

**A brief history of
One Hundred Seventy-five Years
1828-2003**

Thurman A. Horney, Pastor

Foreward

On September 28, 1928 Salem Church observed its One Hundredth Anniversary. At that time, Mr. A. A. Hicks, a noted Granville County historian and attorney prepared a booklet presenting the history of Salem Church to that date.

On May 26, 1963, Salem Methodist Church celebrated its One Hundred and Thirty-fifth Anniversary with the dedication of the educational building, the Rev. Robert L. Ossman as pastor at that time, also prepared a booklet relating the prior history.

Some of the material prepared by Mr. A. A. Hicks and that of Rev. Robert L. Ossman is reproduced herein.

Additional material and pictures are added to bring Salem United Methodist Church up date. Additional material has been obtained from interviews with various members of Salem. But a special thanks goes to Bonnie Watson, Edythe Day, and Gladys Henderson.

As pastor of Salem, I have endeavored to retain much of the 1928 and 1963 narrative. I have added material to enhance the story of a people who gather at Salem to worship the God that creates them and sustains them until they reach His presence.

Thurman Horney, Pastor
May 29, 2003

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Its History as Related at Its
One Hundredth and Seventy-Fifth Anniversary*

June 8, 2003

*"People will not look forward to prosperity,
Who never looked back at their ancestry."*

—Burke

Salem United Methodist Church was erected by a Christian community 175 years ago, and dedicated to the service of Almighty God for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church of America. At that, time records were rarely kept and if kept at all, poorly kept, and it is difficult to find any written history of this important event.

A marker commemorating the First Methodist House of Worship in Granville, Vance, Warren and Franklin Counties has been placed on Highway 158 four miles east of Oxford by the State of North Carolina. The marker reads "Harris Meeting House. Founded by the Methodist's prior to 1778. It was the mother church in this area. Disbanded in 1828. Stood 1 mile N." The dated used on the marker is the first recorded record of the Methodist church; however this place of worship existed prior to this date according to Court House records, but the word "Methodist" was not used according to the records.

In 1778 Micajah DeBruler, a Methodist minister from Hartford County, Maryland, was in Granville County. He witnessed the marriage of Ann Hicks, daughter of William Hicks, to William Matthews. It is assumed that he married the couple. Prior to 1782 Mr. DeBruler is listed in the Delaware Conference Minutes of the Methodist Church as on the Tar River Circuit. In 1782, he married Mary Hicks, sister of Ann Hicks. In 1787, William Hicks deeded land to "my son-in-law Micajah DeBruler," this land across the road from Harris Meeting House. There is no doubt that there was a Meeting House on the Hicks property as soon as he landed there in 1749 or shortly thereafter for William Hicks was a Quaker from Beeches Church in Brooklyn, New York.

The father of A. A. Hicks, having been born the year this church was founded, wrote, "My father, about the year 1796 attended a muster at Health Seat on the Oxford and Henderson road in sight of where Hermon Church now stands, and on this way home was accosted by a gentleman on horseback, who asked him many questions, and among other things if the could get lodgment for the night. My father informed him that he was a bachelor, and could not entertain him, but directed him to the home of George Harris, who then lived one and one-half miles southeast of this church, where he could find entertainment. This gentlemen was a preacher and was on his way from the Virginia Conference to South Carolina where he had been assigned to preach. He spent the following Sunday in the home of George Harris, talked much with the family, made the children promise to pray each day at sunset and promised to

preach for them again that fall when he returned to the Conference, if they would invite a crowd of their neighbors, which he did, and on several occasions. A small church was organized from the result of this preaching and a few years after that we find a Church known as 'Harris's Meeting House' on the corner of my father's land on the George Harris line."

This Church was situated on what was known at that time as the old Glebe Road, the Meeting House Road, and near the Meeting House Spring. References are made to the names of the road and the spring as early as 1760 and 1763 in the Granville County Register of Deeds. The earliest deeds in this county refer to the old Glebe Road as the old trading path, which came from Hillsboro across the ford at Roanoke and went on north. The Indians doubtless established this trading path when the Cherokees of Western North Carolina made an alliance with the Iroquois Indians of New York.

The spring at Harris' Meeting House exists today and by it runs the remnants of the Great Indian Trading Path. A. A. Hicks relates that the spring was surrounded on one side by rudely constructed stone seats where the Indians doubtless held their high conclaves and that around the spring on the hill toward Oxford he picked up many stone arrowheads and other implements of Indian warfare.

Much of the preaching in those days was in private residences as there were few churches, and this congregation worshipped for several years at the house of George Harris. Mr. Harris was a deeply pious man

and three of his sons became Methodist ministers, Rev. James Harvey Harris, Rev. Willis Harris, and Rev. Fletcher Harris as well as a daughter, Fannie O'Kelly Harris who married Rev. Samuel Duty. Fletcher Harris died when quite young but he left a book of sermons, which his brother George W. Harris states, "Fletcher Harris' Mother and Father had been Methodists for near fifty years." George Harris had married Keziah Earl in 1772, both born in 1754. Keziah Harris' mother was Mary Elizabeth Watts, daughter of Isaac Watts the great hymn writer, and wife John Ear. This dates the Harris Meeting House at least to 1771, which was before Bishop Francis Asbury's visit to the Meeting House in the 1790's.

A diary kept by Bishop Asbury indicates that he visited this Church November 8, 1798. "Tuesday November 6, 1798 we crossed the Roanoke River at Mosely's Ferry and stopped at McLane's, here God is working amongst the people. We came on Wednesday by riding two hours in the night, through the woods, to Harris' where I preached on Thursday the 8th from Second Peter 1-4. On Friday we rode to Col. Edmund Taylor's. Sabbath day at Banks Church I preached on Heb. 6 11-12 and administered the Supper of the Lord and ordained John Whitfield a deacon." (See Vol. II of his Diary, page 399).

From all indications and records, the Harris Meeting House was deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1811. This is the first piece of property deeded to a Methodist Church in Granville County. The Church prospered until 1828, was the first Methodist

Episcopal Church to be erected in Granville County, and has proven to be the Mother of Churches and of Churchmen. There is only one Methodist Church organization in Granville County which antedated this one and that is Banks Church, which was an Episcopal Church, near Wilton. A.A. Hicks relates that before the American Revolution, the Rector was a Tory and was chased out of the church and his surplice torn off during the revolution, and sometime after the War, the Banks Church was converted into a Methodist Episcopal Church. Dr. D. C. White furnished this information to Mr. Hicks.

In 1828, owing to a disagreement upon the question of Lay representation, a division took place among the members of Harris' Meeting House. Those adhering to the Methodist Episcopal Church tore down the church and moved it to this site and rebuilt the same near the schoolhouse across the road, and named it "Salem," meaning "Peace," while the other group moved in another direction and named their church "Rehoboth," meaning "There is Room." From Salem Church has sprung the Oxford Church (the Town of Oxford was incorporated the same year that the land was conveyed to the Trustees of Harris' Meeting House, 1811), Hermon Church, Shady Grove Church, Gray Rock Church, and Marrow's Chapel, as well as Rehoboth Church and Harris' Chapel at Dabney, which belong to the Methodist Protestant Church.

Land was cheap in those days and the reconstructed church remained without a conveyance until September 3, 1845 when the lot was conveyed by James Crews the elder to the Trustees. The church built in

1828 was adequate for the congregation and remained until the year 1860. In that year Col. Richard P. Taylor, whose ancestors had helped to build the former church, conveyed an additional $2 \frac{32}{160}$ acres to the church by gift, and he and the late James Crews superintended and largely paid for the construction of the existing sanctuary. The building was constructed by John Short, a slave belong to Col. Taylor's wife, Mrs. Martha B. Taylor, and one or two helpers. It was completed and dedicated in July or August 1861. One who was present at the dedication according to A. A. Hicks fixes this date. The said deed was from Richard P. Taylor on the one part to Absolom Hunt, Jesse J. Kelly, Willis Daniel, Drury R. Turner, James A. Crews, Joseph P. Hunt, Richard H. Hunt and James M. Heggie. The Taylors, Crews, Hunts, Wilsons, Sears, Kellys, Brelolves and many others constituted the membership of the Church. The Church and its constituency have made for a splendid neighborhood throughout these many years.

James Crews, who was a member at Harris Meeting House from his childhood and who helped move the Church to this place and gave the land upon which the first church was erected, gave the Church the first organ which ever graced a country church in this county. He was an ardent Methodist, liberal supporter of his Church and a Christian gentleman. He and his wife, Sarah Earl Crews, are both buried in the Salem cemetery.

Col. R. P. Taylor was a younger man, but his religion was of the right type. He gave part of the ground for the Church, his carpenters built it and he supported it

with his presence and money until his death. He and his wife are also buried in the Salem cemetery. The Methodist Episcopal Church gained greater headway in South Carolina around Charleston and in Virginia because excellent harbors brought settlers and preachers first to those localities. A. A. Hicks states, "The early records of the Church in North Carolina, prior to 1835, cannot be found here because up to that time this territory comprised a part of the Virginia Conference, other parts of the State belonged to Holston and South Carolina Conferences and I did not have time to consult the records of those Conferences."

Prior to the turn of the century, Edward N. Crews, son of James Crews, carried the responsibility of having the church remodeled. It is presumed that the door immediately behind the pulpit was enclosed at this time.

In 1939, there was a merger of the Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Episcopal South. Salem became Salem Methodist Church.

Ernest Aiken provided the steps in front of the church while Rev. J. L. Smith was pastor during the 1940's. He later provided the walks on both sides of the Church, the shrubbery, and in 1952 gave the present organ as a memorial of his daughter, Ruth Ernestine. Rosalyn Crews played the organ for the first time. Her daughter, Rosalyn, continues that practice today. The chimes were given in memory of N. G. Crews, Sr. and wife, Charlotte Marrow Crews by their children a short time later. Mr. Aiken also left two farms to the Salem

Church. Howard Harrell provided the present outdoor bulletin board in recent years (prior to 1963, ed.). The pulpit Bible was given in memory of Mr. And Mrs. C. G. Mangum by their children about 1957. In 1954, a considerable amount of work was done on the sanctuary and the stained glass windows. On September 18, 1954, the original carpet was laid. Mr. and Mrs. Otis Harrison gave the main sign in front of the Church in memory of Mr. And Mrs. Cary H. Parham in October 1961.

During the summer of 1958, interest arose within the Church for an educational building consisting of six classrooms, a fellowship hall, kitchen, and rearranged rest rooms. Under the leadership of Rev. P. D. Midgett, III, who was then the pastor, plans began to be developed, by the spring of 1959, an architect had made a sketch, and estimate was furnished. Because the \$40,000.00 estimate was considered higher than expected, the plans for an educational building became dormant. Late in 1961, there was an expression to reconsider the possibility of proceeding with the construction of the additional facilities. Several meetings followed and the architect was advised to draw up plans and specifications. On August 12, 1962, a Church Conference was held and a majority vote was cast to erect an educational building. The Rev. O. L. Hathaway, Durham District Superintendent, presided at the Church Conference with the Rev. Robert L. Ossman, pastor at the time. On September 23, 1962, the groundbreaking ceremony was held and a few days later construction began. By May 7, 1963, the building was completed and on that date, the architect inspected the building, was well pleased with it, and turned it over to the

Church for its use. Several persons have given items to furnish the classrooms and the fellowship hall. A list of of memorials has been made and is placed in the fellowship hall.

The Consecration Service was held on May 26, 1963 with Rev. O.L. Hathaway delivering the address. Rev. J. D. Young and Rev. P. D. Midgett, III assisted in this service. On behalf of the Commission of Education, Mrs. R. D. Hobgood, chair, presented the education building to the pastor at the time, Rev. Robert L. Ossman, for use by the Church.

With church attendance in the 80's, the education building provided much needed relief for the overcrowding in the Sanctuary for Sunday School. A walking tour of the education building shows that each room provided Sunday School lessons. Starting with the double doors, the first room on the right (now called the nursery) contained Miss Charlotte Crews Elementary Sunday School. The Fellowship Hall on the left contained and still has classes for the Hobgood Bible Class. Going to the end of the Hall, the small room once contained the nursery. Turning to the right and going down the main hall of the Education Building, the first class room on the left was the Booth Crews class. At one time, young adults were taught there. The next room on the left taught at one time or another Junior and Senior High School children. The last room on the left now contains the History of Salem. An earlier encounter found MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship) in this room. Making the turn, the room across the hall from the History Room contained the Ruby Crews class. This class

contained the “senior citizens” of Salem. The room presently laid out as the Pastor’s study housed mainly Junior High School children.

In 1968, there was another merger of the Methodist Church with Evangelical United Brethren Church. Salem became Salem United Methodist Church.

At one time, Salem was on a four-point charge with Hermon, Marrow’s Chapel and Stovall Methodist Churches, alternating each month with services at all four churches. In 1967, Salem then went to a station church. In 1980, Salem got its first student pastor, which we continue to have to date. The Church again went back to a two-point charge in 2000 with Harris Chapel Methodist Church. Salem had been a family church of many years, but it saw in the 1970’s and 1980’s, a migration of its young people away from the farming community around the church. Attendance declined from the heights of 80 in worship to a present average of 30 on Sunday morning.

Music has been an integral part of the worship service at Salem. In addition the organ and piano, Salem has maintained an active choir. Faithfully, they have spent many Wednesday nights learning new music and refining their abilities to sing the classics of the Faith. In the History Room, old hymnals preceded The Methodist Hymnal of 1964. There is a copy of a 1923 edition of The Cokesbury Hymnal. In addition, one can find a copy of Hymns and Tunes from 1889 and a copy of Spirit & Life dating to 1893. In 2001, Salem replaced The Methodist Hymnal with the 1989 The United

Methodist Hymnal. In 2003, we have replaced many of the worn out Cokesbury Hymnals.

In 1988, "Salem Methodist Church" was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Excerpts from the Statement of Significance as related in the registration form are as follows: "Salem Methodist Church, built in 1860-61, is significant for its handsome and unusual Greek Revival, Italianate and Gothic Revival style architecture. Its triangular temple front pediment, multiple brackets and exuberant and varied decorative motifs were reminiscent of the work of noted regional architect Jacob W. Holt, who either designed the church or strongly influenced its construction. One of only three extant church buildings raised in the county prior to the Civil War, the church is further significant as one of the county's oldest and most ornate, plantation era, non-residential buildings."

Methodists are known for fellowship and food. Salem has been no exception. In the late 1960's, Alvin Puckett constructed an outdoor picnic shelter to the left of the Education Building. This shelter housed the homecoming meals on the "grounds" of the church for many years. In addition, during the 1960's, Salem became renowned in local parts for its Chicken Salad Dinners. These continued to be an annual treat ending in the late 1970's. During the 1990's, Salem found a new use for the shelter by cooking stews each year as a fundraiser. In 1997, Salem began and continues today to host a Valentine Dinner. The meal is accompanied by music afterward.

In 1993, Rev. Patrice Cheasty-Miller while studying at Duke Divinity School, became the first woman appointed to serve at Salem United Methodist Church. Four years later, Anne Walker became the second woman to serve under appointment at Salem. Rev. Walker also has the distinction of becoming the first pastor to be married while under appointment at Salem. She married Benjamin Sims, another student pastor serving White Memorial UMC and Hermon UMC on December 29, 1999. Rev. Anne Sims and Rev. Ben Sims continue to serve under appointment in the North Carolina Annual Conference.

There have been many people throughout the years Salem Church has been in existence that have made an impact on the success of the Church. There are still quite a few current members who are direct descendants of the original founders of this Church and who are still working hard to maintain its importance and place in the area.



Deed Descriptions

Book V Page 329
Office of Register of Deeds
Granville County

Abner Hicks to Trustees

This indenture made the 16th day of August in the year of our Lord 1811, between Abner Hicks of the County of Granville and State of North Carolina of the one part and George Harris, Willis Harris, James H. Harris, John Ricks, Joseph Taylor, Sr., Edmond Taylor and Lewis Reavis of the County and State aforesaid, of the other part, witnesseth: that the said Abner Hicks, for and in consideration of the sum of five shillings to him in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained, sold, and released, confirmed and conveyed unto them the said George Harris, Willis Harris, James H. Harris, John Ricks, Joseph Taylor, Sr., Edmond Taylor and Lewis Reavis and their successors, Trustees in Trust, for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, all the right, title, interest and claim of a certain lot or parcel of ground situate and lying in the County aforesaid, and bounded as follows: (to wit) Beginning at a Hickory on the Glebe Road in George Harris' post oak, thence nearly east 75 yards to a corner post oak, thence nearly south to corner Maple on the branch, thence down the branch as it meanders to the Glebe Road so as to include the Spring for the use of the

the future congregations at the meeting house, reserving to himself and his heirs the use of said spring, thence along the Glebe Road to beginning, containing by estimation two acres be the same more or less. To have and to hold the above mentioned lot or parcel of ground with all and singular the benefits and appurtenances thereunto belonging unto the above named Trustees and their successors in office forever, in trust that they may hold and keep in repair or cause the same to be done, a house of worship, for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church according to the rules and discipline which from time to time shall be adopted by the ministers of said Church.

Signed by Abner Hicks and probated by E. Harris, Judge of the Superior Court of North Carolina.

Book XIV Page 47
Office of Register of Deeds
of Granville County

James Crews to M. E. Church

James Crews to Absolom Hunt, Jesse I. Kelley, John Sears, Richard H. Hunt, James M. Hagie, James A. Crews, Joseph P. Hunt, Drury R. Turner, Trustees in trust for the uses and purposes hereinafter mentioned.

A certain lot or piece of land situated, lying and being in the County and State aforesaid, bounded and

betted as follows, to wit: Beginning at the road the south side of James Ellis, line near Salem meeting house and running along said line south 13 poles, thence east corner parallel with said rod 13 poles thence north or parallel with the first line 13 poles to said road, thence a east corner along said road to the beginning, including in said boundary the said Salem meeting house containing one acre and 9 poles of land and the said Trustees in trust to have the privilege of a spring on a branch the south side and near the meeting house together with all and singular the houses, woods, waters ways privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining.

On September 5, 1912, N. G. Crews of sainted memory and his wife conveyed a lot to the Trustees of Salem Church in the rear of said Church, which said deed is registered in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Granville County in Book 67, Page 105.

Book XXV Page 203
Office of Register of Deeds
Of Granville County

**R. P. Taylor to Absolom Hunt and Others,
Trustees**

This indenture made and entered into this the first day of January in the year of our Lord Eighteen Hundred and Sixty, between Richard P. Taylor of the

County of Granville and State of North Carolina of the first part and Absolom Hunt, Jesse J. Kelly, Willis Daniel, Drury H. Turner, James A. Crews, Joseph P. Hunt, Richard H. Hunt and James Heggie, all of the aforesaid County and State Trustees as hereinafter named of the second part, Witnesseth:

That Richard P. Taylor of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar to him in hand paid by said Trustees of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged hath bargained, given, released, sold, conveyed and delivered, and by these presents do bargain, give, release, sell, convey and deliver a piece of land situate, lying and being in the County and State aforesaid bounded as follows: Beginning near a Spanish Oak, James Crews corner and running north 4° West 22 poles to pointers Crews' former corner, thence south 67° West 20 poles to pine pointers, thence south 1° East $13\frac{1}{2}$ poles, crossing the road to pine pointers, thence due East 20 poles to the first station, containing 2 acres and 32 poles of land.

Registered in Book 25, Page 203 Registers Office of Granville County, unto them the aforesaid Trustees and their successors, to have and to hold the said lot of land with the houses, woods, waters, ways and all other appurtenances thereunto belonging with the privilege of the use of a spring near said lot of land, for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South attending divine worship at that place, etc.

PAST MINISTERS

According to the information we have available, listed below are the ministers who have served the Salem Methodist Church.

Caswell Circuit

1817-18 Garrett	William Peebles, James Thomas, Samuel
1818-19	A. R. Bernard, William Harris
1819-20	John Lattimore, A. C. Treadway
1820-21	Lewis Kimball, John Thompson

Granville Circuit

1821-22	George Chesley
1822-23	Charles Cooley
1823-25	Peter Doub
1825-26	William Compton
1826-27	George Nolly
1827-28	James W. Dunahay
1828-30	Henry Allen
1830-31	William Holmes
1831-32	George W. Dey
1832-33	William Holmes
1833-34	Benjamin Kidd
1834-35	R. O. Burton
1835-37	H. T. Weatherly
1837-38	Henry Speck
1838-40	J. Goodman
1840-41	D. B. Nicholson
1841-42	William Compton

1842-43	Thomas S. Campbell
1843-45	James Tillett
1845-46	Ira T. Wyche
1846-48	J. L. Nicholson
1848-49	Nathan Anderson
1849-51	W. M. Jordan
1851-53	
1853-55	<hr/> Alfred Norman
1855-56	John D. Halsted
1856-57	Peter H. Joyner, Moses J. Hunt
1857-58	John W. Floyd
1858-59	Junius P. Moore
1859-60	Williamson Harris
1860-61	Theophilus W. Moore
1861-62	W. S. Chaffin, J. W. Floyd
1862-63	W. C. Gannon
1863-64	
1864-65	<hr/> W. C. Gannon
1865-66	No minutes, perhaps no conference
1866-69	John Tillett
1869-71	A. D. Betts
1871-72	W. C. Gannon
1872-75	J. R. Griffith
1875-76	S. V. Hoyle

Oxford Circuit

1876-80	J. T. Gibbs
1880-83	L. H. Gibbons
1883-84	J. T. Gibbs
1884-85	T. A. Boone
1885-89	N. E. Coltrane
1889-93	J. H. Hall
1893-95	P. L. Herman

1885-97	G. B. Perry
1897-1900	K. D. Holmes
1900-03	J. D. Pegram
1903-07	W. H. Puckett
1907-10	Albert S. Barnes
1910-14	L. H. Joyner
1914-16	Charles A. Jones
1916-20	B. C. Thompson
1920-23	B. H. Black
1923-25	N. B. Strickland
1925-28	Jesse H. Lanning
1928-31	B. D. Critcher
1931-34	P. H. Fields
1934-37	L. C. Brothers
1941-48	J. L. Smith
1948-49	Emerson Ford, Jr.
1949-52	Joseph A. Wagnon
1952-56	Robert N. Fitts
1956-61	P. D. Midgett, III
1961-65	Robert L. Ossman
1965-66	J. B. Eskridge
1966-68	B. R. McCullen
1968-74	Matt R. Gardner
1974-77	L. R. Mason, Jr.
1977-80	Charles M. Herring
1980-82	Jimmy A. Williams
1982-86	Charles O. Myers
1986-89	Jeff Wright
1989-90	Larry Bohall
1990-91	Barry Taylor
1991-93	Garry E. Jones
1993-95	Patrice Cheasty Miller
1995-98	Lee Roy Pittard, III

1999-01 Anne Walker Sims
2001- Thurman A. Horney, Jr.

SOME INTERESTING TIDBITS OF HISTORY...

There is a story about a lady who had been very sick for a long time. She went to Conference and wrote back to her husband "she had not had an ache or a pain since she has been there". When she returned home, her husband met her at the train and she fell in his arms and died. The tombstone marking her grave in the church cemetery reflects, "I have not had an ache or pain since I have been here."

W.S. Chaffin was pastor of Salem in 1862. His great, great grandson attended services at Salem on June 1, 1986.

The June 8, 2003 celebration marks the second time in four years that Bishop Edwards has preached at Salem United Methodist Church. In 1999, he preached here at Salem.

The Booth Crews Sunday School room has two Sunday School primers published when Salem was a part of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. They are Drifting Anchor in 1872 and Lights and Shadows in 1863.

MEMBERS WHO SERVED
IN THE ARMED SERVICES

CIVIL WAR

B. I. BREEDLOVE	SOLOMON COTTRELL
ISAIAH P. BREEDLOVE	JAMES A. HUNT
JAMES A. BREEDLOVE	JAMES (R.T.) LUMPKINS

OLD PLAQUE

ALICE E. ADCOCK	GRAVEN HUGHES
DAN T. BARKER	ALFRED HUNT
JERRY L. BARKER	EDWARD HUNT
FRED F. BENTLEY	JOHN G. HUNT
BAILEY H. BREEDLOVE	CARL T. LLOYD
L.C. BREEDLOVE	DENNIS MCGHINNIS
THOMAS B. BREEDLOVE	HAZEL O'B MCKANE
EARL CLARK	EMMITT PLEASANTS
ROY L. COTTRELL	GEORGE E. PLEASANTS
CHARLES F. CREWS	HOWARD PLEASANTS

EDWARD N. CREWS, JR.	JOHN B. PLEASANTS
MARJORIE CREWS	NELSON PLEASANTS
SAMUEL B. CREWS	H. C. RAYNOR
IVOR CRITCHER	OLLIE SMITH
GEORGE DAY	JOHN SMITH
WILLIAM DAY	WAYNE WILSON
JULIAN GREENWAY	J. C. YEARGIN
ELOISE HOBGOOD	ROBERT L. YEARGIN

NEW PLAQUE

CLINTON BENTLEY	PATRICIA H. LONDON
LAURIE BARKER	BOBBY LUMPKIN
OLLIE BARKER	ELVIN LUMPKIN
JUNIOUS COTTRELL	JESSE LUMPKIN
JAMES THOMAS CREWS	JIMMY LUMPKIN
ROY CREWS	JOSEPH LUMPKIN
GEORGE IVEY DAY	L. G. LUMPKIN

JAMES HENDERSON

JARVIS MANGUM

BRYANT HENDERSON

JAMES E. PARHAM

EUGENE HOBGOOD

DAVID PROCTOR

EZZELL HOBGOOD

KAY STARK

LYNWOOD HUGHES



Dedication Service for the Educational Building
May 26, 1968

L-R: Rev. R.L. Ossman, Carl Lawrence, Rev. O.L. Hathaway, Miss
Charlotte E. Crews, John Graham Hunt, and Rev. Bill R. McCullen

FOCUS FOR THE FUTURE

“A family church for your family,” is a slogan I gave to Salem back in late 2001 for the idea of a brochure to promote Salem United Methodist Church. The brochure lies dormant. But the concept of Salem being a family church does not.

In reading of the history of Salem, you have seen names such as Taylor, Breedlove, Hunt, Crews, Cottrell and many others. These men and women gathered at a place called Salem. Choosing this name, they sought a place of peace. They sought a place to worship the Prince of Peace. So it has been for now one hundred seventy-five years, Salem has gathered to worship God through the practices of the then Methodist Episcopal Church and continues now as the United Methodist Church.

The community around Salem has sustained the families named above. Today, the descendants still come to Salem and worship. Now as back in 1828, men and women gather on Sunday morning to sing hymns, hear the Word proclaimed and lift up prayers in the name of Jesus Christ.

Looking to the next twenty-five years, Salem faces new challenges and opportunities. This is nothing new for Salem, it has seen hardship before and God has been there to sustain this church through the hardships. The future of Salem like it past rests in the eternal hands of God.

Nevertheless, what must happen now to see the Two Hundred Anniversary here at Salem? First, Salem must continue to do as it has for these 175 years, we must be a people who faithfully gather as the family

of God here at Salem United Methodist Church. In the weekly habit of hymn singing, the proclamation of the Gospel, and men and women acknowledging dependence on a Savior found in Jesus Christ, Salem becomes the Church. God is involved in the world through His Church. Second, Salem has a wonderful ministry that must be maintained. That ministry is the education of Student Pastors. Since 1980, Salem has trained men and women to serve other churches while attending Duke Divinity School. These men and women have benefited from such loving attention the church has provided.

Third, Salem is to return to the community in a missionary way. In 2002, a proposal for raising ten percent of the budget (approximately \$3500.00) was approved by the church for 2003. To date, we have raised \$500.00 for the Bishop's project, "No Hungry Neighbors." In letters sent to members of the church, I have asked for donations for a "175th Anniversary" mission fund. This money will go toward outreach projects in the Salem community. Methodists have always been missionaries for Christ and Salem must continue this tradition. Fourth, Salem must reestablish Sunday School for all ages. From the time of John Wesley, Methodism's founder, Methodists have gathered in small groups for study and accountability. Today, Sunday School offers education for all ages of a salvation found in Jesus Christ and how we are formed as a people called Christian in a post-Christian environment. Finally, Salem would do well to remember and to heed the words of the Apostle Paul in 1st Corinthians 13:13, "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love." The future is built on the sustaining faith in Christ Jesus, the hope of our place in the

place in the eternal kingdom, and the selfless love of sacrifice exemplified on the Cross by our savior and practiced in our lives today as “heirs of salvation” in a community surrounding a church called Salem.

Twenty-five years is but a drop in the ocean of Eternity. Then again, so is two hundred years. However, the challenge for a church called Salem is to faithfully minister to the families gathered weekly until Christ calls us home to be with Him. Let us celebrate the accomplishments of 175 years. Then tomorrow let us begin the next phase by striving to build the kingdom of God found around Salem for another twenty-five years.



Valentine Dinner
2002



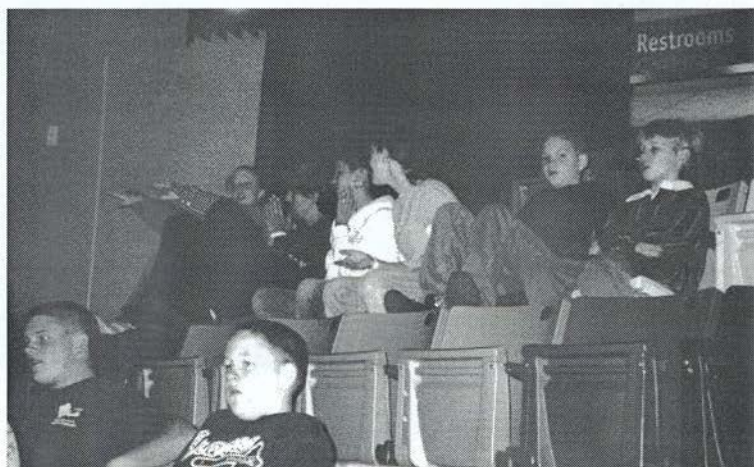
Cemetery and Church
1982



Celebrating Christmas
1982



UMYF 1975



UMYF 2003



Choir 1982



Choir 2003

