Street in 1963. My Mother, Gwen Civils, was born in England and remained a member of the Church of England. She was a faithful supporter of Queen Street until her health declined in 2001.

Harry and Gwen Civils had three children, John, Mary, and Kathy. John was confirmed at QSUMC in 1959. Mary and I were confirmed in 1963 and 1964 respectively.

Mary was married at QSUMC in June, 1972, to Kirby Hardy. Mary and her family attend Wheat Swamp Christian Church in Kinston. John and his family attend First United Methodist Church in Morehead.

Submitted by Kathy Civils Pollock

## **NANCY SUTTON COLLIER AND ROGER N. SUTTON FAMILY**

Roger N. Sutton, my father, was a charter member of Queen Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He moved with the greater majority of the members from the Caswell Street M. E. Church, South with his parents in 1911. His name is listed on the plaque on the wall on the south side in the sanctuary. In 1921, Nancy Collier Sutton was christened by Rev. C. L. Read. In 1924, I began attending Sunday School with Nelson Dawson's grandparents and family. Classes were held in a small house on Peyton Ave. directly behind the Church. When the Education Building was completed, I was in the Primary Department on the second floor. My sister, Marion, was shy and didn't want to go to Sunday School with the children; so, she would go "down in the hole" to the Baraca Class with our father. She referred to the entrance as "the hole" because the men entered their classroom through the doorway, where the breeze way is now located, and went down into the basement to their room. Mrs. E. V. Webb (Mamie) met on Sunday afternoons with "The Bright Jewels" (boys and girls from the Primary Dept.). On May 27, 1927, unbeknownst to my parents, I went to the altar rail with Richard Dawson and joined the church with a group that had been attending meetings at the church. Rev. E. F. Lee was the minister. During the 1930's the Epworth League met on Sundays around 5:00 pm for 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> grades. Mary Elizabeth Hunt was our D.C.E. In Dec. 1934, the first International Methodist Youth Conference was held in Memphis, TN. Sallie Ballou Jordan and Nancy Sutton were delegates. We traveled by train leaving from Goldsboro. Youth from the N.C. Conference boarded the train as we traveled west. Rev. Robert Bradshaw, Conference Youth Director was with the group. During the 1940's the Rev. Walter C. Ball was our minister. We had a debt for years on our Education Building. Mr. Ball was "on the Ball" and money was raised to pay off the debt! I returned to Kinston in 1954. Tom Harvey called, in 1956, and talked me into going to work as church secretary. In 1960, Rev. Marvin Vick had my position changed to Administrative Assistant. After 18 years behind stained glass window, I resigned in 1974 to work where I would accumulate some retirement benefits. I remained a member of Queen Street United Methodist Church. I moved to Cypress Glen UMRH in Greenville in 2004. I am thankful to be here for Heritage Sunday.

Submitted by Nancy Sutton Collier Nov. 2006

## **LYNN GAY CRAWFORD FAMILY**

My earliest memory of Queen Street Church is sitting in the prayer room during worship with my Grandfather. I remember watching him pray with his hands folded against the chair in front of him and his head bowed and resting on his hands. I loved being with this gentle man and his love for his God and his church had a lasting influence on me. There are so many childhood memories of Queen Street. I remember the nursery and sweet Mrs. Moore. I remember sitting in the balcony with my father and brothers every Sunday and watching my mother sing in the choir. I remember all the covered dish dinners and the Sunday School picnics and all the fun we had. Growing up, my brothers and I attended MYF from a very early age as our parents were counselors. We felt very grown up and enjoyed all the attention we received from the teenagers! I have to admit the highlight of Sunday during my teen years was visiting the Kinston Hotel Soda Shop with friends between Sunday School and Church and enjoying a cherry coke. I also remember some very enjoyable times at Camp Don-Lee during my teen years. So many people touched my life; my Sunday School teachers, my Bible school teachers, my MYF counselors, Alma and her choir training, and the many good friends who gave their love and support through the years. Queen Street laid the groundwork for my faith which has been the foundation of my life. How very blessed my children and I were to have grown up being a part of this supportive and loving church family.

As an adult, Queen Street Church has been my rock. How the people, ministry, and music of this church have blessed my life! I am so very thankful for all that Queen Street has meant and continues to mean to me. I know my children's lives have been enriched and greatly influenced by the support and love they received here. Jenny doesn't think it's Christmas unless she returns to attend Christmas Eve services at this church! Joe and Jenny have wonderful memories of Queen Street and their foundation of faith is solid and secure. I think of the three of us and how this great church has blessed us. And then I think of all the families through the years that have grown in their faith because of the love and works of the people of this great church. It truly is so wonderful to be a part of the wonderful heritage of Queen Street United Methodist Church.

#### **THE CUMMINGS FAMILY**

The tremendous influence that Queen Street church has had on my life began with my grandmother Margaret G. Cummings, when, at a very young age, I would spend Saturday nights at her house and my dad, Harry Cummings and mother, Eleanor, would pick us up for Sunday School and Church. Her faith lifted all of us and taught us to follow Christ just as she did. On special occasions I would help her lovingly prepare desserts for her Sunday School class. My dad grew up at Queen Street and after marriage in 1946, he and my mom returned to Kinston to live and to worship at Queen Street. They gave much of their time and talent to the Board of Stewards, Vacation Bible School, Mrs. Speed's Sunday School Class, the young people and of course, the beloved circle which met once a year at Christmas at "Big E's" house for musical entertainment and the best food ever!

My own experiences at Queen Street (I actually attended both Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade at QS.) from Sunday School with Mrs. Thomas and Ruth Whitaker, MYF with Charity Holland to the rich music program of Alma Offutt (Junior Choir and "Triple Trio") gave me a strong foundation for college, marriage (at Queen Street, June 20, 1970 to Charles) and having my own family. On Sunday nights we had a special 7:30 service where I would join my mother for worship together. We loved this "little private time" and during her funeral service at Queen Street in June of 2005, I was reminded not only of those Sunday nights but of the ministry of all the wonderful people who had been a part of the life of Queen Street. Charity Holland, Nancy Collier, Alma Offutt, the Reverends Lawrence, Vick (and his special wife and family) Richmond, Leatherman, Francis Daniel, Randall Baker and now George D. Speake and of course Teresa and Jacob.

I realize how blessed my family has been to have shared the strength and fellowship of Queen Street, its members and its long heritage. May God continue to bless this wonderful church in the years to come.

Submitted by Eleanor Cumming Beasley

#### **ROBERT LEE CURTIS FAMILY**

Queen Street United Methodist Church has been a place of spiritual growth, worship, and comfort for 5 generations of the Curtis family. Celebrations of birth, baptism, confirmation, marriage, and life have taken place at that beautiful altar. Robert Lee Curtis and his wife, Minnie Arnold Curtis, had three sons, Robert Arnold Curtis, Allen Moore Curtis, and William Elbert (Buck) Curtis. The family attended the Caswell Street Methodist Church. While the boys were still very young, Mrs. Curtis was widowed and about that same time began attending Queen Street Methodist Church. She was known for her dedication and attendance along with her three boys. She was a very religious woman and faithfully read the daily devotions in The Upper Room. A member of the Mamie Webb Society for over 50 years, she was presented a life membership pin by the Women's Society of Christian Service at Queen Street for her interest and contribution to its work. Her three sons were confirmed into the church membership and were active in the church as children and youth. She thought her sons should attend religious schools, so Robert went to Duke and Buck went to Campbell. Mrs. Curtis died in 1957. Her sons remained lifetime members of Queen Street. Robert was a member of the Board of Trustees and served in many church related functions, including being a Steward of the Greenville District. He was a member of the Barraca Class at the time of his death in 1981. Allan was also a member of the Barraca Class and a supporter of the church until his death in 1963.

Her third son, William Elbert (Buck) Curtis, and Mina Ann West Curtis were married on October 21, 1934. Mina had been a member of Bethany Methodist Church in the Sand Hill section of Lenoir County since birth. She moved her membership to Queen Street after their marriage. Both have been very active members, seldom missing a Sunday. Buck served as an usher, a member of the Board of Trustees, and on many other committees. He was a long time member of the Young Men's Class and later, the Barraca Class, until his death in 1995. Mina taught the second grade Sunday School class for 30 years and helped with Vacation Bible School for many years. She is a charter member of the United Methodist Women and the Fidelis Class, which was later renamed the Ruth Stanford

Fidelis Class, before it was dissolved. She is now a member of the Mrs. Speed Sunday School Class. The way Buck and Mina lived their lives showed their strong faith and true commitment to God through Jesus Christ and their unwavering dedication to Queen Street.

Ann West Curtis was the only child born to W. E. (Buck) Curtis and Mina West Curtis. She received infant baptism at Queen Street at 4 months of age. She was on the cradle roll and was presented a life membership to Women Society of Christian Services. She had perfect attendance in Sunday School for many years. As a child she remembers always being at church on Sunday morning, even if it meant stopping at a Methodist Church along the way when on a trip. Missing a Sunday at church was not an option unless you were sick - really sick. Vacation Bible School was the highlight of the summer. As she grew in faith at Queen Street, she remembers singing Tell Me the Stories of Jesus with Miss Merle Scott and hearing Bible stories from Miss Scott and Mrs. Winnie Lester. She was confirmed into the church at the age of 9. The junior high years were filled with challenging lessons with Mrs. Ruth Whitaker (Guthrie). Mrs. Whitaker related well to the youth and would invite them into her home for hot chocolate get-togethers. Others such as Marvin Vick, Charity Holland, Doris Litchfield, and Louise Greene helped her grow in her faith. Ann was a member of the children's and youth choirs under the direction of Alma Offutt. During her high school years she was a part of the Triple Trio, nine girls who sang specials for church services. Ann was also an active member of the MYF. She served as an officer, editor of the MYF News and Views, and was involved in the annual planning sessions during her high school years. Special were the retreats at the Harvey cabin on the Trent River. The evening devotions there on the water were especially meaningful. She attended youth sessions at Duke and represented Queen Street at the summer youth leadership conferences at Wesleyan College for two years. It was during these conferences that she made up her mind to attend Wesleyan College when she finished high school. Ann did attend Wesleyan then transferred to Atlantic Christian College to complete her degree in primary education. She and Robert Lee (Bobby) Laws, Jr. were married at Queen Street in 1968. They returned to Kinston in 1972 after living in Wilson for several years. They were members of the Kum Doubblers Sunday School Class, and then in 1980 became charter members of the Young Adult Sunday School Class, which later became the Wesleyan Class. Ann spent many years working with the children in Sunday School, Children's Church, and Vacation Bible School. She still helps in the nursery and children's Sunday School. She is a member of the United Methodist Women and has served on many committees, as well as the Board of Trustees and church council.

William Jefferson Laws and Amanda Leigh Laws Price are the children of Ann Curtis Laws and the late Bobby Laws. Both children were baptized as infants at Queen Street. They attended Sunday School regularly and were received into the membership of Queen Street. Amanda was in the children's and youth choirs and the many musical productions under the leadership of Bess Sawyer and Marla Ham. Jeffrey helped with the sound system for the productions. His Eagle Scout project was the landscaping of the area off the breezeway between the church and educational building and also the parking lot, which was new at that time. Both Amanda and Jeffrey grew in their faith through their experiences at Queen Street. Leigh McNairy, their Sunday School teacher during their junior high years, had a great impact on their knowledge and understanding of the Bible. They were active in UMYF. Amanda represented Queen Street at ACS at Methodist College. Amanda married Tommy Price at Queen Street in April of 2002. Jeffrey married Dana Conner at Tanglewood Church of God in September of 2003. Alexis Grace Laws, 5 month old daughter of Jeff and Dana, and Zachary Thomas Price, 5 month old son of Tommy and Amanda, were baptized at Queen Street on October 1, 2006.

## **NORMA DANIELS**

Since I have only been a member of Queen Street for seven years, I don't have a lot of history to draw from like some people do; but I do want to let you know how much these seven years has meant to me.

I grew up in Riverside UMC in New Bern. After I was married and divorced, I always went to Riverside. It is my home church, and I will always love it; but the whole time that I was there I was always Ross and Shirley's daughter never just Norma. It didn't matter what I did there I was always thought of as their child and a young person by all of the older members. When Frank and I moved to Roxboro, I decided to go to the little Baptist Church right down the road from us. We lived in the country, and I felt like it would help me to grow closer to my neighbors and know the people better. I was wrong. The people in that church were very clannish and didn't like anyone new to come into their mist. The whole six years I lived there I was never asked to serve on any committee, come into anyone's home or had anyone come to my home and visit me, even when I asked them. Needless to say it wasn't a very good Christian experience for me.

When we moved here, I went to several other churches before I visited Queen Street. I know that Queen Street is where the Lord meant for me to be. I was made to feel very welcome and wanted, and it wasn't long at all that I was being called to help on different things. Everyone seemed glad to meet me and glad to have me around to help, totally different from the Baptist church that I had attended in Roxboro.

When I got sick this past January and had to have surgery, the love and support that I received was over whelming. I received a lot of prayers, phone calls, cards, flowers and tons of good food. This was a true church and Christian family. This was something that I had never had before. This church full of wonderful people loved me because of me not because of my parents. They took me into their mist and loved me like I had gone there my whole life. A few weeks ago when the medical problems returned all of the love and prayers were there for me again.

This church has also given me some of the best, most loving dear friends that I have ever had. I wouldn't trade any of them for all of the gold in the world. As my Mother use to tell me "There is nothing like your church family" and for the first time in my life I got to learn exactly what she meant by that statement.

I have been on the Altar Guild, sorted the pew pads for a couple of years, served on the Staff Parish Committee and headed up Secret Sisters for two years. I belong to Circle #4, have been Treasurer of UMW for four years, am in my third year of being Membership Chairman for UMW Greenville District and have been co-chairperson for the UMW yard sale fundraiser for four years. I have helped out on all kitchen projects, been Chairperson for the auction two years, made quilts and afghans to send to Katrina victims, am a member of the Seekers Sunday School Class, am a sub teacher for the Seekers class and have made several wall hangings for the fellowship hall. Frank is an usher.

Two of my proudest moments were when I was able to give a recognition pen to my Mother and to my daughter Tara at the Mother-Daughter Dinner that UMW has in May and when my daughter Tara and her sister Brandy sang at the talent show.

I can't think of anything else. Besides this is enough. When I do something, I let it go and forget about it. Without Agnes O'Neal, I wouldn't have remembered half of these. I forgot the most important thing about being at Queen Street. Through the teachings of Pastor Daniel, Pastor Speak, Allen Smith, David Steele and the Seekers Sunday School class, I have gained a better knowledge of the Bible and feel a closeness to our Lord that I have never felt before.

#### **ELWOOD DAUGHETY**

It is important for me to go to Queen Street Church: There is a lot of history; there are interesting people who make up the church; my father attended from 1958 to 1986, my first exposure to the Bible was there, there I learned about Jesus Christ, and I learned to care about different people. Queen Street Church has a great legacy.

After growing up in Southwood Christian Church as a very young child, I was introduced to the Methodist faith by my Dad. He was faithful to his church until his death from Lou Gerigg's Disease. I remember well the day he carried me down three flights of stairs in the educational building when I was having an asthma attack. He served our community as a volunteer fire fighter and answered fire calls right up until his untimely end in 1987. The faith in Jesus Christ which he helped to teach me is what helped me through.

Through my ham radio hobby, I met my Dad's friend Herman B. Civils and became friends with Ronnie. My Grandma Daughety didn't care much for my hobby until she heard Dr. Harold Camping on the short wave. I also remember the time as youngsters asking my Dad to do an Indian Rain dance. From that day on, he had a great respect for the elements and promised the good Lord he would never do it again. My Dad drew from his faith to discipline me and my sister and taught us how to relate to other people. I try to continue using what he taught me.

I remember when my parents had the grocery store on McLewean and Gordon Streets. Uncle Dave Bronstein owned a men's clothing store. He was Jewish, but he was impressed with my knowledge of the Bible. He loved to talk with him, and he was fluent in French and Hebrew.

I really did learn why giving to the Church was so important. I learned not to put my faith in an investment account, but to put my faith in Jesus.

#### **TAMMY DAWSON**

Although I was not born and raised as a member of Queen St. UMC, I have been a member since the late 1980's. Phyllis Whitaker, a co-worker of mine at the time, invited me to Queen St. and I have never searched anywhere else for a church home. In February 1991 James and I were married at Queen Street and our daughter, Laura Beth was baptized in 1994 by the Rev. Whit Warren.

God's love has been displayed to us in so many ways, through our church family, throughout the years but His love was never more apparent than when we faced the illness of Laura Beth in 1999. Our church family supported us through her illness, surgery and ultimate healing by their prayers and love and just being there for us during such an uncertain time in our lives.

Our lives have been so enriched as members of Queen St. in countless ways but specifically through precious friendships that have been created and nurtured, by the ministry of music, by the youth ministry, and through the leadership of ministers and teachers. Our family is thankful for our extended church family, the body of Christ that attends the beautiful "house of the Lord" located on the corner of Queen St. and Peyton Ave. in downtown Kinston.

### **GEORGE DUBOSE FAMILY**

Some of my oldest and fondest memories of my childhood are growing up in Queen Street Methodist Church and my father, George DuBose. My father taught us to attend church and to be a part of the membership. To attend not only the Sunday service but to be active in the MYF program and Sunday School classes. I will always be grateful for this.

My father also had a commitment to Queen Street Church. He took a strong leadership role. His dedication to church and community was strong. He loved looking after the needs of the building, as he was a builder. He loved his yard so he also loved the church yard and planted trees and shrubs to make the church more attractive for the members. His adult Sunday school class was an all men's class. They were all friends and attended many functions together outside of church. They all loved a good ballgame.

I wish that I could attend one more service with my father at Queen Street Methodist Church as our whole family did so many years ago. Thank you for honoring him and my family.

### **F. OWEN FITZGERALD, JR.**

My earliest vague memories are of primary and junior departments in the late thirties with assemblies for worship for fifteen minutes followed by small group class instruction with one teacher and six to ten children around a rectangular table. Then there were occasions when some of us would rush to the hotel soda shop across the street between Sunday school and worship.

My memory of pastors goes back to A. S. Parker, Henry I. Glass, Walter Ball and Mark Lawrence. It was Mark Lawrence who invited me to preach my first sermon for a Sunday evening at Queen Street. (Yes, the church still had Sunday evening services.) Although a pastor in much later years invited me to preach on a Sunday morning I was unable to accept at that time because of a conflicting engagement.

As a youth I found the church to be my "second home." I visited directors of Christian education (Kitty Wilson and Susan Waller, later Mrs. Jimmy Miller) in the church office on many afternoons. During my high school years I became more intentional in my church relationship. I rang the church bell about 10:50 on Sunday morning, served as a youth usher needing to know the seating preferences of members. One particular lady wished to sit in a folding chair in the aisle at the end of the pew on the right side of the center of the church. It was necessary that an usher, sometimes me, had to check the stability of the chair before she would sit.

It was on a November Sunday in 1944 when I ushered a family to a seat that I looked back and saw an employee who worked in a bank with my father standing at the door. It was with horrifying realization that I knew his reason for being there. My mother had died at the age of 44 in Lenoir Memorial Hospital that Sunday morning. That experience changed my life. I became more intentional in my faith and Christian activity inside and beyond the doors of Queen Street Church. Eighteen months later at a youth conference at Louisburg College I began to experience a call to ministry. Three other Queen Street youth felt a similar urge. I was the only one to complete seven years of college and divinity school training to be followed by nearly fifty years of ministry in the North Carolina Conference.

There is one final note of appreciation for my relationship to Queen Street Church. In the fall of 1949 at an MYF meeting several of us dreamed of spending a summer on a youth caravan to help rebuild a war torn Germany. In the group were Susan Waller (DCE), Dave Cozart (a friend of Susan's from Raleigh), George DuBose and myself. The dream became reality for the summer of 1950. But that's another story.

Thanks to the good people of Queen Street Church who taught me, mentored me, and prayed for me through the years.

## **ROBERT FLIPPIN**

In the 1940s and early 1950s we were privileged to have outstanding ministers....Walter C. Ball, Dr. Henry I. Glass, and Mark Lawrence all left their influence. I joined the church while Mr. Ball was there, and Mr. Lawrence got us all through high school and college. My wife, Linda Leigh, and I went through Duke University with the Lawrence daughters who remain our fast friends.

Early Sunday school teachers include Merle Scott, Mabel Law, Charlie and Margaret McCullers, and Marilyn Ferrell Gay. A special early lesson I remember dealt with the Bible stories represented by our lovely stained glass windows in the sanctuary.

Fond memories are of MYF skits and plays we put on with Susan Waller (Miller) and Tootie Thomas. During the early 1950s the Methodist MYF was the place for teenagers to be on Sunday evenings. Singing in choir with Alma Johnson (Offutt) was really special. It was with her that we got a real basis for religious music. Methodist ministers still tell stories handed down through the years of the music presented when Queen Street Church hosted annual conference. During high school I had the pleasure and responsibility of playing the chimes for 45 minutes three days a week .....always ending with "Now the Day Is Over."

On June 23, 1956, Linda and I were married at eight o'clock in the evening in the sanctuary of Queen Street. For fifty years when we have gone to other weddings we have relived our own wedding in that beautiful church.

The church you grow up in is truly your home church!

## **ROSS FOGLEMAN, JR.**

My wife, Jean, and I transferred from Westminster UMC, along with our four children Ross III, Eric, Lesley and John, twenty or so years ago while Kermit Braswell was pastor. The kids came to us and asked to transfer because of the great MYF program here—they promised to attend MYF, Sunday School and church without complaint if we would transfer. How could we refuse?!!!

Jean sang in the choir until she became ill with Alzheimer's – to which she succumbed three years ago. I've loved singing bass in the choir and hope to continue until I can't croak (or do croak)!

Our three sons are all happily married and each has two sons. Daughter Lesley was married at Queen Street by Kermit and has one son. (Seven grandsons and nary a granddaughter to spoil!)

My parents, Virginia and Ross Fogleman, Sr. moved to Kinston after his retirement and were loyal members of Queen Street until their deaths in the 80's.

I love Queen Street Church and will support it to the utmost as long as I'm able.

## **TOM GALBREATH**

Age and membership wise I am among the oldest members of Queen Street Methodist Church. My family and I have sat on the same pew for more years than I can count. My mother and father were very faithful and active members of the church. Mother was extremely active in every department from the kitchen to flower decorations to teaching Sunday School (primary department with Neva Wallace's mother for many years) to attending and participating in every gathering the church had. The church was her life. My father was active in many departments and a member of the Board of Elders for many years. At the time I left for college I was not in Kinston for many years as I spent much of my younger years living in Richmond; Baltimore; Lexington, KY; Henderson, NC; Atlantic Beach; and Greenville, TN. However, I always maintained my membership. But, I am a faithful attendant and supporter. My sister was married in a brilliant and beautiful ceremony at which Dr. Henry Glass officiated. My Father's funeral was held at the church with Harold Leatherman being the minister and my Mother's funeral also was from the church.

As a young boy I always attended Sunday School regularly and took part in all ongoing activities. Once in Vacation Bible School I was given a part in our annual play which I did not like. Consequently at one of the rehearsals I "escaped" by one of the windows behind the stage. In doing so I fell off my bicycle on a pile of slate which was on the walk between the church and Sunday School Building. I cut a huge hole in my leg and almost bled to death because I would not tell my parents for that would have caused me to get one of those great "spankings" that parents



use to give. I have always thought (as I still have a big scar on my left leg) that was the Lord letting me know that I had done a terrible thing. It upset the entire case for they had to find a replacement.

For many years we lived next door to our church parsonage. When Eugene Few (who was one of the greatest ministers we have ever had) and his family lived there they "adopted" me as their fifth son. Upon leaving Kinston he became minister of the great Edenton Street Methodist Church in Raleigh. After leaving, I spent all of my summers with them and naturally attended Edenton Street.

My family, for our entire life, has been devout members on Queen Street Methodist Church. It has always been our church home. It has always been there in good and bad times. For our church we are the most grateful. It is our Guiding Light and our way of life.

(Notes of Interest)

My maternal grandmother was married in the old Methodist Church (Caswell and Independent). The Free Press (Oct. 28, 1891) says she was one of Kinston's most charming young ladies.

Sister's husband served as organist when Alma Johnson was ill.

### **THE JOE GAY AND LYNN FERRELL FAMILIES**

Queen Street Church has been our family's church home since its beginning. My grandfather, Lynn Ferrell, was a charter member. My mother, Marilynn Ferrell Gay, loved her lifelong church with all her heart and she served in many ways. I don't think there was any committee or board that she was not a part of throughout her lifetime! She taught Sunday School for fifty years and dearly loved her Mrs. Speed's Class (better known as "The Young Women's Class"). She also sang in the church choir for thirty years. The beautiful music of our church was a source of great joy for her.

When Marilynn married my father, Joe Gay, in 1951, he became a member of Queen Street and together they supported and loved this church. They served as youth counselors for many years and thoroughly enjoyed and loved the teenagers who grew up in our church. All four of their children, Dan, Lynn, Bill, and Mark, were baptized and grew up with the strong support of this church family. Two of their sons (William Lawrence and Mark O'Brian) were named in honor of Rev. Mark Lawrence, the minister who married them and a person they greatly admired.

Many ministers have touched and influenced our lives through the years. Rev. Mark Lawrence, Rev. Herman Winberry, and Rev. Harold Leatherman are three that come immediately to mind. Rev. Ed Privette meant so much to my mother and father during the years of my father's declining health and death. Rev. Francis Daniel was a real comfort and support for my mother during her later years. Our family will always appreciate the caring and support he offered us upon her death.

During her later years, Marilynn was involved with the Stephen's Ministry. She and I also attended the Disciple Bible Studies together. This was a wonderful experience for us both. There are so many loving and caring relationships which enriched my mother's life through Queen Street that I dare not begin to name anyone for the list would be way too long. She felt so blessed by her good friends and treasured her church family with all her heart.

I asked my brothers to add their memories of Queen Street to this walk down memory lane. These are some of the remembrances they expressed:

1. Ringing the bell from the church balcony landing every Sunday after church.
2. Sunday School with Mrs. Winnie Lester.
3. Drinking a grape drink from the coke machine in the fellowship hall during the break between Sunday School and Church.
4. Christmas Eve services
5. Bible School and Eleanor Cummings
6. Charity Holland
7. Sitting in the balcony
8. Buying a cherry coke at the Kinston Hotel Soda Shop
9. Eating lunch every Sunday at the restaurant across the street - always Hamburger steak and French fries!
10. Alma Offutt and the children's choirs

I am sure that if my mother were here today to write this narrative she could add so much more. I can only scratch the surface of her long history and love for Queen Street Church. I only know her life and the lives of her children and grandchildren were enriched and blessed by this great church.

Submitted by Lynn Gay Crawford

### **B. C. GRADY FAMILY**

B. C. "Bill's" father, Bernice Culbert Grady was an active member of Caswell Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South in the late 1800's and moved to the new Methodist Church located on Queen Street in 1912. His wife was supportive, but kept her membership at the Baptist Church. B. C. joined the navy when he was 19. Then he and wife Helen went north where he was a ship inspector, retiring with 38 years of civil service. He and wife Helen had three children Sara Ann G. Warren, Michelle G. Tom. and Bernice Culbert Grady III.

Following retirement they returned to Kinston and to Queen Street Church. They loved this church and were actively involved. Bill especially enjoyed the fellowship with D. H. Taylor and the other Sunday School class members. Helen passed away in 1983. To help pass the time, he worked part-time at Garner's Funeral Home. A fellow worker wanted him to meet Elizabeth McDaniel. Bill's mail carrier was a McDaniel. In fact, he was Elizabeth's nephew and he arranged for them to meet. They were married in 1984. Elizabeth "Lib" was a member of Southwood Memorial Christian Church. She moved her membership to Queen Street in 1985 and has been a part of many activities including Mrs. Speed's Sunday School Class and Circle #4 of the United Methodist Women.

B. C. passed away in 1996. His family, including sisters, Ethel Marcum and Doris Moore were life long members of Queen Street. Both served as Presidents of the Wesleyan Service Guild. Lottie was a member for many years.

### **JUDY & FRANKIE GRANT**

Our first visit to Queen Street was with the John Walsh family in the early 1990's. The sanctuary was being remodeled at the time, and we gathered in the fellowship hall for worship. We attended church at Queen Street sporadically from that time until 1995, while we were searching for a "new home church".

Our family started attending regularly in 1996, and we - Kristen, Chip, Frankie, and Judy, joined Queen Street on May 18, 1997. On that same day Kristen, Chip, and Frankie were baptized by Whit Warren and Craig Ham. Since that time, we have attended Queen Street regularly, and in September of 1999, we joined the Christian Home Sunday School class.

Nowadays, Judy can often be found helping in the kitchen on special "eating events," and Frankie can be found helping Tommy Smith as a "fixer upper" or helping Hugh Pollock usher on any given Sunday. As far as we're concerned, there is no better place to be than Queen Street.

### **BRITT GRIFFIN**

My husband Tom and I moved to Kinston from our hometown of LaGrange, North Carolina, in 1950 when he joined the law firm of J. A. Jones. Tom was Baptist, and I was Methodist. We agreed to visit First Baptist Church and Queen Street United Methodist Church on alternate Sundays until we decided where to move our memberships. We were visited by ministers from both churches, but Reverend Mark Lawrence influenced our decision to join Queen Street. The first Kinstonians to visit me were Queen Street Methodists Mrs. Thomas Heath and Mrs. Floyd Wooten.

In 1952 our son Robert (Bob) was baptized by Rev. Lawrence. Then in October, 1954, our daughter Susan was to be baptized; however, Hurricane Hazel had left us without power, and since we had no hot water to bathe her, we postponed the event until a later Sunday when Rev. Lawrence baptized the second little Griffin. Four years later in 1958 our daughter Louise arrived, and she was baptized by Rev. Marvin Vick.

Although Tom was raised in the Baptist Church, he had become a good Methodist. We joined the Young Couples Class taught by Frank Mock, but very soon my husband was asked to teach the Young Men's Class, a position he held for more than forty years. The members of this class were his contemporaries, and he enjoyed the fellowship. In time it was renamed the Adult Men's Class. I joined the Young Adult Women's Class taught by Mrs. Woodard Speed, and also I became a member of a circle in the Women's Society. During this period Tom served in many capacities, among them as Lay Leader and as Chairman of the Board of Stewards. As Lay Leader he filled the pulpit at Queen Street United Methodist Church on several occasions, and he also preached in various rural

Methodist Churches during the "No Empty Pulpit" program preceding Easter. Rev. Kermit Braswell was our minister then.

All our family attended Sunday School and Church. The children grew up, and marriage soon followed. In 1979 Kermit performed the marriage ceremony of Susan and Robert Montgomery. In 1982 Kermit assisted Rev. Randall Baker, the presiding minister, in performing the marriage ceremony of Louise and Harold Belk Jr. The next marriage in our family was in 1986 when our son Bob married Betsy, the daughter of Randall and Freda Baker. Randall performed that ceremony. And then there were grandchildren. Two of our grandchildren, the daughters of Bob and Betsy, were baptized in Queen Street Church - Ashley Elizabeth Griffin in 1989 and Julia Britt Griffin in 1993.

Queen Street United Methodist Church has been very meaningful to our family and continues to be an important part of our lives.

### **WHITAKER/GUTHRIE FAMILY**

Dr. Paul Whitaker grew up in Kinston in the early 1900's along with his brothers and sister. He often recollected the important part that the Methodist Church played in his family from those early childhood days, on through the raising of his three beautiful daughters with his beloved wife, Pocahontas, then later in his second marriage and until his death in 1977.

One of his favorite childhood stories was that he had never heard a cross word exchanged between his mother and father (Romulus) until one night about 1911 when he overheard his mother exclaim, "Romulus, have you lost your mind!?" The story goes that Dr. Romulus had attended a building campaign meeting at the Methodist church on Caswell Street and pledged \$5,000.00 towards building the new church on Queen Street. Mrs. Whitaker's concern emanated from the fact that her husband had never made that much money in a whole year in his medical practice! Of course in God's faithfulness Romulus was able not only to pay his pledge off, but over the years he also educated all seven of his children with college degrees or more.

After his first wife died, Dr. Paul married Ruth Taylor from Miami, Florida in 1957 and QSUMC became her home as well as his. Together they so enjoyed the church and Sunday School, with his serving in most every capacity. After his death Ruth later married Guy Guthrie who moved to Kinston after retiring from a successful career with Indianapolis Power & Light Company. Guy, too, made Queen Street his church home with service on numerous committees and Sunday School until his death in 2001.

The most exciting part of Ruth's involvement at Queen Street United Methodist Church was her 15 years of teaching Sunday School to the youth. It has been remarked by many that her Bible teachings not only touched numerous young people but overflowed from them into their families as well! She loved having them to Morehead as well as writing a play about the Apostle Paul which she produced with them.

Some of her favorite memories are of Jimmy Boone, "the Akers boy," Laura Sharpe, Mary Catherine Stroud, Frances Mock, Margaret Ann Edwards, Camma Curle, Lynn Rivers, Margaret Creech, Kay Harrell, DH Taylor, Kaye Willey, Rodney Goodman, and Haywood Smith, along with many others. Now in this era of her life, she finds her greatest ministry to be praying for her church family.

### **JANE LEE DIECKMANN HANRAHAN**

From the day we are born, we have people come in and out of our lives. Some acquaintances, some friends, others just like family...and even a few guardian angels. Marla Ham and I first met at a Follies rehearsal at Grainger Auditorium. She wanted me to play in her handbell choir. Instantly I met the most wonderful group of women in handbells and was warmly welcomed. That first Sunday, I saw many faces I already knew, Pink Ladies, as they are fondly called at Lenoir Memorial Hospital. Members of Queen Street Church who I saw regularly at the hospital each week. Smiles I already knew and appreciated. Acquaintances.

I remember Pastor Whit Warren, who encouraged me to form a brass quartet to perform at special services. Pardon me for not remembering all the players, but I know Pat Barfield, Mark Dumas and Larry Landry (an import from First Presbyterian) were part of the ensemble. Then my friend, Marla, was expecting. She asked if I could help her out with some of her duties at church. I became the Handbell Director, Youth Choir Director and in charge of the Youth Christmas play. It was then that I met the wonderful children of Queen Street Church.

It seemed that God had a plan for my life; I was to help my sister, Ann, become a Mom. All my growing up years I dreamed of being a mother. How many children would I have? Would I be as good a mom as my Mom? Well, it seemed that I had the perfect eggs to donate to my sister. And we were lucky to have a beautiful little red-headed girl, Suzanne Jane Lee Forman. I especially remember how kind all the United Methodist Women were when I would perform at their December meetings. They enjoyed seeing her pictures woven in my musical presentation. They would ask me how she was growing up and seemed thrilled to listen to me bore them with silly baby stories. I am one proud Aunt! Friends.

There were many performances, at the SAM banquets with Ken Pittman; Marla and me; then Jacob and me. Handbells, Choir, plays, and variety shows. One particularly funny story was when Jacob and I were rehearsing in the sanctuary and someone had set the "NEW" alarm system as they were leaving the education building. I have never seen Jacob move so fast before or since...and the Kinston Police did themselves proud! We have laughed about that a time or two.

One solemn memory I have occurred on September 11, 2001. At the hospital that morning, huddled around a TV, Tammy Dawson and I could only think of being at our church to pray. We called the church office to find that Pastors Francis Daniel and Craig Ham were at a meeting out of town, but Sammy Hudson said he would be glad to meet with us and have a prayer service. We went at lunch that day. It just felt better to be as close to God as we could. My most special memory at Queen Street was on February 8, 2003. The day I met John Hanrahan at the altar and we exchanged our marriage vows. My whole "family" was there. The Dieckmanns and Hanrahans, but also my church family. These folks who had helped me through sad and happy times, the birth of a special niece, and now a new beginning! Just like family. How was I ever going to leave Kinston and move to Chicago?

And on August 25, 2004, I met a guardian angel. You see I was on my way to choir practice when my car was struck by a woman driving her car through a stop sign. It had only been a couple of months since Johnny had moved to Kinston. When I called to tell him about the accident, I knew he didn't know the streets well enough to find me. As it happened, Mary Catherine White was on her way to choir practice, too. She was one of the first people on the scene and she stayed with me until Johnny arrived. Not only that, but she rode with Johnny (Ronald followed in their car) to Pitt Hospital while I took the helicopter. A guardian angel. During my recovery and all the kindnesses we received from our church family, Johnny told me he knew why it had worked out for him to move to Kinston rather than me to Chicago. He said, "God had a better plan for our lives here."

#### **BERNICE DIXON HARDY**

I started going to Queen Street Methodist Church in 1951, as a new bride at the age of nineteen and I thought it was the largest and most beautiful church I had ever seen (I still do). Being the wife of Ed Hardy and being in a place like Queen Street was a wonderful experience for me.

Ed and I raised our son, David, and our daughter, Deborah, in this church. They were both active in Sunday School, children's music programs and MYF.

My best memories of this church have been the many great ministers, associates, friends and the kindness of the members, especially Charity Holland. When I think of Queen St., I think of Rev. Mark Lawrence, Ed, our children, friends and Charity Holland.

#### **HARPER-BARRETT FAMILY**

Marjorie Harper Barrett, born in 1900, attended the new church built at the corner of Queen Street and Peyton Ave., along with her parents, Preston Samuel Brooks Harper and Fannie Sugg Harper.

Marjorie Harper Barrett married Claude L. Barrett of Farmville. They and their son, Claude L. Barrett, Jr., were members of Farmville Methodist Church. The family moved to Kinston when Claude, Jr. was 12 years old. On December 5, 1942, they transferred their memberships, by certificate, to Queen Street Methodist Church. Claude, Jr. was active in the MYF, conference assemblies at Louisburg and attended national youth convocations.

Claude L. Barrett, Jr., married Martha Queen, also a Methodist in 1954. After five years of marriage, they returned to Kinston and transferred their memberships to Queen St. Methodist Church. Their two children, Brooks and Betsy, also grew up in this church. Claude L. Barrett, Jr., died on September 28, 2006.

## FELIX HARVEY AND MYRTILLA HARVEY BRODY FAMILIES

From the earliest days of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on Caswell Street in Kinston, until the present day, the Harvey family has been vital members of this church. Twenty-eight members of the Harvey family have been members of this church through the years. Lemuel "Lamm" Harvey was the patriarch of the family. After moving to Kinston in 1865, he and his wife, Ida Stevenson Harvey, joined the church when it was located on Caswell Street. Lemuel Harvey was one of Kinston's most influential citizens. He was involved in the economic, agricultural, civic, and religious development of Kinston. He was a member of the Board of Stewards for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on Caswell Street and served as Chairman. Ida Harvey was said to have been the driving force behind her husband's involvement in the life of the church. She was one of the people most responsible for the church relocating from Caswell Street to Queen Street. They were charter members of Queen Street Church and were large financial contributors to its building program. In later years, Ida was almost totally deaf. Still desiring to hear the services, earphones were hooked up from the pulpit to the third pew on the left where she sat. When the earphones did not function properly she would stand and wave her arms. The minister would cease preaching until the problem was corrected.

Their children, C. Felix and May, were baptized in the church and took their membership vows there. These Harveys followed in the footsteps of their parents and became the bulwarks of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in their generation. C. Felix Harvey, Sr., and his wife Mary L. "Mamie" Heartt Harvey were active in every part of church life and were charter members. She served as President of the Women's group and in various offices of the church and taught Sunday School. C. Felix, Sr., was a member of the various boards and committees in the church, including the Board of Stewards, serving as its Chairman for many years. In many historical articles, he is credited with erasing the debt of the church, which had been a result of the depression. He was one of the best-known businessmen in North Carolina, and he applied his astute knowledge to the benefit of his church. Their children were: C. Felix, Jr.; Lemuel; Leo Heartt; and Mary Lewis.

C. Felix, Jr., married Tilla Jefferson Gill. Even though he died at the age of 38, he had begun to make his mark within the church for the third generation of Harveys. The children born from this union were C. Felix, III, and Myrtilla. Both Felix and Myrt, like their father and grandfather, are lifetime members of Queen Street church and have also been significant contributors to it. Felix has been a member or chair of every major board of this church. Felix married Margaret Little Blount. Margaret was also an integral member of this church, serving on various committees and teaching Sunday School. Their children are Margaret Leigh and Sonny Gill. Myrtilla, now a widow was married twice. She has three daughters by her first marriage: Harvey, Katherine, and Laura. Her second husband was Julius Samuel Brody. Myrt has always been there for her church and served in various positions.

All of Felix's children and Myrt's children grew up as fifth generation members of Queen Street. Leigh Harvey married John O. McNairy and their children are the sixth generation of Harveys to hold memberships in the church. Leigh and her husband John have chaired positions on the Administrative Board and Finance Board, have taught Sunday School, have chaired finance campaigns, etc.

Felix and Myrt have many memories about Queen Street church. Felix joined the church at 8 years of age. The preacher was Eugene Few. Before anyone could join they were required to go to his house two nights for orientation and membership classes. When Felix became a teenager the minister was Dr. H. I. Glass. His nickname was "Dr. Eyeglass". All of the boys got fake glasses and sat in the front pew one Sunday. Dr. Glass wore a cutaway, and Felix's grandmother Mamie just fell in love with him. Felix's most embarrassing moment took place one Sunday morning after he and Wayne West had been shooting marbles. They were sitting in the balcony and when they stood up to sing the marbles started falling out of his pocket. His grandmother gave him one of her looks. When Dr. Mark Lawrence was the preacher, Felix's daughter, Sunny Gill, put a note in the offering plate one Sunday. He checked it out after the service and found that Sunny had written Dr. Lawrence a note saying, "You have a pretty wife." One time when they were raising money for the Capital Funding Campaign, Sunny Gill was about to get a car. After listening to the talks and the minister, she asked if she could make a donation to the church instead of getting a car. She donated \$3,000 to the campaign. The total amount raised was \$6,000; and Sunny had given half. When the time came for the current minister to leave, Ray Barbre and Felix went to see the Bishop and told him we wanted Rev. Marvin Vick for our minister. The Bishop replied that he couldn't send Mr. Vick, but he was going to send us someone else. Ray told the Bishop, "Well, you can send someone else; but we're not going to pay him." That's how we got Marvin Vick. He was a visionary and great for our church. When Leo Harvey died in 1959, \$1,200 was given to the church in memorials. Felix offered to invest the money, and Mr. A. Whitaker asked Felix if he would back it if the money was lost on the market. Felix agreed, and the church netted \$15,000. Felix believes that the best orator we ever had was Harold Leatherman and the best-dressed woman was Mrs. Mary Tapp

Jenkins, who sat in a folding chair in the aisle. He also believes the one person who has done more for the people of Queen Street Church than anyone else is Charity Holland.

Myrt's remembrances include Dr. O. A. Wilson, who sang in the choir. She said he had the deepest bass voice when he sang. He sounded like "Oooooo!" The girls and Myrt would get so tickled, and Felix would lean over and say, "Behave yourselves!" Myrt's grandmother always gave her a nickel. It was during the depression years, and people didn't have much. She was about eight or nine, and one Sunday a little girl was in church who didn't have enough clothes to stay warm. Myrt asked her to go to the soda shop in the hotel across from the church to get a coke. The little girl said she couldn't go because she didn't have any money to buy anything. Well, when the collection plate was passed during the service, Myrt put in her nickel and took out a dime. She and the little girl went to the soda shop after church, and she bought their cokes. Myrt has never told that story because her conscience has bothered her ever since. She just couldn't stand for that girl not to have anything.

Harvey Wooten, Myrt's oldest daughter, said, "I want to say that when I was growing up, my mother saw that my sisters and I had perfect attendance at Sunday School for five years straight. Even if we were at the beach, she put our Sunday dresses on, and we all went to Sunday School and church. I'll never forget her dedication."

### **TOM AND EDNA HARVEY**

What a thrill to write memories of this storied place. You are privileged to be able to worship in this beautiful and historic house of the Lord. So many wonderful things have happened over the years at Queen Street United Methodist Church. Of course, the church is only a building until God's people come and fill it. And fill it they (we) did during my years in Kinston (1958-1977).

My mother and father began attending Queen Street many years ago. I am the youngest of three children and can attest to the fact that when they opened the doors on Sunday morning my parents had me and my siblings there in some capacity. As I reflect of my many experiences at Queen Street I can honestly say I had several 'firsts' in my life. Some, indeed, life changing!

Ms Winnie Lester was simply a saint. What a wonderful teacher and inspiration. Everyone loved her. I experienced my first set of 'sweaty palms' as I went to Sunday school one morning and had to recite the 66 books of the Bible by memory. You see it wasn't just a labor of love or an exercise in memory. It was for one of the coveted Gold stars placed in our personal Bible that had our names engraved on the front. I still have it today and often look at the Gold stars placed over the listings of the Old and New testaments which I had committed to memory. I wasn't alone! I can hardly imagine one kid getting out of Ms Lester's class without having the cherished books memorized.

That fellowship hall was the sight of so many of my parent's friends congregating on Sunday mornings between services. I can almost see the many faces of those friends and anticipate the questions that they would be asking. I remember DH Taylor bringing me one of those delicious and ice-cold 6-ounce bottle Coke's. In addition, those aromatic smells from the kitchen as a covered dish luncheon was being prepared seems like yesterday. Queen Street Church was a way of life.. and a beautiful one at that!

Finishing that 6 ounce Coke first was always my goal.. Often my attention was drawn to this room with 'mysterious, yet melodious sounds' coming from it. Little did I know that I was hearing the choir that Ms Alma Offet was leading and preparing for worship. Not too many years later I was one of those members. I can still see her today asking us to place our right hand firmly on our stomachs to 'feel the sound' and then she would take the back of her hand and run it up the front of her to her mouth almost placing the sounds out of her mouth.... Many, many laughs were remembered from some of the most unusual sounds emanating from that room. I suspect I was one of those that generated those unusual sounds.

Our Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) was active. Our lives revolved around meetings on Sunday evenings. I could hardly wait to get there awaiting what FOOD was being served that night. It was always fun to go and fellowship. When the time came to worship together we always opened with prayer and then with song. Haywood Smith and Ray Broadwell gave me many, many wonderful and blessed Sunday evenings singing and worshipping. It was during this time in my life, also, that our MYF group went to hear Billy Graham in Raleigh's Carter Stadium. One very special night in late September of 1975 I went forward and professed my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. That trip back home on the Queen Street Church bus was filled with laughter and singing and praising the Lord. What a blessed day in my life!

I often wanted just to be too tired or a little sick on Sunday mornings, but my mother Edna Harvey would have nothing to do with it... She would gently say, "if you are too sick or tired to go to church then you are too sick and tired to play later on." Miraculous healing immediately happened right then and there at 1106 Carey Road!

I sat somewhat fidgety at times in that beautiful balcony over-looking the congregation. My parents often inhabited the second row to the left of the Pastor in perfect eye shot range of my companions and me. I certainly learned the 'if looks could kill glare' that my father Tom Harvey could give me, Mary Bob Nash and Betsy Barrett. How many times in your (our) lives did we think that something was funny yet have to 'hold it in'. The harder that we tried to 'hold it in' the more difficult and fidgety we would become. The only relief was, Dr. Harold Leatherman, saying, 'In closing.....' Our sigh of relief would lead us immediately to the storied balcony bell chamber where first in line to climb the rope and make the Sunday at noon bell toll throughout Lenoir county was coveted. Many a rope burned hand would be the result of the 'celebration' of the end of service.

As I grew older, I realized that my parents had made Queen Street a cornerstone of their lives. My father spent time on the Administrative Board and was always generous in his time, talents and gifts to Queen Street church. He taught me the gift of tithing and what a wonderful worshipful experience it was to give generously. In fact, as I got older and left Kinston I learned even more about this wonderful form of worship. I learned that the English word 'hilarious' actually came from the Bible. In the Old Testament, we were people were exhorted to give 'hilarious' which of course was the root of the word hilarious. Imagine that, we are to give hilariously in supporting God's kingdom.

What a privilege to have grown up in Kinston with Godly parents and a loving and Christ centered church. So many wonderful things happened at Queen Street United Methodist. God will continue to use this marvelous dwelling for His work as well. I pray that God's people of Kinston and Queen Street United Methodist church will submit to His calling and plan. Our true contentment is experienced when we recognize our calling and are active in it.... Thank you Kinston and Queen Street for honoring the Lord! Bob Harvey

#### **HERSCHEL AND BETTY HEARN**

My memories of Queen Street focus on the decade of the fifties. During that time my father and my mother were active in many church activities, especially the Sunday School. He was the Sunday School Superintendent, and she was deeply involved in her Sunday School class as a teacher and also in the preparation and serving of almost every meal served at the church.

We never took any weekend trips until everything was taken care of for Sunday School. The heat (we didn't have air conditioning), the attendance forms, the lesson plans – all had to be arranged in advance so that Sunday's activities could take place with no problems. These were responsibilities that they both enjoyed and never saw them as a burden or an inconvenience.

Mother would usually leave after Sunday School to prepare dinner, and Pop would usher. He also made sure that we didn't skip church. This was no problem for Nancy (Tony and Sarah were out of school at the time). I was his main target. Charity Holland usually had Nancy and her group involved in the service, but I was not. The trick was to go up the stairs at the entrance that my father was issuing bulletins and make sure he saw me. I would then go across the balcony and down the stairs on the other side and make good my escape. Ironically, by the time I walked home I could have stayed for church, enjoyed the sermon, and not been in trouble when asked a question concerning the service.

In retrospect, I am amazed that our parents could work all week, attend all of our school functions and still devote time, money and effort to Queen Street Methodist Church. They realized that we needed a Christian education and the social interaction with some of Kinston's finest people.

Submitted by Jim Hearn

#### **HERSCHEL ANTHONY "TONY" AND SHIRLEY HEARN**

Tony's parents were Herschel Johnston and Betty (Elizabeth) Fowler Hearn. Herschel was Sunday School Superintendent for approximately 40 years and held other positions in the church. Some of you may remember him trying to sell you a "T.P.A. membership!" Herschel's funeral was conducted at Garner's Funeral Home and then transported to the family plot in Belleville, Ga. Betty taught Sunday School for a number of years, and she was "in the kitchen" cooking at practically every function of the church. We know she belonged to several women's groups

in the church but we don't remember exactly which ones. Betty's funeral was conducted at Queen St. U.M.C. and was buried in the family plot in Belleville, Ga.

Tony had three siblings: James (Jimmy) C. Hearn, Kinston; Nancy Mae Hearn Branch, Littleton, Colorado; and Sarah Beth Hearn Von Foerster, Greensboro. Tony sang in the choir in the 50's and 60's, under Alma Johnson, frequently singing trios. He attended "MYF" every Sunday night, as well as Vacation Bible School. We had our wedding at Queen Street U.M.C. on September 17, 1961. Shirley sang in the choir for 6 years (in the 60's) under the direction of Alma Johnson. We are now living in Charlotte, NC. We have two children: a son, Wayne Anthony (44) and a daughter, Michelle Elizabeth (38). We have 5 grandchildren.

To Charity Holland, you have always been revered by the Hearn family; most especially Nancy. We believe that God not only places guardian angels from Heaven around us, but that He also places human angels on earth and you are a living example of one!

It is evident that God has truly blessed you with a long life, plus the ability to deliver sermons on occasions such as Heritage Sunday. May God continue to bless you tenfold!

### **THE THOMAS WOODLEY HEATH FAMILY**

Thomas Woodley Heath, son of Jesse Thomas and Stella Hartsfield Heath, was a member of the Methodist Church on Caswell Street, a forerunner of Queen Street Church. He married Lucy Ross in 1914 and she joined Queen Street Church on September 24, 1915. Lucy was from a strong Christian background and brought this heritage to her church and family. Mrs. Heath taught the Suzanna Wesley Bible Class for 25 years. Having lived across the street from the Methodist parsonage, she was always the first to greet and welcome new arriving ministers. She served as President of the Missionary Society, forerunner of United Methodist Women, in 1929-1930 and again in 1934-1936. She was also President of the Woman's Society of Christian Service in 1944-1945. She served as a delegate to the Methodist Conference and was always interested in Louisburg College. It pleased her that her son, Thomas, became a member of the Board of Trustees of Louisburg and then was made a Trustee Emeritus. She had graduated from Louisburg Academy which became Louisburg College.

Mr. Heath was also very active in the Life of Queen Street. He served faithfully as Superintendent of the Sunday School for many years. He was also Chairman of the Board of Stewards on two occasions and was delegate to the Methodist Conference.

Thomas Woodley Heath, Jr. joined the church by confirmation on August 8, 1928 and remained a loyal member through his college days and time in the service. After his return to Kinston in 1951 from Waynesboro, Virginia where he was employed by the DuPont Company, he renewed his dedication to Queen Street. He served as Chairman of the Board of Stewards in 1956-1957 and as Chairman of the Finance Committee on several occasions. Tom was asked to be a member of the World Service and Finance Committee of the North Carolina Conference by the Methodist Church and was a delegate in 1967 to the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church. Serving on The Board of Louisburg College, Tom always considered an honor and something he enjoyed.

In 1959, he married Woodard Speed Wiley. She joined the church in 1960 and all three of their children were baptized in Queen Street and confirmed in the church. Woodard is currently a trustee of the church and served as President of the Woodard Speed Sunday School Class, which was named in memory of her Aunt, Woodard Speed.

### **THE HEWITT AND MIDYETTE FAMILIES**

I was born into this church. My parents, Tolbert (S.T.) and Elizabeth Skinner Midyette, were faithful members. Mother belonged to a circle of the Woman's Society and served on the committee that set up for communion. In later life she attended Ruth Peterson Stanford's Sunday School class. Daddy served on the Administrative Board and the Board of Trustees. He enjoyed the Baracca Class each Sunday. We sat in the middle section of the sanctuary and sometimes I was lucky enough to sit by Mrs. John Hood and watch her sketch members of the congregation. As a teenager I sat in the middle balcony where my parents couldn't see me! My sister, Anne, grew up and was married in this church. She and her husband, Richard (Dick) Brownlee, later joined Westminster. My mother's sister, Janie, and her husband W. J. (Willie) Mobley were devoted members of Queen Street also.

John's parents, Annie Hardison, and John Cicero Hewitt, their sons Thomas and John were members of this church. As a young boy Thomas went to Wednesday night prayer meeting with his mother who played the piano for the group to sing. This would have been about 1912. I remember seeing John's father passing out collection plates to



the ushers each Sunday. Thomas, John's older brother, and his wife Peggy (Margaret Firey) and their daughter Margot were very active in the life of the church.

So many sweet memories, John and I were married in 1944 in the church by Mr. Ball. We took our two boys, Johnny and Midge, to Sunday School and later church. One Sunday as the ushers passed the plates, Midge looked at the change and asked if they didn't give any money to our church.

When teaching Queen Street weekday kindergarten in 1955, I remember telling Marvin Vick that between the teacher's son and the preacher's daughter I might lose my mind. In spite of that I thank Charity Holland for talking me into that. All the time John was going to this Young Men's Sunday School class, taught by Tom Griffin with Roland Paylor as a substitute teacher, many of us were in Mrs. Woodard Speed's class soaking up her wisdom and guidance.

When Kermit Braswell was our pastor the church purchased a bus. We decided to put it to good use by organizing a monthly day trip for our senior citizens. They named themselves the Joy Group (Just Older Youth). Kermit loved to drive that bus. When Randall Baker was our preacher, he always went on our trips with us – but not as the driver! It meant so much to have our pastor as one of the group.

John enjoyed photography and took many pictures of our beautiful church windows. He always supported the programs of our church, served on boards and committees. We both agreed that taking part in the Disciples Bible Study was very rewarding. Craig Ham was our first teacher in 1994-95 and over the next two years were led by Dan Blair.

Years have passed. Midge and his wife, Noreen now live in Greenville. Johnny and his wife Eva sit with me on the pew where John and I sat for sixty years. I'm surrounded by good friends, beautiful windows, inspiring music and hearing our pastor, George Speake, challenge me to be more like Christ. I'm filled with thanksgiving for all the pastors and members who had made Queen Street the wonderful church it is; but, especially for Woodard Speed, Mark Lawrence and Charity Holland. I pray our church will continue to be a blessing to Kinston.

Submitted by Sebie Midyette Hewitt

### **JOHN C. HEWITT, III**

John is the son of Sebie Midyette Hewitt and the late John C. Hewitt. John's grandparents, Tolbert and Elizabeth Skinner Midyette and John C. and Annie Hewitt were all members of Queen Street United Methodist Church. John joined the church April 14, 1957. On March 29, 1969 he married Eva Perkins from Robersonville, NC. Eva moved her membership from the First Baptist Church in Robersonville on January 29, 1978. They have two children, John C. and Britt Hewitt. John C. has one son, Damon Matthew Hewitt, and they live in Kinston. Britt lives in Goldsboro.

### **SUSAN TYNDALL HILL**

I remember:

- \* Walking up the steps of the Sunday School building of Queen Street Methodist Church when I was so small that I had to hold my Daddy's hand to get up the steps.
- \* My Mother, who was in charge of the nursery for many years, teaching the toddlers to sing "Only God Can Make a Sunshine."
- \* Ms. Winnie Lester telling us about paying a penny for a brick to help build our church.
- \* Walking down to the fellowship hall and being awed by our pastor portraits that were displayed on the walls of the stairwell.
- \* Singing in the children's choir from the left balcony and striving to be the very best for our director, Ms. Alma Johnson (Offutt).
- \* Standing at the alter rail at my confirmation.

- \* Seeing Pastor Lawrence walk down the aisle wearing a white suit and shoes and looking as if he had stepped down from heaven.
- \* My older sister, Kay, sometimes allowing me to sit with her and the rest of the teenagers in the center balcony.
- \* And of course---I remember Charity Holland. I still wonder how she hides her angel wings.

Susan Tyndall Hill, daughter of John & Sarah Tyndall

### **JINX HINDS**

My family and I joined Queen Street United Methodist Church some time in 1961 as I recall – at least we moved to Kinston in 1961. We visited Westminster once and of course we knew no one there. When we visited Queen Street our children were in Sunday School with several other children whom they had met in school so they made the decision for us to attend Queen Street, a decision we never regretted.

Our children, Deecie, age 12 at the time, Allan, age 10 and Sharon, age 5, grew up attending Queen Street. My husband, Donald, and I served as counselors for the MYF at one time along with Marilyn and Joe Gay. We were all very involved in the activities of the church especially the MYF. My husband and our children were all members of the choir for several years which they enjoyed. I would have loved to join the choir but unfortunately I cannot sing. This I know because my youngest child, at a very young age, would look up at me during the worship service and say, "Mama, please don't sing!"

During Kermit Braswell's stay at Queen Street he asked me to serve as Secretary of the Board which position I held until Randall Baker had been here for a couple of years. In the beginning I thought I would serve for only three years. I remember asking Kermit after five or more years how I could get out of that job and he said, "You die!"

My husband died in September of 1992 and I have continued to attend Queen Street, which I call "My church." I still have a close relationship with some of those who were in our Sunday School Class at the time we started attending. I feel blessed to have my church family and to have raised my children here in this church.

### **CHARITY HOLLAND**

Charity's Extraordinary Blessing from Queen Street, 1944-1988

I was a member of Queen Street Church when my father committed suicide, and the church was there for me. I was a member when my mother died, and I can name countless Queen Street Church folks who made that trip to Goldsboro and to her church in rural Johnston County for the funeral that Easter Sunday afternoon. I was a member of Queen Street Church when my older brother who was living in Raleigh was ill for a year and Queen Street Church folks were with me in his living and his dying. Your presence and love enabled me to outlast those dark cold places of life until the thaw came and I could see new life because Queen Street Church folks were with me, you were there for me through those hurting winter periods of my life.

Then I cherish untold numbers of wonderful happy relationships and meaningful experiences shared---of making and eating tons of pizza, of days and nights working, playing, sometimes weeping together down at Camp Don Lee, of countless trips to summer workshops at Louisburg, of annual conference sessions for youth at Page Auditorium at Duke, of our enthusiasm and determination to reach that goal of 500 present for Sunday School which we reached.

I have been away from Queen Street Church now for approximately 18 years. How very grateful I am to still feel and know of the constant support of the people of this church who continue to lift me in your prayers as I hurt, and rejoice with me in my countless blessings. I do thank God for you.

### **SHIRLEY HOOVER**

My first memories of Queen Street United Methodist Church began at probably six or seven years of age. We moved to 405 College Street when I was five (1944). Mama and daddy did not attend a church at that time. Since Queen Street was within walking distance from our house, mama made sure we attended Sunday School each Sunday morning. My sister (Rosa) and I were in the junior choir under the direction of Ms. Alma Offutt. We wore long black skirts and white over-blouses with black ties tied in a bow. We sat in the upper left balcony and Ms. Offutt directed us while she played the organ.

Mama and daddy later started attending church and sat on the 4<sup>th</sup> row, middle section, where we still sit with mama. Daddy passed away in 1984 and Randall Baker held his service. I was baptized at Queen Street. My bible was presented to me on September 26, 1948 and is signed by Mrs. G. A. Bowles, teacher and Ms. Merle Scott, Superintendent.

My son Daniel (Danny) Hoover was baptized at Queen Street and also attended kindergarten with Mary Akers as his teacher. He loved kindergarten, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and MYF. He attended Queen Street until he got married. He now attends his wife's church with his wife and daughter. He is very active in their church as a Sunday School teacher, Deacon and Assistant Pastor.

I love Queen Street United Methodist Church. My husband passed away in 1999, and Craig Ham held his service. The people of Queen Street were so good to me and my family in our time of sorrow, and I will always be very grateful to them. The acts of love and kindness shown by the church family, makes me proud to be a member of Queen Street United Methodist Church.

### **HARRIET W. HOWARD**

This is an account of continuity. My grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. Romulus Alonzo Whitaker were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church on the corner of Caswell and Independent Streets. My father, Dr. Paul Frederick Whitaker, took his vows there on May 30, 1909. The family moved to what is now known as Queen Street United Methodist Church on the corner of Queen Street and Peyton Avenue, where it held its first service in August 1911. Pochontas Lipscomb Whitaker, my mother, came into the church by certification on October 30, 1923. I was baptized in Queen Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South and I took the vows of membership on April 5, 1936. According to my membership certificate, Rev. A. S. Parker was the pastor. Dr. Henry I Glass officiated at my marriage to Alex Howard in this church on April 10, 1948. Alex transferred his membership from the Christian Church soon thereafter. Both of our sons, Paul Whitaker Howard and Alex (Lex) Howard, Jr. were baptized in this church and became members of this church. Paul Whit took vows on March 22, 1964 and Lex took vows on April 7, 1968. The funerals of my parents were held from this church – my Mother's on April 11, 1955 and my Father's on April 23, 1977.

Throughout the years we all have pretty much sat in the same pew. When Lex returned that first time from the University he whispered to me in church, "I can't explain it, Mother, but I simply feel better in this pew."

Methodist at the Caswell Street Church and the Queen Street Church spans several lifetimes of my family. Memories are intertwined through the generations. They are a story of the continuity of my life. I can, in my mind's eyes, see the faces of so many dear ones of long ago and again I can silently thank them for their Christian influence.

### **VAN AND BELINDA HUGGINS**

We moved to Kinston in 1956 and joined QSUMC in 1971. Our daughter, Vanessa, joined in 1972. She was active in UMYF, and we remember helping with those meals on Sunday night for the youth. After college Vanessa moved to Raleigh, and in 1985 she married Dennis Cire from Atlanta. Her favorite pastor, Kermit Braswell, performed the ceremony. Vanessa now lives in Mooresville, NC with her husband and 16 year old son Levi.

### **MARY ANN AND BILL IVEY**

"Queen Street Church will always be my home, no matter where I am."

Although this is all that Mary Ann had to say, the church felt obligated to add this brief statement out of respect for these incredible individuals. The day that Mary Ann and Bill left Queen Street for their new retirement home was one of the saddest days in our church's history. Bill and Mary Ann Ivey served this church over many years in every capacity that one could imagine. "Well done, good and faithful servant" has never been more appropriately used than when speaking of these two wonderful individuals.

### **KIRK AND NANETTE JONES**

Kirk's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Spencer, moved their membership from the old St. John's Methodist Church when Queen Street Methodist was completed in 1912. All eight of the Spencer children grew up as members of Queen Street. As the children married and moved away, they changed churches except for three of the

sisters who remained members until they died. Kirk's mother, Nellie Spencer Jones, joined when she came of age in 1915 and was a faithful member until her death in 1999. Her husband, Levin Kirkman Jones Sr., moved his membership from Centenary Methodist in Smithfield in 1935 and remained an active member until his death in 1980.

Their two children, Bettie Spencer and Kirk, were both brought up in Queen Street Church. Bettie's joined in 1952 and Kirk joined Queen Street in 1954. Bettie married and since her husband is a United Methodist Minister, she moved her membership to the church that they were serving. In 1984, Nanette joined the Queen Street family and at once became active in the life of the church. The fourth generation of our family to become a member and attend is Kirk and Nanette's son, Levin S., who joined in 1998. Our extended family has been a part of Queen Street Methodist Church for over 90 years. It has been our place of worship, weddings, baptizing of our children, and the funerals of our loved ones. As you can see, our roots go deep in Queen Street Methodist Church.

## **MARGIE JONES**

My Queen Street Church heritage. Twenty-five years as a member at Queen Street United Methodist Church have indeed been a blessing to me.

In the early eighties my husband Joe and I moved to Kinston from New Bern, where we had spent our young adulthood rearing our one child. Joe, because of a heart attack and impending heart disease, had been advised by his doctors to move closer to his work, an E F Hutton account executive in Kinston. Our daughter Deegie (Davis Gaye) had graduated from UNC, was married and living in Charlotte, NC.

After a visit one afternoon from Reverend Herman Winberry, there was no question which Methodist church we would visit and join. We had been members of Garber UMC in New Bern. Continuing to grow in Christian faith was an important endeavor to both Joe and me. The Seekers, our Sunday School class, helped us in understanding the Bible more fully. The class offered us comradeship and love along with our study. While Joe's health would permit, we served on church committees, boards; participated in Bible studies; and enjoyed the activities of the church. Since I was a full-time teacher, I sang in the choir and attended the UMW when time permitted.

As Joe's health steadily declined, we both experienced the love and concern from our church family. When Joe passed away in 2005, our church helped me to face and struggle with the challenges of widowhood. I praise the Lord for my Christian friends; without them, my life would not be as full and steadfast.

Retired, I now teach a Sunday School class and, as soon as I recover from eye surgery, I hope to sing in the choir again. I look forward to working as the VP of the UMW. This community of faith was and still is the support and focus I need to live my Christian life.

## **THE VINCE JONES FAMILY**

When I was asked to share some of my memories about Queen Street Church, I immediately thought about the first time I ever attended Queen Street. I was a senior at Grainger High School and the year was 1951. I had a close friend that invited me to the MYF group. I don't think I ever went back to the youth group, but I did start going to church and I joined Queen Street in 1952, and in 1953 I married Vince Jones. We were married at Queen Street. We were blessed with three children: Rob, Bill and Paula. All my children were baptized in the church.

We spent several years away from Kinston, but in 1964, we moved back to Kinston and move our membership back to Queen Street. In 2003, we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in the fellowship hall here at the church.

The most wonderful thing happened to me in Nov. 1968. I met the Lord Jesus Christ, and my whole life changed. That once empty place in my heart was filled with the Lord. After that, I started working with the MYF, and also started teaching the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class.

(70's) One day I was at a burial at the cemetery and Margaret Harvey came up to me and asked if she could help me teach Sunday School. Of course, I said yes. I was so glad to have her because I know she loved the Lord and that she has a lot to offer the young people. We had that class for five years and it was one of the most rewarding times of my life.

This was a time, when we first started hearing about drugs. We invited some young boys to come to our Sunday School class and share their experiences about bring on drugs and how the Lord had delivered them. Also, about that time, the Holy Spirit made a visitation on the young people in Kinston. The students at Grainger High were

taking their Bible to high school and sitting on the school grounds reading their Bible and praying. It was a wonderful time and many young people met the Lord. It was exciting seeing God at work.

We had two young men that had met the Lord and they came to Queen Street and joined in and helped with the youth. You might have heard of them. They were Ray Broadwell and Haywood Smith. I'm so happy that they have allowed the Lord to use them to bring the message to others.

#### "Let It Snow" (A Prayer)

While working with the MYF I was asked to be a chaperone for a trip to the mountains to ski. The winter had been unusually warm and we had to cancel one trip because there had been "No Snow". The trip was rescheduled, but still no snow in the forecast. We decided to go ahead, knowing that the children would still have fun. The first night there, we were still hoping that "maybe" the weather predictions would change, but it hadn't.

Several of the boys and girls came to our room and we just talked and shared. When it came time for them to go to their rooms, we ended the evening with prayer. As we were finishing the prayers, Bob Harvey said very simply and sincerely, "Lord, please *Let it Snow.*" Everyone left and went on to their rooms. I went to bed. About 12:00 that night I heard a noise like heavy rain. I got up to check things out and it wasn't rain but sleet. The next morning when I got up, I looked out and sure enough the whole area was covered with the most beautiful blanket of snow. We had so much snow that when we got on the bus to the ski lodge, the driver almost didn't get the bus up the hill because of the ice and snow. We finally made it. "Bob got his snow." Bob's prayer showed me that the Lord cares not only for the big things, but also for the little things that made a boy happy. Bob's prayer was answered because he dared to ask. His answered prayer was a real witness to me.

I recently shared this "Snow" story with my prayer partners at Queen Street and when we were praying one of our partners prayed "Lord, let it snow on us at Queen Street." I know the "snow" she was talking about was representing the Holy Spirit. I pray the same prayer for all of us.

We are so blessed to have Queen Street Methodist Church. There has been joy, sadness, laughter and tears through the year and the Lord has brought us through with a greater understanding of who He is. I know He promised to "never leave us or forsake us."

Thank you, Lord. Jackie Jones

#### **ROY MASON AND NANCY LANGSTON - Reidsville, NC**

In 1959, Roy Mason Langston moved to Kinston and started attending Queen Street UMC. On May 15, 1960, I married Nancy Jones; and we moved into an apartment on North Queen St. and soon joined the church. Marvin Vick was the minister. All three of our children were baptized at Queen Street UMC. Cynthia Dawn was born September 28, 1961, David Scott on April 14, 1964 and Douglas Alan on March 11, 1966. We left Kinston in 1967 but returned to Kinston and Queen Street in 1976 for one year.

We have many fond memories of Queen St., teaching Sunday School, and the rich fellowship we enjoyed with members of the church. I especially remember the Sunday I took Cynthia, 2, to church and Nancy was at home. Cynthia sat in the pew as I took communion and when I returned to my seat she whispered loud enough for those seated around us to hear "Daddy, stick out your tongue." We had grape juice for breakfast, and she had noticed it turned your tongue blue.

Looking forward to seeing old friends on Heritage Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

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#### **MRS. MABLE LAW**

Mrs. Law was an ardent loving servant of humanity. Every child was important for her. She taught at Lewis School and used all of the hours over which she had choice in service to others. She taught Sunday School, served as Supt. of Children's Department, worked in Vocational Bible School recruited leaders, promoted training events for workers. She hauled children and adults not only to Sunday School and church but wherever they needed to go. Mable kept attuned to needs in the community. She was always having somebody home with her and Sidney for Sunday dinner after church. If someone needed food or wood if Mable could not go she would call her friend and neighbor Lane Temple and between the two the needs were met.

### **MRS. WINNIE LESTER**

"Mama" Winnie was a strong advocate for "cleanliness is next to godliness." She arrived each Saturday afternoon with her cleaning cloths to be sure no dust or dirt would be present in her territory when the children arrived on Sunday morning. She not only expected her area to be spotless but for her it was understood that the services of the church custodian would be at her command to assure that the entrance, stairs, and stair rails were without blemish. She loved her little children. They were usually remembered on their birthdays and always if they were sick they knew they would receive a card from "Mama Winnie." She enjoyed remembering and recounting the experience of the struggle to get funds to "buy a brick" to build the church . She touched countless lives.

### **HARRY & LYNNE LILLY - ARLINGTON, VA**

Oh, the memories! I plan to be present on 11/19 to enjoy this celebration of QSC! Charity Holland was my 6th grade Sunday School teacher at the beginning of what has been a rich and rewarding lifetime friendship. Whenever I needed Charity, she was there to accept, love, push, pull, tug, and hug and ultimately reward me, my family, my closest friends and perfect strangers with a rare presence which enriched my life & theirs. Though I left Queen Street when I left for college in 1959, my favorite recollections are of the good times and friendships at QS -- Charity, Nancy Collier, Rev. Vick & family, the families of Dorothy Harris, Bob Clark, Glenn Tyndall, Francis Dail, Jimmy & Nancy Hearn, Carolyn Montgomery, Jean King, and so many others. As Hilary Clinton might say; Queen Street Church is a village! It most certainly was a launching pad for so many fortunate members and friends.

Harry & Lynne Lilly, Long & Foster Realtors, 4600 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22207; email: hlilly@erols.com

### **ETHEL AND HARDY LOFTIN FAMILY**

I'm not sure that this church is any better for my having been here, but I know that I'm a better person for having been a part of this beautiful old church with such a wonderful heritage.

I've been a member since February 1944. My husband, Hardy Loftin, sang in the choir from adolescence until his health failed. He died in August of 1993.

My three children, Susan, Ann, and Ben were baptized in this church as well as my grandson. My children were very active in MYF. Ann was married here. When Susan died April 3, 2005, my church family was of great comfort and support.

I've been a member of what is now the Woodard Speed Sunday School class since joining the church. I was active in the Wesleyan Service Guild and now the UMW. I've served as secretary of the local unit for four years and circle leader for two years. Other activities in which I've been involved are Helping Hands, Prayer Ministry, and Staff-Parish including one year as chairperson.

The one thing which has probably helped me grow most as a Christian was becoming a Stephen Minister under the leadership of Whit Warren in 1995.

I feel privileged to have been a part of this congregation for all these years.

### **THE FRED LOVE, HAMLIN AND FORT FAMILIES**

Queen Street Church has been an integral part of my family for four generations. I have come to love it as my grandmother, aunts and uncle, and parents did. Sharing my story with you is a sweet walk down memory lane.

My grandmother, Mrs. Susie Watts Fort, attended Queen Street as she raised her nine children. My mother, Margaret Hamlin was the youngest, while Irene Gray was the oldest. Irene along with her husband, Heber were very active throughout their lives in this church. They are the ones who sponsored me as a one year old to become a life member in this church.

One example of their commitment to rearing me with deep roots in this church was the simple act of picking a rose bud from their yard or purchasing one from a florist, so that I could take one for our pastor, Dr. Henry Glass, to wear on his robe as he preached each Sunday. I can remember going up the steps of the Sunday school building and giving it to this special man every Sunday that he was here. I must have been three or four years old at the time.

When I was little, there was no children's church, and I can remember sitting on the same pew (in the right, back, where the Pollock's sit now) with my family. I thought this was the longest hour of my week. I would spend that hour coloring the bulletins like so many children have done since. As a youth one of my fondest memories was going to Sunday school and vacation bible school. We would all make a mad dash across the street to the soda shop in the hotel and get orange aids before going back to sit with the "folks our age" in the balcony.

Our family has celebrated weddings, funerals, and christenings at the altar of this church. Both of my parents, aunts and uncle, and grandmother had their funeral in our sanctuary. My parents, Margaret and R.E. Hamlin, my sister Margaret and her husband, Fred and myself and our daughter, Elizabeth and her husband Jeremy were all married in our church. One of the most recent and fondest memories is the baptism of our granddaughter, Gracen. This reminds me of the fact that in the early years of the church, the baptismal bowl sat on the marble top table that now serves as my bedside table.

I'm so grateful to be able to come to this church and feel the presence of so many special people who have played a role in my life. I cherish this church and its' beauty. I feel surrounded by the love of God each and every time I'm here. Being a life long member of the same church is something rare and I'm proud to say that Queen Street is MY church.

### **GEORGE AND MILLIE MATTHIS**

June 1, 1952 we transferred our membership to Queen Street. We were excited about the programs and the warm caring congregation and staff. This excitement has intensified during our 54 year membership. Today we reside in Kinston and Raleigh. Queen Street keeps us in Kinston. It is our rock.

We both have served on the Administrative Board and have been members of or chaired many local committees and commissions.

Sunday School has always been meaningful. George was a young man when we came to Kinston but Jim Thomas invited him to visit the Baraca Class. He visited and stayed and some years back was class president. Probably he and John Steinert are the only Baracans remaining. George was Institutional Representative for the reactivated Boy Scout Troop 62 and recipient of Scouting's Green Band. In the 70's we were named the District Scouting Family of the Year. In addition to scouts and the bountiful covered dish meals, another of his fondest memories is of driving the bus to Northwest, Banks and Teachers Memorial schools to pick up the children for "Terrific Tuesday" afternoon program.

Millie was a teachers helper, helped in the 5 year old class with Mable Mock and later one of the teachers of Mrs. Speed Class. She has served on the Bishops Advisory Committee, as a district trustee, an annual conference delegate, on the 1991 building committee, and in local and district UMW offices.

Our son George "Sonny", Jr. was baptized by Rev. M. W. Lawrence, October 19, 1957. Gary Hemby, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hemby, was baptized the same day. They have been life long friends. March 20, 1966 "Sonny" received membership vows from Dr. W. Stanley Potter. He was active in MYF, scouting, youth choir and Bible School. Today he and his family are members of Soap Stone United Methodist Church in Raleigh.

### **GEORGE C. "SONNY" MATTHIS, JR.**

I have wonderful memories of Queen Street Church. I remember Sunday School and kindergarten and the fine teachers, especially Miss Winnie Lester. As long as she lived, I received a card on my birthday.

Attending the NC Methodist Youth Conference as a delegate for a week in 1971 at Methodist College was memorable. Libby Taylor and Margaret Leatherman also attended.

Our MYF retreats at Camp Don Lee are probably my most enjoyable events. Rev. Jimmy Sutton and our counselors were positive influences, as was Charity Holland. Today our daughters, Haylie and Jessica, look forward to summer camp and retreats at Don Lee. They think it is really special to be assigned to the Charity Holland cabin. They also tell us Queen Street Bible School is better than our own here.

Boy Scout activities with our Troop 62, especially earning Eagle rank, the God and County under Dr. Potter and attending the National Jamboree in Idaho stirs my memories. It was a great time.

During worship service, I liked sitting in the balconies whether it was in Mrs. Offutt's youth choir or later just sitting up there with friends, it was a comfort zone.

Finding a church home in Raleigh was difficult. We visited several churches before making a decision. Looking back, I think I was searching for another Queen Street.

### **PHIL AND IDIE MCLEOD**

Phil and I have been in the church for only a short time. During that time we have met and grown to love and respect so many people. We had many friends who already were a part of Queen Street, and now we have more.

Singing in the choir has been a special blessing to us in so many ways. I must say in all honesty that Jacob is the most trained and talented director that I have ever sang under. We work hard and we learn so much music, and we have such a good time doing it. The elegant Christmas party he gives his choir during the holidays is so beautiful. Everyone looks forward to this. So special. Jacob tries in many ways to show that he appreciates our hard work. The party at Christmas is just one.

The newspaper, TV and radio publicity is something I have done for three years now. This isn't a chore, it's second nature.

It is our hope that the toddler, pre-school and grade school children are provided a program soon. We want our grandchildren to be a part of Queen Street.

### **SUSAN WALLER MILLER**

For about 5 years (1948-1952) I served as Director of Christian Education under Dr. H. I. Glass and Rev. Mark Lawrence. I was an original multi-tasker from cleaning out closets to directing a 2-week Vacation Church School each year. I used an old typewriter to do the minister's correspondence and to turn out a weekly Sunday School newsletter. Those were exciting years, for I worked with some of the finest young people anyone could wish for. Many times we exceeded 75 youth (Intermediates and Senior) at MYF on Sunday evenings.

We wanted the youth to be active in the Conference, so we organized the Kinston Sub-District (from La Grange and Pink Hill to Dover). Our MYF hosted a Conference Community Service Workshop with participants from throughout the Conference and with leaders from across America--George Harper from Nashville, TN and Jameson Jones (later to be Dean of Duke Divinity School). During my years at Queen Street UMC, we were host to the NC Annual Conference session. At the same time our youth hosted the annual conference youth at Grainger High School and Gordon St. Christian Church. I was chosen to be secretary-treasurer of the first NC Conference European Youth Caravan in 1950. George Dubose, Jr. and Owen Fitzgerald were Queen Street youth on this caravan. We spent about 3 months working with youth in churches in Germany. Mrs. Camilla Dubose raised money for me to go on the caravan.

Linda Leigh, Betty Jean Taylor, Jean Peak, Robert Flippin, George Whitfield, Bryant Aldridge, Claude Barrett, Bill Whittington, Jack Phillips, Varian Herndon, Paula Whitaker, and Dottie Lawrence were just a few memorable youth in Queen Street Church and were just a few of the lives who touched mine and make me proud to have known them during my Queen Street days.

### **MOCK FAMILY**

I am a lifelong resident of Kinston and grew up in the First Baptist Church when it was on Gordon Street. Frank was a Methodist and came to Kinston from Davidson College and was with the Kinston City School for 41 years. He joined Queen Street Church on October 14, 1945.

After we had children I thought as a family we should all belong to the same church, so I moved my membership to Queen Street on October 6, 1946. I love my church.

Frank was asked to teach a Young Couples class. As the members became older, it was changed to the Couples Class and after his death to the Frank Mock Class. He taught the class for 30 years, there are still a few of the original members in the class.



I taught the 3 and 4 year olds for several years in a classroom that is now the office. Later Millie Matthis and I taught the 5 year olds in a classroom that is now Sammy's office. Later, I decided it was time to get in a class, so I joined Mrs. Speed's class, which at that time, I think was taught by Wilma Leatherman.

We all went to Sunday School and church as a family until our girls went off to college. One of the things I remember the most; when Mr. Lawrence was our pastor, my daughter, Frances took him a rose every Sunday out of her daddy's garden. She never let us forget to pick one for him.

### **LOUISE GREENE MUNDY**

Greetings! In June of 1963, I graduated from Greensboro College and went directly to Queen Street as the new Director of Christian Education. I had the privilege of serving in that capacity for two years, two years of growing and maturing in the faith and enjoying a variety of experiences which would forever impact my life.

What stands out most in my mind when I think of Queen Street United Methodist Church? The answer is simple - the people! The congregation was filled with so many people who nurtured me, were patient with me and loved me in spite of my many weaknesses. It has been 41 years since I left Queen Street and many names escape my memory although my mind sees their faces! Some of the names I **do** remember include: Frank and Sandra Brooks; the Joe Gay family; the Felix Harveys (although I wasn't suppose to know, Felix was the one who made it possible for me to finance a new car and Joe Gay helped me with all the many details); a Mrs. Law who taught in the children's division; Dorothy Harris and family; the Claude Barretts and Pat and Bill Stewart. Libby Taylor was in Junior High when I was at Queen Street. Libby and I renewed our relationship when I worked for the Winston-Salem District of the UMC as the District Education Consultant and she was a Minister of Christian Education in one of our churches. She always delighted in telling everyone that I was her Director of Christian Education when **she** was in Junior High!

How fortunate I was to have **Charity Holland** as my mentor! I am among that host of people who are so indebted to Charity. She was so patient and understanding when it would have been easier, I'm sure, to just do it herself! She is, indeed, our "beloved Charity Holland."

Thank you, Queen Street United Methodist Church, for your role in helping to shape my life by allowing me to serve among you and with you for two years.

### **FRANCES/ BILL MURPH FAMILY**

My parents, Frances Mae Hardy and Walter Clark Jones lived in Kinston and attended Queen Street Church. My brother, Walter Clark Jones and I also attended and were very happy at our church home. I was married to John Speight Murph from Marshallville, Ga. at Queen Street Church on May 3, 1947. Several years later I had a beautiful daughter, Marian Frances Murph and in 1953, a son, John Speight Murph, III. He was only four years old when a tragic accident took him from us. We were surrounded by love and prayers from our church family. In 1958, William Rambo Murph was born and we thanked God for answered prayers.

We have had many happy years as well as years of grief as my parents and my husband passed away. But I have kept busy with church friends, circles, prayer groups and Emmaus gatherings. My son, Bill lives here in Kinston and is very active in Queen Street Church and attends regularly. My daughter, Marian and her husband, John Keith live in Pottsville, Pa. My grandchildren, Courtney Keith and John Charles Keith live in New Orleans, La. and are both attorneys. We all keep in touch and visit.

I know my firm foundation is in Jesus Christ, who lives in me and works through me. My faith began when I was a child in Queen Street Methodist Church and continues to grow.

### **CLEM NASH**

Bob and I moved to Kinston in 1956. We had only been here a short time, when Charity Holland called and invited us to go to a supper at the church. We were picked up by Skeen Andrews, Ben Mayo and Charity. We joined the church in 1956 and started going to Sunday School and joined the young couple's class.

Mary Bob was born April 4, 1959 (the joy of our life!). We were all active in church. When Mary Bob was very young, Miss Winnie Lester said to her, "We missed you last Sunday" and Mary Bob said, "We didn't have to come because Daddy didn't have to usher." (Out of the mouths of Babes!) Miss Winnie made me aware of Mary Bob's answer.

Bob served as a Scout leader for our Boy Scout Troop 62 at Queen Street. Following a weekend jamboree he came home with a headache and was later diagnosed with cancer and passed away July 1, 1969. The ministering of Rev. Harold Leatherman will never be forgotten during Bob's illness and death.

Mary Bob and I remained active in church. Mary Bob and Mike Barrow were married April 16, 1985 and Rev. Randall Baker performed the ceremony.

We joined the young couple's class which was later changed to Couples Class and later became the Frank Mock Class which I am an active member now.

#### **NANCY FITZGERALD WEST NORTON**

My Father, Frank Fitzgerald, was an active member of Queen Street Methodist Church serving as treasurer for many years and was on the Board of Stewards and Board of Trustees. He was also a member of the men's Baracca Sunday School class. His three children were baptized here and always active in Sunday School, MYF and other children's activities. My brother, Owen Fitzgerald, became a Methodist minister with guidance from Rev. Mark Lawrence. Owen has 2 children and 2 grandchildren. My youngest brother, Bobby, resides in Ocala, FL and has 2 children and 1 grandchild.

I have always been a part of this church. I was in the MYF when younger, have been a choir member for over 50 year, active in WMU and served on several committees. I was also a charter member of the hand bells choir. My four children with Jake West were all baptized at Queen Street church as well as 4 of my 7 grandchildren. My children were all active in Sunday School, church and MYF.

One of my earliest memories is being a member of what was called the "Bright Jewels", a very young children's group, meeting on Sunday afternoons. We had small mite boxes we put coins in for offering. As I remember, it was a small barrel shaped bank. Another fond memory was a week long youth rally with Rev. Robert Bradshaw, minister at the time, better known to the youth as "Uncle Bobby". It was an unforgettable week. "Uncle Bobby" was especially loved by the youth. Another highlight was when Rev. Purnell Bailey from Richmond, VA held a week long revival.

Following our Mother's death in 1944, our Father married Hannah Turnage in 1947. She was a devoted member of this church and was an adult Sunday School teacher for many years. Her sister, Ercelle Turnage Cotton, was the church secretary for a number of years.

#### **JOHN AND AGNES O'NEAL**

I started 1<sup>st</sup> grade here at Queen Street, and so this has always been my Church. I married Agnes, and we would visit when we were in town but being in the military we were not able to visit too often. When I came back to Kinston, we became active members again. Also, our two children were baptized at Queen Street on Easter Sunday, Donna in 1972 and John in 1974.

We both attend the Frank Mock Sunday School Class and do Communion Stewards, which is very rewarding. We, also, got to help with the kitchen project. John has also served on the Parsonage Committee and has helped do some odds and end jobs around the Church. Agnes joined UMW and is in a circle. She is a member of the Choir and helps with Helping Hands and Vacation Bible School.

#### **JOHN AND ESSIE O'NEAL**

John and Essie moved with their children, Patty and John, to Kinston in 1952 and joined the church. They were members of the Couples class, which was a very large class, and later became the Frank L. Mock Class.

John and Essie were greeters which we, Patty and John, referred to as "Shaking Paws." John was an usher and worked with the "Pony Express" to raise funds for the church budget. Essie was in a circle with United Methodist Women, was a communion steward, did helping hands and helped with vacation bible school. She loved to send cards to the sick and to prepare food for them, especially baked custard. She also loved to attend the Thursday night services called Crossroads and to attend bible studies.

John and Essie loved this church and were active in all church functions until their deaths.

## **ORMOND/NELSON/POLLOCK/BAKER FAMILIES**

William Henry (Billy) Ormond and Ella White Ormond moved to Kinston from Dover in 1942 when he retired from farming. Along with their daughter, Beulah Dare, they joined Queen Street United Methodist Church. Ella White Ormond was a member of the Susannah Wesley Bible Class and Women's Society. They were both active in Sunday school and the choir until their deaths.

On December 9, 1945, Billy walked Beulah Dare down the aisle of Queen Street Church to marry David Arch Nelson of Prospect Hill, NC. This couple was faithful to the church throughout their lives until David died in March, 1995 and Beulah Dare in May, 2006. She sang in the choir; taught children and adult Sunday School and Vocation Bible School; was a faithful member of the Woodard Speed Sunday School Class; active in the United Methodist Women serving as a circle leader; worked with Helping Hands; was Stephens Minister. She catered to the needs of the sick, lonely, elderly, and the disenchanting. She blessed many lives in her living and being. David, too, loved his church and the Baraca Sunday School Class. He loved to sing and old hymns. He served on the Administrative Board and other committees. He often stood outside the doors of the church before Sunday School and worship to greet with his big smile and strong handshake.

Their daughter, Mary Ella, was baptized, confirmed, and attended Sunday School and UMYF at Queen Street Church. She sang in the choir under the direction of Alma Offutt as one of the "Choralaires" (a youth singing group). As a young person she was deeply influenced and encouraged by Charity Holland and later chose her career as a Christian Educator. Mary Ella married George Henry Pollock, also a member of Queen Street Church. They remained members until they transferred to Main Street UMC in Reidsville, NC. There she worked on the church staff for almost 24 years. Their children are David George Pollock and Laurie Dare Fisher and they have 3 grandchildren.

Second daughter of David and Beulah Dare is Nancy Dare. She, too, was baptized and confirmed in the church and attended Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and UMYF. She married Kenny Baker on July 21, 1995 at Queen Street Church and they have a daughter, Kelly Dare. Nancy teaches Sunday School, is active United Methodist Women, serves in the nursery, sang in a talent show along with daughter, Kelly, and portrayed Loretta Lynn in "Hee Haw" dinner theatre and has served on various committees. Kenny has been a trustee and an usher. Kelly attends Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, helps her mother in the nursery and has sung and participated in various church programs. The Queen Street Church family played a very active and important role in this family's life during the time from August 2000-April 2001 by joining together in prayer and special moments for Nancy as she endured several surgeries in which three of the four surgeries were major, with two of these life threatening. The strong support of the church family during this time impacted our lives immensely.

This has been a close-knit family with loving memories of a Christian home influenced by faithfulness to the church, loving God and others, working hard and living honorably. All generations have gathered at QUMC for joyful celebrations of infant baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and birthdays. At other times they have gathered in thanksgiving for the lives of dear ones who have passed on and knelt together at the sacred altar to pray for healing of loved ones. Queen Street Church has truly impacted the lives of these many generations.

### **GENE ORMOND**

The Ormond Family has a long history and relationship with the Methodist Church. My earliest of church attendance began in 1941 when my Grandfather, William Henry "Billy" Ormond brought us to QSMC for Sunday School and church.

I remember walking up the center stairs to Sunday School Assembly and then later to individual classes. Of the number kids in Sunday School, I still remember Tommy Smith. He was a little older and larger and was a leader and "doer" at an early age.

After Sunday School we attended church. Then, as now, certain people sat in certain pews each Sunday. My Grandfather wanted to sit about center way on the left side of the aisle on the Peyton Avenue Side. Personally, I was awed by the beauty of the stained glass windows which always seemed to shine brightly. How many times I counted the number of pipes from the organ, would count into the hundreds.

Beulah Dare Nelson and her family gave faithful attendance to QSMC. My Mother, Winfred Smith Blake, and husband Ed also supported this church.

I was absent for a good period of time during my military service and mine and Georgia's early years of marriage. However, with the birth of Barbara Jene, we decided it was time to rededicate our lives and we began regular attendance once again. Soon there was Allen and another Ormond came to QS. Both Barbara and Allen were christened at Queen Street; Barbara in a gown made from her great grandmother's wedding dress with an age of over 100 years.

Some of the happy years were when Barbara and Allen were in the 8 to 17 year old range and after Sunday School I would hear "Daddy, Let's get a cheery Coke." Now mind you "A cheery Coke" was not just a cake with Cheery juice, it was a "TRADITION."

Time passes and today we see great change. Our memories help us to hold to our values and maintain our service to God.

### **POLLY OETTINGER**

If you heard music in our Education Building for many years there was a 95% chance that the piano player to accompany the singing was Mrs. Polly Oettinger. She made herself available to play where and what was needed. Polly was a quite gentle soul who always served with grace and dignity. It was not unusual for her to accommodate the needs of three different groups meeting on three different floors on Sunday morning and she was always present. Polly's husband Marion Oettinger died young of a heart attack when their three children were still very young. She always brought them to Sunday School and church, and served wherever she was needed. Polly always spoke graciously and kindly to all people and never spoke unkindly of others.

### **JOHN GIBSON PAGE**

In the fall of 1952, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Page they moved to Kinston with their two children, John Jr., age 14, and Nancy, age 6. They stayed at the Hotel Kinston until they could find a house. Their daughter Nancy was the same age as Mary Catherine Stroud (White), a schoolmate. Knowing that they were new in town, Mrs. Stroud invited the Pages to visit Queen Street Church. The next Sunday they attended the worship service and this was to become his dearly-loved church home for the next 48 years. He had been on the committee that selected Kinston as the site for DuPont's first Dacron plant, and he embraced his new "hometown" with enthusiasm and commitment.

He served as a member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the Administrative Board, a myriad of committees, and taught Sunday School. He could be counted on to be dependable and thorough in all his responsibilities, no detail being too small or unimportant to escape his attention. He loved Kinston and enjoyed giving back to the community that had given him so much pleasure. They remained members until their death.

### **NELL HARRIS PAGE**

Queen Street Methodist Church became the church home of our family from the time we moved back to Kinston in 1952 until we graduated from college and moved away to establish our own homes. In that year, our mother, Dorothy Harris, moved back to her family home outside Kinston with six children in tow.....Nell, Mary, Jean, Sandra, and the twins, Michael and David. I do not know what our lives would have become had we not become a part of Queen Street, but I do know that we would have been denied some wonderful influences which channeled us in the right direction.

My earliest memories of Queen Street are of attending Vacation Bible School. I also remember our being lined up on the church pew with all of us girls wearing crinolines and Michael and David each being sandwiched between two sisters (to keep them separated), barely able to see out over our crinolines!

A few short years later, two very important people came into our lives, Charity Holland and a new pastor, Marvin Vick. Little did we know at that time what a dynamite team those two would become and what a profound impact they would have on the lives of hundreds of young people. Mr. Vick's wife Catherine was also an important part of that team. Their four children were roughly the ages of the six of us, so there was good bit of visiting back and forth. Our mother on occasion would keep Sally Lou, the youngest Vick girl who was about the age of the twins. Whatever Michael and David did, Sally Lou tried as well. One day the boys climbed up on the chicken house and Sally Lou followed. She could climb up but could not figure how to get down. The first we knew of it was when the boys came running to the house yelling, "Come quick! Sally Lou is hanging from the chicken house!" Mother ran out and saved the day.....and Sally Lou as well.

Mr. Vick and Charity had wonderful knack of making each young person feel special. Our mother decided at the time I was entering the eighth grade that we should transfer from the county school system to the Kinston schools. I was unhappy about being uprooted from the county school where I had many friends and was feeling a bit insecure about the new situation. It was at that time that Charity took me under her wing and involved me in the youth group at Queen Street. My story is not unique. It happened over and over again with many young people. Charity and our mother were very good friends and we always said Charity helped raise us. For quite a few years, Charity and her housemate, Annette Rackley, would come spend Christmas morning with us.

Charity and Mr. Vick were also very skilled at channeling our energies in the right direction while making us think that their plans were actually our ideas from the beginning! Of major concern to many parents when we were teenagers was the annual after-prom weekend at the beach. They saw that event as something fraught with many opportunities for disaster. I am certain they had it all planned ahead of time.....that we would somehow be led to believe that we had come up with a great new alternative. They took us to Camp Don Lee for a planning retreat in the dead of winter. There was lots of planning done but we also had time for a good bit of fun, enjoying what the camp had to offer. At some point in the weekend the matter of prom weekend came up and one of them nonchalantly mentioned that it might be fun to reserve the camp for any prom couples who would like to go there instead of the beach. Well.....before we knew it, we were busy planning for such a weekend and were certain it was our brilliant idea from the beginning. Prom weekend at Camp Don Lee became a very popular event which continued for several years.

The church was literally our home away from home. If we were not at home or school we were usually at the church. In fact, it was so much like home that we probably took unfair or improper advantage of that. I remember one occasion when Grainger High School was involved in a brutal football competition.....with some arch rival.....It was nip and tuck as the Red Devils battled their way through each quarter. Some of us decided that the team needed even more support so we rushed to the church, appropriated a long roll of freezer paper (or something like it) and proceeded to make a banner in the vestibule of the church! I am certain there were not many Christian phrases in that banner. When Charity found out what we had done, we were properly chastised and reminded that there was a time and place for everything and that the church was NOT the place for that!

Mr. Vick and Charity were not the only ones who worked hard to civilize us. I cannot close this narrative without mentioning another person who was dear to those of us who were teenagers in the late 50's and early 60's.....Nancy Collier. As church secretary, she was almost always at the church when we were there. Again, we were so at home there that we were not always properly respectful of our surroundings. To go from Charity's office to Nancy Collier's office, we had to go through the sanctuary, and we often forgot to 'walk'. Running was much more efficient. One of Nancy's main goals at that time was to make certain we treated the sanctuary with respect.....a task which often left her frustrated!

I and two of my sisters were married in Queen Street, and in 1994 we held our mother's funeral service there. She remained an active member of the church until her death. None of us lives in Kinston now, but Queen Street UMC and those who cared for us there will always hold a special place in my heart.

#### **RACHEL WHITE PARRISH AND FAMILY**

I'm proud to be a member of this church. I was born into the church in 1970 and baptized here. I am the fourth generation of my family to have attended this church. My maternal grandparents were Madison (Matt) and Rachel Clark Baynor Stroud. My parents are Ronald and Mary Catherine White, and I have one sister, Sarah White.

My earliest memories are of U.M.Y.F. I remember what fun we had just being able to fellowship with other kids in a Christian atmosphere. We ate together, played games, and took trips. Our counselors, Donna and Will Hardy and Laura Early, made us feel like a part of their family by having us at their homes. When I went off to college, I received cards and care packages from Mrs. Bernice Hardy. Each college student was paired with a church member who prayed for them and kept in contact with them throughout their college years. When I came home on the weekends or during holidays, Mrs. Hardy would always make sure to find out how I had been doing. I appreciated knowing someone from my church family cared so much about me. After college, I moved back to Kinston to teach at Southeast Elementary School. Many of my students were growing up in neighborhoods and homes that were not positive and nurturing, and many came from single parent homes in which the parent did not work. I'm glad that I had the opportunity to teach in such a school. Having grown up in the Methodist Church and having a mother that was so actively involved at Q.S.U.M.C., I realized that I could share Christ with these children just by loving them, showing them someone cares for them and is willing to help them by teaching them the importance of using good manners and treating others like you would want to be treated.

I took a Disciple Bible study class taught by my mother and Audrey Powers. I remember sitting in class listening to them teach, telling how Christ had worked in their lives and thinking how amazing that was. Rev. Francis Daniel taught "How to Be a Contagious Christian," which I took. Preacher Francis was an incredible speaker, speaking from his heart not from notes or quotes taken from books. He taught us not to be afraid to share Jesus with others, even strangers. He shared with us a great visual of a person on a mountain and God on another mountain. A cross was between them. "This is a good way," he said, "to help introduce Christ to others." Telling them that "the only way to God is through Christ; and that no matter how many good deeds we do, we'll always fall short of the glory of God unless we accept Jesus as our Savior." I'll always remember that picture in my mind.

I was married in the church on June 16, 2001 by Preacher Francis and Rev. Craig Ham. I feel very blessed to have been married in such a beautiful, old church where my great grandparents once were members. Later my husband, Tony, joined the church. Since he is a teacher and coach at Eastern Wayne High School and has a gift for working with teens, he decided to become a UMYF counselor with Sammy & Desta Hudson and Keith & Sandra Thompson. I usually helped at youth group with Tony and went on several trips with them. One of my most memorable was the time we went skiing in West Virginia, and on the way we got in a terrible snowstorm. We stopped for food and to use the restroom; but it was snowing so heavily, we spent only 5 minutes in the store. Everyone was afraid to stay any longer for fear of being snowed in. We had to drive with the defrost and heat on high to keep the windshield from freezing. After finally getting to the ski lodge, we discovered it had not snowed a bit there. We skied on fake snow, and our families back home were enjoying the biggest snow they had had in a long time!

In 2002 I became pregnant. Toward the end of the pregnancy, I began developing medical problems and was admitted to the hospital. Concerned with my health, as well as, with the development of the baby's lungs, my doctor ordered a cesarean and on Friday, December 6, 2002, Madison Tilden Parrish. Being 5 weeks early and having fluid in his lungs, he was taken to the Neonatal unit at Pitt Memorial Hospital in Greenville. I was still a patient at Lenoir Memorial Hospital. His condition improved after a couple of days; and he was transported back to Lenoir Memorial, only to be returned to Pitt Memorial that same day. During those 14 days, we were told several times that he was doing well, and we would be taking him home only to arrive the next day and be disappointed to hear again that he wasn't ready to be discharged. I went to Lamaze, watched videos, read numerous books; but nothing can ever prepare you for an experience like this. It was mentally, physically, and emotionally draining; but I had God and my church family. From the moment the church got word I was admitted to hospital to the day we left Pitt Memorial with Madison, people from the church were praying, sending cards and flowers, and visiting. The morning Madison was delivered Preacher Francis, Rev. Lindsey Greene and Sammy Hudson were there along with my family members at Lenoir Memorial Hospital. I appreciated so much Preacher Francis sitting with me beside the incubator in the N.I.C.U. while I cried. Other babies were so much worse off than mine, but I still couldn't help but worry. I remember one of those last few days Madison was in the hospital Desta and Sammy Hudson came to the pediatric waiting area and brought chocolate chip cookies and a children's Christmas CD. Prayers are answered!

I could not ever explain how much the support from Queen St. Church meant to me during this time. It was as if Madison was their own child. Madison is almost 4 now; and every time we enter the church, someone hollers, "Hey, Madison!" We were so amazed when "church" was one of the first words he spoke. We could not believe he had said "church," until he said it several more times, each time when we neared Queen Street and could see its steeple. Every steeple we passed, he said the same thing. Not very long afterwards, we drove past Queen Street Church one day, and we heard "our church." Yes, it will always be "Our Church!" I am so blessed to have belonged to such a wonderful church family.

### **LILLIAN AND JEANNETTE PARROTT**

My mother was a member of Gordon Street Christian Church, but joined Queen Street in 1921 when she married my father, Dr. Clifton F. West, who was a member of Queen Street. My two brothers and I were baptized there as infants. I grew up attending Sunday school (with Harriett Howard and Lois Wooten Jones) and church there. I was married in the sanctuary in March of 1948 by Dr. Henry I. Glass.

All five of my children were baptized there, as well as all nine of my grandchildren (including three who live in Paris, France). All of my children attended Sunday school there. My oldest three children (Arendell, Clifton, and Susan) even went to kindergarten at Queen Street (with Sebie Hewitt as their teacher). My son, Clifton, also attended first grade there (with Mrs. May as his teacher). The church has been part of our family for many years.

## **NOLA AND JAKE PARROTT**

Jake and Nola Parrott joined Queen Street United Methodist Church in 1940 when they moved to Kinston from New Bern. They were invited to attend by Mrs. N.S. Richardson (Mittie Richardson) who was Jake's aunt and a member of Queen Street. Jake and Nola had three sons who went through confirmation and became members of the church.

The Parrott family was very active in Sunday School. The oldest son, Reid, was credited with perfect attendance in Sunday School for 10 years. Reid was married in Queen Street on June 14, 1963, to Margaret Irene Allen. Their oldest son, Jacob Reid Parrott III, was baptized in Queen Street before Reid and Margaret moved to Raleigh in 1969. The other sons, Donald and Hubert, were regulars in Sunday School; and all three sons were active in the MYF under the leadership of Susan Waller Miller and Charity Holland. Jake was a faithful member of the Men's Sunday School Class that was taught by Jasper Phillips and later Marion Parrott and then Tom Griffin. Jake often played the piano for the Sunday School class and was particularly fond of the old hymns such as "In the Garden," "The Old Rugged Cross," "Amazing Grace," and "Dwelling in Buleau (Sp) Land." Nola was a member of the Women's class taught by Ruth Peterson. I'm sure there were earlier teachers but I can't recall their names.

Jake and Nola were long standing members of Queen Street but aided in the successful efforts to assist Bethany Church in the Sandhill section of Lenoir County to get up and running again. Upon their deaths the funerals for both Jake and Nola were held in Queen Street United Methodist Church.

Submitted by Reid Parrott, 2917 Ridgcrest Drive, Rocky Mount, NC 27803

## **PAYLOR FAMILY**

The Paylors have been long time Methodists. The R. Lewis Paylor family moved to Kinston in 1931 and transferred their membership from Greensboro to Queen Street Methodist on December 21, 1931. Dr. E. C. Few was the minister. They were faithful members, Mr. Paylor serving on the Board of Stewards, the Trustees and was a member of the Baraca Class. Martha Paylor was a member of the Women's Society, was a wonderful cook and spent many hours with Mrs. Eddie Stroud and others preparing meals when Queen Street served meals to organizations to make money for the church. Their children, Roland and Tommy attended Sunday school and joined the church at age 10 – 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Miss Winnie Lester taught the 4<sup>th</sup> grade class – some of the members were Roland, John Hewitt, Leonard Oettinger, Phil Hines and Carl Wooten. Miss Winnie laughingly said she wanted those boys to be her pallbearers because they were the ones who put her there!

Kathryn came to Kinston in 1949 after she and Roland finished college at UNC-Chapel Hill. She transferred her membership from First Methodist Church, LaGrange, Georgia in the spring of 1949. Dr. Henry I. Glass was the minister. Roland and Kathryn's children Lew and Freeman grew up in Queen Street. They were christened by Rev. Mark Lawrence.

Roland served on the Board of Stewards, was chairman of the Trustees and was a substitute teacher for the young men's class. He died on April 20, 2001. The funeral was April 23 at Queen Street. Rev. Francis Daniel and Rev. Helen Freeman Henry (Kathryn's cousin) were the ministers.

Kathryn has been a circle leader several times, has taught Sunday school and was chairman of the Parsonage Committee the year the Woodberry parsonage was built. She will serve on that committee again in 2007. She has been chairman of Staff Parish Committee and presently serves on the Trustees.

Queen Street has always been a special place for the Paylors.

## **DORIS PETTEWAY**

My husband, Hampton, and I came to Kinston in 1952 with one baby and another on the way. We joined Queen Street in 1953 and began to get active at that time. We joined the Young Couples Class, which is now the Frank Mock class. I had to play the piano on the first visit and still play most of the time today. Nancy was married at Queen St. in September 1973 and Marilyn August 1975. Hampton died on March 21, 1982 after a long bout with cancer.

Words cannot express how much Queen Street has meant to me and my family through the years. I shudder to think what our lives would have been without it.

I feel that Nancy and Marilyn got a firm foundation in their years here. They had wonderful Sunday School teachers from nursery to teenage years. Charity Holland was a great influence in their lives and also mine. Many teachers are still remembered by them. Their spiritual foundation then has caused them to be involved in their churches today.

One of the highlights of my life at Queen Street church was the chance to participate in the Stephen's Ministry course under Rev. Whit Warren and to be commissioned afterwards.

Queen Street church has a wonderful, caring family. They are there when you need them, and they show their love in so many ways. My children and grandchildren think this church is above all others. I pray that our Lord will let it grow and prosper in the years to come.

### **SAMUEL BRUCE PETTEWAY**

Late in 1928, I was first introduced to Queen Street Methodist Church South. I was only four years old and my Mother had just moved to Kinston from Fayetteville with three young boys. I was the youngest. We sat in the same pew each Sunday, seldom missing a service. We sat fairly near a fan, which helped make us more comfortable on hot summer days. I do not remember all the pastors, but I do recognize their names. In 1933, at the age of nine years, I managed to keep the texts of the Reverend Robert E. Brown and he rewarded me with a copy of a red letter New Testament. It contained a photo of him which had been cut from a newspaper.

Sunday School attendance was a requirement and my brothers and I seldom missed a Sunday. The classes were filled with persons of my age and the teachers were excellent. I remember Major Graham standing at the front door welcoming the children. I remember several of my teachers: Emma Webb, Winnie Lester, Pat Crawford. Bible School in the summer was a requirement and was interesting because it was a new way of learning portion of the Bible and experimenting with interesting crafts. We never missed a revival series and sat in the balcony when possible. I left Queen Street Methodist Church to attend college and later serve in the Navy.

### **THE HUGH POLLOCK FAMILY**

After Hugh and I were married in 1989 at Gordon Street Christian Church, we returned to QSUMC. In 1990 Hugh transferred his membership to QSUMC and our son Matt was confirmed in 1998 at QSUMC.

Our daughter, Kimberly Pollock Whitley and husband Brian were married at QSUMC on October 9, 1999. The funerals of Hugh's parents, Lin and Lela Pollock, were held at QSUMC in March 1996 and September 2004.

Many thoughts flood my mind as I remember memories of this great church. Some of my fondest memories were of Charity Holland and Miss Winnie Lester. Charity and Miss Winnie along with many others helped me grow in my Christian faith. I will always be grateful to them for their love and guidance.

Hugh is presently chairman of the Church Council and is honored to chair this committee. Four members of QSUMC have had a large impact on his life. They are Tommy Smith, Charlie Pattison, Vince Jones and Bill Willey. These men exemplify strong Christian values and are outstanding role models.

Submitted by Kathy Civils Pollock

### **MARY LOU POLLOCK**

Queen Street United Methodist Church was an integral part of the Louie and Kathleen Pollock family's life in the 1940s, 50s, 60s and 70s. All three children were baptized at services in the church. They attended Sunday school, church services and the evening MYF. All of the Pollock children had to behave because Louie's older Sister, Mabel Law, taught the Sunday school lesson and Kathleen's Mother, Lucille Saunders, played the piano in the junior department for many years. The church members gave a special tribute to Mabel because of her many contributions in time and money to the church.

Charity Holland had a great deal of influence over the teenagers who grew up in the church, and when she left to work for the state, many were saddened by that event but understood her reasons. Years later, Charity was visiting a neighbor at the beach and Mary Lou saw her and rushed over to ask what she was currently doing and her reply was "I'm writing my own goals and objectives now." That was a statement that Mary Lou has used again and again because she too had written many objectives for the children she taught.



Louie Junior and Mary Lou sang in the youth choir, but when Kathleen asked George if he wanted to sing in the choir, he said "no." George did not sing in the youth choir. The Pollock children participated in many other activities sponsored by the MYF such as collecting money for UNICEF on Halloween , to feed the world's hungry children.

The memorial fund for Mabel Law helped finance the QSUM Church bells and the memorial fund for Kathleen Pollock purchased the Bell apron. Chairs were purchased with Louie Pollock Senior's memorial funds.

Mary Lou Pollock , 849 Shady Lawn Road , Chapel Hill, NC 27514

### **WILLIAM EDWARD AND HELEN ROUSE POLLOCK**

Ed transferred to Queen Street United Methodist Church in 1951 and Helen transferred from Gordon Street Christian Church in 1966 after my sons [Jay Carl Jones, III (deceased) and Bernice Rouse Jones (Ed's step-sons)] left for college. Dr. Potter was the Pastor.

Ed has attended Sunday School through the years and is presently enjoying serving as President of the Frank Mock Class. Also, he has served on the Finance Committee and the Church Board in the past and is currently on the Church Council and the Organ Committee.

My first Sunday School Class was the Fidelis Class with Ruth Stanford as teacher. My early impression of Queen St. was that it was a "cold" membership. But, that was short lived. As I became active my feelings changed. Both of us are members of the Frank Mock Sunday School Class where the Christian fellowship and love and work for god is ongoing today. When I joined Circle #3 and later served as Leader for a few years, I learned the important mission work of the United Methodist Women.

Under the leadership of our Associate Pastor, Lindsey Greene, I became a Prayer Coordinator and was a part of establishing our Prayer Chapel. Along with other members of our church a "junk" room was cleaned and made into this special place for a quiet time to be with our Lord. The furniture was donated by faithful members and the Kneeling Bench was made by another faithful member. Prayer Groups were formed that met each week. Ed was supportive and we both feel all of this has been a true blessing in our spiritual growth in our lives. This is my most rewarding accomplishment for Queen Street United Methodist Church.

### **RUSSELL AND AUDREY POWER**

Queen Street United Methodist Church with its "stained glass windows looked the way a church was supposed to look" declared our nine year old son in 1971 when we were in the visiting phase of finding our new church after moving to Kinston. We joined and sat toward the front to encourage attention during services and remained until the children, Katrina and Russell, Jr. graduated from high school and went way to college.

We know that it is people who make a church and we found many fellow members to be as beautiful spiritually as the grand sanctuary. Through the years these members have demonstrated Christian love.

Opportunities for spiritual growth through studies and service have always been available and encouraged at Queen Street. Thank God for our church home and for his sustaining love.

### **PAULINE RASBERRY**

After J. C. and I were married, March 22, 1947, in the Episcopal Church, I joined Queen Street Methodist Church. My aunt and uncle, Martha and Henry Canady, were members as well as J. C.'s mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rasberry. Martha was married to John Sherman in the church on July 16, 1948. Our son, Joe, went to Kindergarten at the church before going to the first grade.

### **JOYCE AYCOCK ROACH**

When you stop to reflect, you realize the importance of some person or place in your life. Such importance is the legacy of Queen Street United Methodist Church. I cannot imagine how my life would have been without this beautiful place and these generous people.

My Queen Street experience began when I was a preschooler riding to church with my parents or walking with my grandmother. Attending Kindergarten downstairs at the church was my introduction to school. In the sanctuary I curiously watched Rev. Lawrence enter, wearing a white suit with tails. At Sunday School there were so many

elementary kids that the entire second floor was full. First thing every Sunday morning, a large group sing was lead by Miss Merle Scott and Mrs. Polly Oettinger. On Wednesday afternoons the children's choir practiced with Mrs. Alma Offet. Her assistant, Mrs. Johnson, made sure everyone looked nice in their choir robes. As all we elementary kids became teen-agers, we were promoted to Sunday School on the third floor. Once again the entire floor was full of kids, fourth graders through high school Seniors. Those in high school looked forward to going to the soda shop in the Hotel Kinston for a Coke before church service started and to be in MYF meant, among other things, to be invited to Miss Charity Holland's apartment for homemade pizza. With the end of childhood came the responsibilities of being an adult.

As young adults, Dennis and I spoke our wedding vows in the sanctuary with Rev. Harold Leatherman and renewed our vows twenty-five years later with Rev. Whit Warren. Our daughter and son-in-law were married at the same alter where both our children were baptized and confirmed. Now as we visit Queen Street with our children and grandchildren, we have come full circle because of God's love and the influence of His Church.

Queen Street was important to me as a child because it was where I learned about Jesus. As a youth it was where I accepted God's gift of grace and promise of salvation and as an adult it was where I learned to shed my old self and live with the spirit daily. Thank you, God for Queen Street United Methodist Church.

### **BRYAN RHODES & FAMILY**

The Rhodes family moved their membership from St. Mark United Methodist Church in the mid to late seventies. The family consisted of Bryan, Mary Dell, Trey, Neil, and Jenni. Herman Winberry, Pastor, was in his first year at Queen Street. Herman made the entire family feel welcome, and they immediately became active in the choirs, Sunday School, MYF, and Women and Men's

Groups. For us, joining Queen Street was a revival. We all had many spiritual needs and QS met those needs. I, for one, loved to hear Herman preach. One thing he said many times from the pulpit was "We've chased that rabbit long enough." It always struck me as funny coming from a man of God, but Herman usually had chased that rabbit to exhaustion.

Woody Davis was director of Youth at the time we joined, and my boys would jump through hoops for him. He took two very shy and not very talented young boys and had them acting in plays and singing in the youth choir. One particular play I remember was done in mime. The boys were painted white on one side and black on the other. It was a riot. Neil even played the part of Sampson in one play. Meanwhile Jenni was making a name for herself with her voice and dancing abilities. She took private piano lessons from Ken Beaman, and from Mary Askew. (Mary directed the choir briefly. She was sister to Ann Steinert.) Jenni never has become a piano player, but her early training and natural ability has served her well in her adult life. Bryan and I always felt honored to sing in the Chancel Choir, and we have had some very good directors over the years. Alma Johnson was still directing and playing the organ when we joined the choir. Bless her heart. Alma was on her decline then. Lib Jordan had to remind her where we were in the order of worship on Sundays. Alma's fingers were drawn and stiff, she stayed confused a lot, but when she caressed that keyboard, angels sang.

During the time the children were growing up in the church. Bryan and I devoted most of our "church work time" to the youth group. We did our share of cooking, going on field trips, camping, Bible School, and whatever else was needed. Trey and Jenni were both married at Queen Street. Trey's was unique in that it was held as part of the worship service on Sunday morning. Randall Baker was our minister then, and he said holy matrimony was as much a sacrament as any other, so it was perfectly permissible in the Methodist Church. The church was packed, and I learned a very valuable lesson that day. We held a small luncheon in the fellowship hall for out of town guests and family, and too many people who weren't invited stayed to eat, and I forgot to invite Randall and Freda!

Over the ensuing years our love for our grand ole church has deepened and grown. Bryan has served as Sunday School Superintendent, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and is still serving on that board. He has cooked, cleaned, been active in Frank Mock Sunday School Class, sung in the choir, and hugged every lady in the church.

Mary Dell has taught Sunday School, helped with Bible School, cooked, cleaned, sewed costumes and table linens, been active in Frank Mock Class, and sung in the choir also. She led the charge to update the kitchen, is on the board of directors for UMW, and she gets quite a few hugs herself. We as a couple continue to support the youth of the church by our friendship and helping fund trips.

Needless to say, we bless the day we joined QSUMC. It is our home, our family, and place of spiritual guidance. God has been so good to us. We pray that Queen Street United Methodist Church will continue to beckon from the corner of Peyton and Queen, that her spires will continue to lift eyes to heaven, and her beautiful stained glass windows will continue to reflect the light from above for generations to come.

#### **WILLIAM H. ROWLAND FAMILY**

I joined this church, by letter of transfer, in 1977, along with my children Will 12, and Candace 10. I immediately joined the Frank Mock Sunday School Class with Will and Candace joining the youth group and becoming active members of the MYF. Memories of these youth involved with car washes, snow skiing, retreats and Camp Don-Lee linger in my mind today. Fond memories remain of Candace playing in the adult Hand Bell Choir and Will's becoming an Eagle Scout in Boy Scout Troop 62. I am also reminded of my cooking bar-be-cue chicken in a pot of bar-be-cue sauce for the MYF and to which they said they loved.

Another cherished moment came in 1984 when I married Dorothy Varnell Winstead and she joined this church also by letter of transfer. In 1987, Dorothy's daughter, Traci Brooks Winstead, married Bruce Behrendt in the sanctuary and the ceremony was performed by Rev. Randall Baker.

For 30 years my family has been surrounded by love and compassion from members of this church and now may you, the reader of this church composition, feel the love and spirit moving within these pages.

#### **BEN C. ROUSE**

The thought of Queen Street Church continues to evoke deep and abiding gratitude for the many saints who directed me to a commitment to Christ and eventually to more than 40 years of service as an ordained minister in The United Methodist Church.

Even with a precarious memory, many names come to mind; wonderful Sunday School teachers like Winnie Lester, Mabel Laws, Merle Scott, Marilyn Gay and, yes even men like Claude Barrett, Jr., George Dubose, Jr., Charles McCullers (and Margaret) and John K. Wooten. Charity Holland has always been my "Mother in the Faith." Her influence, support and guidance throughout my youth were incalculable. She also taught me how to operate a mimeograph machine which was helpful in the early days of my ministry. When I was serving as a Special Term Missionary (U.S.2) in Oklahoma City in 1960, Charity had the MYF call and sing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas!" It was my first Christmas away from home and Charity remembered. Alma Johnson started me out in the Junior Choir and when my voice changed she asked me to sing in the Adult or Chancel Choir. The choir encouraged and accepted young people in a wonderful way. My appreciation for good church music remains to this day.

I loved Dr. H. I. Glass and The Rev. Mark Lawrence, however, I was glad to see Dr. Marvin Vick come wearing a pulpit robe because after God called me to ordained ministry I didn't think that I could wear a "split tailed" coat or a white suit like they did. Mr. Lawrence helped me enter High Point College and Queen Street Church helped with tuition for the four years I was there. There were so many in the congregation who encouraged and supported me in those formative years and I shall indebted to them for the rest of my life.

#### **DR. FRANK SABISTON FAMILY**

Dr. Frank Sabiston, Jr. grew up at Queen Street UMC. He has many fond memories – Sunday School in Mr. Mock's class, ringing the bells and choir with Mrs. Alma Offutt. He was a close friend to Jack Phillips and they came to Sunday School "every" Sunday.

Our family moved here in 1971. Celia transferred her membership from College Place UMC in Greensboro and the children Frank IV, Ann and John from Adlersgate UMC in Augusta, Georgia. Frank III began kindergarten in September 1971 with Mrs. Mary Akers and Ann followed in 1972. Public school kindergarten was going by the time John was old enough for school. They all attended Sunday School as did I. They all enjoyed MYF, ski trips and choir. Their "youth" years were during the time when Kermit Braswell was minister and they enjoyed him very much. Frank and Ann see him at their church, Hayes Barton UMC in Raleigh. They all graduated and now return to Queen Street when visiting here in Kinston.

## **MISS MERLE SCOTT**

There is no way we can begin to estimate the number of children who were enrolled in the Primary Department under the leadership of Miss Merle Scott. She was a trained educator and brought to Queen Street Church her knowledge and love for children. She recruited teachers, set up programs, knew well the children and visited their families. Miss Scott knew about the amount of organization required and how to keep a department functioning effectively. She loved people and cared about what was happening in their lives. She gave her life to serving. She used her car to take the young and the old to the church or wherever they needed to go. We are grateful for the life and leadership of Miss Merle Scott and for all the lives that are better because she was there.

## **BUCK AND MARIE SHELTON**

Buck and Marie Shelton moved to Kinston in March 1956. Our first Sunday in Kinston we visited Queen St. The next week Mrs. Woodard Speed visited us and invited us back. That visit made a great impression on us. We soon moved our membership from West Market St. UMC in Greensboro to Queen St. where we remained. Buck died July 25<sup>th</sup>, and his service was at Queen St.

Our son Woody grew up at Queen St. He was active in the MYF and a boy scout in the troop at the church. He received his eagle at Queen St. We joined the Young Couples Class that was meeting in the prayer room. We have stayed with the same class only our name has changed many times.

## **FLOYD A. SMITH FAMILY**

Floyd A. Smith and Bernice R. Smith of Kinston joined Queen Street UMC church in April, 1947. Floyd was a member of the men's Baraca Sunday School Class. Bernice was an active member of the Ruth Stanford Sunday School Class, United Methodist Women, and the Joy Group. For several years she delivered "Meals on Wheels" with Helen Cook. Floyd died in 1989 and Bernice in 2003, shortly after her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Smiths had three children – Floyd Smith, Jr., Margie Smith Ehrlich (deceased), Thomas A. Smith, Sr. - five grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. When their children were young, the family lived on College Street, across from Mrs. John Shut. In the late 30's she started taking them to Sunday School at Queen Street and they were there almost every Sunday. Marjorie was very active at Queen Street until her marriage, when she transferred her membership to the Catholic Church and settled in Cincinnati, Ohio where she lived until her death in 1985. Floyd, Jr. transferred his membership to Westminster UMC in Kinston in 1965.

Tommy A. Smith, Sr. joined Queen Street UMC in 1952 before entering the U. S. Air Force. Upon his return to Kinston with his new wife, Gloria, (who transferred her membership to Queen Street from her home church in Louisiana) they became members of the Frank Mock Sunday School class after being invited by Tom and Daphne Rivers. Their son, Tommy, Jr., and their grandchildren, T. A. Smith, III and Davis Smith, have been a part of the church since their childhood. Tommy worked with Queen Street's Boy Scout Troop 62, along with Lloyd Hemby and Frank Books. Tommy, Jr. became an Eagle Scout during that time. Although now living in New Bern, he continues to attend Queen Street UMC.

T. A. and Davis became associated with Westminster UMC Boy Scout Troop 392 and each became Eagle Scouts. Tommy has been an active adult leader with that troop over the years. T. A. was an active member of the Queen Street UMC youth choir and UMYF and currently is a senior at N. C. State University. Davis is a junior at Arendell Parrott Academy in Kinston and an active member of Queen Street's UMYF, in particular enjoying the Youth Coffee House.

Tommy and Gloria retired from E. I. Dupont Company fourteen years ago and have been actively involved at Queen Street UMC since then. In particular they enjoyed many trips with the Joy Group and cook-outs with the Frank Mock Sunday School class.

Gloria has served as president of the Queen Street UMW and Tommy has served on the administrative board and trustees, a delegate to Annual Conference and on many committees. They continue to serve where needed in different areas of the church.

Tommy is a part of the community-wide Wednesday morning Prayer Breakfast (serving as one of the cooks) which meets at Westminster UMC. He also works at Mary's Kitchen on Thursdays.

## **TOMMY SMITH, JR.**

My fondest memories as a member of QSUMC are from the years when I was younger. I remember fondly of always having to get up and go to Sunday School every Sunday because that is what my grandmother, Bernice Smith, expected. I didn't really like the idea, but after I got there I had a good time. As a teenager the same thing was expected of me. You will go to Sunday School and church. I remember going up to the third floor and sitting around and talking to my friends about the ball games on Friday night and what we did over the week-end. It seemed the Sunday School room was always full of people. After Sunday School we always went next door to the soda shop on the corner in the hotel Kinston before church. They had the best cherry cokes with the really fine crushed ice.

The sanctuary was always full and we, the younger crowd always sat in the balcony and always had a tendency to cut up. One young man, I won't mention his name, tried to see how much fruit stripe gum he could get in his mouth during the service. He was doing pretty good stuffing the pieces of gum in and everything was fine until will stood up to sing the closing hymn and that big wad of gum fell out of this mouth and hit someone right below us. His dad gave him a real strong look. It's funny now, but not so back then.

I remember scouts on Monday nights, MYF on Sunday nights, choir practice on Wednesday afternoons; and I remember how beautiful the candlelight service was on Christmas Eve. All these things were having an impact on my life back then, and I didn't even know it. I know it now and thank God for blessing me with those wonderful times and memories at QSUMC.

## **WOODARD SPEED**

Mrs. Woodard Durham Speed came to Kinston in the early 20's after she married Edward Young Speed. They built a home on the corner of Lenoir and Mitchell Streets and she, having come from a strong Methodist family in Danville, Kentucky, became an active member of Queen Street Church. Mrs. Speed was President of the Mamie Webb Auxiliary in 1925. She served again in 1926 and in 1930. In the late 1920's Mrs. Speed began teaching the Young Adult Women's Class and served in that capacity until her health declined in the early 80's. She is remembered by many for her great capacity to love and care of whomever needed her, for her wisdom and guidance to younger women, and her great knowledge of the Bible.

## **CAMERON STEELE**

When my family moved to Kinston we were looking for a church and we visited Queen St. Everyone told us we needed to meet Sammy because when we visited neither him nor the preacher was there. We ended up coming back several times and it came to a choice between two churches and we decided on Queen St. because we felt that we could be used there and we have certainly been used for God's glory here at Queen St.

## **HOLLY STEELE**

My family and I feel like God led us to Queen St. Since then I have felt that Queen St. is my home and the people there are my family. We had many choices for churches but we all agreed that our mission in Kinston was Queen St. I love my church family and nothing will be able to take their place.

## **BILL AND PAT STEWART - MEDIA, PA**

Best wishes on Heritage Sunday. In the early 1960's when Bill and I moved to Kinston as newly-weds (he was an engineer with DuPont), Queen Street became central to our lives. My serving Queen Street Church as Director of Christian Education (under Dr. Marvin Vick) was short-lived due to the arrival of our first child, Will. Two years later we welcomed his little brother Wes into the family. Both sons were baptized at Queen Street Church, with Claude Barret joining Dr. Vick and later Dr. Stanley Potter in administering the rites. I also remember both Nancy Collier's and Charity Holland's dedicated service to the church and hearing from them over the years.

Today Will Stewart is in medical genetics at Wake Forest University Medical Center, Winston-Salem, N.C., and his wife Randi is a genetic counselor for Duke University. Wes and his wife Kathy met while they were both law school students in Baltimore, MD and continue to live there with their 5-year-old son Connor. Will and Wes grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia where we have lived the past 32 years. Bill is a semi-retired energy engineer. I have retired from college teaching and continue to be involved in the care of our special needs adult daughter Rebecca who lives at home. (Rebecca was adopted at birth in Virginia.)

Our family treasures those early years in Kinston with special appreciation for the inspiration and fellowship we found as members of Queen Street Church. May God continue to bless all who are fortunate to call it their church home!

### **ED AND OLA STROUD FAMILY**

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Stroud joined Queen Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1914 during the pastorate of Rev. H. A. Humble. From that day until their deaths, they were dedicated members of this church and its Sunday School. They faithfully attended all its services, were some the hardest workers the church has had. Ed "Eddie" Stroud was a devoted member of Queen Street Methodist Church. He served on its Board of Stewards for 35 years with an almost perfect attendance record at its services and meeting. When he died, the Board of his church memorialized him as "a citizen of broad vision, a faithful father and husband of tender consideration and a Christian of simple faith."

Ola Johnson Stroud was a tither throughout her life, a leader in the Women's Missionary Society, and an active circle leader. Upon the death of her husband in 1950, she was appointed in his place to serve on the Board of Stewards, remaining on it until her death. Her activities centered around her church where she was a tireless worker in every phase of its programs, activities and missions. Ola was a devout student of the Bible and loved Christian literature. Her Bible, as well as several books were always beside her favorite chair. When she died, the family found notes on the inside of the cover telling why a particular book was excellent reading and how it applied to Christian living. She also became something of an "icon" for Queen Street's kitchen, and was known throughout the community for her wonderful culinary skills. Back then, the women of the church cooked meals and served them for various events in the community in which some member of the church was involved. These projects were undertaken raise extra money for the Woman's Society and the Church. Whenever a meal was needed, she was always there. She would confer with Mrs. H. J. Hearn and Mrs. Paylor, settle on a menu, and decide who would make the biscuits, etc. Most often, she was the first to arrive and the last to leave when the church doors were opened. When the Woman's Society published their cookbook, they dedicated it to her.

The Stroud home was across the street from the church parsonage on W. Lenoir Avenue. Although, the Stroud family was at church every Sunday, a hot meal was always served at 10'clock promptly. Many Sundays, the current minister and his family would be invited to eat after church. All four of the Stroud's children, Coy, Matt, Gladys, and Edward, grew up in this church and, when they came of age, took their membership vows in our Sanctuary. No excuse was acceptable for not being in attendance on Sunday mornings. A time was set aside each evening for a devotional. Each child was required to be present and to take turns leading the devotional and giving the prayer. After they were married and had children of their own, the ones who lived in Kinston were expected to attend church and be at their Mother's table afterwards for Sunday dinner. Sunday was a day to worship, rest, and enjoy family. A Sunday afternoon drive of a visit with family or friends often followed the meal. The grandchildren were never allowed to go to the picture show with their friends on Sunday afternoon. Ola considered that to be a sin. Queen Street Methodist Church was an integral part of the life of this family and gave each them the foundation needed for Christian family values and their walk with God.

### **M. E. STROUD FAMILY**

Madison Estridge Stroud, or "Matt" as he preferred to be called, was the son of Ed and Ola Stroud. He took his membership vows at Queen Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, when he was 8 year old during the pastorate of Rev. H. A. Humble. He grew up in the church, faithfully attending every service. His mother and father held a devotional time each night; and, as a boy and as a teenager, he was required to take turns giving the devotion and saying the prayer. No meal was ever eaten without saying the blessing first.

At the age of 19, he saw the same car riding up and down Queen Street. In the back seat of the car, sat a girl he had never seen before. She immediately "caught his eye." When the car stopped at the service station, he pulled up, got out, and walked over to ask if he could help them. Finding out that the family would soon be moving to Kinston and was looking for a house, he offered to help them. The father thanked him for the offer but did not take him up on it. As he walked off, he said to himself, "I'm going to marry that girl one day." In Feb. 1937, he was married to Rachel Clark Baynor by Rev. A. S. Parker, of Queen Street Methodist Church, after a lengthy courtship.

Rachel Clark was the daughter of Fenner and Katie Baynor and had joined the church immediately after moving to Kinston. She was the consummate homemaker and loved to decorate. She was a member of the Kinston Woman's Club and a charter member and Past Matron of the Eastern Star, serving in several district and state offices. She loved her church and was devoted to her family. She was a member of the Ruth Stanford Fidelis Class, the Woman's Missionary Society, and a charter member of the Woman's Society of Christian Service and UMW. Matt served on a number of boards at the church. He was Supervisory Budget Analyst for Cherry Point Marine Corps.

Air Station, a civilian position. He drove back and forth from Kinston to Cherry Point to work. He devoted his entire life to helping others, never putting self first. As an accountant, he was often called upon to advise people in the community, help them to write wills and settle estates. He rarely charged for his services. When he died people from throughout Lenoir County came to the visitation and told many stories, unknown by the family, of how he helped them in many sundry ways.

Their only child, Mary Catherine, attended Sunday School and church every Sunday, obtaining an 8 year perfect attendance pin. They believed in Christian education and believed that Queen Street Church was the best place to obtain that. Their daughter and their grandchildren, Rachel Louise White Parrish and Sarah Lynette White, were baptized and married at our church. The large brass unity candleholder was given in memory of them and their many years of happy marriage.

### **MIKE "MICKEY" SUTTON**

I am pretty sure my wife, formerly Annie R. Edwards, and myself joined the Church at Queen Street on the same Sunday in 1941. In 1955 we married in a ceremony at Queen Street. I was trying to recall the preacher's name when we joined, could have been Parker. Rev. Mark Lawrence presided at our wedding.

Rev. Owen Fitzgerald and I went through 12 years together in the Kinston schools, graduating in 1947. Owen may have been in the same group that joined the church when Annie and I joined.

The following is a link to the Grainger High School Class of 1947 website and an article I wrote about my memories during that time: <http://manda.com/ghs-1947/2bits.html>

### **THE D. H. TAYLOR FAMILY**

The D. H. Taylor family has a long history at Queen Street Methodist. Our patriarch was a lifetime, avid supporter from his birth in 1919 to his death in 1995. Alice joined in 1943 after their marriage. All three children, Kay, Dee, and Laura were baptized and married at Queen Street.

D. H. was a member of the Young Men's Sunday School Class and made a mark there. He led the singing weekly requesting suggestions from the members but disregarding their ideas if they didn't suit him. He insisted that "God Bless America" be sung every Sunday. Shella Myers Strother was the piano player during her high years. One Sunday D. H. called out song 137, Shella Myers played song 237 and nobody knew they were on the wrong song until she finished 3 measures before the men.

One Christmas D. H. was asked to be one of the wise men in the pageant. Costumes were provided and D. H. removed his street clothes and put on the wise man attire. He walked with dignity and pride down the church aisle never knowing his boxer shorts were fully displayed in the rear.

D. H. was known in the later years as the distributor of peppermint candy. Often when giving his peppermints to a male friend he would say, "Here's one for you and here's 3 for your wife." Alice says the peppermints were D. H.'s way of saying, "I love you and I want you to love me." At his funeral we passed out peppermints as people left. We put a few in his pocket too, just in case St. Peter likes them. Some members think they can still here the paper crinkling on Sunday mornings during the service as peppermints are being opened.

Kay, Dee, and Laura were active in the youth programs. Dee was awarded his Eagle at Queen Street. Charity was a most meaningful influence in all three children's lives. Thank you, Charity, for the light you still shine for us all.

Alice has many wonderful memories of making 1,000's of sandwiches for MYF, the altar guild, being a wedding director, converting the front office into a bridal parlor through the Jordan's gift, redecorating the 3 vestibules with Frances Mueller's gifts and, of course, all the fellowship and inspiration in Mrs. Speeds Sunday School Class.

### **LUCY GIBSON TAYLOR FAMILY**

Lucy Gibson Taylor, wife of Will Taylor, joined Queen Street when her three girls were young. Her three daughters were Helen Taylor (Rayner) deceased, Lucy Taylor (Grady) and Wilda Taylor (Wood). Lucy and her three daughters enjoyed attending Queen Street and grew up in the church. They were all members and were baptized at Queen Street. They were a close and happy family. Lucy Grady remembers how her mother sewed all the girls beautiful dresses and dressed them alike for church. Helen always wore blue, Wilda always wore pink and Lucy was dressed in lavender. Lucy still dislikes lavender to this day because her mother made all her dresses lavender.

Lucy's favorite minister over the years was Mr. Few. She also remembers a man named Mr. Boles who always stood at the front door of the church and greeted everyone every Sunday for numerous years. She also remembers Mrs. Winnie Lester playing the piano for all the children in Sunday School. Another memory is the fundraising effort for the Educational building. The church sold little paper bricks for one quarter. The girls loved buying a brick and pasting it on cardboard house. It took quite awhile, but the money was finally raised and the building was built.

Young Lucy Taylor and Charles Leland Grady (who also grew up at Queen Street) were married at Queen Street Church on August 8, 1946. It was a simple ceremony with no attendants. Her father walked her down the aisle. A memory from their wedding is what young Edna Harvey (Wolverton) did. Her mother Edna Grady Harvey told her not to say anything during the wedding and she didn't. What she did do was go up front and stand with the bride, she kneeled with them and did everything the bride and groom did. Oh, she was cute!

Charles and Lucy Grady had two sons and remained members of the church after they were married. Charles Leland Grady, Jr. and William (Bill) Clarence Grady were both baptized at Queen Street wearing baptismal gowns their grandmother made for them. Today Bill, his wife Donna and their two boys are all members of Queen Street Church. The boys, William Cameron Grady and Will Taylor Grady were both baptized at the church. As you can see the Taylor-Grady family enjoys carrying on the names of the family. Many generations share the same names and now have to refer to each other as Big Lucy, Little Lucy, Big Edna, Little Edna, Bill, Will and William. As they say, "It's All in the Family!"

Submitted by Donna Grady as told to by Lucy Taylor Grady

#### **PATTY O'NEAL THEORET**

My first memory of Queen Street Church was attending the first grade. Mrs. May was the teacher. She remained friends with our family for many years. I loved many of my Sunday School teachers. One of my favorites was Mr. McCullough. MYF and Charity go hand in hand. She was the happiest, easy-going, loving person to every one of us children through our teen years. She was also many a blessing to our family by being there when we needed her.

The formality of our church services made a big impression on me. Over the years I have lived many other places, but I only attended Methodist churches that most resembled the traditional services of Queen Street. No other church has ever surpassed the beauty of our sanctuary and our stain glass windows. I feel blessed to have such a lovely place for worship.

Marvin Vice was the minister during my high school years. After attending MYF and church, he would allow us to go to the parsonage on Lenoir and dance. It was a great time for teenagers at Queen Street. In June of 1967 I married Gary Meyer at Queen Street. Dr. Potter officiated at the service.

Over the years I have served as treasurer for the church circle I attended, helped with Little Peoples' Church and assisted as a communion steward with my mother. I have been and am now a member of the Frank L. Mock class. Currently I am again serving as a communion steward, am a member of the church choir, and assist when needed on the kitchen projects.

My daughter Ginny Meyer Zuleba was baptized at the church December 1972. Her favorite minister was Kermit Braswell, and she referred to him as Kermit the Frog. She was in the Christmas play in December 1978. The children were not sure what to do; so the angel, Ginny, was giving everyone directions. Kermit turned to me and said, "I have never seen an angel give directions before, but she is doing a great job."

Ginny joined the church at age 12 and was an active member until she left for college. She is now a member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Raleigh, NC.

#### **JIMMY AND TOOTIE THOMAS**

For many years Jimmy and Tootie Thomas gave full time volunteer service to the youth and young adults of Queen Street Church. Tootie directed Christmas dramas that in staging and costuming were truly professional. They worked at keeping in touch with older youth and saw that a Holiday special meal and program was arranged at intervals. They did not have children and devoted their free time to doing all they could to meet the spiritual needs of our youth. We do thank God for their years of service and the lives they touched.



## **SANDRA AND KEITH THOMPSON**

For the past 21 years, Queen Street United Methodist Church has been the center of our family's life. We have played, worked, studied, socialized, and worshiped at the corner of Queen and Peyton. In terms of a 95 year heritage, 21 years may not seem like a long time but for our daughters, Jamie and Laura, it has been their nucleus - the central part of their lives.

Keith and I have both served and participated in many different ministries and committees - too many to mention. From the time Jamie and Laura were born, they went with us to Queen Street while we completed whatever task we were there to complete.

All this to tell you about the biggest blessing our family has received from Queen Street United Methodist Church - the youth group. Keith and I both served as volunteers for many years because the blessing we received far outweighed the time and effort we put into it. The youth and volunteer counselors not only blessed us but they shaped and directed Jamie and Laura.

Jamie and Laura became of age when Craig and Marla Ham were at the helm of the youth group. The counselors during that time were Kirk and Lori Thornburg, Amy Baker, Rich and Kristie Brennan, and Jay Bowers. After Craig and Marla left Queen Street, Sammy Hudson came along. The counselors that helped him, in addition to some of the old ones, were Pam Tilghman, Devin and Michelle Day, and Desta Hudson. These people are the foundation of what my daughters are today. Young ladies who love the Lord and are passionate about serving Him. Their values were shaped by what they learned at Queen Street.

I could never list all the good times we had with the youth group but the blessings are like the sand on the beach. I am so thankful for how Queen Street helped mold my daughters and I am eternally grateful. Queen Street is a beautiful old church but it is just a building. The church is all about the people inside.

## **PAM TILGHMAN**

I have only been at Queen Street UMW for four years, but they have been some of the most memorable years of my life. The Queen Street family just took my family right in. The experiences we have had with the youth and my relationship with the Foundation Sunday school Class have meant more to me than I could ever express. It is my prayer that 75 years from now my children and grandchildren will be celebrating their lives here at Queen Street. I could never mention everyone who has had an impact on my family's life here but I have to mention one person. Sammy Hudson is the reason we came here and he has played a major role in the spiritual growth of the children. I could never thank him enough. May God bless the future of this church.

## **L. GLENN TYNDALL**

I was born in Kinston in 1942 and spent my formative and growing childhood years at Queen Street UMC. I attended Sunday School and Vacation Bible School there. I remember winning a contest for attendance, etc. in 3rd grade when Buddy Rich was my teacher. I also remember being taught by Winnie Lester.

I moved into my youth years at a most favorable time. Dr. Marvin Vick was the pastor, and Charity Holland was the DCE, who worked most closely with youth ministry. I was fortunate in that those years were among the best for Queen Street UMC as far as youth ministry goes. I attended youth group every Sunday night. I sang in the youth choir, which performed at church on Sunday evenings. During high school years, we would go to the Vicks after evening church for an "after church fellowship." (As a minister with youth later on, I realized what an invasion of family time this must have been for the Vicks!).

Youth group and Queen Street UMC were the place to be in the late 50s. Our youth group was tops in the New Bern District. We even "hung out" at the church afternoons after school. We were by no means a bunch of religious fanatics. We had lots of fun, but took our faith and our church seriously. Four of us as high school juniors made a declaration for ordained ministry and obtained what was then called a "Local Preacher's License." We went away to college with a goal of entering full-time ministry. While I was the only one who ended up reaching this particular goal, what a remarkable feat that was for any church to have four youth make a decision for the ministry at the same time!

Marvin Vick had a lot to do with this. He was an outstanding preacher and counselor. He inspired those of in the youth group by his down- to-earth style and ability to have fun with us as a "normal guy." I remember thinking that

if being a minister could be like that, I might be interested. I thank Queen Street and Marvin Vick for showing me Christ in the Church as a way of calling me to follow Him.

But Charity was the main thing. She probably had more spiritual influence on me growing up than any other person I knew. She was the full embodiment of what following Christ meant. She represents what I call "incarnational theology," even an "incarnational" call to ministry. I saw Christ in Charity (boy, was she aptly named!). She influenced me to read, to think, to relate to people, and care about people. She showed me that being a "liberal Christian" is not an oxymoron! All during college, my colleagues from other schools would join me when we were at home, and we would simply go by Charity's apartment to talk and "hang out" till all hours. Talk about an invasion of privacy! Charity's neighbors probably wondered about all those late night male visitors!

On Heritage Sunday, I want to thank Queen Street UMC and particularly Charity Holland for making Church and Jesus Christ a reality in my young life. I completed Duke University and Duke Divinity School, and did a graduate degree at Wake Forest University. I was a youth minister for 7 years in Harrisonburg, VA. Since 1974, I have been United Methodist Campus Minister and Director of the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. In this capacity, I hope that I have been able to make Christ real to others in the same way that those formative days at Queen Street changed my own life.

### **NEVA WALLACE**

My grandfather, Dr. Romulus Alonza Whitaker was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church on Caswell and Independent Street. My father, Romulus Alonza (Allie) Whitaker, Jr., joined the church on Caswell Street in the early 1900's. He was a charter member of "Queen Street Methodist Church" which was established in August of 1911. He was married in 1919 to my mother, Eoline Paderick, who was a member of the Gordon Street Christian Church in Kinston. My brother, R. A. (Al) Whitaker III and I grew up as members of the Church. I was baptized as a baby and joined the church when I was ten years old.

One of my fondest memories in the church was when I was a young girl growing up. I looked forward to the county fair every year as the ladies of the "Missionary Society" had a booth at the fairground. My mother would let me go with her to sell the pies and cakes she had prepared for the fair. The ladies not only made money for the church but shared a good fellowship. It was quite an event for me.

The person who was the greatest influence in my life, when I was a teenager and young adult, was Mrs. Woodard Speed who was my Sunday School teacher. She was a wonderful Christian lady and teacher.

I was married in the church in 1950 to Fitzhugh Wallace, Jr. I then moved my membership to my husband's church, The First Presbyterian Church in Kinston. After we were divorced, I moved my membership back to the church in 1980. Rev. Herman Winberry was the minister then and the church was called Queen Street United Methodist Church.

The event that has enriched my life the most as a member of the church was the "Disciple's Bible Study" class that I attended for four years. Craig Ham taught it the first three years and Rev. Francis Daniel, the fourth year. They were excellent teachers. Most of my family and friends were members of this church so it has always been very special to me.

### **THE FAMILY OF C. J. WATSON**

The Watson family moved to Kinston from the Mt. Olive area when C. J. was very young and she was without sight. Kemp was born in Kinston. What a challenge and inspiration this family was for all the rest of us. How well we do recall the active presence of this family among us, participating and helping wherever there was a need. We do know that very early in C. J.'s life our minister's wife Eleanor Privette recognized that C. J. had a special gift in music. She saw that C. J. participated and often sang solo parts. As C. J. entered and advanced in school the family chose to move to Pitt County so C. J. could take advantage of the special services available for blind students in that area.

She now directs the Contemporary Music Worship on Sundays at Jarvis Church in Greenville. Months and years spent in cancer surgery and treatment has not kept C. J. from pursuing her career in music. On November 10, 2006 she was presented in her Senior Piano Recital at Mt. Olive College; and her smart brother Kemp enters his first year of college. This family has continued to give themselves in service to the church and the community and they never cease to express gratitude for the caring support of Queen Street Church staff and congregation during their years in Kinston.

## **ELLEN WHITAKER FAMILY**

My great-grandfather, Jesse Willis Grainger, was on the Board of Stewards of the first Methodist Church located in Kinston at the corner of Caswell and Independent Streets. He was also one of the people instrumental in the planning and building of a new Methodist Church on Queen Street.

One of his five children, Capitola, was a member of the first graduating class at GC. Following graduation, she went to New York Conservatory of Music and from there she returned to Kinston and was organist at the new Methodist Church. She was probably the first organist at the church.

Capitola married Dr. Daniel T. Edwards, a teacher and principal in the Manhattan and Brooklyn schools. Capitola and Daniel lived in New York, but her father Jesse did not want her living so far away, so he bought the Free Press newspaper and gave it to Daniel to be editor and get them back to Kinston. He also built "Sarahurst," a magnificent home located in the middle of Queen Street as a wedding present to them.

Daniel was active at the Methodist Episcopal Church, South on Queen Street serving as Superintendent of the Sunday School, lay leader and as the teacher of the Women's Bible Class. Daniel and Capitola had three daughters who grew up in this church. The daughters were: Sarah Edwards Crawford, Eleanor Edwards Whitaker and Virginia Edwards White. Sarah and Eleanor were life long members of the Queen Street Church.

Following the death of Capitola's father, Jesse Grainger, she and her sister Sallie Grainger Pierce, who lived in Weldon, gave the Garden of Gethsemane stained glass window in the church sanctuary in memory of their father and brother Henry Frank Grainger. Mary Frank Grainger, Jesse's sister, inherited the Grainger Farm in Greene County. She sold the farm and gave the money to the Methodist Orphanage.

Dr. Romulus Alonzo Whitaker, my paternal grandfather was also active in the Queen Street Church. His three sons were active, life long members too. These sons were Romulus A. Whitaker, Jr., father of Neva Whitaker Wallace; Dr. Paul F. Whitaker, father of Harriet Whitaker Howard and Marvin M. Whitaker, my father. Neva, Harriet and I are active members of Queen Street United Methodist Church today.

My parents, Eleanor Edwards and Marvin M. Whitaker were married in Shanghai, China in 1933. I was born a few years later in Trent sin, China. We came home for me to be baptized at Queen Street. My father was interned by the Japanese and my Mother and I returned to Kinston where I joined Queen Street. My Mother became active in the "Missionary Society" as long as her health allowed. After living in Korea for a short time, we were primarily in Kinston and at Queen Street. I grew up attending Sunday School and receiving many perfect attendance pins! I also sang in the choir during my high school years. As an adult I have served on the Administrative Board, Pastor Parish and Trustees and am a member of Circle #1. My husband, Jeff, is an Episcopalian but attends Queen Street with me.

## **PHYLLIS WHITAKER**

I joined Queen Street Church soon after moving to Kinston in July, 1960. My husband and I joined a newly formed Sunday School class of young married couples called the Kum Doublers. We enjoyed this class and made friendships that have continued until the present.

Our children were born in 1963 and 1966 and were baptized as infants and later confirmed at Queen Street. They, too, had good friends in Sunday School and UMYF. They enjoyed their Sunday School teachers and the adults who worked with them in UMYF. My older daughter was married at Queen Street while her sister got married in her church in Raleigh.

Queen Street has been a good source of spiritual strength and inspiration as well as a source of fellowship and friendship. I enjoyed singing in the choir for more than forty-five years, and I teach my Sunday School class one Sunday each month. My participation in United Methodist Women has met a real need in my life. In this organization, I have served as a circle leader, as secretary, as vice president, and at the present time as the president.

## **EVA WELCH WHITE**

Our family arrived in Kinston from Arm Street Methodist Church, Beaufort, NC when snow and ice was blanketing the area. John was appointed to serve beginning February 1966 as Minister of Education with the Reverend Dr. Stanley Potter as Senior Minister and later with the Reverend Harold Leatherman. Queen Street rented the F. O. Fitzgerald house across from Emma Webb Park for us. Approximately one year later we were able to use the rental

allowance to purchase our first home in a development behind the Barbecue Lodge. The back yard had peach trees and apple trees plus room for a vegetable garden.

Angela attended Kindergarten at Queen Street, then first grade at a Kinston elementary school. Johnna attended Kindergarten at Queen Street. Our daughter, Joy, was born in 1969 - 10 weeks before we moved to serve Fellowship Methodist Church in Hamlet, NC. Queen Street holds many happy memories. My favorites are: the young adult couples class that met and fellowshiped with coffee and snacks each Sunday morning prior to the lesson; the Methodist Women who began meeting at 12 noon for lunch and program. (The attendance tripled in numbers from the previous afternoon meetings.); circle meetings in homes with various speakers featured who informed us of conditions of interest in our area; and choir practice/special music programs as Alma Offutt directed. (There was excellent nursery care for Sunday and special worship services).

Our family made many friends whose love and kindnesses will always be etched in my heart. Thanks for your support and caring then and now. May God continue to bless your ministry.

#### **RONALD LEE AND MARY CATHERINE WHITE**

I am the only child of Matt and Rachel Clark Baynor Stroud and the third generation of my family to be a member of this beautiful, old church. I was placed on the Nursery Roll here in August 1946, one week after I was born. The nursery was downstairs on the bottom floor back then. I vaguely remember Dr. H. I. Glass. The earliest significant recollection of the church is seeing Mr. Lawrence at the doors of the Education Building every Sunday morning in a white suit and shaking hands with everyone. I loved Mr. Lawrence. He rather looked like a child's fanciful version of God, dressed all in white, graying hair, and smiling. Miss Merle Scott and Miss Winnie Lester both stand out in my mind from those early years. No matter where we were on Sundays, whether it was our place at the beach or traveling on vacation, we always had to locate the local Methodist Church on Saturday to know where to go for services on Sunday morning. I had a perfect attendance pin for eight years. The year after I received the 8<sup>th</sup> one, the Methodists quit giving pins. By then, I had been a visitor at Sunday Schools from Illinois to New York to Florida. I remember being very sick one Sunday and not being able to get out of bed to attend church. When the doorbell rang that afternoon, my mother discovered my Sunday School teacher at the door, declaring that she did not intend on letting "that child" miss getting a pin as faithful as she had been. No wonder everyone remembers Miss Winnie. I also loved Mr. Vick when he became our next minister. By then I was old enough to know that he was not God, but he was pretty special anyway. My Stroud grandparents lived across from the parsonage, and I have fond memories of playing with his two daughters, Sally and Cathy. I took my membership vows with him. I remember crying when Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Vick left. Old habits die hard. I've cried many times over the years when ministers left and only a very few times have they been tears of joy.

In 1965, I met Ronald Lee White. We were married in the Sanctuary of Queen Street Church in 1967 by Dr. W. Stanley Potter. I know that God must have blessed me for attending Sunday School all over the country for all those years because he sent me the finest Christian man, I could have imagined - a man who never thinks of himself, who is always willing to help anyone, who is a living example of the love chapter in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians. Queen Street Methodist Church and Ronald White are where I draw my strength and are the greatest examples of Christ's redeeming love.

Our two wonderful daughters were born in 1970 and 1971. Harold Leatherman baptized our oldest daughter, Rachel Louise, in 1970. Our second daughter, Sarah Lynette, was born the following year in December. Mr. Leatherman visited us in the hospital the night she was born. Knowing we had girls, everyone thought Ronald would want a son. Back then, you were surprised with what the good Lord gave you. Parents couldn't get a preview of the baby's gender. When we had another girl, Ronald told Mr. Leatherman we were truly happy and were just grateful the baby was fine and healthy. Mr. Leatherman used that as the basis for his Christmas sermon. He compared the birth of our baby to the birth of another baby at Christmas many years before and the birth of babies all over the world who were born into homes without love. Our two girls, born 13 months apart, continue to be a joy and a blessing to us. There's never been a minister my father loved any more than Harold Leatherman. Many afternoons I would find Mr. Leatherman's car in my parent's backyard and see the two of them in my Dad's office chatting. My dad cried when he left.

Happy memories come to mind of Kermit Braswell's pastorate with joy rides on the church bus, caroling at Christmas, a hay ride, etc. Our children, who loved the Muppets, thought that his name was "Kermit the Frog" and, boy, how they loved him! There are so many ministers who stand out in my mind: Randall and Freda who have become a part of our church family again; Ed and Eleanor Privette and Queen Street's Theater Guild; Whit, who taught us to sing the books of the Bible and wonderful Barbara, his wife; Francis Daniel, whose monologues I will always miss. I'll never think of Francis without remembering the beautiful wedding service he performed when

Rachel Louise was married and the prayers he prayed for us when our precious grandson, Madison, was born. God has also blessed Queen Street with remarkable staff members. I'll never forget Charity Holland, my role model, who has been one of the greatest influences on my life; Ruth Guthrie, who was my all time favorite Sunday School teacher, who taught me so much about the Bible in relation to life; dear Charlie McCullers who always took us to the hotel soda shop between Sunday School and church; Nancy Collier who ran the church as its secretary for so many years; the fun with Marla in the choir and in secret sisters; and last but certainly not least, Jacob, my "adopted son" who has taught me to aim for the stars!

Ronald has served on the Board of Trustees, Administrative Board, and Staff-Parrish Committee and as an usher for many years. He has been largely responsible for the painting and refurbishment of the Education Building during the last couple of years. I am currently Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Parsonage Committee, and Heritage Sunday Committee. Other committees in which I am or have in the past participated include: Worship, Lay, Finance, Organ, Church Council, Administrative Board, and Prayer Ministry. I was a member of the children's choir and have been a member of the adult choir for numerous years. I was trained in Disciple Bible Study and taught Disciple I and II with Audrey Power, a wonderful co-worker.

Every part of this church is a part of my life, the two could never be separated. I walk into the door and see Ronald, the most wonderful husband in the world, with a paintbrush fixing up our building. I walk into the Fellowship Hall and see my kids at the Harvest festival and myself in church plays. I look into the kitchen and see my grandmother, Ola Stroud, preparing delicious congregational meals. I walk to the nursery and see my little grandchild in the crib. I walk into Ruth Stanford's old classroom, now the Prayer Chapel, and see my mother sitting in Sunday School. I walk into the Bridal Parlor and see Charity hard at work in what was her old office. I then look up and see my Granddaddy, Fenner Baynor, getting Charity to type a postcard that said, "Granddaddy is tenderly, tenderly calling. Come home, Mary Catherine, come home", to send to me when I was visiting in Florida. I walk into the Prayer Meeting Room and see my Daddy and his family. I walk into the back of the Sanctuary and see my Grandmother, Katie Baynor, and her family. I look towards the altar and see the christenings, the weddings, and the funerals of my family. I praise God for Queen Street Church and my church family. I look at the cross sitting on our altar table, and I know how very blessed I am.

#### **SARAH LYNETTE WHITE**

I am proud to say that I am the fourth generation of my family to be a member to Queen Street Church. My maternal grandparents were Madison (Matt) and Rachel Clark Baynor Stroud. My parents are Ronald and Mary Catherine White, and I have one sister, Rachel White Parrish. Two of my fondest memories are of attending our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with my family and of my mother presenting me with a Special Mission Recognition Pin at the UMW Mother-Daughter Banquet. My parents have been such an inspiration to me in their Christian faith and all that they do at this church.

There is not a phase of my life that I think of that does not contain memories of Queen Street. I remember attending Sunday School as a little girl where we would sing songs and have devotions, and I will never forget "Kermit the Frog." I remember attending Confirmation Class and the impact it had on my life. As a member of MYF, I remember Sunday evenings filled with fun and fellowship, retreats to Laura Early's home and to Myrtle Beach with Donna and Wil Hardy, and mission work with Habitat For Humanity. When I went off to college, I was blessed to have Eleanor Privette as my prayer "mom." I received many wonderful notes and gifts from her throughout the year. As a young adult, I have enjoyed attending Disciple Bible Study I and II taught by my mother and Audrey Power, two incredible teachers! I will always remember Rev. Francis Daniel who is the most amazing pulpit minister I know. Even after I moved to Greenville, I would commute to Kinston to hear Francis preach! Through the years I have enjoyed serving as a Counselor for MYF, a member and Chairman of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, and Secretary of Program Resources for the Greenville District of UMW.

I have visited various churches in the Cary and Raleigh area, but none compare to Queen Street. As soon as I walk through the doors of this church, I know I am home! I can always count on a smile and a hug from Jacob and Bryan Rhodes; and I never fail to think of Bryan that I don't hear him calling, "there go the 'White' girls." You are my family! You have loved and nurtured me throughout my life, the good and the bad. I cannot imagine my life without you! May God bless each of you and this church.

#### **TED AND PAT WILLIAMS FAMILY**

Ted, Tim, Carl and I started going to Queen Street UMC in 1979. We all became members of the church. Ted began to sing in the choir and continues to do so today. Carl sang in the children, youth and adult choirs when he attended. Tim and Carl joined the UMYF when they were old enough. They learned many things throughout this

time. Carl was in some plays performed at the Church. While Carl was singing in the children's choir, he, Tim and I went to Busch Gardens. Later Carl, Ted and Tim also went to Washington, D.C. with the choir.

During the late 1980's Ted and I were youth leaders. Before, we had only cooked on Sunday night for the youth, now, we were eating with them. We learned to eat a lot of pizza, hot dogs, sloppy joes and spaghetti. We went on trips to Carowinds, Kings Dominion, Lake Junaluska, the beach and the State Fair. The fair was an experience. The Church had ordered a new bus but it had not come. The salesman drove one of the company's buses to the fair. I am sure he regrets it to this day. It rained, rained and rained while we were at the fair. You would not believe the mud we tracked on his new bus.

Ted was a Jubilee singer also. They were invited to go to the White House to sing at Christmas. All the people going through the tour, stopped to listen and sing along with them. I was very proud of them that night. The choir sang on the steps leading to the President's private quarters. One of the men stepped back to look at a painting. You can imagine his shock when the Secret Service came up behind him with guns. He had tripped the silent alarm.

Tim was married at Queen Street. The sanctuary is a beautiful place for a wedding. Later, Tim and Barbara's daughter, Margot was baptized at the church. Over the years, we have attended many services, meals and plays. They have all been rewarding to us. The members have always made us welcome. The members have meant a lot to us during illness. The Wesleyan Class fed us several times after Ted had major surgery.

Ted and I are proud to take our grandchildren to Queen Street. We hope our sons and their families will receive as many blessings as we have from the ministers and members of this Church.

#### **MRS. KATHLEEN WOOTEN**

Mrs. Wooten cared about people. By profession she was a nurse but Kathleen's concern was not just in meeting physical needs. She did not want anyone "left out." She was always in church seated on the side near the front so she could turn herself around and check the congregation to see if there were visitors who should be recognized or if someone was absent who was always in church. Charity Holland said "if there was a need that merited action she always called Mrs. Wooten." Now Kathleen could not always take care of the problem herself but once it was in her hands she pursued it with tenacity that others had no choice but to respond and do whatever was necessary to meet the need. How grateful we are for Mrs. Wooten's presence among us to do what needed to be done and to insist that all of us share the task.

#### **WORTHINGTON FAMILY**

##### **Leslie Dodson Worthington (1898-1961)**

Leslie Worthington was a life-long Methodist. He was a member of Queen Street United Methodist Church from 1920 until his death. Mr. Worthington was often visited by Pastors Glass and Lawrence during their tenure at Queen Street. He suffered many health difficulties from age 51 until the time of his death. During that time of need the many visits by the church's ministers and members meant so much to him.

Because his wife, Eleanor, was a devoted member of the Catholic Church and raising their four children in the Catholic faith, none of his family joined him in church until 1946 when Janice Whitley married his son and joined Queen Street United Methodist Church.

##### **Janice Whitley Worthington**

Janice joined Queen Street when she moved to Kinston from Smithfield, Virginia in 1946 after marrying Buddy Worthington. She has been a member since then. Janice attributes her association with QSUMC as being responsible for the many friends she now has. Her favorite official church activity was the weekly visitations she made to new or prospective members. She fondly remembers Mrs. Speed's Sunday School class as being the anchor of her church experience with great memories of Mrs. Speed's sweet personal friendship to her which was a mentoring type relationship. The weekly Bible lessons and the fellowship of the class was a strong inspiration. In fact, this would be considered the highlight of her years at QSUMC until her son, Les, and his family moved back to Kinston in 1986 and joined "her church". She so enjoyed watching her two grandchildren grow up in Children's Church, singing in the choir, performing in plays, etc.

## **Les and Betty Blaine Worthington**

Our family moved back to Kinston in 1986 and immediately looked for a church home where we would hear the Word of God lifted up and experience a church family we could love and where we could grow. We visited QSUMC first because Les's mother was there and we have stayed. Randall Baker was the minister at the time as well as the Seekers Sunday School class teacher with an emphasis on the scripture. The Seekers Sunday School class has continued to be a lifeline for us through the wonderful teachers, such as John McNairy, Alan Smith, and David Steele. I love the memory of God's working through Ann Courtney's prayer chains throughout our church and the week we came together daily to pray for Pastor Whit Warren after his surgery.

Our children, Dodson and Whitley were pre-schoolers at the time that we joined the church. Their best friends were at QSUMC all their growing up years. I had the privilege of teaching children's Sunday School for several years which was wonderful. I recall Dodson's class consisting of about eleven boys and one girl; such blessings were these delightful children. We also loved King's Kids on Sunday afternoons which emphasized scripture memory as well as Bible teaching and fun. They loved the music programs with Ms. Bess and Ms. Marla. The musicals were highlights each year where the children had varied roles, including Mary, a sheep, a rock star, a prophet, etc. Then came our annual Passover feast, youth group trips, confirmation classes with Whit Warren, and opportunities to really examine their own personal faith.

Through the years, QSUMC has provided a springboard for our family to experience the cycles of the community of believers and to grow in our own relationships with the Lord. How thankful we are to be so aware even today that He is at work in our midst as we discover and experience His good plan for the future here at Queen Street.



W. E. Chapel

## **GIFTS TO THE CHURCH** (For which we have records.)

### **Sanctuary:**

Dr. Ira M. Hardy - Pitcher, Chalice, Baptismal Bowl (These were given to the church while still at the Caswell St. location. They are on display in the Educational Building.)

Miss May Harvey and her young girls Sunday School class - Hand Carved Chancel Rail

Dr. and Mrs. C. F. West - Chandelier

Mrs. R. P. Moore - Green velvet curtains for the balcony and choir railings in memory of R. P. Moore

Mamie Webb Auxiliary - Two tall brass basket urns in honor of Mrs. E. V. Webb and Miss. Myrtle Whitaker

Mrs. E. V. Webb - Large brass tabletop flower container

Mr. Ray Barbre - Confirmation Service

Mr. W. A. Moore - Collection Plates

The Jordan Family – Refurbishment of the Bridal Parlor in memory of Sallie Herndon Herman

Sons of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Jordan - Piano in Prayer Room

Dr. and Mrs. Floyd Wooten - Chimes in memory of Dr. Wooten’s mother, Mrs. Laura Pugh Wooten

Mr. William Dixon, Mrs. Lucille Holbrook - Exterior Announcement Board in memory of their father D. V. Dixon

Mr. and Mrs. George L. Jordan - Table in Prayer Room, Tape Recorder in church office

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Canady - Brass flower container

Unknown - White Marble Baptismal Font

Harvey Wooten, Katherine Covington and Laura Ball - Brass Paschal Candleholder in honor of Myrtilla Harvey Brody

Harvey Wooten, Katherine Covington and Laura Ball - Brass Advent Candleholder in honor of Myrtilla Harvey Brody

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Lee White - Lg. Brass Unity Candleholder in honor of the Baynor, Stroud, and White families

Mrs. Jasper Phillips - White Paraments in memory of Jasper Phillips

Mrs. George L. Jordan - Green Paraments in memory of George L. Jordan

Miss Merle Scott - Red Paraments in memory of Mr. John Colin Scott, her brother

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Thomas - Purple Paraments and brass vase and candleholders

Mrs. Ida Stevenson Harvey - Automatic Chimes System in memory of Lemuel Harvey

Family and Friends of Mrs. E. Y. Speed - Carillon Chimes (played at the organ) in memory of Mrs. E. Y. Speed

Mrs. Kathryn Paylor - Beautification of the Prayer Chapel Narthex in memory of Roland Paylor

Mrs. Frances Mueller - Beautification of the Peyton Ave. Narthexes and the Bridal Parlor Narthex in memory of Oscar O. Mueller

Mr. John Steinert - Steinway Baby Grand Piano in memory of his wife

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Lee White - Oriental Rug for Bridal Parlor

Essie O’Neal - Communion Chalice and Plates

Nancy Norton, Owen Fitzgerald - Brass Advent Candleholder in honor of the Fitzgerald family

Members of the Church - Organ Repair (ongoing project – names to be given at dedication)

Harvey Wooten, Katherine Covington and Laura Ball - Refurbishment of the automatic chimes in honor of Myrtilla Harvey Brody and C. Felix Harvey, III

Hattie Copeland Hill - Chandelier in the Bridal Parlor

Mrs. Kate Shute - Bible on the Pulpit in memory of Billy Shute

Mrs. Kate Shute - Brass Communion Pitcher in memory of Billy Shute

Myrtilla Harvey Brody - Library table in Bridal Parlor

Peggy and Margo Hewitt - Hymnals in memory of Thomas Hewitt

**Education Building:**

Mrs. T. W. Heath, Sr. - “The Rich Young Ruler” (picture) for Susanna Wesley Classroom

Mrs. George L. Jordan - Lectern for Susanna Wesley Classroom

Dr. Paul Whitaker’s 9th grade Sunday School and Mrs. Whitaker - Brass Cross, Two Brass Candleholders, Maroon Velvet Table cover, Collection Plate, and Bible in memory of Arendell Parrott

Mrs. Alpheus Moore, W. A. Moore - Electric Sunday School Bell in memory of a son and brother, Lester Moore

Mrs. John C. Hood - “Woman With the Jar” (picture)



Mrs. John C. Hood, Sr. - Window Sheers in the Baraca Classroom  
 Mr. Cecil Wooten - Draperies in the Baraca Classroom  
 Mrs. George L. Jordan - Hand Rails on the Church  
 Miss Irva Tapp - New Methodist Hymnals in memory of Mrs. Mary Tapp Jenkins, her sister  
 Mr. Jacob West - Exterior Bulletin Board  
 Sunday School - Classroom Directory Board in memory of Mr. H. A. Hearn's mother  
 Mrs. Jasper Phillips - Branched Silver Candelabra in memory of Mabel P. Harvey  
 Woman's Society of Christian Service - Portraits of the Pastors  
 Children of Carolyn West - A pull in memory of Mr. Ray West and in honor of Mrs. Ray West  
 The Dawson Family - Picture of Christ Knocking at the Door in the memory of Joyce Dawson  
 Frank L. Mock Class, 1962 - Bible Stand  
 Billy Barfield, Bob Barr - Cross and Candleholders for the Frank L. Mock classroom  
 Mrs. Lloyd Hemby - Collection Plate for the Frank L. Mock Class in memory of Lloyd Hemby  
 Fidelis Class - A Picture of Jesus Knocking at the Door in memory of Ruth Stanford  
 Mrs. Lucy Hood - A Painting of Jesus in the Synagogue given to the Primary Department  
 The Gallaher Family - Refurbishment of Third Floor  
 Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Smith - Large Projection Screen  
 Members of the Church - Remodeling of the Kitchen  
 Frances Mueller - Resurfacing of Parking Lots  
 Sarah Edwards - Large oil painting by Capitola Grainger Edwards

**Women's Parlor:**

Mrs. J. C. Rasberry (Pauline) - 1 Tall Lamp on End Table  
 Mrs. Murray Koonce (Maggie) - Madonna Lamp in memory of Mrs. Margie Barrett (Mrs. Koonce made the lamp.)  
 Mrs. Jasper Phillips (Thelma) - 5 branch candelabrum (silver) in honor of United Methodist Women  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Corr - Small Mirror  
 Mrs. W. J. Mobley - Large Mirror (over buffet)  
 Mr. and Mrs. Harry H. Cummings - Large Bible on Stand  
 Mrs. Alice Dixon - Small Red Bible  
 Unknown - Brass Umbrella Stand in memory of Mrs. Bruce Arthur  
 Adult Women's Sunday School Class - 2 Large Brass Candlesticks (on buffet) in memory of their beloved Sunday School Teacher, Mrs. E. Y. Speed  
 Mrs. Joe Koonce (Kathleen) - Decoupage Plaque  
 Lucille Rouse - Leather Books, "Modern Eloquence," Religious Pictures  
 One wing chair was bought with memorial money for Mrs. Claude Barrett  
 A sideboard and various silver serving pieces from the estate of Mrs. Mary Lewis Wilson  
 Harriett Wooten - Painting over the sofa

**Property:**

Mildred Merritt - House and Lot on Margaret Lane

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