

SEASIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHARTER SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 1994

It hardly seems possible five years have passed since that chilly January Sunday in 1989 when a survey team, including Conference and District clergy, several Camp UMC members and three couples from the Seaside area set out to determine if there were people in this area interested in establishing a United Methodist Church. The area covered was from Brick Landing Plantation to Calabash. Over a two-week period, the survey revealed 109 prospects.

In March 1989, we learned Camille Edwards had been appointed as our minister. With fifteen people in attendance, she met with us and preliminary plans were made for our first service to be held July 2, 1989. Nick Newton made the arrangements for renting the vacant furniture store building on Hwy. 179. We elected Dot Compton as our first treasurer as we were already beginning to receive contributions from various sources.

Our first service was so exciting! There were 70 in attendance, many brought their own chairs to supplement the chairs Camp UMC loaned us. Camille's sermon was "The Rocket's Red Glare"; Geri Piazza sang "God Bless America" and as the Spirit moved among us, many of us felt the need to profess our dedication to God and this new congregation, Seaside UMC. Those 24 organizing persons were: (please stand) Les & Mildred Bernard, Pat Brosius, Ed & Jane By, Ralph & Dot Compton, Lyla Esler, Bob Edwards, Don & Catherine Farrington, George & Doris Goodrow, Mary Grover, Leo & Candie Macon, Nick Newton, Bob & Geri Piazza, Gene & Versie Spangler, Judy Wallace, and Fritz & Jane Zabritski.

During the remainder of the year, we organized Sunday School with one adult class and two children's classes. Camille Edwards and Ed Bye taught the adult class and the children's classes were taught by Cherri Cheek, Bobbie White and Jane Bye.

Organizational meetings were held for United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men. Nancy Quick and George Goodrow served as the first presidents of these organizations. The first bazaar/spaghetti luncheon was held November 11, 1989 with proceeds in the amount of \$3,200 going into the Building fund.

The donation of 3.2 acres and the purchase of 2.2 acres of land was deeded to the Conference as the site for Seaside UMC on November 3, 1989. The donation of land was made by Odell and Virginia Williamson.

During the remainder of the year, participation and enthusiasm was high and, when we celebrated Charter Sunday on January 21, 1990, we had a total of 119 members.

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF SEASIDE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

On July 2, 1989, twenty four people had a worship service with the Reverend Camille Yorkey Edwards. This small group of inspired and dedicated Christians had the vision and with the Grace of God undertook the task of establishing a United Methodist Church in this community.

Beginning humbly in a former furniture store, Seaside United Methodist Church was chartered on January 21, 1990 with 119 members. Seaside became one of the fastest growing churches in the North Carolina Conference and on July 5, 1992, its third anniversary, held its first worship service in these new facilities.
Thanks be to God!

(Membership as of December 1, 1992 - 249)

A GLANCE AT OUR PAST

1989-1999

Seaside United Methodist Church can trace its beginnings back to a community survey conducted in January 1989 by a group of persons interested in starting a new Methodist church in the Seaside area of South Brunswick County. Results of the survey were favorable and thus the organizing members began their task to officially form Seaside United Methodist Church.

On June 18, 1989, then Bishop C.P. Minnick of the North Carolina Conference appointed the Reverend Camille Yorkey Edwards as the first pastor of Seaside United Methodist Church and our first services were held in a leased building that had been a former furniture store on July 2, 1989 with seventy-five persons present, including District Superintendent Dr. Samuel D. McMillan, Jr.

On July 5, 1992, three years later, we celebrated our first service in our new church building in its present location on Rt. 904 near Seaside Station. The inaugural service was attended by more than three hundred fifty persons. The church had grown almost ten-fold in three short years!

In July 1993, Reverend Jerry Lowry was appointed our new pastor and continues to serve our congregation to the present. During his ministry here, membership of Seaside United Methodist Church has increased to more than seven hundred persons and the outreach ministries carried on by the church demonstrate a Commitment of Service to a community and world in need.

Marguerite J. Ballenger
Church Historian

