

# SAINT LUKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ROUTE 1 — TURNPIKE ROAD  
LAURINBURG, NORTH CAROLINA 28352



## A History

1966 - 1991

By Mrs. Charles (Virginia) Muse

## FORWARD

This forward is being written on the 25th Anniversary of the official organization of Saint Luke United Methodist Church. This is a great privilege to share with you in this celebration. Saint Luke represents a spiritual strength and grace which resides in the hearts and minds of the people of this church and community.

Saint Luke is a church with a proud and rich history. A church where many wonderful aspects of ministry have been accomplished in such a short period of time. Because of our great foundation, the coming years possess great potential for spiritual growth and guidance, physical improvements and new members.

I would like to thank Mrs. Virginia Muse for her great effort in writing this history and the compilation of the church annals. A special thanks to Evelyn Davis who served as our historian for the first ten years of our ministry and to our members who have helped supply the materials from which this history has been written.

Again, may God truly bless us as we seek to do His will through the ministry of Saint Luke United Methodist Church.

Yours in Christ,  
W. Edward Barber  
*Minister*

January 27, 1991

## THE FIRST QUARTER OF A CENTURY AT SAINT LUKE

*"Where The Spirit Of The Lord Is,  
There Is The One True Church . . ."*\*

In our church history, *The Annals of Saint Luke*, we say our inception came when the Board of Missions of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church, in December 1962, recognized a need for a church in the south of Laurinburg and purchased land on Blue Farm Road near US 401. Our true beginning, however, came on June 17, 1965, when the North Carolina Annual Conference voted to appoint the Reverend Robert S. Pullman as pastor. The congregation was yet to be established. To quote from a hymn of the 1960's, "It only takes a spark to get a fire going. . . "\*\*"; this young dedicated preacher brought that spark to a small group of Christians, who on October 10, 1965, held their first worship service in Vardell Hall on Saint Andrews College Campus.

In this, their first worship service, charter member Mary Lou Teal, who is still in active membership, offered a prayer of her own composing in the Adult Sunday School Class. This prayer exemplified their purpose and willingness to serve God. It is printed for you, in its entirety, because it continues to serve today's congregation as we go about any new undertaking to further the Kingdom.

*"Father, we come unto Thee this beautiful Sabbath Day, asking Thy guidance in our new undertaking. Help us to dwell together in a unity which is good and pleasant. We ask Thy blessings for each family represented here today. Help us to be united in one band of love for Thy Kingdom's sake. In Thy name we pray. Amen."*

On January 30, 1966, the church was officially named Saint Luke Methodist Church in an organizational service held in the National Guard Armory. As membership increased the need for a church building grew. The original land on Blue Farm Road was sold, and in April 1967, 5.3 acres were purchased on Turnpike Road as the site for the first building. Bishop Paul Garber conducted ground breaking services on Palm Sunday 1968; the first church service in the new building was held on March 9, 1969.



By June 1969 there were 106 members; 69 of these were charter members, 30 of whom are members today. The membership grew, and so did the need for additional facilities. Our congregation is blessed with two charter members, Douglas Yongue and Charles "Scoofer" Jordan, builders, who willingly gave their time, effort and expertise. With faith and determination, our new sanctuary was completed and consecrated in October 1980. By May 1985 a new educational wing had been added. To further enhance our worship service, a new Allen Organ was installed in our sanctuary on December 5, 1990.

Saint Luke currently has membership of 507. Ministry costs for 1991 are projected to be \$173,517. In addition, in this year, through fund raising projects and donations, money will be raised for our ongoing mission endeavors.

Local mission projects have ranged from the United Methodist Men building and renovating for the needy and handicapped, to the United Methodist Women adopting and caring for families. Their caring, also, extends to children who have been placed in various community homes. For three years, we have sent work teams of from 18 to 21 in number to Hinton Rural Life Center in Hayesville, N.C. There they offer their building skills and aid to the needy. We have hosted, in our church buildings, those who have come to work with the Robeson County church and Community Center.

Our members have been to Jamaica, Anguilla, and Puerto Rico to aid in church restoration. We aid Ruth Ann Robinson, Methodist missionary to Bolivia and the Weavers, Keith and Jamie, missionaries with Africa Inland Missions. The Weavers and their three children spent a year's furlough, August 1982-August 1983, with our congregation. A member furnished them a three-bedroom home and the congregation provided furniture, linens, and other household needs.

In November of 1983, the Nguyens, a Vietnamese refugee family of Buddhist faith, came under our sponsorship. We provided transportation when needed, housing, furnishings, food, clothing, English tutoring and assistance in securing work. Today they live here in our community.

Also, in November 1983, another mission, far reaching in scope and life saving, began through the illness and tragic death of our preparatory member, Joshua Brooks. Engraved in our collective memory is the face of this brave little boy as he appeared before the Senate of the United States with his parents, members June and Rick Brooks. Through their personal testimony before this group, history was made and brought nationwide

support of a spiritual, emotional and financial nature. The Brooks were able to bring about a change in the State Employees Insurance, pertaining to the coverage of heart and liver transplants. Through their grief, to use their words, they "became the Vessels to do God's work" for children needing transplants. June travels extensively as the North Carolina Director of the Children's Transplant Association while Rick works, cares for the children and participates in her efforts. The Joshua Brooks Fund, originating at Saint Luke and in the community, multiplied and continues to aid patients. They credit the leadership, support, and love shown them by the Saint Luke ministers and congregation with starting and keeping them on their missionary paths.

In 1990 two of our missions ended. Dwight Staples, charter member, began a personal jail ministry in 1974. He visited the prisoners each Sunday afternoon serving as counselor, letter writer, bearer of necessities, gifts at Christmas, and the greatest gift of all, God's love, shared through prayer and scriptures. For personal reasons he was forced to end this ministry.

In March 1975 our church began a clothing ministry which became operational with 3000 articles of donated clothing. 35 families were aided in the first three weeks. Annabell Ansted assumed responsibility and unselfishly gave three mornings weekly to this service. At the time of her retirement in 1990, when this service was taken over by the Church Community Service, representing area churches, we were aiding three to four thousand families yearly.

It is interesting to note that our first local mission was caring for one needy family Christmas of 1965; Christmas 1990 we cared for nineteen families. We have striven to be a viable and active part of the community by offering the use of our physical facilities to area service groups needing a place to meet.

Through the years we've had Ash Wednesday observances. On Maundy Thursday we either have Holy Communion or the Seder Meal, in conjunction with the drama, "The Last Supper" or the "Stripping of the Altar" service. As far back as 1974, the United Methodist Men began serving their annual Thanksgiving Breakfast to assure that we, as a group, have the opportunity to pause and be thankful for our many blessings.

In 1976 through the inspiration and hard work of member Spencer Willard, we celebrated our first "Christmas Love Feast", in the tradition of the Moravians, who influenced John Wesley to begin this practice with early Methodists. This annual service, unique in this area to Saint Luke, continues as a celebratory way in which we, joined by worshippers from the community-at-large, share joy and meaningful worship in the Advent Season.

In 1977 we began using the Chrismon Tree and banking the altar with red poinsettias, donated by the congregation. Our first Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion was held that same year. These are our traditions and meaningful ways in which we worship.

We have had two student ministers as summer interns. In 1971, when Reverend William M. Wells went to England for a six weeks pulpit exchange, he gave us "our British connection", The Reverend Geoffery L. Clark. He has kept in close contact through the years, returning in 1984 to help us celebrate the Bicentennial of Methodism in America. In February 1986 he preached for our "Faith and Future" services; in August 1987, he returned with his family, visiting for three weeks with our members and once more preaching at Saint Luke.

Not only did Reverend Wells give us the Clarks, he and Dixie have given us their "golden years" returning to live among us to serve and love us, as we, in return, offer them our love and take pride in the fact that we were so chosen by them!

The ministers who have served Saint Luke are: Robert S. Pullman 1965-1969; William M. Wells 1969-1972; Everette J. France 1972-1976; James C. Lee 1976-1987; Milton T. Mann 1987-1990; W. Edward Barber 1990-Present. We have been blessed that each minister has brought to us the spark that kept the "fire going" so that "all those a-round can warm up in its glowing. That's how it is with God's love . . ."\*\*

\* "A Modern Affirmation" *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 1989 edition, p. 885

\*\* "It Only Takes a Spark" *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 1989 edition, p. 572

\*\* "It Only Takes a Spark" *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 1989 edition, p. 572



## CHARTER MEMBERS

### SAINT LUKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Joseph Donald Ballard	Linda Ann Lea
Mrs. Joseph Donald Ballard	Margaret Jean Lea
Debra Ann Barringer	Paul Gordon Lea
Ned Monroe Barringer	Mrs. Paul Gordon Lea
Mrs. Ned Monroe Barringer	Barrett Stanton Matheny
Diane Dee Blackwell	Forest Leander Matheny, Jr.
Floyd Edward Blackwell	Mrs. Forest Leander Matheny, Jr.
Mrs. Floyd Edward Blackwell	Jeffrey Stuart Matheny
Gene Braswell	James Clifford Penny, Sr.
George Clifford Caviness	Mrs. James Clifford Penny, Sr.
Mrs. George Clifford Caviness	Harold Warren Pierson
Ann Braswell Collie	Mrs. Harold Warren Pierson
Trosper Noland Combs	Jack Edward Rice
Mrs. Trosper Noland Combs	William Neal Robertson, Jr.
Charles Douglas Cox	Mrs. William Neal Robertson, Jr.
Mrs. Charles Douglas Cox	Arey Thomas Shankle, Jr.
Richard Smoot Cox	Arey Thomas Shankle, Sr.
Mrs. Richard Smoot Cox	Mrs. Arey Thomas Shankle, Sr.
Janet Lee Davis	Donna Kaye Shankle
Patricia Anne Davis	Carrie Dee Shankle
Randall Grey Davis, Jr.	Judy Ann Shankle
Randall Grey Davis, Sr.	Randy Lee Shankle
Mrs. Randall Grey Davis, Sr.	Alonzo Grey Smart
Henry Lester Forde, Jr.	Mrs. Alonzo Grey Smart
Mrs. Henry Lester Forde, Jr.	Dwight Harding Staples
Lonnie Thomas Freeman	Mrs. Dwight Harding Staples
Mrs. Lonnie Thomas Freeman	Dennis Shaw Staples
Edgar Alexander Green, Sr.	Laura Jean Teal
Mrs. Edgar Alexander Green, Sr.	Mary Ann Teal
Mary Pritchard Harvin	Samuel Eugene Teal
Mary E. Harvin	Mrs. Samuel Eugene Teal
Charles Lee Jordan, III	Pattie Sue Rice West
Mrs. Charles Lee Jordan, III	Douglas Yates Yongue
Marvin Burleigh Key, Sr.	Mrs. Douglas Yates Yongue
Mrs. Marvin Burleigh Key, Sr.	

## DO YOU KNOW . . .

1. Name church was first called . . . . . Collegiate Methodist
2. Restaurant where early services were held . . . . . Shady Rest  
(owned and operated by charter members, Alonzo and Nannie Smart)
3. First infant baptism . . . . . Alyson Cox
4. First baby born to members . . . . . Kevin Cox
5. First adult baptism . . . . . Floyd E. Blackwell
6. First high school graduates . . . . . Randall Davis, Jr.  
Arey Thomas Shankle, III
7. First college graduate . . . . . Susan Combs
8. First Eagle Scout . . . . . Keith Burns
9. Saint Luke's only ministerial candidate . . . . . David Harvin  
now a minister
10. Only Saint Luke member to serve in Peace Corps . . . . Keith Burns
11. First UMM Meeting . . . . . April 22, 1966
12. First UMW Meeting . . . . . April 27, 1966
13. First MYF Meeting . . . . . November 1967
14. First member married  
in church . . . . . Penny Muse to Harrison Abernathy
15. First adult to receive Silver . . . . . David Burns  
Beaver Award for Scout Work
16. First death of a church member . . . . . Randall Davis, Sr.
17. Use of first Advent Wreath . . . . . 1966
18. First church barbecue and bake sale . . . . . November 12, 1966
19. First choir director . . . . . Mary Harvin and  
and where they practiced . . . . . practice was held in her home
20. The only minister ordained as a deacon . . . . . Everette J. France  
while serving at Saint Luke
21. First church van was purchased . . . . . February 1988
22. Saint Luke Baptismal Font is . . . . . Giant Clam Shell
23. First Official Church Historian . . . . . Evelyn Davis  
(first ten years)
24. A Saint Luke Member who went to the . . . . . Dyke Ansted  
Philipines with the Christian Athletes in Action Team
25. What the UMYF did at their first Christmas Party . . . . Decorating  
a Christmas tree for their unmarried minister
26. First twins born to Saint Luke members . . . Seth and Seneca Rudd  
Parents . . . . Darryl and Rita Rudd
27. First Cub Scout Troop organized . . . . . 1983
28. First Boy Scout Troop organized . . . . . 1984



