

ARCH
47

Seventy-Eight Years

For

Sharon Methodist Church

South Mills, N. C.



July 4, 1894 - July 4, 1972

INTRODUCTION

Sharon Methodist Church is located in the northern part of Camden County, North Carolina in the community known as Sharon.

The present Sharon Methodist Church was built around seventy-eight years ago according to the cornerstone in the northwest part of the church, which is dated July 4, 1894. There are no written records covering this period so I have had to rely on the remembrances of a few people who were living then. I also found some deeds concerning the church in the Court-house at Camden, N.C. If I have misquoted or misunderstood anyone or any fact, the error is regretted and stands corrected.

I have enjoyed the researching and writing of this booklet and have loved talking to the older folks and listening to them reminisce. Although it has taken me over three years to gather my notes and write this, I did not mind except for the passing of time, because it was a labor of love.

Mary Evelyn Whitehurst
May 15, 1972

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to all members,
past and present, who have worked so lovingly
and faithfully to keep Sharon Church as a
place of worship for all the community where
the Word of God may always be heard and
Christian fellowship enjoyed.

TO SHARON

How fair a church stands on this spot
Where long-forgotten feet were wont to tread.
Let you who walk with self-same footsteps now
Remember that this ground is hallowed sod.

The dedication morn dawned bright and clear
In the year of eighteen hundred ninety-four,
And on that special day, July the Fourth
A pact was made with God forevermore.

For here was gathered on that sunny day
A pleasant crowd, that came from far and wide,
To ask a blessing and to dedicate
A country church, with reverence and pride.

The church still stands; a monument to faith
And to the hopes and dreams of those long gone.
So you who worship now within these walls
Must dream their dreams and pledge to carry on.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would especially like to thank the four people who went back down memory's lane and remembered the past when they were only children. To them I owe a debt of gratitude for being so patient and sharing their remembrances with me.

Ida McPherson Jackson who was born on October 1, 1880 and has since died on February 7, 1971.

Ada Curling Whitehurst who was born on February 26, 1881.

Foster Raper who was born on September 9, 1886.

Henry Whitehurst Nossy who was born on December 2, 1887.

To the following people I also owe thanks and to others, too numerous to mention, who also remembered many little things.

Mrs. A. M. Spencer who gave me permission to use her list of preachers.

Rev. Gene Goldfinch who let me look over the old records in the parsonage.

Mr. Jack Leary, Register of Deeds, Camden, N. C. who helped me to find the old deeds in the Courthouse.

Mrs. Welma McPherson Jackson who loaned me the old picture of the church.

Mr. Robert Minton for the mimeographed copies of the typed pages.

THE FIRST CHURCH

According to the first reference I have, the meeting house called Sharon had its inception in 1836. However, I can find no record to substantiate this statement. The first record I found in the Courthouse At Camden, North Carolina was the following in Deed Book MM, page 85.

"This indenture made the 21st day of October in the year of Our Lord, 1842, between Dennis D. Ferebee, County of Currituck, N.C., and Benjamin T. Culpepper of County of Camden, N.C., has granted, bargained, sold and conveyed land in the upper end of Camden County.....excepting near the top running out of the above parcel of land, one acre that whereon the meeting house now stands."

The next record I found in the same Courthouse is the deed for the one acre of land on which Sharon Church still stands. It is in Deed Book Y, page 207.

"This indenture made this 16th day of June A. D. 1847 between Dennis D. Ferebee of the one part and James N. Overton, Wm. Prichard, James Whitehurst, John Williams, and Peter Pearce, as Trustees for the Protestant Church, commonly called Sharon, and Jesse McPherson, James N. Overton, and Wm. Prichard as the committee of common schools for the Slab Bridge District, jointly of the second part, Witnesseth, that for and in consideration of the importance of the spread of Christian religion, and of the education of youth, in promoting the happiness and welfare of every community, and having in view the promotion of these ends, I, the said Dennis D. Ferebee, do give, grant, allot, and set over to the said Trustees and their successors in office forever, by these presents, one acre of land in the upper end of said county at Slab Bridge, adjoining the lands belonging to the heirs of Benjamin T. Culpepper and on the east side of the road, --being the same acre of land whereon the new meeting house called Sharon and the new school house now stand."

From these foregoing records, one in 1842 and the other dated 1847, we truly know that a meeting house called Sharon has stood on this land for one hundred and thirty years. The last record I found in the Courthouse was in Deed Book MM, page 585; dated 22nd day of April A.D. 1890.

Know all men by these presents: That we, Peter C. Pearce, F.M. Sawyer, and Trustees to Sharon Church, originally of the Methodist Protestant denomination, and of recent date having been formally turned over to the Christian denomination, situate in Camden County the upper part, and State aforesaid, for and in consideration of the love we bear for the cause of Christ and from an earnest desire to promote His heritage on earth, and the further consideration in being moved in the belief that the spiritual interest of the member-

ship will be increased, the community at large benefitted, and the cause of Christ best subserved in our action in the premises, do hereby transfer, turn over, and by these presents, do convey unto P. C. Pearce, F. M. Sawyer, Jno. D. Gordon, G. H. Riggs, Jas. N. Spence, and John Jacobs, trustees appointed by the Quarterly Conference, Camden Circuit, Virginia Conference M.E. Church South, and their successors in office forever, all the right, title, and interest in the one acre of land that was conveyed by deed bearing the date June 16th, A.D. 1847, to the original trustees on the part of said church, lying on the East side of the main road and binding the lands now owned by John D. Gordon and others, duly recorded in Book Y page 207.....and we the trustees on the part of Sharon Church do furthermore convey to the said trustees before mentioned, the church building now standing upon said site, and all the appurtenances thereto belonging, or in any wise appertaining, with all rights and privileges that we now enjoy to be used as a place of worship and that the said trustees shall at all times permit such ministers and preachers belonging to the M.E. Church South, as shall from time to time be authorized by the General Conference of said church or the Annual Conference within whose bounds the said church is situate, to preach and expound God's holy word."

It is true that the first meetin house called Sharon was originally a Methodist Church, but for a few years before 1890, it turned to the Christian denomination. How many years it remained a Christian Church is unknown, but it did revert back to Methodism in 1890, as shown by the foregoing deed.

The old church stood on the same ground as the present one, but it faced the main highway instead of the secondary road as Sharon now does. There is an interesting story told to me by Foster Raper about the old church. His father, Frank Raper, bought the building and moved it over to his farm. It still may be seen there where it serves as a barn today. Henry Nosay told me that there was an old sycamore tree in front of the church where the sexton, John Creekmore, tied his horse and rockaway carriage. The tree has been cut down, but the stump is there beside a pole. On top of the pole is the rusty bell from the schoolhouse which stood across a narrow road from the church. The schoolhouse has been sold, moved, and converted into a home.

THE PRESENT CHURCH

Sharon Church, when built, was dedicated as a Methodist Church on July 4, 1894 by a former pastor, the Reverend C. D. Crawley. For a few years, until 1896, Sharon was on the Virginia Circuit and shared several pastors from Virginia with the other churches on the charge. They were Joseph E. Potts, Charles R. Taylor, C. D. Crawley and Janothan Sanford.

On Dedication Day, Rev. Crawley returned from Virginia to preach the dedicatory sermon. This day, July 4, 1894, was a very special occasion and it has been said that he was in "great form". Henry Nosay described him as having a great long beard and a loud voice. The day was a beautiful Fourth of July with the sun shining brightly and no sign of a cloud in the sky. Miss Ada Curling came over from Hickory, Virginia with her father in a horse and buggy. She remembered the day very well; how nice it was and the large crowd of people. Of course as a child of thirteen, she enjoyed being with the other children; but it must have been there that she met her future husband for much later she married Wm, Charles Whitehurst.

The children knew that this was a special day and acted up in a spirit of fun and pleasure. The grownups too were aware that a day to celebrate like this did not come often and so they bustled and hurried around, stopping only to chat with a neighbor sometimes. There was an air of anticipation in the air; especially under a wooden shelter on one side of the church. Under this shelter were table loaded down with a display of food such as one cannot imagine, so Mrs Ida Jackson told me. She remembered that there were so many horses with carts and buggies hitched everywhere, there was hardly a vacant spot. People had come from all around to share in this happy and glorious moment for the beginning of Sharon Methodist Church. The dedicatory sermon, which was reverent and inspiring, was preached before dinner. After the meal, music was played by John Jacobs, Carl Jacobs, and other men from South Mills. Henry Nosay told me that Carl Jacobs forgot his fife and had to return to South Mills for it.

After so much music, good food, and joyous fellowship, the people were reluctant to leave the churchyard, but darkness was coming and the evening chores were waiting. The day had to end, but according to these persons who remembered, July 4, 1894 must have been a great event in the lives of many and a good start for a small rural church called Sharon.

The building of Sharon Church was probably started late in 1893 and continued in 1894 although there is no record to support this. The cornerstone in the northwest part of the church is dated July 4, 1894. Several people who were born in 1894 were told that they were born the year the church was built. They include Henry Abbott who was born August 11, 1894;

Gertrude Hodges Whitehurst who was born July 12, 1894; and Courtney Whitehurst who was born November 25, 1894. Also born that year were Daniel Ray Jacobs on January 16, 1894 and Emma Whitehurst Jacobs on February 28, 1894.

Many people stated that Eugene Small was the main carpenter and it was said that Henry Whitehurst Jr. helped to get the timber out of Miles Swamp from which the sills were hewed to make the foundation for the church. As Sharon is still standing firm on its foundation seventy-eight years later, this is testimony to the fact that it must have been lasting timber.

When Sharon was built, it had two entrance doors on the front and a round glass window near the top. Wooden steps led to the doors, and as you stepped inside, there was only one large room which was the sanctuary. Two aisles went down to the pulpit and there were three sets of pews; right, left, and middle. Between the pulpit railing and the middle pews was a huge black stove with a long stove pipe reaching up and out through the roof. Wood was used in this stove to heat the church for many years.

The church was first lighted by kerosene lamps with reflectors. These hung on the walls. Next gas lamps were used and hung from the ceiling. Gas had to be 'pumped up' from a tank outside so that it could reach the burner. However, electricity finally arrived in this rural community in 1946 from a Rural Electric Association Cooperative and Sharon Church was one of the first buildings to be wired.

There were probably minor repairs and painting done from time to time, but no extensive changes were made, inside or out, for over fifty or more years. One exception to this was a gift from the Ladies Aid Society around 1916. With money that was raised from lawn parties held on the churchyard and many donations, the old windows were replaced with stained-glass windows that greatly enhanced the church with their beauty and simplicity.

A list of some of the members of the Ladies Aid Society then were: Mary Elizabeth Abbott, Mary W. Sawyer, Emma T. Sawyer, Alice W. Whitehurst, Lydia J. Gordon, Love B. Whitehurst, Emma Nosay, Mollie T. Sawyer, Maggie Hodges, Courtney Gregory, Jane S. Trotman, Jennie B. Whitehurst, Sarah (Sack) Sawyer, Lina B. Gordon, Belle Whiteon, and Eliza Whitehurst.

RENOVATION AND REVIVAL

Sharon Church remained essentially unchanged during the years from 1894 until 1953. If there was one noticeable change, it was that the congregation seemed to grow smaller with the passing of time. In 1953, the Reverend Key W. Taylor came to serve as pastor and to build up the churches and the congregations. Under his aid and direction, much was accomplished.

Mr. Taylor was very well thought of and is remembered by many of the members today. He was a large man with a loud voice. You could hear him above all the singing and he loved to sing--especially at revivals. Two of his favorite songs at Sharon were "Climbing Jacob's Ladder" and "Pentecostal Power". He is still living at this writing, but has been ill.

In going through some old books at the parsonage, it was found that Mr. Taylor left a comprehensive record of the renovation that he started at Sharon. Here are some of his notes:

"In his fourth quarterly conference report: September 27, 1953. Sharon Church had a good revival, led by Dermont J. Reid. This church had a Homecoming service in August 1953, which overflowed the church. Sharon has bought and paid for a new piano and will shortly install gas heat. Within a few days will replace its 59 year old roof and is now raising money for Sunday School rooms and general remodeling. Sunday School has doubled in attendance."

In his first quarterly conference report: February 28, 1954. Sharon Church has, since Annual Conference, organized the Church Board. Sunday School attendance last Sunday was four times what it was a year ago. A new asbestos roof has recently been put on and paid for. Next week the new building program will get underway. This will include a vestibule, four new Sunday School rooms, general repairs, paint, and yard work."

"In his first quarterly conference report: January 9, 1955. The Sharon Church remodeling project has marked time for several months while money is being raised to pay the accumulated debt. It is anticipated that the debt will be paid off in a few weeks and then later more improvements will be made."

"Quarterly conference report, Sharon: July 10, 1955. The building and painting at Sharon has been completed. Also the yard has been bulldozed and drained, grassed, and shrubbery set out. A small debt remains to be paid."

In his fourth quarterly report: June 2, 1957. At the conclusion of my fifth year here, it would be appropriate in this report to summarize: The building (Sharon) once badly decayed, is now a completely repaired and renovated building with four Sunday School rooms and modern heat. A deed containing the trust clause is now on record and Bishop Paul W. Garber dedicated the church last July 1, 1956." Deed of Trust Book 34 page 295.

With the remodeling of the church, the front was not forgotten. The two separate entrance doors were replaced with a single double door, new brick steps, and iron railings which gave the church a new and regal look.

Our next pastor was Reverend Irving E. Cook who came in June, 1957. He and his wife were well-liked by everyone. His wife, the former Evelyn Mansfield of South Mills, was a preacher too and often helped Mr. Cook.

The renovation of Sharon continued under Mr. Cook. A new oak floor was laid in the sanctuary while the altar rail and pulpit furniture were refinished. It was then decided by Mr. Cook and the congregation that new pews were needed, so the members were asked to give pews in memory of their loved ones or in honor of someone. In due time the memory pews were installed on each side of the church with only one center aisle. The single aisle and the pulpit were then covered with beige carpet. Each memory pew has a plaque as follows: (left side from pulpit)

In memory of J. J. and Lydia Gordon
In memory of Emma Jacobs by her Sunday School Class
Given by Clarence Raper and family
George G. Williams and family
In memory of our father and mother, James A. and Maggie J. Trotman.
In memory of Norma Elaine Whitehurst
In memory of J. M. and Arabella Whitson
In memory of Macon Whitson.

(Right side from pulpit)

In memory of G. T. Abbott
Given by Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Abbott
In memory of Hedges family
In memory of D. R. Jacobs and wife and W. W. McPherson
Given by G. B. W. Jacobs and family
Given by David E. and Marine W. Sawyer
In memory of J. Frank Sawyer
In honor of Key W. Taylor.

Under the direction of Mr. Cook, Sharon adopted a budget and envelope system on June 9, 1958 which helped finances and made bookkeeping easier.

SHARON TODAY

After the renovation and revival, Sharon experienced a rebirth of faith with a new outlook and a revived spirit. The congregation had grown larger and Sunday School attendance had doubled. The future looked good and its members were confident that a crisis had passed; that Sharon was destined to be a country church for many years to come.

Time, so far, has proven to be right. Sharon Church is still growing, even though in a small way. Its membership is small, but its congregation is faithful. Our present pastor is Reverend A. E. (Gene) Goldfinch.

Things are still being done at Sharon and plans are in the future. Four years ago, in the summer of 1968, the men of the church applied a coat of white paint to the outside. They were helped by Willis McCoy and his son-in-law from Deep Creek, Virginia. Mr McCoy's parents were Harriett and Willis McCoy who attended Sharon years ago. While the men painted all day, the ladies did their part by serving lunch to them on the church grounds.

In recent years, the members have decided that they would like to build a Fellowship Hall. They have sold cards and held fish fries and bake sales to raise money for the building fund. It is their hope that soon, maybe in 1972, they will be able to start the foundation. They feel that a Fellowship Hall is needed, not only for church programs, but for community affairs as well.

Many gifts have been presented to Sharon Church through the years in memory of loved ones, or just simply to add beauty to the church.

The children of Hershey Pool Whitehurst and Eliza Abbott Whitehurst gave a large picture of Christ in their memory.

Mrs. Lovie Whitehurst Abbott gave the church a communion table.

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Whitehurst gave the outdoor bulletin board in 1958.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam P. Whitson gave the neon cross atop the church in 1958.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Creekmore gave an antique chair and table for use in the vestibule in memory of Rev. Gordon A. Allen Jr.

The children of Mrs. Alice W. Whitehurst gave a Communion set in her memory in 1964.

Mrs. Marguerite Albertson Roach gave to flags in memory of her mother, Mrs. Rosa Sawyer Albertson in 1970.

The neon cross and the bulletin board are illuminated each night. As the cross shines through the darkness from Sharon, it is like a beacon that guides our destiny. It is a light that sends out a message of hope and faith to all who see it. Let us pray that it will always shine in the night and light the way to Christ.

Sharon, today in 1972, has a church attendance of thirty to forty people on the average every Sunday. The members feel that the future holds a promise and that Sharon will continue to prosper as long as its members remain faithful and strong. The present congregation is helped and encouraged by former members who attended church years ago with their parents and who continue to remember Sharon. With love and faith such as this, surely Sharon is blessed and will thrive for years unending.

The members of the Young Adult Class hold a class meeting the first Tuesday night each month where they discuss ways and means of raising money for the building fund. Bob Minton is president and Mary R. Forbes is Secretary-Treasurer. Mary Evelyn Whitehurst is Treasurer of the building fund. Class members are:

Sam Whitson, teacher; Mary Forbes, Harold Forbes, Marie Raper, Alice Pugh, Dorothy Argent, John Argent, George Rhodes Jr., Linda Nash, Anne Whitehurst, Priscilla Minton, Bob Minton, Mary Evelyn Whitehurst, Dewane Frutiger, Madeline Frutiger, Doris Albertson, Marjorie Frutiger, Aloy Frutiger, Gayle Eason, Jo Ann Starboard, Peggy Albertson, Barbara Wilson, Ruth Smithson, Raymond Smithson, Dorothy Whitehurst, John E. Whitehurst, and Margaret Ralph.

Sharon today has a fair membership but has lost many members during the past years. Here is a partial record dating back about twenty years.

C. Luther Gordon	July 19, 1955	Clifford I. Hobgood	Dec 7, 1966
G. F. Abbott	June 10, 1956	Mrs. Maurice Jones	Jan 18, 1968
J. J. Gordon	June 11, 1957	Rosa S. Albertson	Sept 10, 1969
Lydia J. Gordon	July 13, 1957	G. Edward Taylor	Feb 1, 1970
W. W. Linton	Sept 20, 1957	Sam B. Whitehurst	May 24, 1970
Emma Whitehurst Jacobs	Oct 18, 1958	V. Hallett Trotman	July 10, 1970
Hulda Whitehurst Forbes	Apr 18, 1963	Gertie J. Jacobs	Oct 22, 1970
Wilma McPherson Jackson	Nov 25, 1963	L.B. (BOB) Jackson	Oct 26, 1970
Alice W. Whitehurst	Feb 9, 1964	Ida McPhers. Jackson	Feb 7, 1971
Mary E. Gordon Abbott	Sept 14, 1965	Thomas L. Broadway	Feb 14, 1971
G. Deway Jacobs	Mar 11, 1966	Mary Lizzie Powers	Feb 13, 1972
		Judson O. Ritchard	Mar 27, 1972

Sharon has a membership of 95 people now (1972). A list follows:

Abbott, Addie	Pugh, Alice R.
Abbott, Henry	Pugh, Carmie, D.
Abbott, Annie Love	Pugh, Daniel
Abbott, G. Willie	Pugh, Wayne
Abbott, Miles S.	Powers, May
Albertson, Doris	Powers, Raymond
Albertson, Ronnie	Powers, Margie
Argent, Dorothy	Ralph, Margaret S.
Argent, John	Raper, Foster
Argent, Joseph	Raper, Mary W.
Argent, Michael	Raper, Clarence
Argent, William	Raper, Donnie
Barber, Shirley	Raper, Lonnie
Barber, Robert	Raper, Ronnie
Barber, Clinton	Starboard, Jo Ann W.
Baker, Frances W.	Starboard, Louis
Bohn, Albert	Smithson, Ruth
Bohn, Jerry	Smithson, Raymond
Bohn, Leroy	Smithson, Ruby B.
Broadway, Mrs. T. L.	Sawyer, Sally W.
Creekmore, Dadiest	Sawyer, Riley
Creekmore, Joe B.	Sawyer, John O.
Elliott, Billie Carol	Sawyer, George
Elliott, Catherine	Sawyer, Sarah Lee
Elliott, William	Taylor, Mattie A.
Eason, Gayle F.	Torborg, Lena Mae
Forbes, Gertie	Trotman, Betty W.
Forbes, Mary R.	Trotman, Beulah
Forbes, Harold S.	Whitehurst, Courtney
Frutiger, Dewane	Whitehurst, Curtis B.
Frutiger, Marjorie	Whitehurst, James A.
Frutiger, Darrell	Whitehurst, Mary Evelyn
Frutiger, Aloy (Affiliate)	Whitehurst, Loretta A.
Gregory, Mary Ann	Whitehurst, Mary Va. H.
Hobgood, Clara J.	Whitehurst, Gertrude H.
Hilliard, Elsie W.	Whitehurst, Dorothy
Jacobs, Leah	Whitehurst, John K.
Jackson, Welma T.	Whitehurst, Nelson
Jackson, L. B. Jr.	Whitehurst, Reginald
Jackson, Rodney	Whitehurst, Lizzie Mae
Jackson, Walter	Whitehurst, Minnie
Johnson, Barbara A.	Whitson, Elsie H.
Key, Frances	Whitson, Sam P.
Lowry, Phyllis R.	Whitson, Shelton
Millard, Nancy W.	Williams, Amy K.
Minton, Mary	Williams, George G.
Nash, Linda A.	Williams, George G. Jr.
	Wilson, Barbara

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School has always played an important part in the life of the church. Sharon's Sunday School, as in all old churches, was first held in the one large room that was the sanctuary. The classes were separated and conducted in different corners of the room. This arrangement lasted until the present classrooms were built in 1954.

Our Sunday School has grown in recent years so that we now have three classes for children. There is a nursery attended by Gayle Eason, Linda Nash, and Anne Whitehurst with the help of Peggy Albertson, Dorothy Argent, and Madeline Frutiger, who all have small children.

Next is the class for intermediate children, ages about seven through eleven, taught by Elsie Whitson. Her assistant is Alice Pugh.

The teen-agers, age thirteen to nineteen, have Dewane Frutiger as their teacher and Bob Minton is substitute teacher.

Sam Whitson teaches the Young Adult Class. This is a very interesting class for Mr. Whitson knows the Bible and is a dedicated teacher.

The Adult Class, both ladies and men, are taught by Miss Leah Jacobs who has taught for many years, knows the Bible, and is also a dedicated teacher.

The Sunday School still has two programs which are eagerly looked forward to by both children and adults. The first is the Sunday School picnic enjoyed by young and old alike. It formerly was held on the church grounds but in recent years, it has been held down at Sandy Point where there are picnic grounds and swimming.

The second occasion is the annual Christmas Party where everyone, including the adults, still receive a bag of candy and fruit. Sometimes Santa Claus is present and gives out the gifts which are exchanged each holiday. There is always a Christmas program given by the children. Miss Leah Jacobs, who is pianist for the church, has special Christmas music and songs for the children to sing.

The children of Sharon also share Vacation Bible School with the children of Trinity and McBride every summer. This year Sharon was represented by Alice Pugh, teacher, and seven children.

The Sunday School officers for 1972-73 are Superintendent, Dewane Frutiger; Asst. Supt., Harold Forbes; and Treasurer, Clara J. Hobgood.

FORMER PASTORS, TEACHERS, OTHERS

As previously written, Sharon was on the Virginia Conference through 1895. Starting in 1896, the charge went on the North Carolina Conference. Below is a list of pastors from 1896 until the present time, 1972.

Solomon Pool	1896	L. M. Chaffin	1922-23
Jas. Y. Old	1897	A. B. Crumpler	1924-25
A. J. Parker	1898-99	W. F. Walters	1926-29
W. J. Crowson	1900	J. M. Joliff	1930-33
W. E. Hocutt	1901-04	L. E. Sawyer	1933-36
R. L. Davis	1905-06	E. W. Downum	1937-40
D. L. Earnhardt	1907	W. N. Vaughan	1941-43
L. M. Chaffin	1908	L. T. Singleton	1944-47
C. P. Jerome	1909-12	C. A. Johnson	1948-52
A. W. Price	1913-14	Key W. Taylor	1953-57
E. L. Steak	1915-18	Irving E. Cook	1958-63
J. L. Smith	1919	G. E. Allen Jr.	1963-66
Daniel Lane	1920	Sammel L. Wood	1967-70
McNear	1921	A. E. Goldfinch	1970-
R. G. L. Edwards	1921		

There are no records of any old Sunday School teachers at Sharon. However from memory, here are some who were mentioned: Mrs. Mary W. Sawyer, Mrs. Lina Gordon, Mrs. Sarah (Sack) Sawyer, Mrs. Ethel Trotman, Wiley W. McPherson, and J. M. Whitson.

J. M. Whitson, known as Mr. Mac Whitson, was not only a teacher, but also served as Sunday School superintendent for many years. He is remembered for a quotation that he always used. Many recalled part of it but only Henry Nossy remembered all of it and repeated it as follows:

"As we travel down the checkered lane of this transitory life, we think of Him who suffered and died and gave up His life on Calvary's rugged brow, so that we should not perish, but obtain everlasting life."

Wiley W. McPherson was a very able and knowledgeable teacher who taught the adults for many years.

Joe B. Creechmore taught the men's class and was superintendent of the Sunday School for several years.

Raymond Smithson also served as Superintendent of the Sunday School.

Walma McPherson Jackson taught the children for many years and is a faithful church member still.

Another teacher who is remembered is Emma Whitehurst Jacobs who taught the children also. Possessed with a good singing voice, she helped them to have a children's choir for many years. After her death in 1958, Mary E. Whitehurst taught her class until the children passed into the teen class.

Amy Williams taught the teen-agers for many years until she had an accident and broke her hip in 1970. Still a faithful member, she has been chairman of the Parsonage Committee since its beginning and is also chairman of the Stewardship Committee.

One of our present teachers who has served long and faithful is Leah Jacobs. Miss Leah teaches the adult class, both ladies and men. She also is church pianist, helps the children with their singing and directs the adult choir.

Another teacher who merits mention is Sam P. Whitson, who has given service to Sharon for over fifty years. He has served the church in just about every office. For many years he was Sunday School superintendent and is at present, teacher of the Young Adult Class. He is also Coordinator of Adults, Church Lay Leader, and Chairman of Pastor-Parish Relations.

We have many members who have attended Sharon for years and who should be remembered. Miss Bertie Forbes never missed church if she was well. She is now in Stewart's Nursing Home in Belcross, N.C.

Curtis Whitehurst has attended Sharon since he was a boy. He works in his own filing shop and when his old shop burned in 1959, the whole community of South Mills, including all the churches and clubs, built him a new work-shop with living quarters.

Henry Abbott is another member who has long served the church faithfully and well. He is presently a Trustee and on the Finance Committee.

James A. Whitehurst has served on many committees and is presently on Pastor-Parish Relations, chairman of Finance Committee, and Parsonage Trustee.

George G. Williams is a Trustee and a member of the Finance Committee.

Mrs. Clara Jacobs Hobgood has been a loyal member and is at present on Pastor-Parish Relations and serves as Treasurer of the Sunday School.

Willie Abbott and his wife, Lovie Whitehurst Abbott, have long been faithful members of Sharon and both have served on many committees and in the offices of the church.

Some of the members in the Ladies Class today are Addie Abbott, Betty Trotman, Mattie Taylor, Beulah Trotman, Courtney Whitehurst, Amy Williams, Welma Jackson, Mrs. T. L. Broadway and teacher, Leah Jacobs. Many cannot attend because of sickness or other reasons and they include Mrs. Gertie Whitehurst, Mrs. Jennie Whitehurst, Foster and Mary Raper, Reginald and Lizzie Mae Whitehurst, Sally and Riley Sawyer, and Mary Ann Gregory.

Our oldest living member today is Miles S. Abbott. He was born on September 20, 1885 in the Sharon Community and now lives with his daughter Mrs. W. W. Garrett in Elizabeth City, N. C.

OLD FAMILIES

While doing research for this booklet, I came across the names of many old families who lived in Sharon community years ago. Many of their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren still live here today and some attend Sharon Church. This list may not be accurate, but it is to be hoped that not too many mistakes have been made.

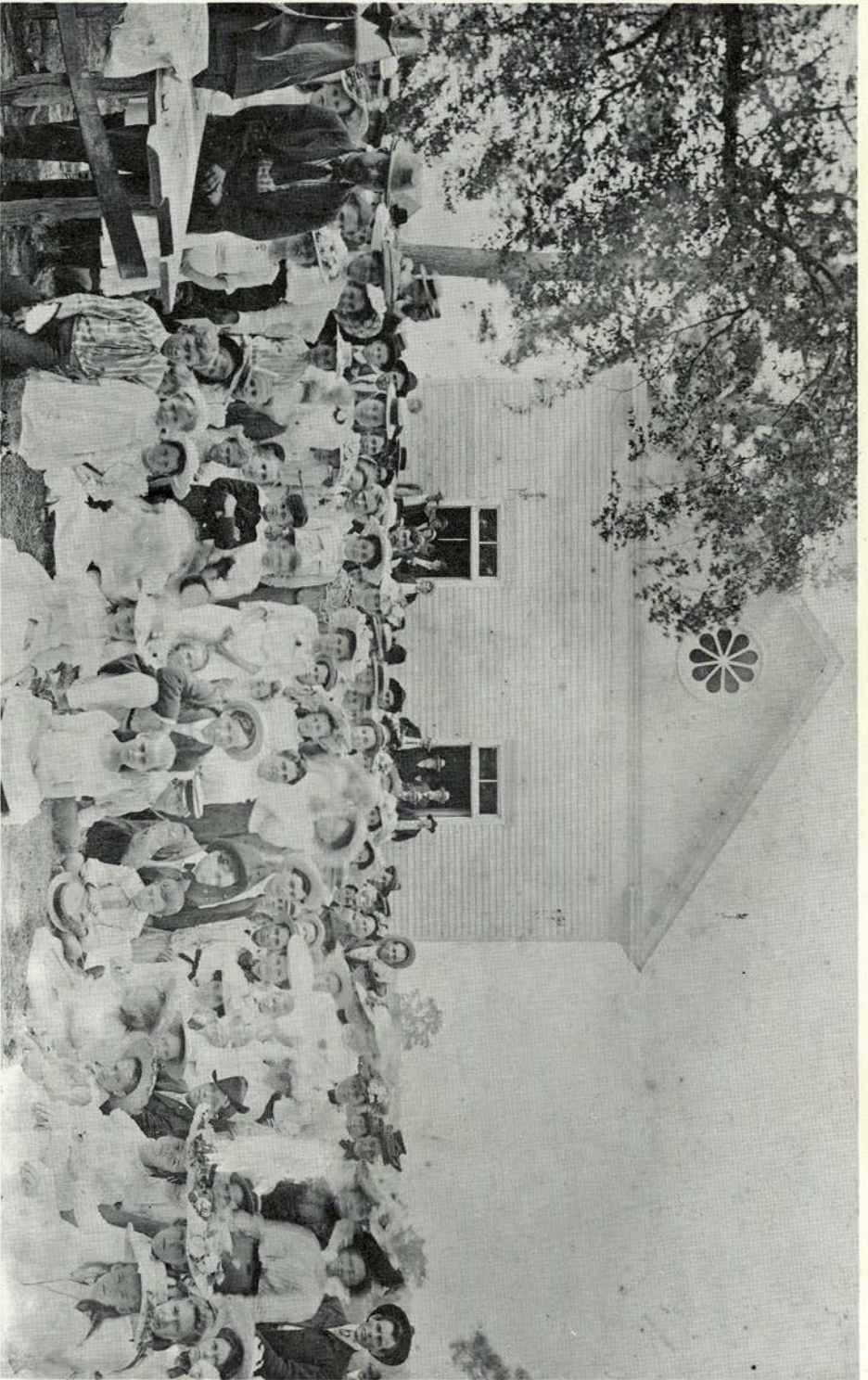
- Abbott, John Kelly and Elurani Spence; Miles, Sydney, Claude, Edward, Timothy, Bernice, Henrietta, and Eliza.
- Abbott, George Timothy and Mary Elizabeth Gordon; Addie, Bessie, Courteney, Mattie, Henry, and Willie.
- Albertson, Charlie and Rosa Sawyer; Overton, Marguerite, Bessie, and Ruth.
- Butt, Joe Frank and Sarah McPherson; Joe, Henry, John, James, George, Wilbur, Elmer, Margaret, Reba, and Ruby.
- Creekmore, John and Betsy Hodges; William, her daughter Maggie Sawyer.
- Daford, Willoughby H. and Emma Halstead; W. Cameron, R. H., W. E., Nettie, Emma, and Ella Va.
- Egan, Patrick H. and Myrtle McCoy; Mary, Margaret, Catherine, Annie Mae, and Charles.
- Etheridge, Erach Dozier and Mary Va. Overton; Louise Rebecca (Pauline Johnson Banks).
- Forbes, Benjamin E. and Hulda Whitehurst; Josephine, Lina, Charles, and Sally W.
- Gregory, Thomas and Courtney Sawyer; Mary Ann.
- Gordon, C. Luther and Lina Brite; Bertie Forbes.
- Gordon, John D. and Courtney Culpepper; John J., Luther, Joe, Kitty, Mattie, and Mary Elizabeth.
- Gordon, John J. and Lydia Jones; John, Howard, Franklin, Mary, Mattie, and Courtney.
- Hodges, Charles T. and Margaret Sawyer; Leonard, Joe, Walter, and Harry, Gertrude, Fannie, Mary Va., and Lala.
- Jackson, Edward R. and Lucy Ferebee; Marvin, Harry, Rodney, Clyde, L.B.(Bob) Blanche, Lessie, Pearl, and Lavenia.
- Jacobs, G. E. W. and Clara McPherson; John, Joe, Ray, Dewey, Clara, Leah, Lydia, and Ruth.
- Jones, B. Crowder and Florence Forbes; Maye, Audrey, Fannie, and Jimmie.
- Kelly, Seth R. and Harriett Williams; George, John, Frank, Amy, Mamie, Jennie, and Addie.
- Linton, William W. and Caroline Sawyer; Elsie, Irving, and Haywood.
- McPherson, Wiley W., Charlie, Noah, Joe, and Clara and Nan.
- McPherson, Arthur and Sally Hodges; Ida, Lee, John, and Sam.
- McPherson, Wm. Raleigh and Mattie Edney; Wm. Raleigh Jr.
- McCoy, John A. and Alice Sawyer; Myrtle and Mary.
- McCoy, John A. and Sue Colson; Irene; Laura.
- McCoy, Willis and Harriett Sawyer; Willis, John, Stella, Sudie, and Mary Jane.

Nossy, Alfred and Mary Whitehurst; Henry, George, and Emma.
 Overton, Evan and Ollie Powers; Polly, Millie, Courtney, and Maggie.
 Powers, Mack and Mary Garretton; Mack, Noah, Jim, and Mary Lizzie.
 Patrick, Joe and Elizabeth Copeland; James, Joanna, and Margaret.
 Payer, Frank and Margaret Creechmore; Foster, Will, Charlie, Frank and
 Harriett.
 Rhodes, George S. and Mary Lamb; Mary, Helen, and George Jr.
 Sawyer, Grandy and Martha Sawyer; Etta, Maggie Jane, Caroline, Love, India,
 John, Henry, Oscar. (Grandy, Pete, Bill, and Mary Ann) (Charlie, Lu,
 Sarah E. and Ellen.)
 Sawyer, Will C. and Harnie McCoy; Lydia, Beatrice, and Lloyd.
 Sawyer, J. Frank and Mary Williams; William A. and John O.
 Sawyer, Jim Henry and Nancy Whaley; Margaret Jane, Harriett, Courtney, and
 Manie.
 Sawyer, John W. and Sarah E. (Sack) White; Riley, Elizabeth, George, and
 Mary Liza.
 Sawyer, Horatio D. (Ray) and Mollie Trafton; Mattie, Mary, Jennie, and
 Alphonso.
 Sawyer, Miles and Fannie McCoy; John Logan.
 Sawyer, John L. and Emma J. Taylor; Marjorie, Lydia, Mary Frances, and
 Everett.
 Trotman, James A. and Maggie Jane Sawyer; Welma, Vertloy, Telle, and
 Hallett.
 Whitson, J. M. and Arabella Pearce; Anthe, Macon and Sam P.
 Whitehurst, Charles and Sarah E. Roach; Alonso, Hershey Pool, Benjamin, and
 Hulda.
 Whitehurst, Charles and Martha Daxler; Mary E., Emma, Reginald, Charles.
 Whitehurst, John Wilson and Mary Va. McPherson; Alice, Cecil, Wm. Charles,
 Frank, and James A.
 Whitehurst, John Wilson and Josephine Etheridge; Lula, Mary, Mattie, George
 and Clarence.
 Whitehurst, Hershey Pool and Margaret Eliza Abbott; Bernice, Edna, Iva,
 H. P. Jr., Edward L., Marion, John K. and Miles Nelson.
 Whitehurst, Alonzo Wilson and Alice Va. Whitehurst; James A. Minnie, Eliz-
 abeth, Henry, Beulah, and Alice Marie.
 Whitehurst, Benjamin and Clara Forbes; Curtis.
 Whitehurst, Benjamin and May Sawyer; Ernest, Morris, Dorothy, Virginia, and
 Florine.
 Whitehurst, James Nelson and Love Burnham; Betty, Lucy, Lovie, Courtney,
 and Sam B.
 Whitehurst, William J. and Virginia Burnham; Wiley and Clara.

A LAST WORD

Many good things could be said about Sharon today. Seventy-eight years after its erection, it is still a strong church; in many ways as strong as the foundation it rests on. Its members are as dedicated as they have always been, their faith is as strong as it was at the beginning, and their belief in the church has never wavered.

The passing of years has left little imprint on Sharon. The church stands amid some old trees as stately and serenely as ever. For even as "the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock", so may it always be with Sharon.



Around 1902