

Singletary Church



1799 - 1985

SINGLETARY CHURCH

History compiled
by
Vivian McDowell

1986

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INTRODUCTION

Three persons had written histories of Singletary Church prior to 1985: Mrs. Louise McNeill Lytle (1966), Rev. Nash A. Odom (1971), and Rev. Kenneth Hall (1980). Other histories are not now available. December 13, 1984, the Committee on Historical Records requested a complete list of ministers for each local church in the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church by June 1, 1985. In the process of searching for names of ministers and dates of their service, other facts about Singletary Church were also found.

Information about events of the past may come from many people, many places, and many types of records: diaries, journals, minutes of meetings, letters, stories told by persons who lived during the time considered, histories written earlier, deeds, wills, census, and other official records.

Many persons had a part in gathering this information about Singletary Church. The following individuals helped to locate records and/or to gather the facts from the records:

Rev. Charles Hause, Minister at Singletary Church

Mrs. Rita Hause, wife of minister at Singletary Church

Mrs. Janice Truman, very active member at Singletary Church

Rev. Fred Davis, Minister at Trinity Church

Mrs. Anna Parsons, Secretary at Trinity

Mrs. Margaret Lucas, Membership Secretary at Trinity United Methodist Church in Elizabethtown, N. C.

Mrs. Venia Hughley, member Committee on Historical Records, North Carolina Conference

Mrs. Wanda Campbell, Secretary-Treasurer, Bladen County Historical Society

Rev. C. Franklin Grill, North Carolina Conference Historian

Mrs. Campbell also assisted in clarifying information that was found. Rev. Grill guided the searchers when they began to lose the way, as well as helping locate sources of facts.

Others who shared in the gathering of this story include some whose names are not available, as well as a few others whose names are listed here:

Rev. Nash A. Odom, minister in Lake Park, Florida gave a list of his articles on Methodist History and the dates of their publication

Rev. C. E. Hix, Jr., Archivist Missouri West Conference gathered and sent information about David E. Dowless

Mr. Charles Edwards, descendent of the Dowless family, shared information of the family of David E. Dowless

Mr. Richard A. Shrader, Reference Archivist, and staff Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, helped with information about Jeremiah Norman

Mr. Robert L. Byrd, Curator of Manuscripts, and Mr. William R. Erwin, Assistant Curator for Cataloging, and the staff at the manuscript department of William R. Perkins Library, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, could provide records not found elsewhere

Staff at Methodist College Library, Fayetteville, North Carolina

Perhaps this story will help us to appreciate more the church as it is today. Certainly this information has fewer mistakes than it had as it was first put together, because of the proofreading done by three persons:

Mrs. Jane Carroll

Mrs. Robin Nance

Mrs. Carolyn Smith

Final typing by Jane Carroll

Spelling of some words has been questioned. In quotations, the intention is to spell as words were spelled in the source. An example is the word connexion in the paragraph about the 1773 Conference.

For a word like meetinghouse, several dictionaries were consulted. It is shown as one word in

Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged, 1966

Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged, 1971

Funk & Wagnall's New Standard Dictionary of the English Language, 1965

This word is written as one word in most passages quoted, so it is spelled as one throughout the history. (See list for Music School as an exception in quotations.)

Vivian McDowell
Member, Local Church History
Committee

SINGLETTY CHURCH

Singletary United Methodist Church, formerly Singletary Methodist Church, Singletary Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Singletary Methodist Episcopal Church---just how and when did this church begin? What has happened in this church?

In 1980, Rev. Kenneth Hall wrote a history of the church, based largely on the story written by Rev. Nash A. Odom (published in The Bladen Journal February 25, 1971). Rev. Hall gave 1805 as the date of the founding of this church. Information from "Historical Sketches of Churches" (Duke University Library) is the basis for that date. The name, Singletary, was given the church after land was donated August 1, 1811, by Mr. William Singletary. At that time there was already a building on the land. But how long had it been there, and how did Methodism reach southeastern North Carolina? Answers to all questions that one might ask may not be available, but some of them are. In a report to Elizabeth Circuit Quarterly Conference September 29, 1886, the trustees said that they had "been in possession about 84 years." This indicates that the building must have been on the land as early as 1802.

As Mrs. Louise McNeill Lytle said in her writing of the history of the church, "...old records (if any were kept) were not considered of enough value to be preserved from generation to generation." Some records of Elizabeth Circuit have been found and are preserved in the Manuscript Department of William R. Perkins Library at Duke University. Even the Singletary

Church Conference records for 1895 through 1905 are there. These records provide many facts that had been forgotten by present day members of the church.

John Wesley arrived in Georgia February 6, 1736, and remained in the state almost two years. His journal tells about his time in America, which seems to have been spent almost entirely in Georgia. Other men from England preached in North Carolina. George Whitefield came to America several times, preached in North Carolina, but, according to an article by Frank Baker in the book, Methodism Alive in North Carolina, he did not find it a very pleasant place because of the swamps, the thick forests, and other disadvantages for a traveler. Later Joseph Pilmore, Richard Boardman, Francis Asbury, and others came. Mr. Baker says that there is no sure evidence that any Methodist groups were organized in North Carolina before 1773.

Minutes of the Methodist Conferences, Annually Held in America; from 1773 to 1813, Inclusive provides a record of some things happening in those early years. The meeting in Philadelphia, June, 1773, is called "Some Conversations between the Preachers in Connexion with The Reverend Mr. John Wesley." At that meeting, ten ministers were assigned to six areas, all in, or north of, Virginia.

By the time of the 1773 conference, Bladen County had been approved by the North Carolina Assembly. It covered so large a part of the state that more than fifty counties were later formed from the area. According to the Bicentennial

edition of The Bladen Journal (April 19, 1934), four counties had been separated from Bladen before 1773. The 1790 census showed 5206 persons in Bladen County. With people so widely scattered, southeastern North Carolina did not seem to be a very promising place for new Methodist Societies, as the early groups were called.

The minutes of the Methodist Conferences for the year 1785 include part of a letter from John Wesley, written September 10, 1784, to "Dr. Coke, Mr. Asbury, and our Brethren in North America," giving several reasons for the Americans to have "full liberty, simply to follow the scriptures and the primitive church." The Methodist Episcopal Church became independent of the church in England. With ten elders to oversee the work, preachers were appointed to more than fifty circuits in America for 1785.

Bladen Circuit is listed for the first time in 1787, when Daniel Combs was sent to preach on the charge. He was one of eight preachers with James O'Kelly as elder for that year. There were less than fifty Methodists in Bladen when Daniel Combs was assigned to the charge. In 1790, the number of persons in Methodist Societies on the Bladen Circuit had grown to 228. Except for one year at least one preacher was appointed for the Bladen Circuit each year after 1787, until the area was divided into smaller circuits.

By January 1, 1799, membership in Methodist Societies in the Bladen Circuit had reached 650. John Simmons and Moses Wilson came to Bladen and the membership grew again.

One of the preachers at the conference which met January 1,

1800, in Charleston, South Carolina, was Jeremiah Norman. His diary covering the period from 1793 to February, 1801, is preserved in the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He wrote that on Saturday, January 4, "The plan of stations were read. My destiny was to Bladen Circuit...." The diary is torn at the end of the sentence, but it appears that he had written "N.C." The minutes show that John Campbell was also sent to Bladen, but he does not seem to have been in the same part of the circuit with Rev. Norman. Rev. Norman's diary mentions that he wrote to J. Campbell on February 17, 1800, but he is not mentioned often.

Bladen Circuit covered a large territory. Rev. Norman wrote that he went to Lumberton November 9, 1800. He had been at Purdie's April 13 and August 3. He preached in homes or meetinghouses from this part of the state all the way to the Atlantic coast. Most of the places he went seem to be between the Cape Fear River and the South Carolina border.

Not only was the circuit spread over a large region, but travel from place to place was far from easy. February 2, 1800, Rev. Norman crossed a swamp, about a mile wide, "part of it very bad," he wrote. February 9, on his way to Purdie's, Mr. Norman had a hard time crossing the Cape Fear, and the weather was cold. The following Saturday (February 15) bridges in bad repair hindered his progress. Later in the year he swam his horse across Northeast River (August 5). The water was high in creeks, and in Brown Marsh, the "earth seemed quite overflown" on August 5. September 15, 1800, after preaching in Wilmington, Rev. Norman

had a really dangerous time getting across the Cape Fear River. Because of the wind and tide, the ferry could not reach the bank of the river. He left the ferry landing, had a meal, and after the tide changed, they crossed "with much difficulty...but the pitching of the boat...made my horse very uneasy," he reported. On October 24, he stated that he crossed the Waccamaw River with difficulty. November 1, Rev. Norman and his companion lost their way and stayed (apparently overnight) with a person who helped them get through the bays.

Cold and ice in winter could leave a person very uncomfortable. In summer, there were other problems. Rev. Norman described mosquitoes as "exceeding bad" August 15, 1800, and on Sunday, August 17, he said that he had to ride with a handkerchief over his face.

Today meetings of almost any kind are announced well ahead of time, with the date, the hour, and the place specified. A person usually has no trouble knowing about time, but on February 3, 1800, the time for meeting was confused. Imagine how frustrating it would be to have some of the congregation come one or two hours later than others. Jeremiah Norman had that experience February 14, 1800.

Rev. Norman said that he had a "tolerable congregation" at Purdie's August 3, 1800, but October 6, 1800, at another place, only two came for the worship service. The size of the group at different times and at different places might vary a great deal.

It is hard for a person living today to imagine conditions

in the early days of our country. Books were scarce and were highly prized by any person who wished to read. Just after his appointment to Bladen Circuit, Jeremiah Norman arranged (January 6, 1800) to have some books sent to Wilmington. In the summer of 1800, during the week of August 17, he wrote, "I disposed of some valuable books among the people."

The diary of Jeremiah Norman does not mention his being at the same place many times during the months between January, 1800, and February, 1801. Twice in 1800, in the summer and again November 7, he met with others at Guyton's (or Guiton's). Other places that he went during the same week seem to indicate that these may have been the Guyton families (or a Guyton family) who were among the earliest members at Singletary Church. The society, Mr. Norman said, was small, but he included something about it at the time of both visits.

Does this mean that the Methodist group which was a forerunner of Singletary Church was organized before 1800? Rev. Norman mentioned "the class paper," probably a list of members. It seemed that he was unable to find it and could not tell much about the society because of that.

The early members of the group that later became this church surely must have made some sacrifices in order to get the church started. A deed (registered in Bladen County, book 29, pages 284-286) dated August 1, 1811, transfers an acre of land from William Singletary to "the Methodist Episcopal Church in America... and Wm. Bryan, Joseph Guyton, Elisha Dowless, John Allen & Wm. Guyton...." The acre is identified

as "having now upon it a building which is used as a Methodist Meetinghouse." The land was on Horsepen Branch, and the deed included "the buildings...together with free and undivided use of all waters pathways & roads leading to & from the premises..." The group of men named as trustees could be removed or replaced "as the minister appointed by the Bishop or conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America to travel here having the pastoral charge shall from time to time & at all times appoint or direct." (all quotations from the deed.) The land was deeded to the church in America since there was no name for a local church. It was named later for Mr. Singletary, who gave the land.

In 1811, Singletary Church was a part of Bladen Circuit, which was in the Camden District of the South Carolina Conference. There had been no districts or conferences in the Methodist Episcopal Church until 1801. The minutes of the conferences which met in 1801 (for this area January 1, 1801, in Camden, South Carolina) listed Bladen Circuit under the South Carolina District. From 1802 through 1812, Bladen Charge was in the Camden District of the South Carolina Conference. After 1812, Bladen was in Pee Dee District (December, 1812-January, 1825), Fayetteville District (January, 1825-February, 1835), Wilmington District (February, 1835-November, 1850) while still in the South Carolina Conference. Wilmington District was first listed in the North Carolina Conference in November, 1850.

Little information about the first half of the 1800's is

available, but the general conditions of southeastern North Carolina did not change quickly. Travel was difficult, and Bladen County was large. The Jeremiah Norman diary stops abruptly with February, 1801. We have no information about his later time in Bladen County. Mrs. Elizabeth Ellis Robeson, in her diary (1847-1866) tells of going to the Methodist Church when "the preacher did not attend." (May 25, 1850; January 4, 1852). She was probably referring to Purdie's Church, since she lived near there, but conditions would have been about the same in all the county. After reading about the work of Rev. Norman, it is easy to understand that the preacher may have been unable to reach the place at the time that he was expected.

In November, 1853, a group of twenty-seven persons subscribed for a music school at Singletary's Meetinghouse. The school was to be taught by Mr. Archibald Kelly one Saturday each month. Rev. Nash Odom included this list with his history of Singletary Church.

Bladen Circuit included this part of the county until December, 1858, when Elizabethtown Charge was set up. After 1865, it was called Elizabeth Circuit. Singletary Church was on the new charge.

Rev. W. S. Chaffin, who was the preacher on the Elizabeth Circuit from December, 1868, to November, 1870, kept a diary in which he gave some glimpses of conditions on the circuit during that time. The circuit covered a large area. At times, Rev. Chaffin might have services at the same church on two

consecutive days, as he did on Saturday, August 21, and on Sunday, August 22, 1869, at Wayman. Or he might have a service at one church one day, at another church the next day. He preached at Bladen Springs Saturday, August 7, and at Carvers Creek Sunday, August 8. In July, there was a service at Purdie on Thursday, the 15th, and at Singletary, on Friday, the 16th. Fortunately, with the parsonage in Elizabethtown, he had one church to which he did not have to travel so far.

Even with such an irregular schedule, at least part of the time there was a rather large group of worshipers. On June 20, 1869, Mr. Chaffin said that there were "more than could be seated at Singletary." Friday, November 19, he had a "good congregation" at Singletary. He commented on the kindness of the people in spite of the poverty (widespread in this part of the country after the Civil War). The attendance at Singletary seems to have continued to be quite good. Rev. Chaffin found a "considerable congregation" Saturday, March 19, 1870, and a "large crowd" Sunday, March 20, 1870.

The history of this church by Mrs. Louise Lytle and the history by Rev. Odom tell that two men from Singletary went into the ministry. Mrs. Lytle says that this is "an almost forgotten fact. They were Nathan Guyton...and David Dowless... who was educated at Trinity College...went out west as a young man and joined the Mo. Conference." Both these men are listed in the church register no. 1 and in the circuit register no. 1, with a note that Rev. Guyton was a member of the North Carolina Conference, and Rev. Dowless, a member of the Missouri Confer-

ence. Conference records show that Rev. Nathan Hall Guyton was admitted to the North Carolina Conference in 1885 and he served until his death in 1910. Rev. David Elishie Dowless "entered the St. Louis Conference September 30, 1898," according to the memoir in the Missouri Conference Journal for 1934. He retired in 1932.

In their writing of the history of Singletary Church, Mrs. Lytle and Mr. Odom tell that, before the Civil War, a larger log building replaced the one used as a Methodist meetinghouse in 1811. A deed registered in Bladen County (Book 84, page 440) shows that a lot adjoining the original church property was secured from Alexander and Catherine White on September 19, 1891. Trustees were A. J. Evans, S. A. Dowless, A. A. Brisson, Wm. Brisson, Manning Brisson, and P. L. Guyton. Mrs. Lytle's history indicates that a frame building was constructed about 1891. Mr. Odom gives the date of this structure as 1883. Mrs. Lytle added, "The frame church was used for many years without any ceiling, any heater, or heat of any kind." Records of quarterly conference meetings of Elizabeth Circuit show that at the meeting November 18, 1882, a building committee was appointed: Alexander White, Saml. A. Dowless, and A. J. Evans. On November 10, 1883, the trustees at Singletary Church were authorized to sell the old church and apply the proceeds to the new building. The new structure was valued at about \$600 October 21, 1884, with \$150 still to be paid.

Mrs. Lytle stated that, either in the late 1800's or in the early 1900's, the frame building was ceiled and a heater was added. She called this "a wonderful step forward." Church Conference records of Singletary Church show that this ceiling was completed and the heater installed by December, 1904, at a cost of \$61.94.

In spite of the fact that the church was terribly cold in winter, "almost too cold for endurance, there was always a good congregation," so Mrs. Lytle's history says. It was a great improvement to have the church building finished inside and a heater for warmth, but those who remember the heater in the building used until 1948 know that the sanctuary was not very comfortable in cold weather.

The earliest available membership record for Singletary is in the Elizabeth Circuit Register no. 1, dated 1891. One hundred thirteen members are listed for Singletary with no dates showing when these persons were received as members. Sixteen more were added between January, 1888, and October, 1894. Rev. George T. Simmons was the preacher on the Elizabeth Circuit from December, 1899, to November, 1903. He began a register for the church and made a note, "When, how, and by whom received is unknown to no. 136." Beginning with no. 137, received in 1888 by Rev. C. W. Smith, the record is more complete. This list records members to 1908, 197 persons. Many of the members had died, moved away, or moved to other churches in the area, so that the revision in 1909 has only 59 listed, with 26 added between 1909 and 1913.

At the quarterly conference in February, 1908, Rev. D. A. Watkins said that the spiritual state of the church was "fairly good. Congregations good and the people seem to give close attention to the preaching of the word." Rev. Watkins had seven churches under his care on the Elizabeth Circuit. Rev. F. B. Noblett saw, in 1909, "ample room for growth and improvement," financially and religiously.

An eighth church, Clarkton, was added to Elizabeth Circuit for 1910, and Rev. D. B. Parker found good congregations. In 1911, he thought that the state of the church had improved. A few members, he said, were "not as circumspect in their walk as we would like, but the great majority are faithful and true." At the end of the year he still described "quite a number" of the members "as consistent in their lives and as true to the church as could be found anywhere."

Rev. G. H. Biggs came to the six churches on Elizabeth Circuit in December, 1912. He had "splendid congregations at preaching service--at some points very large. The attention is remarkably good," so Rev. Biggs reported in February, 1913. Reports were not always this good. Although these were reports on the whole circuit, Singletary was included.

Singletary Church is now in Dublin, but it had been in the same location over a hundred years when Dublin was incorporated October 4, 1913. The place is referred to as "the head of the lane" in a description of a school district in Bethel Township, as shown in the early minutes of the Bladen County Board of Education.(Book 1, page 92) Rev. Nash Odom,

in his history of Dublin, says that the town was called "Cross Roads" about 1874. He also wrote in that history that Dublin "grew up around Singletary Methodist Church."

Rev. W. J. Underwood was on the Elizabeth Circuit November, 1921, to November, 1922, and again from November, 1927, to November, 1929. In his report at the end of 1922, he especially noted the harmony in each church.

Early in 1924, his second year in the area, Rev. H. E. Lance found the "spiritual side of the church...encouraging." In October, 1924, the quarterly conference records mention Sunday School rooms added at Singletary. In December, Rev. Lance wrote, "Singletary's new annex will be completed in the near future. I hope the doors & windows are on the way."

When Rev. C. H. Caviness came in November, 1925, he found the attendance down, but, according to his report to quarterly conference, those who attended seemed to be interested and responsive. In March, 1927, the trustees of Singletary were given authority to apply to the Duke Foundation Fund (for helping needy churches) for \$500 to complete repairs. The later records do not mention this again.

By the time of the first quarterly conference for 1928, a new parsonage for the circuit was needed. The parsonage trustees (C. C. Lyon, A. A. McKoy, S. H. Rogers) were authorized to sell the parsonage property for not less than \$3500, or to borrow not more than \$3500 from the Bank of Elizabethtown, buy lots, and build a new home for the preacher and his family.

In addition to the money from the sale of the old building, they could use the funds which were credited to the building fund in the bank. The report to the conference April 28, 1928, shows that the parsonage had been completed. The preacher and his family had moved into the new home. The October report showed that the total cost of the new parsonage was \$3012.10. From the old parsonage enough had been sold to take care of the amount over \$3000. At the September 13, 1930, meeting of quarterly conference, the trustees were given permission to borrow as much as \$650 from the Board of Church Extension for the purpose of paying the mortgage on the parsonage.

There were six churches on the Elizabeth Circuit in 1928: Clarkton, Purdie, Singletary, Trinity, Union, and Wesley Chapel. This meant quite a bit of travel for the preacher on the charge, but Elizabethtown was a central location. The previous parsonage had also been in Elizabethtown. An older member of Singletary, Mrs. Louise Lytle, wrote that in the earlier days, "the preacher drove a horse and buggy over the long sandy roads to fill the appointments of the Circuit." She said that, at the time for his appointments at Purdie and Singletary, he "would leave Elizabethtown on Saturday afternoon...have supper and spend the night in this community...After an early breakfast on Sunday morning he would go on to Purdie for his 11:00 o'clock service, have dinner with friends in that section and then come back to Singletary for a 3:00 o'clock service." Singletary continued to have an afternoon worship service for

many years, certainly as late as the 1930's.

January 31, 1932, Singletary trustees were authorized by the quarterly conference "to accept a conditional donation from the Duke Endowment...for the purpose of building partitions in S.S. rooms." The amount allowed was left blank, but these partitions were never started.

In January, 1933, the preacher on the charge, Rev. N. F. Edens, wrote of the circuit, "Despite sickness and bad weather our services at all churches have been reasonably attended and the folks seem to be interested in the work." At the end of the year, Rev. Edens found the "general state of the churches... very encouraging in most instances." Mr. Edens remained here through 1936, but later quarterly conference records for this time have not been found.

Only a few preachers stayed on the Bladen Circuit more than one year at a time, and they were here only two years. After 1858, when Singletary was made a part of the Elizabethtown Charge, some stayed only one year, but many were on the circuit two years or more. Rev. Edens served the Elizabeth Circuit four years, Rev. C. W. Barbee, seven years, and Rev. R. Z. Newton was here four years before Singletary Church was moved to the Lumberton Circuit in November, 1947.

In 1948, the present building for Singletary Church was begun. On October 4, 1948, the Bladen County Board of Education gave permission to allow the Dublin School building to be used for services until the new house of worship was ready. (Minutes of the Board of Education) The first service in the

new church on May 1, 1949, was recorded in detail by the Sunday School secretary, Lina Frances Clark. From the amount done by local church members, it seems that this must have been a Sunday when there was not a service led by the preacher.

Singletary Church remained on the Lumberton Circuit until October, 1953, when it became part of the Dublin Charge. Pleasant Grove and Purdie were the other two churches on the new charge.

Four lots adjoining the church property were bought in January, 1954, two from Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Brisson and two from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Carroll. Ewell Robeson, Brantley Willis, and Elton Johnson were trustees. This purchase provided plenty of room for the educational annex begun late in 1955. At the quarterly conference in June, 1960, the pastor reported that the debt on this building had been paid, and a dedication service had been held April 2.

A steeple was added, and it was paid for in 1962.

The Lumberton Circuit had a parsonage in Lumberton, but when the Dublin Charge was formed, the three churches had no home for the preacher and his family. The first pastor on the charge was a student from Duke, not married when he came, and a room was rented for him. When he married, a house in the community was rented. For several years, a house was rented from one person, then another. For a while an apartment was rented from Bladen County (one of two apartments in the teacherage at Dublin School).

At the September, 1960, meeting of the quarterly conference

the church trustees at Singletary were given the responsibility of making financial arrangements necessary for the construction of a parsonage. They found that securing a site for the house was not so simple. In 1962, the teacherage apartment was still used by the pastor on the Dublin Charge. By the time the apartment was needed by the school in 1964, a place for a parsonage still had not been found. In June, 1965, property owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Brisson became available. The deed for the property is dated July 29, 1965. Trustees were Floyd C. Hursey, Rufus Bordeaux, Brantley Willis, and Elton Johnson. A house, which was repaired for use as a parsonage, was included in the transaction. Rev. and Mrs. Gregory moved into the house December 31, 1965. Payment on this property had been completed by the time the administrative board met October 17, 1970.

Plans for building a new parsonage were discussed in December, 1970. Actual work began while Rev. Henry Lee was at annual conference in 1972. Construction was finished in six weeks and one day. The pastor and his family moved into the new home July 20, 1972. The old house was sold and was moved away. Payment on the new house was completed in four years and three months, according to quarterly conference records for November, 1976. Now the minister at Singletary Church lives just across the road from the church in the house built in 1972, and insulated in 1979.

Back in September, 1954, the pastor, Rev. Stanley Mullins, reported to quarterly conference that there had been a year of growth on the Dublin Charge. He emphasized the cooperation

among the churches. Examples of this cooperation were the participation of all three churches in fourth Sunday night services, and their attendance at revivals.

Membership at Singletary was given as 167 in 1956 and in 1957. There was growth each year to 216 in 1967. Since 1967, the number of members has varied from about 181 to 215. In 1985, it was 212.

A schedule for worship services for the Dublin Charge for 1958-1959 gives an idea of how difficult it was to work with three churches. How much more difficult when there were so many more churches!

At the meeting of the administrative board May 2, 1970, it was decided that, because so few people came to the night services, the laymen would take care of an 11:00 a.m. service at Singletary on Sundays when the preacher was at another church. The minutes of the meetings of the administrative board do not indicate how long the laymen did this.

Plans for enlarging the sanctuary at Singletary were made by the administrative board December 6, 1976. The church had been built with this probable enlargement to come later. Other changes were planned, including placing the choir loft behind the pulpit, painting, and laying carpet for the sanctuary. The renovation was completed in the fall of 1977, according to Rev. Hall's history.

A multipurpose building was discussed in January, 1980. After many hindrances, it was finished in January, 1986. A renovation of the front of the church is planned and work on that, including a ramp, is now being done.

The changes in the name of the church in Dublin came from changes in the name of the denomination of which it is a part. The formation of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America has been mentioned. Singletary Methodist Episcopal Church was named in 1811, after the formation of the church in America in 1784. The denomination was divided over issues of the time and from 1845 to 1939, Singletary was part of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Three major branches of Methodism were combined May 10, 1939, into The Methodist Church. Since the union of The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren in April, 1968, Singletary has been part of The United Methodist Church.

Singletary United Methodist Church in Dublin, North Carolina, on the Dublin Charge, in the Wilmington District of the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, begins 1986 with 208 members, under the care of Rev. Charles Hause, here since January, 1984.

Two Missionaries

In earlier histories, there is no mention of missionaries from Singletary Church. Rev. Richard J. Parker grew up about two miles from the church, and he often worshiped there. Many of the members were relatives of his, and he always seemed to be part of this local church, although his membership was at Trinity Church in Elizabethtown.

According to his nephew, Mr. Hubert Willis, Rev. Parker attended a Christian and Missionary Alliance school in Nyack, New York, but his work was with the Methodist Church. He served at a rescue mission in Winston Salem, and with a mission in the mountains of North Carolina before he was sent to Puerto Rico and to Cuba. Rev. Parker and his family returned to the United States, where he continued his work with the church. His last three assignments were district superintendent in El Paso, Texas, work in a Latin mission in Florida, and assistant pastor of Hyde Park Church in Tampa, Florida. Rev. Parker died in 1960 after a long and useful life of about eighty years.

Miss Carolyn McDowell, now Mrs. W. N. Walter, joined Singletary Church in 1939. With a major in mathematics from Flora Macdonald in Red Springs, she worked at the David Watson Taylor Model Basin in Corderock, Maryland, for a year. She attended Scarritt College in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1949-1950, was commissioned as a missionary in June, 1950. From 1950 to August, 1954, she was in Cuba,

teaching there at Buena Vista School and later at Irene Toland School.

Back in North Carolina, Miss McDowell taught Spanish in Elizabethtown for one year, then married Rev. W. N. Walter. Mr. and Mrs. Walter worked at a church in ~~Louisburg~~^{Laurinburg} for a year while he finished his studies at Duke. They then moved, in 1956, to the Finger Lakes region of his native state, New York, where they still live.

MUSIC SCHOOL

A Music School Subscription for Singletary's Meeting House

We the undersigned do employ Archibald Kelly to teach Vocal Music, at Singletary's Meeting-house, one Saturday in each month, for one year, at one dollar per Scholar per year, to be paid to the said Kelly at end of said term. The said Kelly obligates himself to pay due attention to the instruction of the rudiments of music to each and to every Scholar, and to pay due attention to the Superintendance of the school generally.
Nov. 23, 1853.

Subscribers Names:

Saml. J. Rowan
D. F. Gillespie
John J. Rowan
J. W. Cain
William R. Browning
Haynes McLelland
William W. Potar
Mannen Bryan
Joseph Allen
Aron Evrs
William Cheshir
R. F. Lewis
V. H. Lewis
Camden Lewis
Mary J. Lewis
L. A. Willis
E. Knox
Charles Lesesne
R. M. Lesesne
L. R. P. Lesesne
Lucy Lesesne
Mehaly A. Rowan
Geo. Cromartie
D. Cromartie
Benjamin FitzRandolph
J. T. Willis
Rebecca Gillespie
Annabella Lewis

Copied from the article by Rev. Nash A. Odom, "A History of Singletary Methodist Church, 1811-1968," published in The Bladen Journal February 25, 1971

NATHAN HALL GUYTON

Both the Elizabeth Circuit Register and the Singletary Church Membership Register include Rev. Nathan H. Guyton in the list. No dates are given about when he joined the church or when he became a member of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, but both records note that he was a member. His memoir published in the North Carolina Conference Journal for 1910 (p. 34) tells that he was licensed as an exhorter April 19, 1873, licensed to preach October 27, 1877, and married Annie E. McEwen June 26, 1882.

From the cemetery record (Shiloh Church) one reads that Nathan H. was the oldest of seven children of Paris and Nancy Guyton.

From records of the North Carolina Conference it appears that Rev. Guyton had charge of the Bath Circuit in the Washington District for a year before he was listed as one of the preachers on trial, for he is listed as admitted on trial December, 1885, when conference met in Charlotte, North Carolina. He was ordained deacon in 1885, ordained elder in 1890, but considered a preacher in "full connection" in 1888. From the list of his appointments we see that Rev. Nathan H. Guyton served in a number of places:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Address</u>
In Washington District		
Dec., 1884-Dec., 1887	Bath Circuit	Bunyan
Dec., 1887-Nov., 1889	Hatteras Circuit	Avon
Nov., 1889-Dec., 1892	Jamesville Circuit	Jamesville
In Wilson District		
Dec., 1892-Dec., 1894	Kenly Circuit	Kenly
In Raleigh District (notice same circuit as in Wilson)		
Dec., 1894-Dec., 1895	Kenly Circuit	Kenly
In Elizabeth City District		
Dec., 1895-Dec., 1897	South Camden Circuit	Camden Court House
In Rockingham District		
Dec., 1897-Nov., 1898	Asbury Circuit	Star
Nov., 1898-Dec., 1899	Star Circuit	Star
Dec., 1899-Dec., 1902	Rockingham Circuit	Roberdell
In Wilmington District		
Dec., 1902-Nov., 1904	Shallotte Circuit	Shallotte
In Fayetteville District		
Nov., 1904-Dec., 1908	Newton Grove Circuit	Newton Grove
Dec., 1908-Nov., 1910	Sampson Circuit	Roseboro

Rev. Guyton died November 9, 1910.

The North Carolina Annual Conference met November 30-December 5, 1910, at Elizabeth City. The "Memoir of Rev. Nathan Hall Guyton" is published on page 34 of the Journal for that year. The writer of the article (Rev. John D. Pegram) states that Rev. Guyton died at 6:15 A.M. November 9, 1910, and his funeral service was conducted by Rev. L. E. Sawyer, pastor of Carver's Creek Circuit.

Of Rev. Guyton, Rev. Pegram says that

...he was blessed with the endowments that are found in the plain and plodding workers that constitute the great bulk of humanity.

Though not in robust health, he had entered with hope and zeal upon the second year of service on the Sampson Circuit, and was proceeding diligently about his Lord's business, when sickness and finally death claimed him as a victim, and he joyously responded to the roll-call of the great conference above.

When his field of labor happened to be especially trying, with unfaltering faith in God and men, he usually accomplished success in the face of existing difficulties. Thus lived, labored and died this Christian gentleman and faithful minister of the Lord Jesus Christ. ...he embodied many of the graces and excellencies that go to make up a high type of manhood. To him, holiness of heart and life was more important than a tenet of faith or a profession of the mouth. In all honesty and fidelity, he walked with God before men. ...For him to live was Christ, to die was gain. To him death opened into a larger life and became the gateway to eternal glory. For days before his death he seemed to dwell on the mount of transfiguration with his Lord. ...He was ready to be offered up, he had fought a good fight, he had finished his course, he had kept the faith. ...

DAVID ELISHIE DOWLESS

David Elishie Dowless was born October 19, 1867, in Bladen County. According to a family tree prepared in 1962

James A. Gooden, he was the son of Edith and Elisha Dowless, Jr. Elisha Dowless, Jr. is shown on a chart by Charles Edwards as the grandson of Elisha Dowless, one of the first trustees of Singletary Church.

D. E. Dowless is listed in the Singletary Church register No. 1 and in the Elizabeth Circuit Register No. 1 with the note that he was a member of the Missouri Conference.

From a history of Singletary Church by Mrs. Louise Lytle and from the memoir of David Elishie Dowless in the Missouri Conference Journal of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, for 1934, we find that Rev. Dowless attended Trinity College (now Duke University) in Durham, North Carolina. He went to Missouri and served in three conferences there: St. Louis, Southwest Missouri, and Missouri.

After joining the St. Louis Conference September 30, 1898, Rev. Dowless was ordained deacon in 1902, elder in 1905. He transferred to Southwest Missouri Conference in 1908, and ministered to various churches in four districts, then moved in 1927 to the Missouri Conference, where he worked with three different circuits before he was superannuated in 1932.

According to the memoir in the conference journal for 1934, Rev. David E. Dowless had married Miss Amelia Gettings of Fairfield, Missouri, January 1, 1902. They had two children,

Esther and Carl. By 1934, Esther (Mrs. Heller) lived in Versailles, Missouri, and Carl in Bray, California. After he retired, Mr. and Mrs. Dowless lived in Birch Tree, Missouri, until his death September 20, 1934. He was buried at Monett, Arkansas.

Churches and Circuits under the care of Rev. David E. Dowless:

Southwest Missouri Conference

1908-1909	Spruce Circuit, Nevada District
1910	Stoutland Circuit, Spfd. District
1911	South Greenfield, Spfd. District
1912	Marshfield Circuit, Spfd. District
1913	Kenoma Circuit, Joplin District
1914-1915	Papinville Circuit, Nevada Dist.
1916-1917	Crosstimmer Circuit, Lesington Dist.
1918-1919	Cedarville Circuit, Joplin District
1920-1921	Jasper Circuit, Joplin District
1922	Seneca and Pleasant Ridge, Joplin Dist.
1923	Southwest City Circuit, Nevada Dist.
1924	Stella and Wanda, Nevada District
1925	Pineville and Lanagan, Nevada Dist.
1926	Metz Circuit, Nevada District

Missouri Conference

1927-1929	Tebbetts Circuit, Mexico District
1930	Denver Circuit, St. Joseph Dist.
1931	Bell Flower Circuit, Mexico Dist.
1932	Superannuate, Birch Tree, Missouri

CEILING AND HEATING
SINGLETTARY CHURCH

Expenditures Itemized

Nov. 11	Lumber (ceiling)	\$29.40
Nov. 13	Irons for swinging flue	.20
Nov. 13	Nails	.04
Nov. 13	Paid W.J. McKay for waiting on brick mason	.45
Nov. 13	For hauling 1 load ceiling	3.00
Nov. 13	Paid Tom Russell for running flue	2.00
Nov. 20	Paid A. A. Brisson for having mason waited on	.85
Nov. 19	Paid Jno. Melvin (carpenter)	4.00
Nov. 22	Paid Jno. Melvin (carpenter)	5.00
Nov. 28	Paid Jno. Melvin (carpenter)	11.00
Dec. 2	Paid for stove	5.50
Nov.	Nails	.50
	Total	\$61.94

Dec. 1904

W.E. Brown

Report to Singletary Church Conference December 17, 1904

ELIZABETH CIRCUIT PARSONAGE

To the trustees of M. E. Parsonage, Elizabethtown, N. C.

Your building committee submits the following report:

Recd from loan on property \$3000.00

Erection of new parsonage with garage plumbing wiring painting, &c. all of which is as follows, including lots labor material and the expenditure by your committee are in detail as follows:

Name	Kind of material	Amount
R.S. White	2 lots	400.00
Bladen Hwd Co.	Hwd. nails roof rock &c	869.92
R. Boring	fire ins. new & old parsonage	28.40
J.A. Gooden	mason & carpenter work house Garage & screens	568.54
W. P. Davis	hauling sand	2.25
C. K. Davis	Lenolium bathroom floors	2.67
Devane Hall Lbr Co.	Flooring, ceiling, Siding &c	455.43
Tide Water Power Co.	Porch bulbs & Globe	3.00
Bonnie Batchelor	Digging well	2.00
G. T. Stone	Curbing well	1.80
E. Falls	Building flue in Study	6.50
P. M. Cook	Plumbing	31.50
C. C. Byrd	Hauling	1.00
W. J. Davis	Brick for mantel	1.75
W. E. Walls	Painting contract	91.45
C. T. Page	Electrical contract	75.00
Jim Martin	Drilling well	15.00
G. G. Gooden	Framing	148.92
Builders Supply Co.	Moulding	39.34
J. H. Clark & Co.	Brick	121.00
P. S. Davis	Washing out well	4.00
L. Byrd Co.	Paints & varnishes	135.95
Thos. McDowell	wk. on Garage	3.18
Seth Gooden	Moulding	1.50
Pernella McDowell	Scrubbing	2.00
Total Cost		\$3012.10

Sold from old parsonage cookstove mattress, beds 12.10

Signed this July 11th, 1928

L. Byrd

Geo. H. Hall

W. H. Regan

The above report is found to be correct. We request that it be spread on the records of the church. This 14th July, 1928

C. C. Lyon Chm.

Board of Parsonage trustees

Report to Elizabeth Circuit Quarterly Conference, October 1, 1928

FIRST SERVICE

The members of Singletary Sunday School had their first service in the new Singletary Church on Sunday, May 1, 1949.

"Good Neighbors" was the theme of worship for the month. The service was opened by the singing of the hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy," led by Mr. Lonnie King, Superintendent of the Sunday School. We were led in prayer by Mr. Fred Dowless, after which the song "What a Friend We Have In Jesus," was sung. The scripture, taken from I Corinthians 13, was read by Miss Vivian McDowell, after which we had classes.

The teachers are as follows:

Primary: Mrs. Worth Dowless

Junior: Mrs. Henry Faria

Intermediate: Mrs. Maude Tatum

Young People: Miss Vivian McDowell

Adult: Mrs. David Willis

Young Married People: Mr. D. B. Willis

Classes were dismissed by the ringing of the bell, and the secretary's report was read.

Teachers Present 6

Visitors 2

Members 63

Total Attendance 71

Offering: \$24.50

A discussion was held during which it was moved and seconded that every member set aside a pig out of every ten in a litter for the church to be used for barbecue or other church purposes. This is to be called the "tenth pig."

The last song, "Onward Christian Soldiers," was played by Mrs. T. A. Suggs, church pianist, and sung by the congregation. We were dismissed by the benediction by Mr. S. R. Guyton, Assistant Superintendent of Sunday School.

Lina Frances Clark

Secretary

Singletary Sunday School

Copied from Sunday School Secretary's Record, October, 1948-October, 1949

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES FOR
THE DUBLIN METHODIST CHARGE

Summer Schedule

Singletary Methodist Church-1st Sunday- 8 p.m.
2nd Sunday-11 a.m.
3rd Sunday- 8 p.m.
4th Sunday-11 a.m.
(5th Sundays-11 a.m.)
Purdie Methodist Church-1st Sunday-10 a.m.
2nd Sunday-10 a.m.
3rd Sunday-11 a.m.
4th Sunday-None
(5th Sundays-10 a.m.)
Pleasant Grove Methodist Church-1st Sunday-11 a.m.
2nd Sunday- 8 p.m.
3rd Sunday-None
4th Sunday- 8 p.m.
(5th Sundays-8 p.m.)

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Winter Schedule

Singletary Methodist Church-1st Sunday-7:30 p.m.
2nd Sunday-11 a.m.
3rd Sunday-7:30 p.m.
4th Sunday-11 a.m.
(5th Sundays-11 a.m.)
Purdie Methodist Church-1st Sunday-10 a.m.
2nd Sunday-10 a.m.
3rd Sunday-11 a.m.
4th Sunday-None
(5th Sundays-10 a.m.)
Pleasant Grove Methodist Church-1st Sunday-11 a.m.
2nd Sunday- 7 p.m.
3rd Sunday-None
4th Sunday- 7 p.m.
(5th Sundays- 7 p.m.)

Dates for this schedule not certain, but seem to have been
for 1958 and 1959.

BLADEN CIRCUIT
May, 1787-January, 1799

MINISTERS

Daniel Combs	May, 1787-Mar., 1788
Thomas Hardy	Mar., 1788-Mar., 1789
--no appointment--	Mar., 1789-Feb., 1790
Jonathan Bird	Feb., 1790-Feb., 1791
John Ahair, William Bellamy	Feb., 1791-Feb., 1792
Joshua Cannon, Samuel Edney	Feb., 1792-Dec., 1792
Benjamin Denton	Dec., 1792-Jan., 1794
William Bellamy, Robert Cox	Jan., 1794-Jan., 1795
Rufus Wiley, John Shepperd	Jan., 1795-Jan., 1796
Anthony Sole	Jan., 1796-Jan., 1797
Christopher S. Mooring, Moses Black	Jan., 1797-Jan., 1798
James Jenkins, T. Milligan, M. Wilson	Jan., 1798-Jan., 1799
See list for Singletary Church	Jan., 1799-Dec., 1858

ELDERS AND PRESIDING ELDERS

Elders--no districts or conferences--in charge of Bladen
and several other circuits

James O'Kelly	May, 1787-Mar., 1788
James Tunnell	Mar., 1788-Mar., 1789
--no appointment to Bladen Circuit--	Mar., 1789-Feb., 1790
Thomas Ware	Feb., 1790-Feb., 1791
Thomas Bowen	Feb., 1791-Jan., 1794
Thomas Bowen, John Fare	Jan., 1794-Jan., 1795
John Fare	Jan., 1795-Jan., 1796
James Meachem	Jan., 1796-Jan., 1797

Presiding Elders--no districts or conferences--in charge
of Bladen and other circuits

Thomas Humphries	Jan., 1797-Jan., 1798
Jonathan Jackson	Jan., 1798-Jan., 1799
See list for Singletary Church	Jan., 1799-Dec., 1858

September, 1985--So far there is no record of any of these
ministers in the places around Singletary Church, but it
is quite possible that they did preach in the area.

SINGLETARY CHURCH

Dublin, North Carolina

Bladen County

No conferences or districts until 1801

1801	South Carolina District
1802-1850	South Carolina Conference
1851-1985	North Carolina Conference

Copy of list prepared as requested by the Committee on Historical Records, completed before June 1, 1985

Ministers Who Have
Served at Singletary Church

Research has not definitely shown the exact date of the first society which was the forerunner of Singletary Church. However, the diary of Jeremiah Norman, who was first appointed to the Bladen Charge in January, 1800, mentions that he met with others at Guyton's in the summer of 1800 and again in November, 1800. In both instances he made some comment about the society or the society's records. Other places that Mr. Norman visited during the same week that he was at Guyton's seem to be in the vicinity of the present location of Singletary Church.

The deed for land "having now upon it a building which is used as a Methodist meeting house" names as trustees for the Methodist Episcopal Church in America: William Bryan, Joseph Guyton, Elisha Dowless, John Allen and William Guyton. The land was deeded to the church August 1, 1811, by William Singletary, and the church was named Singletary Methodist Episcopal Church. The building now in use is located on this and land adjoining it which was acquired later.

This list of ministers begins with those serving Bladen Circuit in 1799. No districts or conferences are indicated in the minutes of conferences held this early.

John Simmons, Moses Wilson	Jan., 1799-Jan., 1800
Jeremiah Norman, John Campbell	Jan., 1800-Jan., 1801

Charge: Bladen District: South Carolina County: Bladen

Jeremiah Norman, Hanover Donnan Jan., 1801-Jan., 1802

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

Charge: Bladen District: Camden County: Bladen

Moses Matthew, Samuel Mills Jan., 1802-Jan., 1803
William Jones, William Avant Jan., 1803-Jan., 1804
Benjamin Jones, Hugh Porter Jan., 1804-Jan., 1805
Lewis Myers, James Russell,
J. Porter Jan., 1805-Dec., 1805
Wiley Warwick, Robert Porter,
Samuel Dunwody (the above for
Bladen and Brunswick) Dec., 1805-Dec., 1806
Stephen Thompson, Solomon Bryan Dec., 1806-Dec., 1807
Robert L. Edwards, Thomas Porch Dec., 1807-Dec., 1808
John Gamewell, Nathan Kimball Dec., 1808-Dec., 1809
Anthony Senter Dec., 1809-Dec., 1810
Michael Burdge Dec., 1810-Dec., 1811
Lewis Holton, Samuel Jenkins Dec., 1811-Dec., 1812

Charge: Bladen District: Pee Dee County: Bladen

Reuben Tucker Dec., 1812-Jan., 1814
James O. Andrew Jan., 1814-Dec., 1814
John Boswell Dec., 1814-Dec., 1816
Samuel Johnson Dec., 1816-Jan., 1818
John Dicks Jan., 1818-Dec., 1818
Jeremiah Norman Dec., 1818-Jan., 1821
Nicholas Ware Jan., 1821-Feb., 1822
Charles Betts Feb., 1822-Feb., 1823
John W. Norton Feb., 1823-Feb., 1824
Malcolm M'Pherson Feb., 1824-Jan., 1825

Charge: Bladen District: Fayetteville County: Bladen

Nathaniel H. Rhodes Jan., 1825-Jan., 1826
Henry W. Ledbetter Jan., 1826-Jan., 1827
James Hitchener Jan., 1827-Feb., 1828
John Watts Feb., 1828-Jan., 1829
Francis C. Spraggins Jan., 1829-Jan., 1830
E. Legget, F. C. Spraggins Jan., 1830-Jan., 1831
Morgan C. Turrentine Jan., 1831-Jan., 1832
Jockey M. Bradley, J. H. Massey Jan., 1832-Jan., 1833
J. M. Bradley Jan., 1833-Feb., 1834
A. B. M'Gilvray, J. N. Davis Feb., 1834-Feb., 1835

Charge: Bladen District: Wilmington County: Bladen

J. Covington, M. Russell	Feb., 1835-Feb., 1836
W. M. D. Moore, A. Kelly	Feb., 1836-Jan., 1837
M. C. Turrentine, N. Monroe	Jan., 1837-Jan., 1838
Willis Haltom, William P. Morgan	Jan., 1838-Jan., 1839
John R. Pickett, George R. Talley	Jan., 1839-Jan., 1840
A. Hoyle, H. E. Ogburn	Jan., 1840-Jan., 1841
J. M. Bradley, John A. Porter	Jan., 1841-Jan., 1842
Marcus A. M'Kibbin, Allen Huckabee	Jan., 1842-Feb., 1843
James M. M'Pherson, N. Goudelock	Feb., 1843-Feb., 1844
Michael Robbins, Samuel M. Green	Feb., 1844-Dec., 1844
Samson D. Laney, H. A. Bass	Dec., 1844-Dec., 1845
Sampson D. Laney, William M. Lee	Dec., 1845-Jan., 1847
Allan McCorquodale, Hilliard C. Parsons	Jan., 1847-Jan., 1848
A. M'Corcuodale, L. A. Johnson	Jan., 1848-Dec., 1848
D. J. Simmons, R. Washburn	Dec., 1848-Nov., 1850

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

Charge: Bladen District: Wilmington County: Bladen

John H. Robinson, D. D. Byars	Nov., 1850-Nov., 1851
J. T. St. Clair	Nov., 1851-Nov., 1852
James B. Martin, Shockley D. Adams	Nov., 1852-Nov., 1853
James B. Martin, Clarendon Pepper	Nov., 1853-Nov., 1854
Charles P. Jones, Simeon D. Peeler	Nov., 1854-Nov., 1855
M. N. Taylor	Nov., 1855-Nov., 1856
Daniel Culbreth	Nov., 1856-Dec., 1858

Charge: Elizabethtown District: Wilmington County: Bladen

Robert P. Bibb	Dec., 1858-Dec., 1859
Alexander D. Betts	Dec., 1859-Dec., 1860
James P. Simpson	Dec., 1860-Dec., 1861
D. C. Johnson	Dec., 1861-Dec., 1863
Samuel M. Frost	Dec., 1863- , 1864
E. A. Yates	, 1864- 1865

Charge: Elizabeth Circuit District: Wilmington County: Bladen

Wesley M. Robey	, 1865-Dec., 1868
W. S. Chaffin	Dec., 1868-Nov., 1870
A. K. Murchison	Nov., 1870-Dec., 1872
J. T. Gibbs	Dec., 1872-Dec., 1873
J. T. Bagwell	Dec., 1873-Dec., 1875
O. J. Brent	Dec., 1875-Dec., 1876
D. May	Dec., 1876-Dec., 1877
J. W. Randle	Dec., 1877-Dec., 1879

M. H. Moore	Dec., 1879-Dec., 1880
G. W. Hardison	Dec., 1880-Dec., 1882
J. B. Bailey	Dec., 1882-Dec., 1884
J. M. Lumly	Dec., 1884-Dec., 1885
Daniel May	Dec., 1885-Dec., 1887
C. W. Smith	Dec., 1887-Dec., 1889
J. R. Sawyer	Dec., 1889-Dec., 1890
A. J. Parker	Dec., 1890-Nov., 1891
W. H. Townsend	Nov., 1891-Dec., 1894
G. W. Starling	Dec., 1894-Dec., 1896
C. W. Smith	Dec., 1896-Dec., 1897
C. P. Snow	Dec., 1897-Dec., 1898
D. A. Futrell	Dec., 1898-Dec., 1899
G. T. Simmons	Dec., 1899-Nov., 1903
W. E. Brown	Nov., 1903-Dec., 1904

Charge: Elizabeth Circuit District: Rockingham County: Bladen

K. C. Formyduval	Feb., 1905-Dec., 1905
W. Y. Everton	Dec., 1905-Dec., 1906
D. A. Watkins	Dec., 1906-Dec., 1908
F. B. Noblett	Dec., 1908-Dec., 1909
D. B. Parker	Dec., 1909-Dec., 1912
G. H. Biggs	Dec., 1912-Dec., 1916
W. B. Humble	Dec., 1916-Nov., 1919
H. L. Brown	Nov., 1919-Nov., 1920
S. W. Phillips	Nov., 1920-Nov., 1921

Charge: Elizabeth Circuit District: Fayetteville County: Bladen

W. J. Underwood	Nov., 1921-Nov., 1922
H. E. Lance	Nov., 1922-Nov., 1925
C. H. Caviness	Nov., 1925-Nov., 1927
W. J. Underwood	Nov., 1927-Nov., 1929
C. M. Lance	Nov., 1929-Nov., 1930
N. M. Wright	Nov., 1930-Nov., 1932

Charge: Elizabeth Circuit District: Wilmington County: Bladen

N. P. Edens	Nov., 1932-Nov., 1936
C. W. Barbee	Nov., 1936-Nov., 1943
R. Z. Newton	Nov., 1943-Nov., 1947

Charge: Lumberton Circuit District: Wilmington County: Bladen

McDonald McLamb	Nov., 1947-Nov., 1948
J. A. Cooper	Nov., 1948-Oct., 1952
J. G. White	Oct., 1952-Oct., 1953

Charge: Dublin District: Wilmington County: Bladen

Stanley Mullins	Oct., 1953-June, 1956
T. L. White	June, 1956-Oct., 1956
Douglas O. Guthrie	Oct., 1956-Sept., 1957
Paul W. Boone	Dec., 1957-Dec., 1959
Charles Lancaster	Jan., 1960-June, 1961
D. K. Norris	June, 1961-June, 1962
Dennis A. Weaver	June, 1962-June, 1965
Walter B. Gregory	June, 1965-June, 1969
V. A. Lewis	June, 1969-June, 1970
Henry W. Lee	June, 1970-June, 1977
Ruben W. Tunnell	June, 1977-Sept., 1977
B. Frank Meacham	Oct., 1977-June, 1978
W. Kenneth Hall	June, 1978-June, 1983
Laurence J. Bridges	June, 1983-Nov., 1983
Charles J. Hause	Jan., 1984-

SINGLETTARY CHURCH

ELDERS, PRESIDING ELDERS, OR
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS
January, 1799--June, 1985

Presiding Elders--no districts or conferences--in charge of
circuits including Bladen Circuit

Benjamin Blanton Jan., 1799-Jan., 1801

Presiding Elder--South Carolina District

James Jenkins Jan., 1801-Jan., 1802

South Carolina Conference

Presiding Elders--Camden District

James Jenkins Jan., 1802-Jan., 1805
George Daugharty Jan., 1805-Dec., 1806
Bennett Kendrick Dec., 1806-Dec., 1807
Moses Matthew Dec., 1807-Dec., 1808
Jonathan Jackson Dec., 1808-Dec., 1809
Daniel Asbury Dec., 1809-Dec., 1812

Presiding Elders--Pee Dee District

Daniel Asbury Dec., 1812-Jan., 1814
William M. Kennedy Jan., 1814-Jan., 1818
Joseph Travis Jan., 1818-Feb., 1822
William M. Kennedy Feb., 1822-Jan., 1825

Presiding Elders--Fayetteville District

William M. Kennedy Jan., 1825-Jan., 1826
Bond English Jan., 1826-Jan., 1827
Charles Betts Jan., 1827-Jan., 1831
Nicholas Talley Jan., 1831-Feb., 1835

Presiding Elders--Wilmington District

Charles Betts Feb., 1835-Jan., 1839
Bond English Jan., 1839-Jan., 1841
Hugh A. C. Walker Jan., 1841-Dec., 1844
Whitefoord Smith Dec., 1844-Dec., 1845
Charles Betts Dec., 1845-Dec., 1848
N. Talley Dec., 1848-Nov., 1850

North Carolina Conference

Presiding Elders--Wilmington District

W. Barringer	Nov., 1850-Nov., 1851
James Reed	Nov., 1851-Nov., 1852
Robert J. Carson	Nov., 1852-Nov., 1854
David B. Nicholson	Nov., 1854-Dec., 1858

Elizabethtown Charge

(first listed with December, 1858, appointments)

Presiding Elders--Wilmington District

Charles F. Deems	Dec., 1858-Dec., 1862
D. B. Nicholson	Dec., 1862- , 1864

(listed as Presiding Elder each year through 1864;
no month or date of conference given)
--no appointments listed for 1865--

Elizabeth Circuit

(first listed with November, 1866, appointments)

Presiding Elders--Wilmington District

L. S. Burkhead	Nov., 1866-Nov., 1869
William Class	Nov., 1869-Dec., 1873
W. S. Black	Dec., 1873-Dec., 1877
L. S. Burkhead	Dec., 1877-Nov., 1881
R. O. Burton	Nov., 1881-Dec., 1883
W. N. Bobbitt	Dec., 1883-Dec., 1884
P. J. Carroway	Dec., 1884-Dec., 1886
T. W. Guthrie	Dec., 1886-Dec., 1888
F. D. Swindell	Dec., 1888-Dec., 1892
W. S. Rone	Dec., 1892-Dec., 1896
R. C. Beaman	Dec., 1896-Dec., 1898
R. F. Bumpass	Dec., 1898-Dec., 1900
R. B. John	Dec., 1900-Dec., 1904

Presiding Elders--Rockingham District

J. N. Cole	Dec., 1904-Dec., 1906
W. H. Moore	Dec., 1906-Dec., 1910
A. McCullen	Dec., 1910-Dec., 1915
John H. Hall	Dec., 1915-Dec., 1918
H. M. North	Dec., 1918-Dec., 1920
J. H. Shore	Dec., 1920-Nov., 1921

Presiding Elders--Fayetteville District

J. D. Bundy	Nov., 1921-Nov., 1922
R. H. Willis	Nov., 1922-Nov., 1924
J. D. Bundy	Nov., 1924-Oct., 1928
W. A. Cade	Oct., 1928-Nov., 1931
W. C. Martin	Nov., 1931-Nov., 1932

Presiding Elders--Wilmington District

W. C. Martin	Nov., 1932-Nov., 1933
L. B. Jones	Nov., 1933-Nov., 1935
W. A. Cade	Nov., 1935-Nov., 1939

District Superintendents--Wilmington District
(change in terminology)

W. A. Cade	Nov., 1939-Nov., 1940
A. S. Parker	Nov., 1940-Nov., 1946
John C. Glenn	Nov., 1946-Nov., 1947

Lumberton Circuit
(Singletary changed to Lumberton Circuit November, 1947)

District Superintendents--Wilmington District

E. L. Hillman	Nov., 1947-Nov., 1948
C. D. Barclift	Nov., 1948-Oct., 1952
V. E. Queen	Oct., 1952-Nov., 1953

Dublin Charge
(Singletary changed to Dublin Charge November, 1953)

District Superintendents--Wilmington District

V. E. Queen	Oct., 1953-June, 1956
J. E. Garlington	June, 1956-June, 1961
Clyde S. Boggs	June, 1961-June, 1966
Clyde G. McCarver	June, 1966-June, 1971
W. J. Neese	June, 1971-June, 1975
James A. Auman	June, 1975-June, 1981
Vernon C. Tyson	June, 1981-June, 1984
James H. Bailey	June, 1984-

CHURCHES ON THE CHARGES

The area in which Singletary Church is located is in southeastern North Carolina, Bladen County since 1734.

The Methodist Episcopal Church in America had no separate conferences or districts before 1801. Someone was appointed for the Bladen Circuit, which included this part of North Carolina, except one year, from May, 1787, until 1801 with no district specified.

January, 1801-January, 1802, Bladen Circuit was in the South Carolina District.

January, 1802-November, 1850, Bladen Circuit was in the South Carolina Conference, in the following districts:

Camden District	January, 1802-December, 1812
Pee Dee District	December, 1812-January, 1825
Fayetteville District	January, 1825-February, 1835
Wilmington District	February, 1835-November, 1850

November, 1850-December, 1858, Bladen Circuit was in the North Carolina Conference:

Wilmington District	November, 1850-December, 1858
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Any listing of the churches on the Bladen Circuit would be likely to be incomplete. From the diary of Jeremiah Norman one finds that worship services were held in whatever place was available, often a home, but there were some meetinghouses.

December, 1858, Singletary Church was put on a smaller charge, Elizabethtown Charge, and has been part of charges in the North Carolina Conference since then.

December, 1858- (no month given), 1865, Singletary was on the Elizabethtown Charge.

Wilmington District December, 1858-(no mo.) 1865

No lists of churches available

(no month given), 1865-November, 1947, Singletary on Elizabeth Circuit.

Wilmington District (no mo.), 1865-December, 1904

No number or names of churches until December, 1868.

December, 1868-November, 1870 (from diary of W. S. Chaffin)

Bladen Springs
Carvers Creek
Elizabeth
Purdie
Singletary
Wayman

Conference Journals for many years give the number of churches on a charge, but not the names.

December, 1873-December, 1874 6 churches, no names

From quarterly conference records and/or from North Carolina Conference Journals, churches on the Elizabeth Circuit were:

Dec., 1874-Dec., 1875
Bladen Springs
Carvers Creek
Elizabeth
Purdies
Singletary
Wayman
Kelly School House

Dec., 1875-Dec., 1876
Bladen Springs
Carvers Creek
Elizabeth
Purdies
Singletary
Wayman

Dec., 1876-Dec., 1879
Abbottsburg
Spring
Elizabethtown
Purdie
Singletary
Union

Dec., 1879-Dec., 1883
Abbottsburg
Spring
Elizabethtown
Purdie
Singletary
Union
Shaws

Dec., 1883-Dec., 1884

Spring
Elizabeth
Purdie
Singletary
Union
Shaws

Dec., 1884-Dec., 1885

Abbottsburg
Spring
Elizabethtown
Purdie
Singletary
Union
Shaws

Dec., 1885-Dec., 1887

Spring
Elizabethtown
Purdie
Singletary
Union
Shaws

Dec., 1887-July, 1893

Abbottsburg
Spring
Elizabethtown
Purdie
Singletary
Union
Shaws

July, 1893-Dec., 1896

Abbottsburg
Bladen Springs

Trinity
Purdie
Singletary
Union

Wesley Chapel

Dec., 1896-Dec., 1897

Abbottsburg
Bladen Springs
Carvers Creek
Elizabeth
Purdie
Singletary
Union
Wayman
Wesley Chapel

Dec., 1897-Dec., 1898

Abbottsburg
Bladen Springs
Elizabeth
Purdie
Singletary
Union
Wesley Chapel

Dec., 1898-Nov., 1903

Abbottsburg
Bladen Springs
Elizabeth
Purdie
Singletary
Union
Wesley Chapel
Tabor

Rockingham District-December 1904-November, 1921

Nov. 1903-Dec., 1909

Abbottsburg
Bladen Springs

Purdie
Singletary
Trinity (Elizabeth 1903-1906)
Union
Wesley Chapel

Dec., 1909-Dec., 1911

Abbottsburg
Bladen Springs
Clarkton
Purdie
Singletary
Trinity
Union
Wesley Chapel

Dec., 1911-Nov., 1919
Bladen Springs

Purdie
Singletary
Trinity
Union
Wesley Chapel

Nov., 1919-Nov., 1921
Bladen Springs
Bladenboro
Purdie
Singletary
Trinity
Union
Wesley Chapel

Fayetteville District-November, 1921-November, 1932

Nov., 1921-Nov., 1925
Abbottsburg
Clarkton
Purdie
Singletary
Trinity
Union
Wesley Chapel

Nov., 1925-Nov., 1947

Clarkton
Purdie
Singletary
Trinity
Union
Wesley Chapel

Wilmington District

Nov., 1932-the present

Nov., 1947-Oct. 1953
Singletary moved to the
Lumberton Circuit 1947
East Lumberton
Pleasant Grove
Purdie
Singletary
Smith

Oct., 1953-June, 1983
Singletary on the new charge,
Dublin 1953

Pleasant Grove
Purdie
Singletary

June, 1983-the present
Purdie
Singletary

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