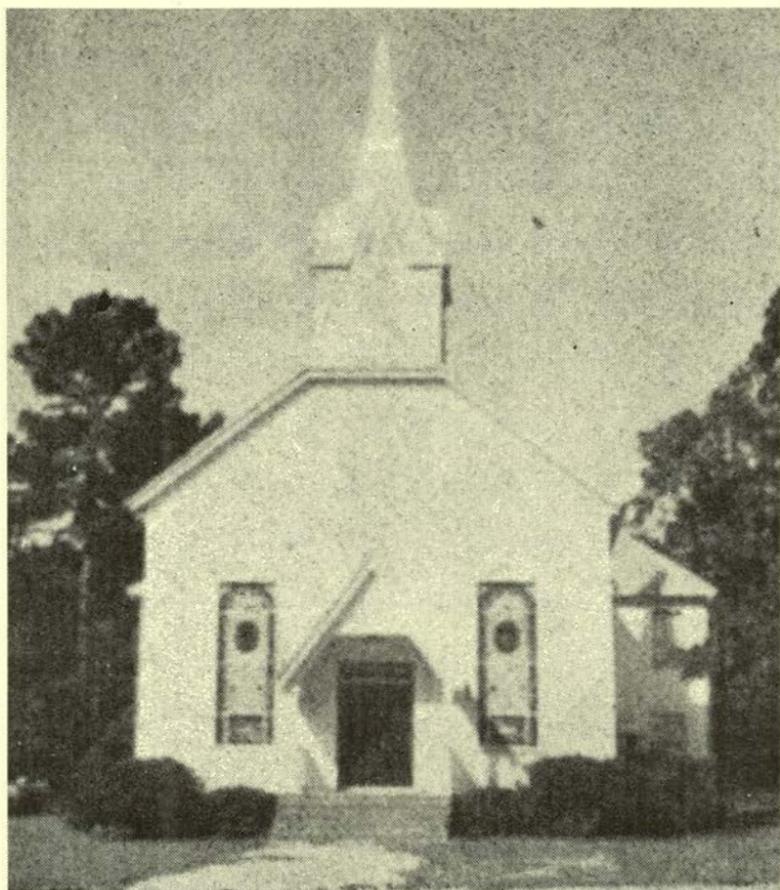


NEW BERN DISTRICT
ONSLOW COUNTY

Tabernacle United Methodist Church Maysville, North Carolina



1806 — 2006

6:12 PM 6/5/2006

Tabernacle United Methodist Church
Maysville, North Carolina

Bishop: Al Gwynn
District Superintendent..... Doug Jessie
Pastor Rev. Carolyn Roy
Lay Leader Thomas Chavis
Chairman Administrative Board Wanda Meadows
Sunday School Superintendent Wanda Meadows
President, United Methodist Women..... Alyce Collins

HISTORY OF TABERNACLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1806 - 2006

The origin of Tabernacle United Methodist Church takes one back to the days of the circuit rider and the camp meeting in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Who first brought Methodism to the early settlers of this area. Perhaps it was Joseph Pilmoor, the first lay preacher commissioned by John Wesley to America, who traveled from New Bern to Wilmington in early 1773. Perhaps it was Bishop Francis Asbury, the "prophet of the long road," who passed through this vicinity in 1785 and several times thereafter, or perhaps it was the fiery Methodist Evangelist Lorenzo "Crazy" Dow, who, according to tradition, preached here in 1804. Or perhaps it was some unnamed, unsung circuit rider, braving wind and rain on horseback to bring the gospel wherever men and women were to be found.

Although official records are absent, there is a strong tradition which places the organization of Tabernacle Church during the period of revivalism which spread throughout the state in camp meetings and evangelistic service between the years 1802 and 1810. These were occasions where "loud cries and shouts of praise are heard, "where groans of distressed went up," and where all "pleaded with the Lord."

Tradition assigns 1806 as the year when a great revival swept through this area. The early meeting place was an improvised "tabernacle" a brush arbor of boughs and branches, providing some

shelter for the worshippers from the elements. This temporary brush shelter became known as "The Tabernacle."

The first pastor sent to preach at Tabernacle is believed to be Elijah Grinead, who served here until 1810, about whom no further information is available. Sometime after the great revival perhaps as a direct result of it, the brush arbor was replaced by a frame structure as a place of worship. The name "Tabernacle" was retained and transferred to the new building, known as the "Tabernacle Methodist Meeting House."

The oldest existing official document relating to Tabernacle Church is a deed for the land on which the church now stands, bearing the date August 26, 1829. The land was deeded by Thomas A. Bell to the following trustees: John G. Lloyd, John Freeman, Ebenezer Burnape, Mitchell Barber, and Jame Wade, for the sum of \$100. The clause reads: "the aforesaid lot and house of worship for the only use of members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and their successors in office."

The first conference man who was sent to pastor the church was Rev. Thomas C. Moses, who served in the early 1840's. At this time Tabernacle Church was a part of the Onslow Circuit in the newly formed North Carolina Conference.

The original structure was used forty three years after the close of the Revolutionary War. The present structure was erected in 1857. It contained a gallery that was used by the Negro Slave before the Civil War. The Church Conference record of February 28, 1897 show the present church building was remodeled, the gallery was removed, and an extension which included two windows was built to the rear of the pulpit to furnish more room, also light. The gallery was in use about forty years.

Records show that twenty four pastors served Tabernacle Church from 1805-1879. Our records show that the following pastors have served Tabernacle Church since 1879. Tabernacle was one of six churches of the North Carolina Conference that formed the then Maysville Charge in the Wilmington District. The churches were namely Maysville, Pollocksville, Lee's Chapel, Hopewell, Belgrade, and Tabernacle.

F. B. McCall was received on trial at the North Carolina Conference, held in Wilson, North Carolina in 1879, and appointed to "Onslow Circuit" for his first work. He traveled and preached in most communities in Onslow County whether a church was erected or not. He preached in homes and any place where people could gather in

groups due to the walking that was required. When he saw the interest, often he would remain there as much as two weeks staying in the homes. As he found the needs in the circuit, sometimes it would be three months before he could return to the Tabernacle place of worship. Records show that Rev. McCall preached his last message at Tabernacle in January, 1890.

Rev. McCall was succeeded by Joseph L. Keen in December 1890 to December 1893.

Reverends Starling and Carpenter were succeeded by Daniel Reid, who served only eighteen months due to his death on June 17th, 1896. J. A. Rouse succeeded Reid and served out that year.

Charles P. Snow succeeded Rev. Rouse in December 1896 and served one year to 1897.

David W. Sanders, a large slave-holder of the community, donated \$500 on the condition that quarters would be provided for his slaves.

By 1879 Tabernacle Church was one of seven congregations forming the Onslow Circuit. That far back Tabernacle had already developed a reputation for warmth and friendliness. Rev. Matthew Moore recalled his first appointment to the Onslow Circuit in 1879. (The circuit was at this time drolly referred to as the "The Calf Pasture," due to the fact that it was so often supplied by young preachers in their first year in the ministry.) He wrote:

"If I had any serious misgivings as to my well-being in the calf pasture, they would surely have been dispelled by the kindnesses showered upon me by the good people of Tabernacle Church, where I preached my first sermon. I knew the people had asked that an elderly man be sent to them as pastor that year. I knew that they had come to believe that the long succession of boy pastors had seriously interfered with the proper development of the charge, and I knew full well that the beardless boy in the pulpit that day was a disappointment to all that they had deemed necessary for the progress of the church, but I never would have known their views by their greetings. Their church loyalty buried all their previous objections. I was appointed by the bishop; I was their preacher. Every home was thrown wide open to me with a cordiality that was too transparent to be misunderstood."

The records show that in May 1898 to July 1899 Rev. J. A. Rouse returned to Tabernacle the second time.

Furney S. Becton succeeded Rouse and served Tabernacle Church from the years 1900 to 1902.

In the years of 1902 to 1905 the work was served by W. A. Jenkins.

The years of 1906 to 1908, O. C. Geddie served this church. He was succeeded by J. T. Stanford who served 1909 to 1912, and was followed by R. L. Carraway from 1913 to 1914.

Conference began convening the last of November, thus when a pastor was moved, the new pastor preached the month of December in that year.

E. C. Sell served the church from December 1914 to 1916.

T. W. Lee followed Sell from December 1916 to 1919. Notice that it was during Lee's three years on this work that the population in and around the community of Belgrade had grown, and roads and transportation improved.

During the pastorate of T. W. Lee, the need and desire for a church in the Belgrade community became apparent. To meet this need, a daughter church was organized in 1918 under Rev. Lee: Belgrade Methodist Episcopal Church. A number of Tabernacle members joined this church.

At this time Tabernacle Church was a part of the Maysville Charge of the Wilmington District. Five other churches helped to make up the charge: Pollocksville, Lee's Chapel, Maysville, Hopewell, and Belgrade.

M. W. Hester succeeded Lee as of December 1919 to 1922 for two years.

L. E. Sawyer followed Hester for this work as of December 1922 to 1925. Rev. Sawyer liked music and singing. As he viewed the old badly dilapidated foot pump organ, minus chord, and sound stops, and no front board, he was disappointed.

A new piano was purchased from a Piano Company in New Bern, North Carolina for \$350, April 15th, 1922. That piano served the church for fifty five years and was replaced by our present piano. The old piano remains with us. It was placed in the fellowship hall and is used for practice sessions prior to church service.

E. C. Sell came to this work in December 1925 to 1926, serving one year. This was his second assignment to Tabernacle.

J. C. Harmon followed Sell to this work December 1926 to 1930.

Mark W. Lawrence served this work from December 1930 to 1932.

N. M. Wright served this work from December 1932 to 1933.

Chester J. Andrews came to this work in December 1933 to 1937. During his tenure a combination coal and work heater replaced the old iron wood burning stove. This was quite an improvement and made a tremendous difference in the heating of the church.

Rev. Andrews was succeeded by H. Leroy Harris in December 1937 to 1942. Notice that Harris served us five years. While here he compiled and wrote the first history of the Tabernacle Church that covered one hundred thirty two years of worship on this plot. Also while Rev. Harris was with us electricity was installed in the church and the electric light replaced the old kerosene wass lamp.

N. P. Edens followed Harris in December 1942 to 1945. While Edens was with us "gas floor furnace" heat was installed with three heaters, this being an enjoyable improvement to the church. The heating was further modernized under Rev. Edens; three gas floor heaters were installed.

D. D. Broome served us from December 1945 to 1947.

J. D. Stott was here from December 1947 to 1949.

Ralph H. Lewis came to this work in 1949 to 1953. During Rev. Lewis tenure the church was extended in the back to include Sunday School Classrooms.

"Remember a charge of six churches were on the Wilmington District". It was in the year 1952 while Ralph H. Lewis was serving these churches that the Maysville Charge was changed from the Wilmington District to the New Bern District. At that time the conference permitted a pastor to serve a charge not over four years. Having come to this work in November 1949 to 1953, the people of all the churches he served and the communities, expressed regret that Rev. Lewis was to move from our midst, for he was not only a dedicated pastor but a good servant to all. However, at the close of the year 1953, the Maysville Church went station, therefore the other five churches were united as Pollocksville Charge. Due to many changes the conference allowed Rev. Lewis to remain as pastor of the Maysville Charge.

Rev. P. C. Yelverton served the five churches on the Pollocksville Charge for four and one-half years from November 1953 to June 1958, due to change in close of the Conference Church year from November to November to June to June.

Then in June 1958 Pollocksville and Lee's Chapel joined as a charge.

Hopewell Church was discontinued, and its members joined with Maysville, Belgrade, and Tabernacle. The Belgrade Church built the parsonage and Richard W. Harrington was the first pastor to live in the parsonage from June 1958 to June 1959 and serve the present Belgrade/Tabernacle Charge.

Rev. J. A. Cooper came to the Belgrade/Tabernacle Charge in June 1959, a dedicated servant to God's work, yet God called him from us within six months. He died in the parsonage study.

E. C. Ruffin was sent to us that December 1959 and he was with us only six month until June 1960.

Rev. W. E. Pickett came to our charge in June 1960 to March 1963. Another faithful and dedicated servant, yet God called him from us after serving two years and nine months. It was while Rev. Pickett served us that the memorial windows were placed in the church in the year 1961.

Fred Lutz Jr., a Marine Chaplain from Camp Lejeune was permitted by government officials to move in the parsonage and serve the Belgrade/Tabernacle Charge, coming to us at the passing of Rev. Pickett. Mr. Lutz joined us on March 16th, 1963 and served through June 1965. The two years he worked with us a hardwood floor was laid over the original floor of ten inch width hewn boards fastened with spikes. The pews were cleaned of old paint and refinished and inside of the sanctuary painted. New pulpit furniture was purchased and placed in the sanctuary, with memorial inscriptions, on the 20th day of October 1963.

Also during the tenure of Rev. Lutz, the need and desires for a fellowship hall on the church plot developed. First move, considered location space. It was found that the deed for the original boundary lines for the church plot were not straight, thus being narrow in one area and wide and out of line on another. The only location on this plot that we could build a fellowship hall was in the narrow boundary area. The land that bordered the church plot belonged to James A. Hewitt and wife Minnie Mallard Hewitt, purchased within the past fifty years. They are members of Tabernacle Church, Mr. Hewitt a Trustee. In order to get space for the fellowship hall, required the widening of a back corner boundary. Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt agreed for the church to have the plot surveyed, straightening the lines, placing new markers and giving new deed. This new deed was made, signed and "Recorded on February 3rd, 1964" in Book Number 328, Page 628, in the Onslow County Courthouse, Jacksonville, North Carolina.

Ground breaking ceremonies for the fellowship hall was held on

Saturday, April 18th, 1964. Some of those present that took part in the ceremony were District Supt. Rev. R. Grady Dawson, Rev. and Mrs. Fred Lutz, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Gillette, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Home, James A. Hewitt, Zeke Morton, and Harold Morton. The fellowship hall was completed in October 1965.

Another dedicated servant Rev. A. C. Regan came to our Charge on June 13th, 1965 to succeed Rev. Lutz. Again the members faced the passing of another pastor on August 7, 1965, serving us less than two months.

On September 1, 1965 the conference returned Rev. Ralph H. Lewis to our work for the second term. He served nine months.

The conference in June 1966 sent B. F. Smith to this charge, he served two and one-half years and resigned in November 1968.

The new year brought Rev. E. H. Overman to the church in January 1969 to June 1974, serving the church for five and one-half years.

Rev. Stephen E. Young, served from June 1975 to January 1976.

Tabernacle Church is proud to have sent three men from its membership into the United Methodist ministry. They are Herbert Horne, Fallon Melville, and Carl Eller.

Tabernacle Church seeks to remain true to its evangelical heritage. The Word of God is faithfully preached within its hallowed walls. Men, women, youth, and children are taught the truths of the faith by dedicated workers of the Lord. We pray that the Holy Spirit will always dwell within the Tabernacle Church and proclaim the good news of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Over the years continued improvements to the church are as follows:

- (1) The Pulpit Ensemble Scarf and Bookmark, 1963.
- (2) Brass Cross and Candle Holders, 1971.
- (3) Lower Floor for the Sunday School Rooms were tiled, 1971.
- (4) Brick Steps, 1972.
- (5) Central Heating and Cooling System, 1973.
- (6) Carpet for the Sanctuary, 1974.

- (7) Landscaping, 1977.
- (8) Hymnals, 1977.
- (9) Piano, 1977.
- (10) Church painted inside, 1977.
- (11) Book racks for pews, 1978.
- (12) Cushion for pews, 1978.
- (13) Driveway was paved, 1980.
- (14) Siding on Church, 1985.
- (15) Gas Heaters for Sunday School Rooms, date unknown.
- (16) New windows for the fellowship hall, 1986.
- (17) Heating and Cooling for the fellowship hall, 1987.
- (18) Lowered the ceiling for the fellowship hall, 1987.
- (19) Flags for the church, 1987.
- (20) Handicap Ramp, 1990.
- (21) Cross in the Sanctuary, 1993.
- (22) Church painted, 1993.
- (23) Hymnals, 1994.
- (24) Water Cooler for the fellowship hall, 1994.
- (25) Brick Sign for the Church, 1994.
- (26) Baptismal Bowl, 1994.
- (27) Cross on top of church, 1994.
- (28) New pews and carpets, 1996.
- (29) Communion travel set, 1997.
- (30) New windows for Sunday School Rooms, 1998.

- (31) New windows for Sunday School Rooms, 2000.
- (32) Heating & Cooling System for Sunday School Rooms, 2001.
- (33) Landscaping, 2003.
- (34) Four Picnic Tables, 2003.
- (35) Carpet, 2003.
- (36) Utility Shed, 2003.
- (37) Narthex, 2004. Rev. Joe Parker's inspiration and leadership prompted this major project.
- (38) Outdoor Lighting, 2004.
- (39) Sound System for the Sanctuary, 2005.
- (40) Gravemarker for four unnamed slaves, 2006.
- (41) Breezeway adjoining the church and fellowship hall, 2006.
- (42) Communion Set, 2006.

PASTORS OF TABERNACLE CHURCH

(Information concerning pastors prior to 1869 is scant and of less reliability than that after this date.)

•Elijah Grinead •*Mr. Roberson about 1810 •Erasmus Hill •Mr. Competon •Mr. Jordan •Thomas C. Moses •E. L. Perkins •Mr. Browning •Mr. Taylor •Dougan Johnson about 1856 •Mr. Heppdenstall •Mr. Peeler •Mr. Hines •John Brent •John Mattocks •Daniel Cuibreth •Mr. Bowie •R. T. N. Stephenson 1869-1870 •P. P. Bipp 1870- 1873 •W. R. Ferguson 1873-1874 •L. W. Pigott 1874-1875 •G. W. Hardison 1875-1877 •W. P. McCorcle 1877-1878 •Matthew H. Moore 1878-1879 •F. B. McCall 1879-1880 •J. T. Kendall 1880-1881 •Robert L. Warlick 1881-1882 •C. L. Smith 1882-1884 •Duncan A. Futrell 1884-1885 •Zedeck Paris 1885-1886 •Nathan A. Hooker 1886-1887 •J. C. Crisp 1887-1888 •Henderson Cole 1888-1890 •Joseph L. Keen 1890-1893 •G. W. Starling 1893-1894 •J. A. Rouse 1895-1896 •Charles P. Snow 1896-1897 •J. A. Rouse 1898-1899 •Furney S. Becton 1900-1902 •W. A. Jenkins 1902-1905 •D.

C. Geddie 1905-1908 •J. T. Stanford 1908-1912 •R. L. Carraway 1912-1914 •E. C. Sell 1914-1916 •T. W. Lee 1916-1919 •M. W. Hester 1919-1922 •L. E. Sawyer 1922-1925 •E. C. Sell 1925-1926 •J. C. Harmon 1926-1930 •Mark W. Lawrence 1930-1932 •N. M. Wright 1932-1933 •Chester J. Andrews 1933-1937 •H. Leroy Harris 1937-1942 •N. P. Edens 1942-1945 •O. D. Broome 1945-1947 •J. O. Stott 1947-1949 •Ralph H. Lewis 1949-1953 •P. C. Yelverton 1953-1958 •Richard Harrington 1958-1959 •*J. A. Cooper 1959 •E. C. Ruffin 1959-1960 •*W. E. Pickett 1960-1963 •Fred Lutz Jr., 1963-1965 •A. C. Regan 1965 •Ralph H. Lewis 1965-1966 •B. E. Smith 1966-1968 •E. H. Overman 1968-1974 •Stephen E. Young 1974-1978 •Marty Nason 1978-1980 •Nancy Best 1980-1983 •Harold Pickett 1983-1987 •James M. Short 1987-1991 •Bob Craig 1991-1992 •Lawrence Lugar 1993 •Kenneth W. Sexton 1993-1996 •Joseph Parker 1996-2000 •Matthew Whitacre 2000-2003 •Carolyn Roy 2003-present.

CHURCH CEMETERY

•Aman, David Sanders •Aman, Ruth Jane •Bell, William H. •Biggs, Herman T. •Bray, William T. •Bray, Mollie M. •Bush, Celeste S. •Cole, Thomas J. •Cooper, Delma •Cooper, Lamont •Cooper, Ruth •Cooper, Hilary •Solon-Dixon •infant son of Aldon Dixon •Eubank, Charles Duffy •Evans, Henry Mack •Evans, Jessie Thomas •Evans, Sarah Jane •Foy, Carrie C. •Foy, Willie A. •Hagland, Catherine S. •Hagland, Edgar •Henderson, Bernard L. •Henderson, Willie B. •Henderson, Joanna M. •Henderson, Lemuel •Henderson, Nancy E. •Hogge, Mosby •Hogge, Dora Sabiston •Howland, David W. •Howland, Elizabeth •James, Hallie •Johnson, Helen Hogge •Jones, John S. •Jones, Jennie S. •Jones, Mollie •Jones, S. M. •Jones, Olive Ann •Jones, Ferrand •Jones, Baby Girl •Jones, Faroy C. •Jones, Gilbert •Jones, Senie L. Wells •Jones, Samuel B. •Jones, Neva Provost •Jones, Emma C. •Jones, Issac H. •Morton, Margaret •Odum, Leland C. •Odum, James A. •Oliver, Elizabeth A. •Oliver, William •Oliver, Dougan Johnson •Oliver, Julia Smith •Oliver, Willie Kendall •Provow, Thomas •Provow, Mollie Elizabeth •Riggs, Maggie Christine •Riggs, Mollie •Riggs, John E. •Riggs, Sue A. •Riggs, Lelia L. •Sabiston, Matthew •Sabiston, Katherine Coston •Sabiston, Mottle •Sabiston, Millie •Shaw, Alma Sabiston •Starling, Sadie Morris •Sula, Ina •Taylor, Pamela •Thomas, Adella C. Thomas, Lewis A. •Thomas, Lewis G. •Ward, Gertrude Bell •Ward, Josie Herbert •Ward Josie Cora •Weatherington, E. Paula Jones •Broken marker (initials "C.D.E.") •Unnamed Baby Girl •Four Souls Known Only by God (Slaves) •Unnamed Baby Boy.

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