

**HISTORY OF  
UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ROUTE 3  
LILLINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA**

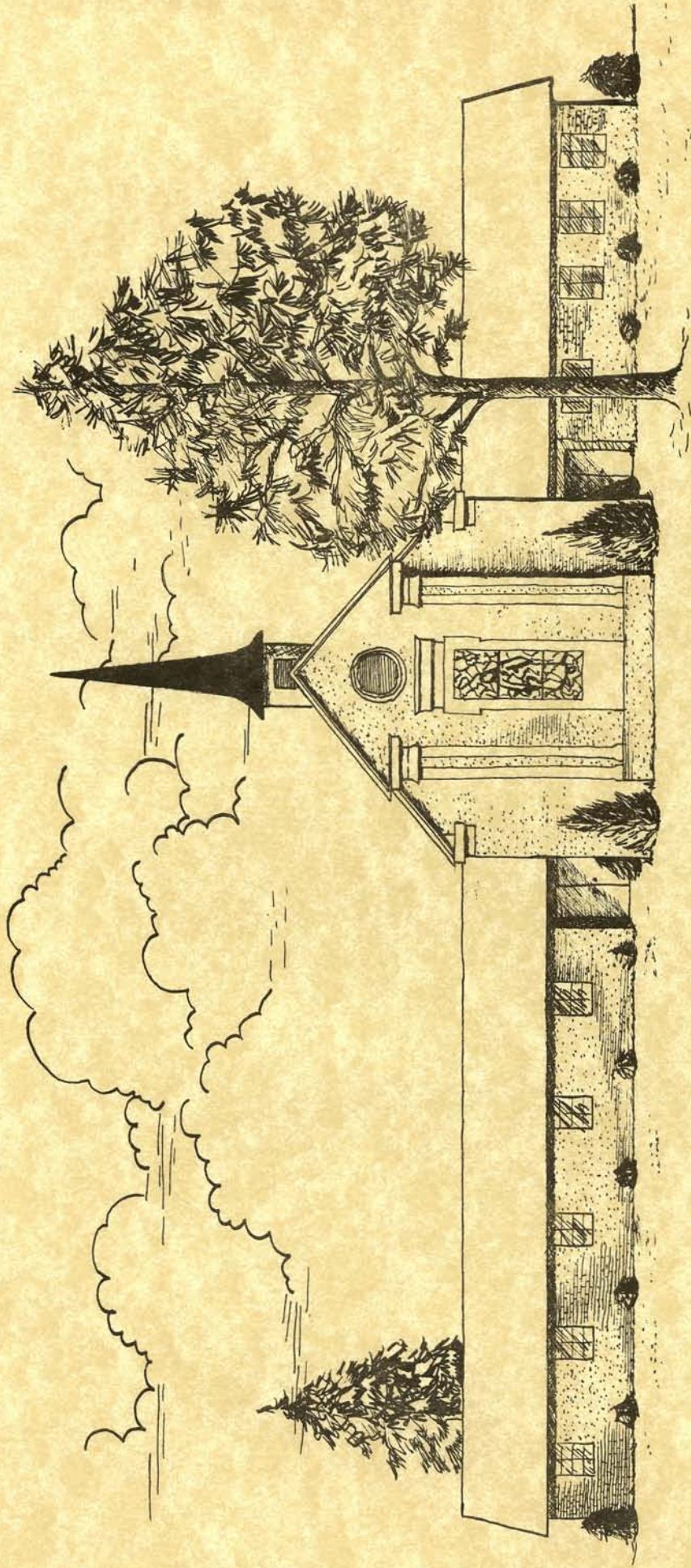
HISTORY OF UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
(1939 - MAY 1973)

BY

REVEREND WILLIAM B. SLAUGHTER

AND

MRS. MOLLIE P. TAYLOR



*Union United Methodist Church*

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## PREFACE

This book (in May 1973) covers 33 years of the history and growth of Union United Methodist Church, Route 3, Lillington, North Carolina. The history is only as accurate as the records which were kept or as memory can be when partially obliterated by time. Most of the facts presented here can be substantiated by actual records which were kept by the various ministers who served Union Church, the Methodist Journal of the Raleigh District, the Secretary of the Woman's Society of Christian Service (WSCS), the Secretary of the Administrative Board, and the Secretary of the Methodist Men's Club.

All members of Union Methodist Church were given the opportunity to furnish information for this history so that it would contain the information they wished to be included. Our appreciation goes to those of Union Church and others who were able to furnish us with pertinent data concerning the actual events which occurred in the organization of the Church and the subsequent events after the Church was well established. Among those who have furnished us with information are Reverend F. R. Davis, Reverend J. R. Regan, Reverend H. H. Cash, Mrs. Magdalene West, Mrs. Alda Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Amos Powell, Mrs. Lura Carey, Reverend and Mrs. Thomas H. House, Mrs. Joyce Puryear, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Johnson, Mrs. Bertha Kinton, Mrs. Mollie Cain, Mrs. Alma Johnson, and Mrs. Lelia Puryear.

Reverend William B. Slaughter's portion of this history is dedicated to three people--his mother (Mrs. Ethel Slaughter), without whose prayers and encouragement he would never have become a minister; Mrs. John E. Taylor, who had faith in him; and Reverend Flake R. Davis, who prayed for him and encouraged him.

Mrs. Mollie P. Taylor's portion of this history is dedicated to two people--her husband (Johnnie H. Taylor), without whose encouragement, understanding, patience, and assistance, she would have given up in despair in the early stages of writing the history; and Mrs. Dorothy G. Johnson, who is a humble, sincere, hard-working, dedicated Christian in her daily life. The most wonderful gift Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Gilchrist have ever given to Union Methodist Church is their daughter Dorothy.

W. B. S.

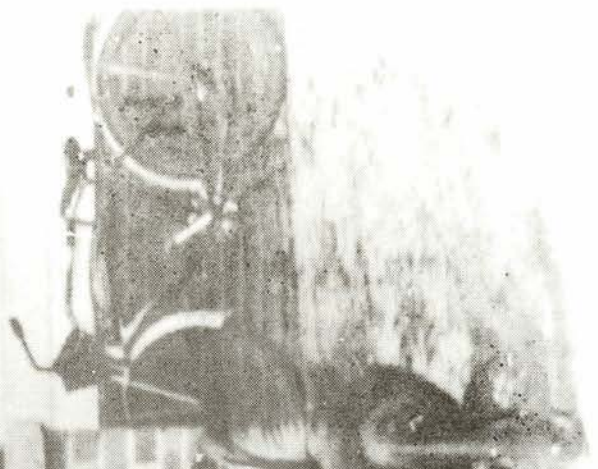
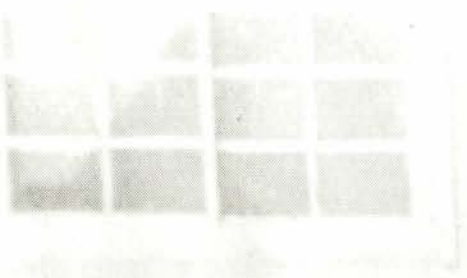
M. P. T.

PASTORS OF UNION METHODIST CHURCH

Dates of Service

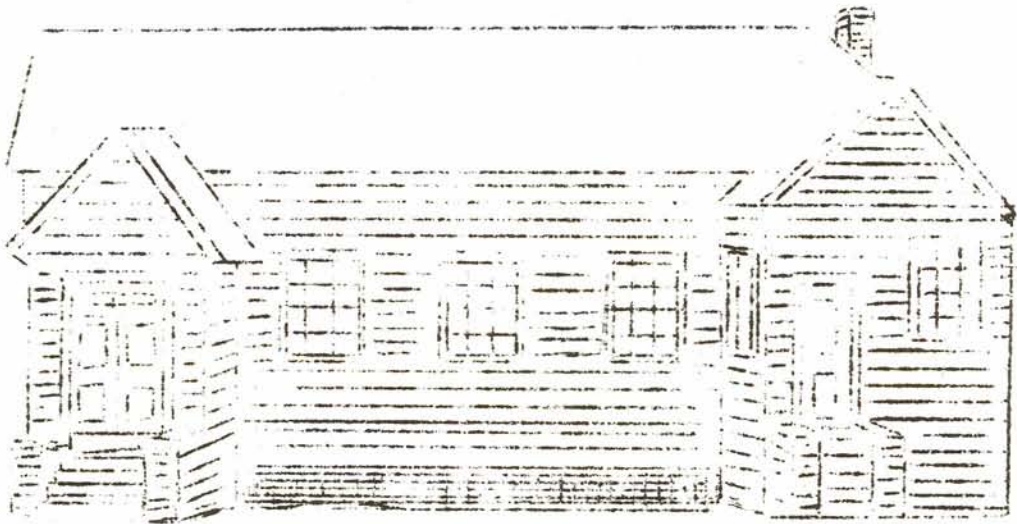
<u>Name</u>	<u>Came</u>	<u>Left</u>
Flake R. Davis	Beginning of Church	November 1943
J. Robert Regan	November 1943	November 1945
O. C. Melton	November 1945	November 1949
H. H. Cash	November 1949	November 1952
Job Overton	November 1952	November 1953
J. Doane Stott	November 1953	June 1955
*W. C. Shaw	June 1955	
R. A. McLean	April 1956	June 1956
Thomas H. House	June 1956	June 1960
L. Ray Sparrow	June 1960	June 1963
D. M. Tyson	June 1963	June 1964
Lewis H. Dodson	June 1964	June 1966
Fletcher W. Fraley	June 1966	June 1967
H. Dennis Draper, Jr.	June 1967	June 1970
Fletcher W. Fraley	June 1970	

\*Reverend Shaw died while he was pastor at Union. The date of his death is unknown to the authors. Union was without a pastor for a time before Reverend McLean came as pastor.

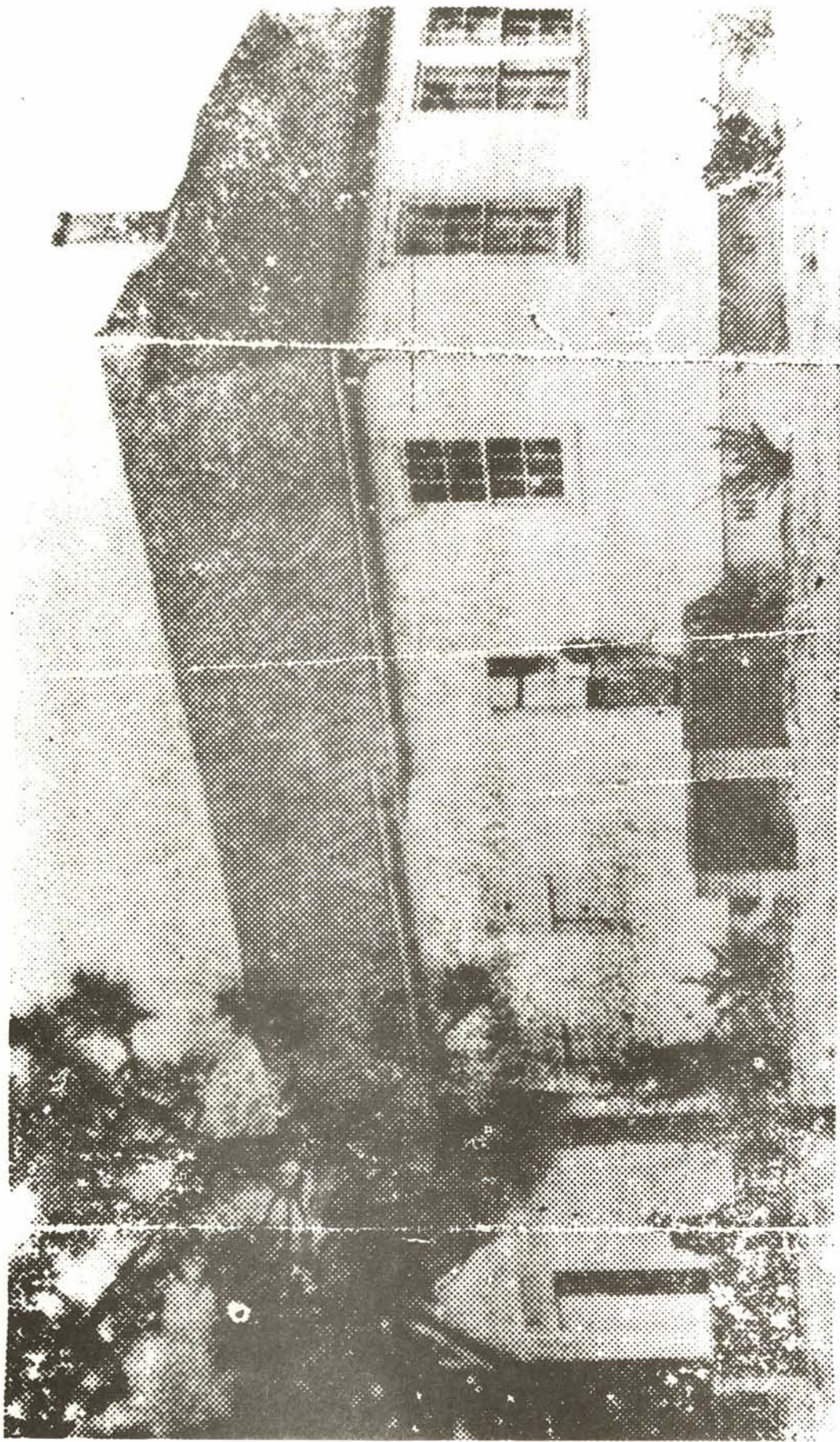


A SKETCH OF THE FIRST UNION CHURCH

(By Fred A. Johnson)





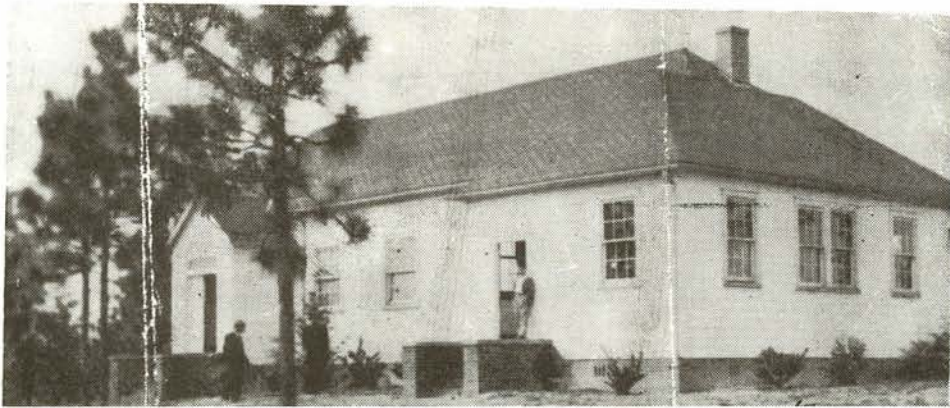


**Union Church on the Mammers Charge**

## Tree Top Forms Cross



The congregation of the Union Methodist Church in Harnett County have approached their pastor, the Rev. R. H. Cash, about erecting a steeple to improve the appearance of the church. At the present time, however, much interest is being shown in an evergreen adjacent to the church. Top branches of the tree furnish a perfect cross. The church is located seven miles from Lillington on the Johnsonville highway. (Photo by Walter E. Langston, Wilson).



## THE FIRST UNION CHURCH

During 1939 and 1940, Mrs. John E. Taylor contacted the pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Mamers, North Carolina, to obtain his assistance in organizing a church in what is presently known as the Union Community. The community was very sparsely settled at that time, but she had the vision and foresight to know that her children and her neighbors' children needed to attend church. She was a Baptist herself and would have preferred that her children attend a Baptist Church. Nevertheless, it was of utmost importance to her and her husband that their community have a church no matter what the denomination. The pastor of Antioch denied her requests.

Then Mrs. Taylor contacted the pastor of Barbecue Presbyterian Church in her endeavor to organize a church. Again, the request was denied.

It seemed that the last hope for organizing a church lay in obtaining help from Reverend Flake R. Davis, who was overburdened already with pastoring a charge consisting of four churches--Spring Hill, Woodside, Cool Springs, and Mt. Ariel. Mrs. J. M. Langston talked to Reverend Davis concerning the desire for a church in the Union Community. He replied that he would see what he could do after praying about the matter. His reply was not a way of sidestepping the issue. He was sincere in the reply that he would pray about it. He was a praying man who never undertook any course of action without first praying about it. Everything was given his prayerful consideration, and so he began praying for Union Community to have a church.

While awaiting an answer to their request for a church, prayer meetings were held in the community. The first prayer meeting, in all probability, was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Langston. These people in Union Community were willing to pray for a church, and later they proved that they were willing to work to build a church.

Mrs. John E. Taylor was steadfast in her determination that there be a church in the community; therefore, the first positive efforts to begin an organized Sunday School and church were begun in mid 1940 when Mrs. Taylor secured permission from Mr. Atlas S. Davis, the manager of Overhills Nursery, to use an abandoned schoolhouse for services.

Mrs. Taylor's next action was to contact Corporal William B. Slaughter and his wife Myrtle, who had settled in the Union Community. Although Corporal and Mrs. Slaughter were members of Spring Hill Methodist Church, they were anxious to see a church built in their community. Mrs. Taylor pleaded with Corporal Slaughter to take the leading role in organizing a Sunday School. She was so persistent

that he accepted the challenge. The announcement was made at prayer meeting that Sunday School would be held Sunday afternoon at 2:00 P.M. in the Overhills Schoolhouse. This occurred in mid 1940. Approximately thirty people were present for the service, with Corporal William B. Slaughter acting as Sunday School Superintendent and teacher of the lesson. He was elected the first Superintendent and class teacher. Reverend F. R. Davis was present. He gave words of wisdom with love and great encouraging results. This was the beginning of the organizing of Union Methodist Church. Reverend Davis accepted the challenge, took charge, and began organizing and making immediate plans for a new church. In the spring, summer, and fall, some of the youngsters had their Sunday School lesson in a wagon outside the schoolhouse with their teacher.

The first revival was held in the early fall of 1940 in the Overhills Schoolhouse. Reverend J. W. Grace was the evangelist. The revival was a success.

In the late fall of 1940, Mr. Atlas S. Davis notified the members of the Sunday School that the school building could no longer be used because it had become a fire hazard. Mr. John Aaron Senter invited the Sunday School to use his packhouse, which could be heated by wood heaters. This building was used until the new church was finished to the degree that it could be used.

It was noted and should never be forgotten by the members of Union Church that Reverend F. R. Davis used his car and traveled innumerable miles at his own expense transporting free labor to work on Union Church. He dressed in his work clothes and helped saw logs and haul lumber for the building. When Mr. Davis was reminded that he was working too hard, his reply was that he had rather wear out than rust out. It was not unusual to see Reverend Davis in the woods below the church praying. Though the church was built of wood, the foundation consisted of brick and was mixed with mortar and prayer, which is a wonderful foundation for a church.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Cain furnished the lumber for the church building.

Many of the adults knew of the prayer habits of Reverend Davis; however, the children were not as familiar with his prayer habits as their parents were. Mrs. Henry Clay, who lived near the church building, once sent her son Bruce to get the cow late in the afternoon. He came running home, badly frightened, because he thought he had seen and heard a ghost. Mrs. Clay went to get the cow and find what had frightened him. When she got near the cow, she heard Reverend Davis praying. He was wearing a white shirt. No doubt he was praying about the church and its leaders. He had asked Mrs. Mollie Cain to teach

many times. She replied that she was not capable and that she had a small child that needed attention during Sunday School and preaching. Through his prayers and encouragement, she began to teach the young people and continued to teach them for several years.

The Church was fully organized, and services began in the new building in August 1941. According to the 1941 Methodist Journal of the Raleigh District, there were thirty-two Charter Members (twelve on profession of faith and twenty by transfer) of Union Methodist Church. Church Roll Books have been checked, and contact has been made with individuals where doubt of membership existed. Charter Members were:

Mrs. John E. Taylor	Miss Beatrice Allgood
Mr. John E. Taylor	Mrs. Rhoda Wheeler
Corporal William B. Slaughter	Mr. Carl Lytle
Mrs. William B. Slaughter	Mrs. Carl Lytle
Mrs. J. M. Langston	Mr. Boyd (Ernest) Holt
Mr. J. M. Langston	Mrs. Boyd (Ernest) Holt
Mr. George Langston	Mrs. M. L. Halre
Mr. James Langston, Jr.	Mrs. Pauline Coffey
Miss Eula Lee Langston	Miss Viola Darroch
Mr. Green C. Womack	Mr. W. A. Puryear
Mrs. Green C. Womack	Mrs. W. A. Puryear
Mr. Billy Mason	Mr. John A. Carey
Miss Mary Mason	Mrs. John A. Carey
Mrs. O. D. Allgood	Mrs. W. C. Cain
Mr. Johnnie H. Taylor	Mr. L. E. Strickland
Mr. Fred T. Taylor	Mrs. L. E. Strickland

Although they were not Charter Members of Union, Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Gilchrist are worthy of recognition and are appreciated because they were members of the Sunday School from the beginning and they have supported the entire Church program with their prayers, their presence, and their finances.

The value of the unfinished Church building was \$2,300.00, and it was insured for \$1,700.00. At the end of the Church Year, there were 56 members enrolled in the Sunday School. Reverend Davis' salary for 1941 amounted to \$20.00. No money was owed on the Church building because it was built on a pay-as-you-go basis.

The first Fifth Sunday singing that was held in Union Church was held when there was only a sub floor in the Church. When the singing was planned, there was no piano. Corporal Slaughter went to Raleigh to purchase one. He did not have quite enough money for

the one he wanted to buy. The clerk told him that if he didn't have any more money, he could have it for the amount he had. Mr. I. J. Gilchrist gave a generous donation to Mr. Slaughter after the piano had been purchased.

The pastor's salary for 1942 was \$100.00. The value of the church property was \$3,200.00. The Church had 39 members, and there were 66 Sunday School members.

On March 7, 1943, Union Methodist Church was dedicated. Bishop Clare Purcell signed the Dedication Certificate. District Superintendent H. I. Glass delivered the Dedication Message. Reverend F. R. Davis was pastor.

When Reverend Davis was given another appointment, Reverend J. R. Regan became pastor of Union Church. His salary the first year was \$150.00. Church membership increased to 54, and the Sunday School enrollment was 61. Total collections for the year amounted to \$397.00.

Reverend J. R. Regan remained our pastor for 1944. His salary was raised to \$175.00. Church membership increased to 65. There were 101 people enrolled in Sunday School.

Throughout World War II, the prayer meetings continued. They were held in the Church. Every Wednesday night, during prayer meeting, altar prayer was held for peace and the safe return of all the men who were in the armed forces. Two of our members, John A. Carey and Breland Puryear were prisoners of war. Both of these men returned safely, and not one person from Union Church was killed during the war. All the members of Union Church felt that the men in the armed forces were protected through their petitions at the altar during prayer meeting.

Anyone who ever heard Mr. Will Stephens testify at prayer meeting is never likely to forget him. He was a very humble, dedicated man who sought God's direction and guidance from day to day. He served as a source of inspiration to all who knew him. He was not a member of Union Church, but he attended the weekly prayer meetings regularly because his church had no prayer meetings.

Reverend J. R. Regan remained our pastor until November 1945. His salary for that year was \$197.00. Total collections for the year amounted to \$539.00. Church membership had increased to 83. Sunday School enrollment decreased to 94.

Lelia Graves, later Lelia Puryear, was the pianist for Union Church in its early years and Carl Lytle was the song leader. She played music by ear and could not read a note. Once when Mr. Lytle announced that the congregation would sing a certain song, Lelia Graves turned to that song and began to play another. When she realized that something was amiss, she stopped and started over and played the correct song.

When the Methodist Conference met in November 1945, they sent Reverend O. C. Melton to be our pastor. His salary was \$220.00. He preached very unusual sermons because he usually preached from an unfamiliar portion of the scripture. Total collections for the year amounted to \$706.00. Church membership increased to 140; and the Sunday School enrollment rose to 131.

The growth in Church membership in 1946 is attributed mainly to the revival which was held in June. According to the record and to the Methodist Journal of the Raleigh District, Union Church had one of the best revivals that year in the entire district. District Superintendent H. I. Glass stated that it was one of the best reports that he had ever received. The results from the revival were 57 new members on profession of faith and 2 by transfer, for a total of 59 new members.

The evangelist for the revival in 1946 was Reverend Ralph Knight from Durham, who was converted in a Holiness Church, was pastoring a Baptist Church, and was conducting a revival in a Methodist Church. This all goes back to the teaching of Paul when he said, "I have planted and Apollos has watered, but God gave the increase." Here, Pastor O. C. Melton did the planting, Reverend Ralph Knight did the watering, but God gave the increase. Mrs. W. A. Puryear was responsible for the Church's getting Reverend Knight as the evangelist for this revival because she had already heard him preach and highly recommended that we get him for our revival. Reverend Melton thought that we could not pay him the amount he was accustomed to receiving for holding revivals because we were a poor and struggling church. Pastor O. C. Melton said that he would be unable to attend all the services himself and was, therefore, putting the responsibility in the hands of the Sunday School Superintendent, Mr. W. B. Slaughter. The Church broke all of its records in giving for the evangelist. Money raised and paid to Reverend Knight was \$121.02. The pastor's salary for the year was only \$220.00.

There was a good moral man in the community who had attended Sunday School and preaching services regularly prior to this revival.



The evangelist talked with him early in the week and asked him to give his heart to God. The man said that he would do this before the conclusion of the revival. Each night, he would move farther toward the back of the Church. The last sermon was preached on Saturday night. By that time, the man had moved to the back pew beside the wall with no aisle on that side. When the invitation was given, the men on the seat started toward the altar with the exception of the man who had made the promise to the evangelist. The evangelist left the altar area, went to the back row, placed his arm around the man and told him this was his last chance to give his heart to God during this revival. Together they went to the altar. As they went, the man touched different men sitting next to the aisle, and they arose and followed him to the altar where they gave their hearts to God. This man's influence was great, and his quiet, unassuming manner was felt for the rest of his life in Union Church.

It would be very difficult to pinpoint the year when the MYF first started to meet, but it was sometime in the early 1940s. Some of the early counselors were Mr. William B. Slaughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Little, and Mr. and Mrs. Breland Puryear. Often at these meetings, Mr. I. J. Gilchrist would appear at the end and serve cakes which he had baked himself.

In 1946, Mr. J. C. Clayton became the counselor for the MYF. There was very little transportation in the community. The children would often walk to the Church, sometimes as much as five miles. On one occasion, Melvin Kinton had on his good suit and he got drenched in a downpour. His suit was almost ruined. The children never let rain deter them from their meetings.

The women from the Lillington Methodist Church volunteered to help the women of Union Church organize a Woman's Christian Service. Mrs. Mary Watkins from Lillington was among those who came to help them get organized. Mrs. Lura Carey presided at the meeting in April 1946 when they first met and elected officers. Mrs. Mollie Cain was elected President. Mrs. Lura Carey was elected Secretary and Treasurer. Mr. J. C. Burgess held an office in the W.S.C., though at this time, it cannot be determined what office she held.

A well was needed to furnish drinking water at Union. Mrs. Lura Carey, Mrs. Clifton Clayton, and Mrs. Florence Spence cut turnip greens and sold them to Sharpe's Grocery in Spring Lake to pay for material to make a quilt lining. The rest of the women of the Church came to their rescue and helped them make the top and quilt it. All of them sold tickets for the quilt; and, when the drawing was held, the quilt was won by Mrs. A. K. Darroch's sister. They made enough money to pay for the well drilling which amounted to \$129.00. In later years,

another well was drilled because a deeper well was needed to furnish water for bathrooms when we reached that stage of progress.

There was a gain of two Church members in 1947, and a gain of four members in the Sunday School. The pastor's salary was increased to \$312.00 for the year. The entire collection for the year was \$682.00.

In 1948, there was a gain of fourteen Church members and one Sunday School member. The pastor's salary was increased to \$344.00. Total collections were \$706.00.

In April 1948, the MYF attended a District Meeting in Raleigh. It was quite an occasion for them because they seldom had the opportunity to go to Raleigh. They dressed in their best clothes, and off they went with Johnnie H. Taylor and Sam Burgess furnishing the transportation. They reached Raleigh safely. The way they drove on their return trip cannot be stated here, but it can be said that they reached Angier from Raleigh in a very short time on their return journey. The term for that type of driving today is "Drag Racing." Joyce Powell saw fit to wear a hat, and felt quite conspicuous about it because there were few hats there. As they were leaving the meeting, she walked under a tree and lost her hat. Johnnie Taylor retrieved it for her. To this day, she is still uncomfortable wearing a hat.

Reverend Melton remained at Union until the Annual Conference in November 1949. There was no increase in the pastor's salary for that year. The Church gained 2 members that year, and the Sunday School gained 17 new members.

When Reverend Melton left, Reverend H. H. Cash became our pastor. His salary for his first year was \$480.00. Church Records show that \$887.00 was collected, and Sunday School enrollment was 165 in that year. There was no gain in Church membership.

Beginning sometime in the 1950s, James Taylor served as Sunday School Superintendent for seven consecutive years.

Several people served as MYF counselors in the 1950s. Some of them were Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Johnson, Mrs. Florence Spence, and Mrs. Charles Edwards.

In 1951, Reverend Cash's salary was \$544.00. Collections for the year were \$1,045.00. Church membership increased to 169, which was a gain of 11 new members. Sunday School enrollment remained the same as for the previous year.

We had the first death among our Church members on February 23, 1952. Mr. W. A. Puryear was killed in a wreck near Lillington on that date. His funeral was not held at Union, but rather at Hepzibah Baptist Church near Wendell where he had been a member in his earlier years and where his mother and father were interred. He was also interred there; but, at a later date, he was removed from there and buried in the cemetery at Union. He was the second member buried in the Union cemetery.

In August 1952, the Church was painted on the inside. A cross was painted at the back of the pulpit area.

On September 6, 1952, the first Church wedding was held in Union Church. Lenda Rae Johnson became the bride of Fred T. Taylor. Lenda Rae was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly B. Johnson, and Fred was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Taylor. Virginia Cain (a member at Union) was the maid of honor. Joyce Smith of Raleigh was the bridesmaid. Best man was Ralph (Bobby) Taylor, and ushers were Johnnie H. Taylor and Leon Johnson. The unusual thing about the wedding was that the soloist did not appear until almost the end of the wedding. The wedding music was played by Kathryn Matthews of Sanford; but the soloist, William Wallace, was a college student, and he had missed the bus to Sanford. He drove from Sanford to Union Church and slipped quietly into the Church just as the ceremony was ending, and then he sang "The Lord's Prayer." He did the rest of his singing at the reception, which was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly B. Johnson.

The pastor's salary in 1952 was \$544.00. Total contributions were \$1,584.00. One person joined the Church in that year. Enrollment in Sunday School was 208.

Reverend Job E. Overton became our pastor in November 1952. His salary remained the same as Reverend Cash's salary the previous year. Total contributions amounted to \$974.00. There was a gain of ten Church members, and Sunday School enrollment was 126. One can only assume that the Sunday School roll was updated, and the people who had not attended for some time were dropped from the Sunday School record. Facts and figures lead one to believe that during the time Reverend Overton was pastor at Union a piano and heaters were purchased, because the value of Church property in 1952 was \$3,500.00, but in 1953, the value had risen to \$10,000.00.

In November 1953, Reverend and Mrs. J. Doane Stott came to Union. They had lived in Japan before coming to Union. In later years, after they left Union, they returned to Japan as missionaries.

The first funeral service conducted at Union Church was that of Mr. Henry Powell, who died on April 9, 1954. He was the first person to be buried in the Union cemetery.

There was a gain of one Church member in 1954, and Sunday School enrollment dropped to 121. The pastor's salary for the year was \$612.00. Total contributions amounted to \$2,144.00. This was the most money which had ever been raised in any one year since Union was organized.

Reverend and Mrs. Stott remained at Union until Annual Conference in 1955. It is believed Annual Conference changed that year and was held in the month of June. Records show that his salary for that year was \$408.00. (Such a decrease in salary would have been due to the fact that he did not serve for an entire year. If Annual Conference did change that year, he served for only seven months during the second year of his appointment at Union.) The value of the Church property was \$12,000.00 which was less than the previous year. Contributions for the year were \$1,990.00. Church membership was 169, and Sunday School enrollment was 114. The decrease in membership and the value of Church property is probably attributable to the fact that the United States had been engaged in the Korean Conflict from June 25, 1950 until July 27, 1953; and, in 1955, the United States was in a slight recession. People who had been stationed at Fort Bragg left the Union Community, which lowered the membership in the Church and Sunday School.

The first pastor to die while assigned to Union Church was Reverend W. C. Shaw, who came to Union in June 1955. We were without a pastor for a very short while, then Reverend R. A. McLean was sent to be our pastor. He was a teacher at Anderson Creek High School. He finished out the Conference Year. He became our pastor in April 1956 and remained with us until June 1956. The combined salaries of Reverend Shaw and Reverend McLean amounted to \$612.00. The value of the Church property in 1956 was \$6,000.00. Total contributions were \$1,404.00. Church membership was 169, and Sunday School enrollment was 158.

Reverend Thomas H. House and his wife Marietta were sent to us in June 1956. They had three children, Tommy, Sarah, and Miriam. Reverend and Mrs. House still hold a special place in the people's hearts at Union Church. The pastor's salary for the 1956-1957 Conference Year was \$612.00. Church property was valued at \$6,000.00. Total contributions were \$1,404.00. Church membership totaled 169, and Sunday School enrollment was 158.

What a beautiful voice Sarah House had! She sang at different services in the Church. Mr. J. M. Langston loved to hear her sing "The Ninety and Nine." Prior to his death, he requested that she sing that song at his funeral. Reverend and Mrs. House came back for his funeral, and Sarah sang the song which he had requested.

When Miriam went to college, it was discovered that she could sing too. Mrs. House and Sarah often sang at the WSCS meetings. They sang at one of the WSCS meetings in the parsonage one year at Christmas. All the women who attended the meeting felt that they had been especially blessed.

A Christmas Play was held each year at Union Church. The younger children said poems, and the older children presented a Christmas pageant. After the pageant, a Christmas Treat was presented to everyone who was present. Sometimes a member of the Church would dress in a Santa Claus suit and act the role of Santa Claus. Fred Taylor played Santa Claus twice during the time Reverend House was our pastor.

When Reverend House first came to Union, he drove a standard size car. He was so interested in helping Union build another Church that he traded cars and bought a smaller model to save on gas. When he drove, he often took a large portion of the road. One of his friends teasingly told him that he had purchased a smaller car so he could drive on his own side of the road. By getting a smaller car, he was able to contribute more financially to Union. He visited in the homes and lived all that he preached from the pulpit. If ever a man lived what he preached, it was Reverend House.

While Reverend House was at Union, Reverend O. L. Hathaway conducted a revival. The revival ended on Sunday morning at the regular Worship Service, with Reverend Hathaway conducting the service. After the Friday night revival service, Johnnie H. Taylor and James Taylor had skipped the rest of the revival until Sunday morning to go fishing at the North Carolina coast. They returned empty-handed on Sunday morning just before time for Sunday School. They had fished all night. When Reverend Hathaway stood to read the scripture for the sermon, he read: "And Peter said, I go a fishing" (also reading the verses following) "And behold, they fished all night and caught nothing." It described the situation of Johnnie H. Taylor and James Taylor so well that one of the benches began to shake because of the laughter.

In the 1957-1958 Conference Year, Reverend House's salary was \$612.00. The value of Church property was \$10,000.00. Total contributions amounted to \$2,258.00. There were 171 Church members, and 146 people were enrolled in Sunday School.

The first child to be christened in Union Church was Kathy Jo Monroe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Monroe and granddaughter of Mrs. Isabelle Messer.

In the 1958-1959 Conference Year, Reverend House was paid \$612.00. The value of the Church property had depreciated to \$9,000.00. Total contributions were \$1,778.00. There was a gain of 5 in Church membership, and 151 people were enrolled in Sunday School.

Reverend House began early in 1958 to tell the people that they could build another Church if they were willing to sacrifice and really contribute toward this effort. The seed he planted in their minds began to take growth. Kelly B. Johnson got interested in building another Church. He spearheaded the drive to get another Church building started.

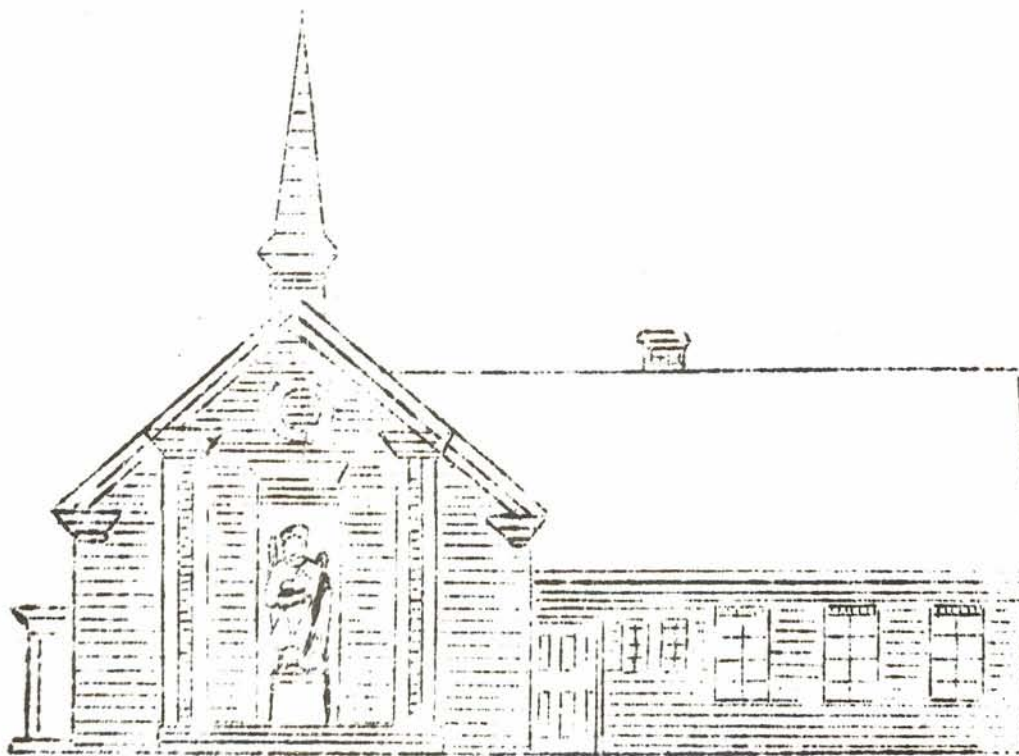
In the 1959-1960 Conference Year, Reverend House was paid \$975.00. The value of the Church property was appraised at \$15,000.00. Total contributions amounted to \$10,000.00. Church membership increased to 186, and Sunday School enrollment decreased to 142. The groundbreaking for the new Church was held on February 15, 1959. Kelly B. Johnson was in charge of raising funds for the building, and the building program progressed.

Shortly after the first Church was begun, Mr. and Mrs. James Graves moved to the community with their three daughters. They moved from the area of Union to Lillington. They were a loss to the Church because of their attendance even though they were not members. Mr. Graves was a very good moral man. He became very ill and was hospitalized at Chapel Hill Hospital. While Mr. Slaughter was visiting in the Union Community on December 31, 1958, he found that Mr. Graves was not expected to live. As soon as he heard this, he went to see Mrs. Lelia Puryear and asked her to call her two sisters and have them meet him in Mr. Graves' hospital room the next day. They met in the hospital room on January 1, 1959. Mr. Slaughter had gone with one purpose in mind and that purpose was to see Mr. Graves accept Christ as Savior. They met in the room and pulled the curtains around the bed. Mr. Graves had previously told Mr. Slaughter that if he ever preached a revival at Union Church he would join the Church during the revival. Mr. Slaughter had never preached that revival. On January 1, 1959, Mr. James Graves accepted Christ as Savior and was given the rites of the Church and became a member of Union Church when he was baptized in his hospital bed. It was a comfort to his three daughters who were beside him. He died eleven days later, the only member of Union Church who was baptized in the hospital, but as sincere in his baptism as any member had ever been.

On June 22, 1960, Reverend House was given another appointment by the Annual Conference. The people of Union Church hated to see him go, but they knew that their loss would be another Church's gain.

A SKETCH OF THE SECOND UNION CHURCH  
(PRIOR TO ADDITION OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AND EDUCATIONAL WING)

(By Fred A. Johnson)



UNION METHODIST  
CHURCH

SKETCH BY  
FRED A. JOHNSON

## THE SECOND UNION CHURCH

Reverend L. Ray Sparrow became our pastor in June 1960. He and his wife Dorothy and their six children moved into the big, antiquated parsonage at Mamers. Reverend Sparrow continued to inspire the people in the building program, which was well underway at that time.

The most unusual thing in the new Church building was the huge window behind the altar area. The window was given in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly B. Johnson by their children. When darkness fell each night, a light from within the Church came on and shone on the window. It was a beautiful sight at night to drive by the Church and see the picture of Christ holding the lamb in his arms.

On May 14, 1961, Sunday School and Worship Service was held in the morning in the first Church built at Union. Reverend Sparrow preached the Worship Service. Dinner was held on the grounds.

In the afternoon at 2:00 P.M. on May 14, 1961, the new brick Church was dedicated by Bishop Paul Garbor, with Reverend Thomas H. House preaching the Dedication Service. The people, as well as Reverend Sparrow, wanted Reverend House to preach the Dedication Service because he had been instrumental in motivating the people to build the new Church. He had worked very hard to get the people to start the new Church, and he had given more than he could really afford financially with the help of Mrs. House, who had been his co-worker in all his endeavors while he was at Union. She complemented him in all his work; and, on one occasion when he was unable to preach, she conducted the Worship Service. Mrs. House's trademark was her unusual collection of hats.

Some pictures were taken at Union on Dedication Day. There are some unusual pictures in the collection. One shows Lelia Puryear carrying her shoes; another shows Mrs. House attempting to fight off the camera with her hat.

Singing for the Dedication Service was led by J. C. Clayton, who had led the singing intermittently since 1946 through 1954 and again from 1955 through 1962, assisted at times by Breland Carithers Puryear, M. D. Gunter, and others. Mrs. Magdalene West, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Clayton, played the piano for the Dedication Service. (During the years that J. C. Clayton led the singing, Magdalene West had been the primary pianist and was at times assisted by Mrs. Lelia Puryear, Mrs. Joyce Puryear, Mrs. Evelyn Gunter, and others.) On Dedication Day, the ladies in the choir dressed in white and had corsages of carnations. Some had white carnations with red ribbon,



and others wore red carnations with white ribbon. The reason for the difference in the corsages was because it was Mother's Day. The men wore white shirts and a red carnation boutonniere. Choir members were Graham West, Sue Johnson, Edward Johnson, Lenda Taylor, Fred Taylor, Evelyn Womack, Florence Spence, Bertha Kinton, Breland Puryear, Lelia Puryear, B. F. Wood, Jr., Doris Wood, Thadean Moore, Milton Moore, Joyce Puryear, Rayan Puryear, James Taylor, Mollie Belle Taylor, Johnnie Taylor, Ruth Clayton, Annette Kinton, Alda Darroch, and Joyce Finn.

The new Church was completely paid for before it was dedicated. Kelly Johnson had spearheaded drives for financing the new Church. Cooperation was very good. Kelly Johnson contributed unstintingly of his time and money and was an example for other to emulate, which they did.

In June 1961, Sergeant and Mrs. Edward Pye began to work with the MYF. They had three little boys, Ike, Mike, and Eddie. They always brought their little ones with them to the meetings. They were almost mascots to the older children. Sergeant and Mrs. Pye took the MYF on several trips while they were counselors. They went to Morrow Mountain on picnics many times. They went to Wilmington to tour the battleship, the USS North Carolina. In the spring and summer, the MYF always played volleyball. Sergeant Pye probably knew the youngsters needed to use some of their boundless energy prior to their lesson.

In September 1961, Kelly Johnson ordered two mats to be used at the entrances of the Church at a cost of \$23.50 per mat.

The first Church Wedding held in the new Church was in September 1971 when Peggy Gilchrist married Lewis Smith. It was a very quiet, informal wedding.

After moving into the new Church, we had no need for the Siegler oil heater still in the old church building. The heater was advertised for sale. Sealed bids were accepted. Johnnie H. Taylor was the highest bidder at \$75.00.

The Boy Scouts in the community had no established meeting place. In November 1961, it was decided to let the Boy Scouts use the old church building for their Scout meetings. Two of the members of the Board of Stewards, Fred Taylor and Johnnie H. Taylor, were very active in Scout work.

In December 1961, a plaque was ordered for the purpose of listing the contributors who aided in building the new Church. Milton Moore

had the names engraved on the plaque, and it was placed in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

Records show that in 1961 the members of the Board of Stewards were: Reverend L. Ray Sparrow, Kelly Johnson, A. K. Darroch, Mrs. A. K. Darroch, J. M. Langston, Mrs. J. M. Langston, Hubert Womack, O. T. Powell, James Taylor, Ronald Johnson, I. J. Gilchrist, Charles Edwards, Johnnie H. Taylor, Fred Taylor, Floyd Powell, Sam Kinton, Mrs. J. Amos Powell, and B. F. Wood, Jr. Johnnie H. Taylor was Recording Secretary for the Board.

At the suggestion of Fred Taylor, the new Church building was sand blasted in January 1962 for a cost of \$290.00.

In June 1962, two students from Duke University, Jack Wilson and Jerry Blevins, came to work with the youth and hold a Youth Revival. They were an instant success with the MYF. After they returned to the University, the MYF picked cotton and saved their money to go to the Duke-Clemson game at Duke University. They were interested in the game because Jack Wilson played football for Duke.

The first records which can be found on the WSCS are dated February 1962. It was then known as the Woman's Christian Service (WCS). At that time, they were meeting in the members' homes. There was an average of nine persons attending the meetings in 1962. These energetic and enterprising women were attempting to build a treasury by bringing items for sale to the meetings. They brought cookies, eggs, pickles, and aprons to the meetings for sale. They sold Christmas cards to Church members and other people in the community. They were very industrious in attempting to assist needy families in the community. In 1962, they called the Welfare Agency in Lillington to get help for a needy family. They did not wait for the Welfare Office to help the family, but they went ahead and collected food and clothing for the children. The Welfare Agency found work which the father could do.

The practice of giving Bibles to the high school graduates each year was begun by the WSCS in May 1962. The first Bibles they gave were purchased at the cost of \$1.00 each.

The WSCS gave a supper in July 1962. The proceeds for this supper amounted to \$81.21 after expenses. They were attempting to raise funds to purchase a brass cross and candle holders.

Mrs. J. M. Langston was Recording Secretary for the WSCS in 1962. From 1962 until her death, Mrs. Langston attended all meetings of the WSCS with the exception of one. Her reason for missing that meeting

was because her husband was in the hospital. She urged the ladies to never discontinue the WSCS in Union Church. In 1962, the ladies of the WSCS were busily engaged in making vestments to be used in the Christmas Pageant.

Charles Edwards served as Chairman of the Board of Stewards in 1962, and Johnnie H. Taylor was Recording Secretary. Milton Moore was Church Treasurer, and Floyd Powell was Assistant Church Treasurer.

In September 1962, the first Building and Grounds Committee of which there is any record was elected. The committee consisted of Floyd Powell, Rayan Puryear, O. T. Powell, Johnnie H. Taylor, and James Taylor, who was the chairman of the committee.

Our Homecoming Service in 1962 was a great event. It was held on the last Sunday in October. Reverend F. R. Davis was guest speaker, and he was accompanied by his wife. Reverend William Slaughter, who was accompanied by Mrs. Slaughter, Lucille, and Blair, acted as Sunday School Superintendent. Many former members and friends of Union Church attended the Homecoming Service.

As stated previously, Union Church had an interest in Boy Scouts of the community. There were individuals in Union Church who gave as much as \$100.00 to the Scout drive. In October 1962, Union Methodist Church gave \$10.00 to the Boy Scout Drive for funds.

Under the leadership of Reverend L. Ray Sparrow in November 1962, Union Church pledged \$1,200.00 to Methodist College in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The amount was to be paid in three years' time.

Mrs. Mattie Womack, one of the early leaders in Union Church, became very ill with cancer in 1962. Many of the members visited her, and she was often prayed for in the prayer meetings.

The first coffee pot owned by Union Church was purchased from Mrs. Genevieve Cox for \$12.00.

In 1962, 250 bags were prepared for the Christmas Treat, which was held immediately after the Christmas Play. Bags were prepared for all the people who attended the Christmas Play and also for the aged and sick in the community. The ladies of the Church usually directed the play. Although she was not a member of Union Church, Mrs. Noelyne Langston was a regular member of the Sunday School and she always helped direct the Christmas Play. She was a willing worker and cooperated in all the Church activities.

The MYF went carolling during the Christmas Season of 1962. They sang at the homes of Mrs. Mattie Womack, Mrs. Alice Darroch, and Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Gilchrist.

Union Church's portion of the pastor's salary for the Conference Year 1963-64 was \$990.00; pastor's travel expense was \$495.00; the proposed budget was \$2,329.00.

The first funeral held in the new Church was that of Maxine Gilchrist, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Gilchrist. Her tombstone is unusual in that it has an engraving of the Church as it looked at that time.

WSCS officers for 1963 were: President - Mrs. Kelly Johnson; Vice President - Mrs. Charles Edwards; Secretary-Treasurer - Mrs. Lenda Taylor; Secretary of Promotions - Mrs. Noelyne Langston; Recording Secretary - Mrs. J. M. Langston; Spiritual Life Leaders - Mrs. I. J. Gilchrist and Mrs. Mattie Womack; and Education Service - Mrs. J. M. Langston.

The WSCS was endeavoring to get a copy of the "Upper Room" into each home of Church members to use for family worship as early as 1963. They ordered the copies, and people who took a copy gave 10¢. This money was invested in more "Upper Rooms" for the next two months. This practice has continued throughout the years.

In 1963, the WSCS compiled a cookbook of recipes. These books were sold for \$1.50 each. A picture of Union Church was on the front cover.

In April 1963, the Church members worked to get a lawn started. The lawn was sprigged with centipede and bermuda grass. The grass had grown so much by July that the Church bought a lawn mower for \$145.00.

In June 1963, Reverend D. M. Tyson became our pastor. He and Mrs. Tyson were a great help to the choir. They were needed very much because Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Clayton and Mr. and Mrs. Graham West had gone from Union to Baptist Churches in the community. Their loss was felt keenly by Union Church, but Reverend and Mrs. Tyson were able to help the choir because he led them and Mrs. Tyson became the pianist for the Worship Service.

Charles Edwards again served as Chairman of the Board of Stewards, Breland Puryear was Secretary of the Board, and Hubert Womack was Assistant Secretary of the Board. Milton Moore served as Church Treasurer.

Because of declining health, Mr. J. Amos Powell tendered a letter of resignation to the Board on August 3, 1963. He had been a very active Church member and a member of the Board of Stewards for many years. His advice through the years had been very good and was taken often.

Sergeant and Mrs. Pye were transferred from Fort Bragg in August 1963. The entire Church missed them, and especially did the MYF miss them. They were replaced as MYF counselors by Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Clark, who had transferred to Union Church from Spring Hill Methodist Church.

Mr. B. F. Wood, Jr. became a trustee of Union Church in September 1963.

In October 1963, new teachers were elected for the next year. They were: Beginners - Mrs. Noelyne Langston and Mrs. Genevieve Cox; Primaries - Hubert Womack and Lenda Taylor; Junior Highs - Sue Johnson and Joyce Puryear; Young People - Mollie P. Taylor and Alda Darroch; Young Adults - Mrs. Mollie Cain and Lelia Puryear; Adult Men - M. D. Gunter and J. M. Langston.

Upon Bertha Kinton's recommendation, in December 1963, another Building Fund was started because the need for additional classrooms and a Fellowship Hall was recognized.

Kelly Johnson, Rayan Puryear, and O. T. Powell purchased the Christmas Treat in December 1963. The men of the Church met at Kelly Johnson's home and prepared 250 bags for the people attending the Christmas Play and for the sick in the community. After the Christmas Play, the WSCS pounded the preacher by bringing him canned goods, hams, and other varieties of food. This practice had been in force earlier in Union Church.

Eight lecterns for use by Sunday School teachers were made for \$100.00 by Ernest Clark, brother of Clifton Clark who was one of our active members. Clifton and Lynda Clark both sang in the choir for many years, and at one time Lynda taught the Beginners.

The following officials were elected for the Conference Year 1963-1964:

Stewards: Charles Edwards, Ronald Johnson, Sam Kinton, Milton Moore, O. T. Powell, J. Amos Powell, Floyd Powell, A. K. Darroch, Edward Johnson, Johnnie H. Taylor, and James Taylor. (Mr. J. Amos Powell's letter of resignation because of declining health was not accepted. They felt they needed him even if his health did not permit him to attend regularly.)

Honorary Steward: J. M. Langston.

Trustees: Kelly Johnson, Clifton Clark, I. J. Gilchrist, Fred Taylor, Rayan Puryear, and B. F. Wood, Jr.

Church School Superintendent: Breland Puryear.

Pastoral Relations Committee: Johnnie H. Taylor.

Parsonage Trustee: Lenda Taylor.

Lay Leader: Ronald Johnson.

Chairmen of the various commissions were: Membership and Evangelism - Mrs. Lelia Puryear; Education - Hubert Womack; Missions - Mrs. Sam Kinton; Stewardship and Finance - I. J. Gilchrist; and Social Concerns - Mrs. J. M. Langston.

The WSCS minutes show that Mrs. J. Amos Powell made a miniature doll which was sold at their meeting in January 1964.

The Methodist Home for Children in Raleigh, North Carolina, sent a letter to the WSCS expressing appreciation for the coupons sent to them by Union Church.

The WSCS officials for 1964 were: President - Mrs. Lelia Puryear; Vice President - Mrs. Charles Edwards; Secretary for Promotion - Mrs. George Langston; Spiritual Life Leader - Mrs. Marie Taylor; Treasurer - Mrs. Lenda Taylor; and Recording Secretary - Mrs. J. M. Langston.

On June 7, 1964, Union Church gave a dinner for all those who had helped build the new Church. This day was called "Appreciation Day." Mr. I. J. Gilchrist was in charge of the dinner. He bought 25 pounds of barbecue for the dinner, and the ladies of the Church cooked dinner and made tea. In the afternoon, there was a song fest which lasted for 1 1/2 hours.

The parsonage which our pastor occupied at Mamers had become in need of much repair. We were faced with spending a great amount of money in repairs or building another parsonage. Clifton Clark acted in behalf of Union Church when it became time to dispose of the parsonage. Together with all the churches on Mamers Charge, Union decided to sell the parsonage and build another one at Mamers.

The I. J. Gilchrist family donated a brass flower pot in memory of Mrs. Frank Tingen and \$24.00 in memory of J. M. Langston to the Building Fund. Both Mr. Langston and Mrs. Tingen died within two days' time.

On April 5, 1964, Union Church took a special collection for the earthquake victims in Alaska.

On July 4, 1964, James Taylor was elected Chairman of the Board of Stewards, and Breland Puryear was elected Vice Chairman. J. W. Darroch was elected Secretary, and Ronald Johnson was elected Assistant Secretary.

Reverend and Mrs. Lewis H. Dodson were the first occupants of the new parsonage. He became our pastor in June 1964, and moved into the parsonage in July 1964. They had a son named Mark. Shortly after moving into the parsonage, they had open house. Refreshment were served to all the people who called on the day they held open house. The persons who were in charge of making the punch were late in arriving. Helen Tingen and Mollie Taylor who had never made punch before mixed an enormous amount. They made it in dishpans, gallon jars, and anything else they could find to put it in. It turned out quite well (with some left over since they had made such a large quantity). They have kept the recipe to themselves ever since.

Shortly after coming to Union, Reverend and Mrs. Dodson had their son Mark christened during a worship service by the District Superintendent.

It became evident in April 1965 that termites had begun to damage the church building. A contract was let to the State Exterminating Company for \$280.00 to treat the building for termites, and the company was to check for damage to the building for \$15.00 annually thereafter.

Plans for an Educational Wing and Fellowship Hall were beginning to take shape as early as 1965.

The WSCS continued to grow in number, and in 1965 they sometimes had as many as 15 members present for the meetings. During this period, they purchased and made drapes for the parsonage and some of the Sunday School rooms.

The April 12, 1965 meeting of the WSCS was held in the home of Mrs. J. M. Langston. She recorded the minutes of the meeting. On April 15, 1965, she died suddenly. She was greatly missed by the WSCS and by all members of Union Church. She always attended all Church activities and showed a great interest in the prayer meetings. She urged the women to always continue to have the WSCS Meetings.

Union had a birthday bank almost from the very beginning. In May 1965, it was decided to name the birthday bank "The Mrs. Langston Birthday Bank." On the First Sunday of the month, all persons having a birthday the previous month put 1 penny in for each year of age, and after all persons put their money in the bank, the congregation sings "Happy Birthday." The money collected in the bank is used for sending Get Well Cards.

In July 1965, Johnnie H. Taylor was elected Chairman of the Official Board, and his wife, Mollie P. Taylor, was elected Secretary of the Board. They were the first husband-wife team to work in this capacity.

A new Building and Grounds Committee was elected in July 1965. They were Fred Taylor, Chairman; Kelly Johnson, J. Lee Taylor, O. T. Powell, Rayan Puryear, Floyd Powell, and Sam Kinton.

In July 1965, Clifton Clark took charge of seeing that we had people to serve as ushers for the Worship Service. He was often one of the ushers himself.

Reverend Lewis Dodson returned to us from Conference in June 1965. The charge still consisted of four churches. Union's portion of the pastor's salary and his travel and utilities amounted to \$1,650.00. Parsonage payment for that year for Union was \$462.00, and insurance for the parsonage cost Union \$28.00. Local expenses for the year were estimated at \$2,175.00.

A Church Conference was held on July 18, 1965, for the purpose of deciding certain factors about the cemetery. When the cemetery was first begun, it was laid off in eight-grave plots. By the date of the Church Conference, all the plots containing eight graves had been used. At this conference, the Church voted that, in the future, the cemetery would be laid off in plots of four graves. The conference again reaffirmed that there would be no drawing for lots nor would there be any preference between graves of Union Church members or non-members of Union Church. Some of the former Church members had moved from the community but had stated that they wished to be interred in the Union cemetery. Some former members made contributions toward the purchasing of additional land for the cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Clayton and Mr. and Mrs. William Slaughter were among those who made contributions toward purchasing more land for the cemetery.

In August 1965, Mr. I. J. Gilchrist gave a mimeograph machine to the Marners Charge in memory of his deceased daughter Maxine Gilchrist. The mimeograph machine was given with the stipulation that if Union Church became a station Church at the time when the machine was still usable, the mimeograph machine would become the property of Union Church.

The old church building was sold on April 24, 1965, to Mr. I. J. Gilchrist, who gave it to Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Johnson, who were in the process of building a new home. They used the lumber from the old church building in their home. Sale of the church building brought \$300.00.

Officials for Union Church for the Conference Year 1965-1966 were as listed:

Trustees: Clifton Clark, I. J. Gilchrist, Kelly Johnson, Rayan Puryear, and B. F. Wood, Jr.



Stewards: Charles Edwards, O. T. Powell, Floyd Powell, J. W. Darroch, Frederick Darroch, Johnnie Lee Taylor, Sam Kinton, Johnnie H. Taylor, Earl Holder, Hubert Womack, and Milton Moore.

Honorary Stewards: Frank Tingen, Edward Johnson, Mrs. John E. Taylor, and J. Amos Powell. (These people had a great interest in the Church but were at this time unable to serve in an active position. They had meant a lot to Union Church throughout the years. Members of the Church visited them often. They attended the services when they were physically able. They were kept informed of happenings at Union, and their advice was often sought.)

Sunday School Superintendent: James Taylor.

Assistant Sunday School Superintendent: Charles Edwards.

Church Lay Leader: Ronald Johnson.

Building Committee: Kelly Johnson, Chairman; M. D. Gunter, B. F. Wood, Jr., Clifton Clark, Rayan Puryear, and I. J. Gilchrist.

Church Treasurer: Frederick Darroch.

Building Fund Treasurer: B. F. Wood, Jr.

Parsonage Committee: Mrs. Florence Spence, Mrs. Mollie P. Taylor, and Mrs. Lenda Taylor.

Parsonage Trustees: O. T. Powell, Kelly Johnson, and James Taylor.

Charimen of various commisions: Membership and Evangelism - Mrs. Lelia Puryear; Education - Mrs. Florence Spence; Missions - Mrs. Bertha Kinton; Stewardship and Finance - Breland Puryear; Christian Social Concerns - Mrs. Charles Edwards; and Christian Vocations - Mrs. Mollie P. Taylor.

Communion Stewards: Mrs. Bertha Kinton and Mrs. Florence Spence.

Church Auditor: Fred Taylor.

The Board of Stewards voted to sponsor Johnnie Harold Taylor, Jr. for the "God and Country Award", which is a scouting award. They took a special collection among themselves on August 7, 1965, to pay for the award. Their collection amounted to \$8.50; the cost of the award was \$5.00.

The overage was given to the Church Treasurer to go into the regular collection. Johnnie Harold Taylor, Jr. was the first Boy Scout to receive the "God and Country Award" in Union Methodist Church. The presentation was made by Reverend Dodson. The presentation took place in a special ceremony, which was attended by the Boy Scouts of the community, Church members, friends, and the maternal grandparents of Johnnie Taylor, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Puryear.

Reverend F. R. Davis, the first pastor of Union Methodist Church, was the speaker at the Homecoming Service on the Fourth Sunday in October 1965.

In January 1966, Union Methodist Church paid Mr. J. Carlie Adams \$600.00 for land to be used as an addition to the cemetery. When he was paid for the land, he in turn gave the Church a check for \$100.00.

On February 4, 1966, it was discovered that we had only paid \$20.00 toward the pledge that we had made to Methodist College in November, 1962. The debt had been completely forgotten. The Board decided that it was a just debt and that it must be paid. The Church began to pay \$25.00 monthly to Methodist College and continued payment until the \$1,200.00 was paid.

In June 1966, Reverend Fletcher W. Fraley became the pastor of Union Methodist Church. He had retired from the Army, and the Marners Charge was the first charge he served. He quickly won the cooperation of the women of the charge when he stated that he and his family would do any necessary cleaning prior to taking residence at the parsonage. The women on the charge had always taken care of seeing that the parsonage was spotless before the new parsonage family moved in. He, his wife Jean, and four of their five children became occupants of the parsonage. They were well liked by the members of Union Church.

The following were officials of Union Church for the Conference Year 1966-1967:

Trustees: Kelly Johnson, Rayan Puryear, M. D. Gunter, B. F. Wood, Jr., Clifton Clark, and I. J. Gilchrist.

Stewards: Charles Edwards, O. T. Powell, Floyd Powell, Sergeant Lee Mitchell, Johnnie Lee Taylor, Johnnie H. Taylor, Sergeant Clifford Darroch, Sam Kinton, Ronald Johnson, Gattis Johnson, and Breland Puryear.

Honorary Stewards: Frank Tingen, Mrs. John E. Taylor, Edward Johnson, and Mr. J. Amos Powell.

Church Lay Leader: Milton Moore.

Sunday School Superintendent: James Taylor.

Parsonage Committee: Mrs. Bertha Kinton, Mrs. Joyce Puryear, and Mrs. Thadean Moore.

Parsonage Trustees: O. T. Powell, Kelly Johnson, and James Taylor.

Membership Secretary: Mrs. Lelia Puryear.

Pastoral Relations: O. T. Powell.

Membership Cultivation Superintendent: Johnnie H. Taylor.

Communion Stewards: Mrs. Bertha Kinton and Mrs. Florence Spence.

Committee on Nominations: James Taylor and Mrs. Mollie P. Taylor.

Committee on Christian Vocations: Mrs. Mollie Taylor and Mrs. Lynda Clark.

Chairmen of the various commissions: Christian Social Concerns - Mrs. Bertha Kinton; Stewardship and Finance - Kelly Johnson; Missions - Mrs. Frederick Darroch; Membership and Evangelism - Mrs. Breland Puryear; and Education - Mrs. Alda Johnson.

The Board of Stewards reelected Johnnie H. Taylor as its Chairman and Mrs. Mollie P. Taylor as its Secretary.

Union Church hired as its first janitor, Johnny Mize, who was a student at Anderson Creek High School. He was janitor from June 1966 until June 1967. He was paid \$35.00 per month.

At the Harvest Sale on September 24, 1966 with Fred T. Taylor as Chairman, receipts amounted to \$1,401.29; expenses were \$239.01; and proceeds were \$1,162.28. Proceeds were turned over to B. F. Wood, Jr., who was Building Fund Treasurer.

Reverend L. Ray Sparrow was Homecoming Speaker for Homecoming Services in October 1966.

On November 6, 1966, Johnnie H. Taylor resigned as Chairman of the Board of Stewards; and Frederick Darroch was elected to replace him.

Sometime between Thursday afternoon, November 17, 1966 and Saturday afternoon, November 19, 1966, the cross, candle holders,

Pulpit Bible, collection plates, piano light, stage curtains, and public address system microphones were stolen from the Church. Some of the items were replaced by Church members. Mr. I. J. Gilchrist purchased a new cross, Patricia Holder gave the collection plates in memory of her deceased mother (Mrs. Jeanette Holder), and Edward Johnson gave the candle holders in memory of his father (Mr. Bill Johnson). Members of the A. K. Darroch family gave a four piece set of altar cloths. The set consisted of a cover for the Communion Table, covers for both pulpits, and a Bible marker.

In February 1967, Union Church gave Mr. Pate, a contractor from Fayetteville, a right-of-way through Church property for an exchange of the same amount of land.

On March 3, 1967, the cross, candle holders, collection plates, piano light, and other items which we did not even know had been stolen were recovered. Two men from Johnson County had stolen valuable items from churches in Harnett and surrounding counties. A man who planned to dedicate a new Church had purchased the cross, candle holders, and collection plates.

Two of our active Church members who served on the Board of Stewards in 1967 were in the Military Service. Both of them, Clifford Darroch and Lee Mitchell, were transferred overseas. Staff Sergeant Lee Mitchell went to Vietnam; Staff Sergeant Clifford Darroch went to Thailand. These members were kept apprised of Church activities during their absence because the Secretary of the Board sent them copies of the Board meetings.

In June 1967, Union joined with all other Churches on the Mamers Charge in chargewide Fifth Sunday Services. These services usually occurred approximately twice a year. Collections taken at these services went toward upkeep of the parsonage.

A Church Conference was held on June 14, 1967. The purpose of the Conference was to approve or disapprove application of a loan for \$17,000.00 for building an Educational Wing and a Fellowship Hall. Twenty-eight members attended the Conference. Twenty-seven members voted to borrow the money, and one member was opposed to borrowing the money. One person who could not attend the meeting sent a written note pledging support in any way if the money were borrowed. Appointments for the next Conference Year had already been made, and Reverend Fraley and his family had already moved to South Carolina. The new pastor had not begun his preaching appointment nor moved into the parsonage, so Reverend Fraley returned for the Conference and was in charge of it.

Officials of Union Church for the Conference Year 1967-1968 were:

Board of Stewards: Frederick Darroch, Charles Edwards, O. T. Powell, Kenneth Darroch, James Taylor, Lee Mitchell, J. Lee Taylor, Clifford Darroch, Sam Kinton, Ronald Johnson, and Breland Puryear.

Honorary Stewards: Mrs. John E. Taylor and Mr. Frank Tingen. (This was the year that it was learned that one must be at least 72 years of age before he could be an Honorary Steward.)

Communion Stewards: Mrs. Bertha Kinton and Mrs. I. J. Gilchrist.

Parsonage Trustees: O. T. Powell, Kelly Johnson, and James Taylor.

Church Trustees: M. D. Gunter, B. F. Wood, Jr., I. J. Gilchrist, Kelly Johnson, Rayan Puryear, and James Taylor.

Church Lay Leader: James Taylor.

Membership Cultivation Superintendent: Ronald Johnson.

Membership Secretary: Mrs. Charles Edwards.

Pastoral Relations: Mr. I. J. Gilchrist.

Church Treasurer: Helen Tingen.

Church Auditor: Milton Moore.

Parsonage Committee: Mrs. A. K. Darroch, Mrs. Bertha Kinton, and Mrs. Joyce Puryear.

Nominating Committee: Breland Puryear, Helen Tingen, and Mrs. Dorothy Johnson.

Sunday School Superintendent: Breland Puryear.

Assistant Sunday School Superintendent: Johnnie Lee Taylor.

Chairmen of the various commissions: Christian Social Concerns - Mrs. Richard Porter; Stewardship and Finance - M. D. Gunter; Missions - Mrs. Frederick Darroch; Membership and Evangelism - Mrs. Mollie P. Taylor; and Education - Mrs. Lelia Puryear.

During the month of June 1967, Reverend Dennis Draper became our pastor. It was quite an experience for him (it was his first

pastorate) and an experience for us (our first unmarried preacher). Reverend Draper had just graduated from college. He kept house alone in the parsonage and cooked for himself. It did not take him long to learn when different families in the Church had their evening meal (at which time he often came for a visit). You simply cannot sit down and eat when you have a guest without inviting him to eat. A preacher should not refuse your invitation to dine if he has not already eaten. Reverend Draper did not suffer too long from being undernourished because, shortly after he came to Union, he married Cathy Poindexter. They made a very good team, and she showed great interest in all Church activities. Any time Union sold plates to make money or had a supper of any kind to raise money for a project, she was one of the hardest workers. Being so young themselves, they were adept at working with and identifying with the young people in the Church. Always after the Board meeting on the First Sunday night of the month, they would go home with some of the members who had attended the Board meeting. It was not at all unusual for Mrs. Draper to bring a pie or cake to the home where she visited to serve with coffee furnished by the hostess.

Reverend and Mrs. Draper worked hard to make the parsonage a place where any visitor could feel welcome and at ease. Both Reverend and Mrs. Draper could identify with any age group. The first Christmas after their marriage, Reverend and Mrs. Draper had open house and invited all the members of Mamers Charge. Several members of the charge were asked to greet everyone who arrived and to help serve the refreshments. Reverend and Mrs. Draper made all the refreshments themselves. Mrs. Draper was a schoolteacher, but she took time to do all the things a pastor's wife should do. Different couples on the charge were often invited for a meal at the parsonage. Mrs. Draper was an excellent cook, and a very good hostess. They truly became a part of the charge. While on the charge, their first son, Howard, was born. They remained at Union Church for a period of three years. When they left Mamers Charge, they went to Star Methodist Church, in Star, North Carolina. Many people on the Mamers Charge still visit the Drapers. Reverend Draper has now left the ministry to work with the Department of Rehabilitation. He attempts to help alcoholics become rehabilitated so they can assume a useful role in society.

Johnnie H. Taylor became Chairman of the Board of Stewards again in July 1967. This was the same time that Kenneth Darroch was elected to the Board of Stewards. He was the first unmarried man to serve on the Board. This was at the suggestion of Mrs. Mollie P. Taylor, who felt that it was time for the younger group to have more representation. Kenneth Darroch missed only two regular meetings of the Board that year. He showed good, sound judgment. His father, A. K. Darroch, had served

on the Board many years before his death. The A. K. Darroch family had been very active in Union Church almost from its inception. Members of that family who moved away into other states and other communities were willing to contribute to any project if they were informed that Union Church had a project underway.

Plans for the construction of the Educational Wing and Fellowship Hall got underway, and plans were made to borrow money from the Board of Missions. Mr. Bill Shaw, a local constructor, was awarded the contract for construction of the Educational Wing and Fellowship Hall. Mr. Peebles of Fayetteville drew the blueprint for the sum of \$900.00.

The Harvest Sale was held on October 7, 1967. Mr. I. J. Gilchrist was Chairman, and Mr. Fred Taylor was Assistant Chairman. The women sold barbecue plates and had excellent cooperation. The minister's wife worked with the women. Many of the men helped too. The Harvest Sale was a success, and the proceeds went into the Building Fund to help pay for the Educational Wing and the Fellowship Hall. Many of the women made items for sale, and even some people in the community who were not members of our Church made things for sale. Women went to the stores in the Lillington and Sanford areas and asked for items or donations to the sale. Mrs. Marie Taylor, Mrs. Annie Lou Kinton, and Mrs. Bertha Kinton were the women who usually headed this group. The MYF sold tickets for the dinner. They also had a stand and sold hot dogs, hamburgers, and cold drinks.

Homecoming Services were held in October 1967, and Reverend Fletcher Fraley was invited back as the Homecoming Speaker. The Anderson Creek Ruritan Club held their Fifth Sunday Singing in the afternoon, and all the churches on the charge participated as well as the churches in the community. Reverend Draper was Chairman for the Homecoming. As usual, Johnnie H. Taylor made the coffee. He made coffee for practically all the dinners held at Union Church.

It seems that on almost all large occasions, the pump fails. No one can possibly know how many times Terrell Shaw, who is not a member of Union Church, has fixed the pump without charging for his labor.

A telephone was installed in the kitchen of the Fellowship Hall in November 1967. Installation and one month's advance payment on the telephone amounted to \$14.95. Many questions which arose at the Board meetings thereafter were settled by making a telephone call.

On January 22, 1968, Mrs. A. K. Darroch gave the Church her piano to be used in the Fellowship Hall.

When the Educational Wing and the Fellowship Hall were completed, the recovered cross and candle holders were placed on a table in the hallway to the Fellowship Hall. The WSCS was given the opportunity to choose the drapes for the Fellowship Hall.

Six beige tables were purchased for use in the Fellowship Hall at a cost of \$31.50 each. One hundred matching metal chairs were purchased at a cost of \$3.30 each.

The first service held in the Fellowship Hall was Sunday School. When people arrived the Third Sunday in February 1968, there was no fuel for heat in the Sanctuary and the classrooms on that side of the Church. Since the new wing was heated electrically, all classes met together; and Mr. I. J. Gilchrist taught the Sunday School lesson.

The cost of the stove and refrigerator for the Fellowship Hall amounted to \$322.00. They were purchased from Johnson Cotton Company.

It cost \$28,500.00 to build the Educational Wing and the Fellowship Hall.

The woodwork on the outside of the Church with the exception of the steeple was painted in May 1968. Johnnie H. Taylor, J. Lee Taylor, Sergeant Lee Mitchell, and Reverend Draper did the work.

In June 1968, Mr. and Mrs. Howard D. Draper of Fayetteville gave a Pulpit Bible in honor of their son and daughter-in-law, Reverend and Mrs. H. Dennis Draper, Jr.

Union Church presented Reverend and Mrs. Draper with a bassinet for their first child, which they were expecting in September 1968.

During the summer of 1968, a student from Duke University, Jack Kallmeyer, worked with the MYF. Being an exceptionally handsome man, Jack was able to attain good participation from the MYF in all events that they planned. The MYF regretted when the five weeks for which he was hired had ended.

On September 29, 1968, in a special session, the Board of Stewards approved payment of the fee for the "God and Country Award" for Dewon Taylor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred T. Taylor. He was the second member of Union Methodist Church to receive the award.

Mrs. Lynda Clark became ill in 1968 and was hospitalized. Her health never again permitted her to be as active in Church work as she had been previously. Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Clark had transferred their membership to Union Church during the time Reverend Ray Sparrow was our pastor. They had no children of their own, but they



loved children so much that they volunteered to work with them every time they had the opportunity. They took children to White Lake, skating at Sanford, and many other places. When their sister-in-law, Mrs. Jeanette Holder, was killed in a wreck and her husband Earl and her daughter Patricia were left alone, they helped Earl raise little Patricia. They continued to help Earl with Patricia as long as Lynda lived.

Annual Homecoming Services for 1968 were held on Sunday, October 27, with Reverend Ray Sparrow as guest speaker. Many former members and friends of Union Church attended. A picnic dinner was held on the grounds followed by a song fest in the afternoon.

Officials for the Church Year 1968-1969 were:

Board of Stewards: O. T. Powell, Kenneth Darroch, Sergeant Lee Mitchell, J. Lee Taylor, Clifford Darroch, Sam Kinton, Ronald Johnson, Fred Taylor, Clifton Clark, and Mrs. Genevieve Cox.

Honorary Stewards: Mrs. John E. Taylor, Mr. Frank Tingen, and Mr. J. Amos Powell.

Communion Stewards: Mrs. Bertha Kinton and Mrs. I. J. Gilchrist.

Parsonage Trustees: O. T. Powell, Kelly Johnson, and James Taylor.

Church Trustees: I. J. Gilchrist, Kelly Johnson, Rayan Puryear, James Taylor, and Frederick Darroch.

Parsonage Committee: Mrs. A. K. Darroch, Mrs. Bertha Kinton, and Mrs. Joyce Puryear.

Sunday School Superintendent: Breland Puryear.

Assistant Sunday School Superintendent: J. Lee Taylor.

Church Lay Leader: James Taylor.

Membership Cultivation Superintendent: Ronald Johnson.

Pastoral Relations Committeeman: I. J. Gilchrist.

Church Treasurer: Helen Tingen.

Church Auditor: Milton Moore.

Chairmen of the various commissions were: Social Concerns - Mrs. Richard Porter; Stewardship and Finance - Frederick Darroch; Missions - Mrs. Fred Taylor; Membership and Evangelism - Mrs. Johnnie H. Taylor; Education - Mrs. Breland Puryear.

The Board of Stewards in June 1968 became known as the Administrative Board.

The Administrative Board reelected Johnnie H. Taylor as its Chairman and Mrs. Mollie P. Taylor as its Secretary.

In October 1968, B. F. Wood, Jr. resigned as Building Fund Treasurer and was replaced by Mrs. Dorothy Johnson.

The first supper held in the Fellowship Hall was at 5:30 P.M. on December 8, 1968. After the Fellowship Supper, Mr. Barrington, of Fayetteville, showed slides of the Holy Land.

Kelly Johnson bought the fruit, nuts, and candy for the Christmas Treat in December 1968. Mrs. Lelia Puryear was in charge of choosing and ordering literature for the Christmas Play. The ladies of the Church were primarily responsible every year since the organization of Union Church for helping the children practice and present the Christmas Play.

In 1969, the Cokesbury Hymnals that we had used for many years were ragged and worn. You could pick one up and it would automatically open to "Yield Not To Temptation." Through the years, that song was probably sung more than any other. Mollie Taylor got especially tired of hearing that song. Breland Puryear, who led the singing, seemed to take special delight in announcing that the congregation would stand and sing Number 140, "Yield Not To Temptation." When he made the announcement, he would grin at Mollie Taylor; and the young people that she was teaching at that time would laugh. When Union Church was ready to order more hymnals, they discovered that the Cokesbury Hymnals had been discontinued; therefore, Union Church decided to purchase 125 Methodist Hymnals. They were bought at a cost of \$3.25 each. I. J. Gilchrist gave hymnals in memory and honor of all pastors who had ever served Union and also in memory of his daughter Maxine. Other members gave hymnals in memory and honor of people who had been special to them in past years. Donations for hymnals amounted to \$325.00. When they arrived, they were used for several Sundays before anyone except Mollie Taylor knew they did not contain "Yield Not To Temptation."

Helen Tingen was a very efficient Church Treasurer. When her father, Mr. Frank Tingen, died, she moved to Fayetteville where she had been employed for several years. It was a double loss to Union

Church to lose both of them in such a short time. As long as Mr. Tingen lived, he had an intense interest in Union Church and came to Church as often as his health permitted.

In February 1969, Ronald Johnson was elected Church Treasurer. He served in that capacity for many years. When he was especially busy, his wife would help him prepare his monthly reports. Both of them were very capable.

Officials of the Administrative Board for the Conference Year 1969-1970 are listed.

Trustees: Rayan Puryear, James Taylor, Frederick Darroch, and Sam Kinton.

Chairman of the Administrative Board: Johnnie H. Taylor.

Secretary of the Administrative Board: Mrs. Mollie P. Taylor.

Church Treasurer: Ronald Johnson.

Building Fund Treasurer: Mrs. Dorothy Johnson.

Church Lay Leader: James Taylor.

Sunday School Superintendent: M. D. Gunter.

Assistant Sunday School Superintendent: J. Lee Taylor.

Committee on Nominations and Personnel: M. D. Gunter, B. F. Wood, Jr., Johnnie H. Taylor, Mollie P. Taylor, and Mrs. Dorothy Johnson.

Pastor-Parish Relations Committeeman: Charles Edwards.

Chairman of Finance: B. F. Wood, Jr.

President of WSCS: Mrs. Lelia Puryear.

Chairmen of Work Areas: Education - Mrs. Mollie P. Taylor; Social Concerns - Mrs. Kathleen Wilson; Evangelism - Mrs. M. D. Gunter; Missions - Mrs. J. Lee Taylor; Stewardship - Fred T. Taylor; and Ecumenical Affairs - Mrs. Lelia Puryear.

Communion Stewards: Mrs. I. J. Gilchrist and Mrs. Bertha Kinton.

Bible School was held during the week of June 9 through June 13, 1969. There was an average attendance of 80.

UNION'S FIRST EAGLE SCOUT

# *Eagle Court of Honor*

DEWON BLYNN TAYLOR



GOLDEN LEAF DISTRICT COURT OF HONOR  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Route One, Spring Lake, North Carolina

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1969

Connie Womack represented the MYF at Summer Camp, Lake Junaluska, in the summer of 1969. The Methodist Conference gave her a check for \$33.00 toward her expenses, and Union Church matched the amount given by the Conference. The Administrative Board felt that by sending her to summer camp the MYF would gain from her experiences.

A new Building and Grounds Committee was elected in July 1969. The members of the committee were James Taylor, Kenneth Darroch, Charles Edwards, J. Lee Taylor, Lee Mitchell, and B. F. Wood, Jr.

In August 1969, Reverend Draper had the opportunity to exchange ministries for one month with a Canadian minister, Reverend Waite. Reverend Draper lived in the parsonage in Canada and held services in Reverend Waite's church there. Reverend Waite preached at Union, and he and his family lived in the parsonage at Mamers. He attended the Administrative Board Meeting in August 1969 to see how we conducted our business meetings. He was well liked by the members of Union.

More items were stolen from the Church in August 1969. Items that were missing included an electric fan, clock, coffee pot, forks, and plates. They were not recovered.

Mr. Bobby Z. Kennedy, a member of Flat Branch Presbyterian Church, drew the design for a brick sign for erection when money could be raised. He would accept no money for his services. The sign will cost approximately \$1,000.00 when it is built. The design is in a safety deposit box.

Some friction was felt between the MYF and the older adults when the MYF petitioned the Board to let them use the Fellowship Hall for a dance. Reverend and Mrs. Draper felt that if it were properly chaperoned, it would be permissible. The MYF President and Counselor represented the MYF in their request. The Administrative Board voted, seven to three, against using the Fellowship Hall for a dance. This rule is still in force. The Chairman of the Administrative Board informed the youth that he would help them clean the Scout Hut, which had been built in the community, so it would be suitable to have their dance there; and he offer to chaperon the dance.

The members of Lillington Masonic Lodge attended Worship Services at Union Church on September 14, 1969.

Union Church in years to come was to see a mistake it made in not purchasing four acres of land for the amount of \$1,500.00. The land was adjacent to the Church. A Church member owned the land, but it was not known at that time. Reverend Draper's father was prepared to contribute \$500.00 toward purchasing the land, but it was his desire

that the members not know of his offer until after they had made their decision. Funds were scarce at that particular time in 1969, and the Church felt that it was not in a position to acquire more land. If the opportunity for purchasing the land had occurred at a later date in 1969, we would have been in a better position to do so because a member left \$1,000.00 to Union Church in a will. The donor wished to remain anonymous.

The parsonage payment in 1969 amounted to \$602.94. This figure included payment and insurance on the parsonage as well as the cost of a dryer, which was installed in the parsonage.

The purchase of the dryer was an issue which was not easily settled. When the parsonage committees of the charge met at the parsonage, our representative, James Taylor, was not present. He stated that if he had been present, he would have been in favor of purchasing a dryer. The Administrative Board cast secret ballots to determine whether we would pay our proportionate share for the purchasing of the dryer. When the votes were counted, there was one ballot more cast in favor of paying for the dryer than there was opposed to paying for the dryer.

Union Church took a special offering for the Mississippi Flood Relief amounting to \$31.97.

Mrs. Marie Taylor was MYF counselor for the Conference Year of June 1969 through May 1970. Many young people belonged to the MYF, and often as many as forty people attended the meetings. Johnnie H. Taylor acted as her substitute.

In December 1969, Union bought a Santa Claus suit from Sears in Fayetteville. The suit cost \$21.29. Mr. John McNeil, a member of another church on the charge, was the first person to wear the suit. The Administrative Board made the decision that the suit would not be lent to any other group or church. Many of the members of Union knew Mr. McNeil, but the children did not. That was the reason he was asked to play Santa at the Christmas Program. The Christmas Treat was purchased by Ronald Johnson. Cost of the treat was \$70.89.

In April 1970, the young people of Union began to take charge of Sunday School on all Fifth Sundays. The young people were thoroughly capable, and the older members enjoyed the participation of the younger group.

In April 1970, we discovered that several of the stained glass windows had been broken by shots from BB guns and that the rear door had been damaged. Prior to this, the doors had been left unlocked so that anyone could enter and pray whenever he felt the need. Keys were

placed in the homes of some of the members, and one was put in the furnace room in event of an emergency. We regretted finding it necessary to keep the Church locked except when in use.

When the insurance company was contacted relative to the damage of the windows and the door, we found that the damage to the door was covered by our insurance, but the broken windows were repaired at the Church's expense.

A revival was held at Union Church from March 29 through April 2, 1970. Reverend W. J. Neise from Fayetteville was the evangelist. He was paid \$85.00 for the week.

The Administrative Board voted to give a raise for the pastor's salary of \$152.00 for the 1970-1971 Conference Year.

In June 1970, Union Church welcomed Reverend and Mrs. Fraley when they were sent to us again. This was the first time in the history of Union that a preacher had left us, filled another appointment, and then returned to us. They took an active interest in the choir where they were needed so badly. Both of them could sing quite well. Prior to their beginning to help with the choir, one of the choir members had remarked that if we continued to sing at funerals, people would soon envy the dead.

Reverend Fraley took an interest in the Church members who were ill. He visited often, and his wife often accompanied him on these visits. No hospital was too far away for him to visit if he had a sick member there. They were able to truly become a part of Union. Many of the members visited them quite freely at the parsonage.

In 1970, a young soldier, Bob Pray, began to attend Union Church. He joined the choir; and, since he had a nice voice, he was a definite asset to the choir. He was witty and livened the choir practices quite a bit. He was in the Mixed Adult Class in Sunday School, and he took part in the discussions and became a part of the class in every way.

In June 1970, Bonnie Spence became the Church Treasurer. She took her job very seriously, and she did a commendable job.

All officials of the Church became a part of the Administrative Board. Officials for 1970-1971 Conference Year are listed.

Church Trustees: Clifton Clark, Frederick Darroch, Sam Kinton, Harold Kinton, James Taylor, and Brigham Wilson.

Church Lay Leader: James Taylor.

Church School Superintendent: M. D. Gunter.

Assistant Church School Superintendent: J. Lee Taylor.

Finance Chairman: B. F. Wood, Jr.

Pastor-Parish Relations Committeeman: Charles Edwards.

Committee on Nominations and Personnel: M. D. Gunter, Johnnie H. Taylor, Mrs. Dorothy Johnson, and Lenda Taylor.

Honorary Stewards: Mr. I. J. Gilchrist, Mrs. John E. Taylor, and Mr. Arch Taylor.

Council on Ministries: Mrs. Johnnie H. Taylor, Chairman; Mrs. Doris Wood, Mrs. Marie Taylor, Mrs. A. K. Darroch, and Mrs. Lee Mitchell.

Communion Stewards: Mrs. I. J. Gilchrist and Mrs. Bertha Kinton.

Chairmen of the different work areas: Education - Mrs. Ronald Johnson; Social Concerns - Mrs. A. K. Darroch; Stewardship - Ronald Johnson; Ecumenical Affairs - Mrs. Lelia Puryear; Missions - Mrs. Marie Taylor; and Evangelism - Carey Gunter.

Church Treasurer: Ronald Johnson.

Building Fund Treasurer: Mrs. Dorothy Johnson.

The Administrative Board elected its own chairman and secretary. They elected Johnnie H. Taylor as Chairman and Ronald Johnson as Vice Chairman. Mollie P. Taylor was elected Secretary.

The grass which was planted several years prior to 1970 had grown so rapidly that we had to have the lawnmower repaired at a cost of \$42.43.

A new Building and Grounds Committee was elected composed of Lee Mitchell, Ronald Johnson, M. D. Gunter, J. Lee Taylor, Rayan Puryear, and Kenneth Darroch.

Union Church had a successful Harvest Sale on September 26, 1970. J. Lee Taylor was Chairman of the Harvest Sale. The women of the Church worked long and hard making a quilt with members' names on it. The quilt was light pink and rose. It was a beautiful quilt when it was completed. Mr. I. J. Gilchrist paid to have all the former and present pastor's names embroidered on the quilt. When the quilt was



was auctioned off to the highest bidder, Johnnie H. Taylor bought it for \$180.00. Many items were sold because stores in the area had given items for sale. James and Chester Brown, who were residents of Harnett County but not members of Union Church, usually attended all Harvest Sales at Union. J. Lee Taylor, being an auctioneer for the sale and a prankster, gathered all the trash and put it in a bag and sold it to the highest bidder. He told the people that he had a surprise package to go to the highest bidder. Lucille Darroch Johnson bid \$5.00 for the package. People could hardly wait to see what she had bought. She was a very good sport when she opened the package and found that it contained the trash from the Harvest Sale. Everyone thought it was a good joke. Everyone had a good time at this Harvest Sale, except the cashiers, Florence Spence and Mollie Taylor, who were thoroughly confused with all the bidding, activity, and laughter. Before they could ascertain who had purchased one item, another was up for sale. They had quite a time trying to take in all the money and give correct change, to say nothing of dragging the cash table and chairs around so they wouldn't get sunburned.

Harold Kinton always attended the Harvest Sales and was a good buyer. He took part in all activities, but he seemed to really enjoy the Harvest Sales. He was a quiet man and well liked by all people at Union. He died shortly (in less than three weeks) after this Harvest Sale. He belonged to the Adult Men's Class. They gave \$100.00 to the Building Fund in memory of Harold Kinton.

The Homecoming for 1970 was a great success. It was well attended. A former member of our Sunday School and now a minister, Reverend Blair Slaughter, preached the Worship Service. It was almost like a revival. Reverend William Slaughter taught the Young Married Adult Class. Mr. J. C. Clayton returned for the service, and he led the singing as he had done many years before. In the afternoon, the minister from Barbecue Presbyterian Church played the bagpipes. He had planned to play them outdoors during the picnic lunch, but it rained too hard, so he played them inside during the song fest which was held in the afternoon. It was the first time many of us had ever seen or heard bagpipes. Mrs. Mollie Morrison had heard him play them before and she extended an invitation for him to come to Union and play.

The flowers for the homecoming were furnished by the A. K. Darroch family, the J. Lee Taylor family, and the Clifton Clark family.

The parsonage payment for 1970 was paid in November and amounted to \$532.00.

The woodwork outside the Church building was painted in November 1970 at a cost of \$220.00. The louvres, doors, woodwork around the windows, and the steeple were painted.

During December 1970, Mrs. Doris Wood and Mrs. Kathleen Wilson prepared fruit baskets for Christmas for the elderly and sick people in the community. The Christmas Play was held as usual. When the treats were given out, Edddice Dresser played Santa Claus.

Edddice Dresser had moved to the Union Community from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She was a definite asset to Union Church. She taught the kindergarten, and the children adored her. Many times, she brought things from her home for the children to make into gifts for their mothers and fathers. It was not unusual for a child to leave his parents in Sunday School assembly to go to sit with Mrs. Dresser. She worked with the WSCS, Bible School, MYF, and sang in the choir. She worked in the community with the Cub Scouts.

We needed more tables for the Fellowship Hall. We discovered this when we had such good attendance at Homecoming. Charles Edwards, Bonnie Spence, Marie Taylor, Reverend Fraley, and Mr. I. J. Gilchrist each bought a table for the Fellowship Hall.

A new dinette set was needed at the parsonage, so Union Church paid her proportionate share for this, which amounted to \$95.76.

In January 1971, we purchased a candle lighter and a candle snuffer. Two altar boys were responsible for lighting the candles before the Worship Service and for snuffing out the candles at the conclusion of the Service. Jimmy Mitchell and Thomas Wood generally performed these duties.

Jerry Kinton, who had been away from Union Church for a few years, remembered that he had pledged to pay \$25.00 to Methodist College when he was in high school. He made a contribution to Union Church for this purpose, and his contribution was sent to Methodist College through the Church.

In February 1971, the wind blew shingles from the roof of the Church building. The men of the Church did the repair work themselves.

On February 14, 1971, Mr. and Mrs. John Albert Carey (former members of Union Church) gave a Christian Flag and an American Flag to Union in memory of their son Jerry, who was killed in Vietnam. When he was a small boy in the community, Jerry attended Sunday School and Worship Service regularly at Union. He was well loved by the entire Union congregation, and the Dedication Service when the Church accepted the flags was a very touching one. The Careys had lived in the Union Community for many years prior to 1960; and, during that time, Mrs. Carey was very active in the WSCS and as a Sunday School teacher.

In February 1971, Reverend Fraley began to print a newsletter for the Mamers United Methodist Charge. Mrs. Florence Spence was the reporter for Union. The newsletters were given out before Worship Service. Mrs. Spence always made a special effort to get the newsletters to the elderly and sick people in the community, and they read them eagerly.

Mrs. Marie Taylor gave a Memory Book to the Church in February 1971 for the purpose of recording gifts which were given to the Church.

In February 1971, Mrs. Florence Spence, who was the teacher for the Adult Women's Class, encouraged them to have bake sales for the benefit of the Church. Participation was fairly good; and, at first, they used the proceeds to buy flowers for the sanctuary. They began other projects as the need arose.

Reverend E. A. Wilkie, III, held the revival for the year of 1971 at Union. He was a good preacher, and the collections taken amounted to \$199.79, which was more than Union had ever paid anyone who held a revival. Reverend Fraley had made a wise choice when he selected Reverend Wilkie as the evangelist.

Installation Services for officers and teachers of Union Church were held during the Worship Service on May 23, 1971. This was the first time that an installation of teachers and officials at Union had ever been held.

Officials for the Conference Year 1971-1972 were:

Chairman of the Administrative Board: Johnnie H. Taylor.

Church Secretary: Mrs. Johnnie H. Taylor.

Church Treasurer: Ronald Johnson.

Building Fund Treasurer: Mrs. Dorothy Johnson.

Trustees: Clifton Clark, Brigham Wilson, James Taylor, Breland Puryear, Artis Spence, and Kelly Johnson.

Superintendent of the Study Program: M. D. Gunter.

Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations: Charles Edwards and Mrs. Richard Porter.

Committee on Finance: Kelly Johnson, Chairman; Fred Taylor; and B. F. Wood, Jr.

Church Lay Leader: James Taylor.

Membership Secretary: Mrs. Lelia Puryear.

Financial Auditor: Milton Moore.

Committee on Nominations and Personnel: Mrs. Lenda Taylor, M. D. Gunter, Mrs. Dianne Reynolds, Mrs. Thadean Moore, and Paul Edwards.

Work Area Chairmen: Education - Mrs. Dorothy Johnson; Social Concerns - Mrs. J. Lee Taylor; Evangelism - Carey Gunter; Ecumenical Affairs - Mrs. Ella McPhail; Missions - Mrs. Edddice Dresser; and Stewardship - Ronald Johnson.

Council on Ministries: Mrs. Florence Spence, Chairman; Mrs. Alda Johnson; Mrs. Genevieve Cox; Mrs. Sue Johnson; Billy Puryear; and Marshall Darroch.

Honorary Stewards: Mrs. John E. Taylor, Mr. I. J. Gilchrist, and Mr. Arch Taylor.

Pianists: Mrs. Lee Mitchell, Mrs. Lelia Puryear, Dewon Taylor, and Sammy Kinton.

For the Conference Year 1971-1972, the Charge increased benevolences \$500.00 and the pastor's salary \$500.00. Our share of the increase for the pastor's salary was \$190.00 and for the benevolences our share was \$190.00.

The Church decided to try the Methodist Literature again. We had tried it many years before and did not like it. This time when we tried it in June 1971, it was more to our liking and we adjusted to it fairly well. Prior to making the decision to change literature, several of the teachers went to Mt. Ariel one Sunday morning and heard the teachers of Mt. Ariel teach from the Methodist Literature.

Mrs. Mollie Cain had been the teacher of the Young Married Adult Class for many years prior to 1971. On June 17, 1971, the class honored Mrs. Cain and Sergeant Bob Pray with a dinner at Rambeaut's Seafood Restaurant. Mrs. Cain's health was not good enough for her to have the added responsibility of teaching a Sunday School Class any longer, and Sergeant Pray was being transferred to Vietnam. Mrs. Cain had taught many of these adults when they were children and continued to teach them throughout the years. There was no way they could fully repay her, but they wanted to express their appreciation to her in some way.

We began to have Fellowship Suppers regularly in July 1971. These suppers were held at 5:30 P.M. prior to the Administrative Board meeting,

which began at 7:00 P.M. on the First Sunday night of each month. Everyone who attended the suppers found them to be a source of great enjoyment, both from the viewpoint of food and fellowship.

The L. J. Ellis family, who were not members of Union Church, gave a generous contribution to the Union Church Building Fund in July 1971 because of the kindness rendered them by members of Union Church during the death of Mr. L. J. Ellis.

The MYF, with some small assistance from the congregation, was able to purchase a record player and a projector in September 1971.

In September 1971, we obtained an adding machine for use by the Church Treasurer, Building Fund Treasurer, and any of the Church organizations that had need for the adding machine.

The Harvest Sale held the last Saturday in September 1971 was an unqualified success under the able co-chairmanship of Kelly Johnson, Charles Edwards, and J. Lee Taylor. A dinner was held in the Fellowship Hall, and contributions were made for the dinner. Everyone gave the amount for dinner that he desired to give. The amount for names embroidered on the light and dark blue quilt by the ladies of the Church amounted to \$470.00. The quilt was sold for \$200.00 to the highest bidder, Johnnie H. Taylor. Judy Taylor and Bonnie Spence replaced their mothers as cashiers. Their mothers told them that young girls made better cashiers because they could profit by what mothers had learned earlier, to say nothing of being able to use an adding machine. Judy Taylor, who was a college student, was disgruntled at her father for purchasing the quilt. She said she supposed she would have to wrap in the quilt and attend classes instead of having new clothes for college like other girls had. Proceeds from the Harvest Sale amounted to \$1500.30, which went into the Building Fund Treasury for payment on the Educational Wing and Fellowship Hall.

The parsonage payment which was made on November 1, 1971, amounted to \$408.74 for Union's proportionate share.

The WSCS, under the leadership of Marie Taylor, begun to have bake sales in conjunction with the other women of the Church. They were able to raise \$800.00 toward paving the driveway around the Church. The WSCS had been working toward this project since 1965. Kelly Johnson was in charge of having the driveway paved. The J. A. Johnson Construction Company, of Dunn, North Carolina, paved the driveway for the sum of \$1,165.00.

After the driveway was paved, the men of the Church decided that we needed paved sidewalks. M. D. Gunter and Johnnie H. Taylor took leave

from work at Fort Bragg to work on the sidewalks. They were assisted by J. Lee Taylor, Fred Taylor, Ronald Johnson, and Kelly Johnson.

The Senior MYF continued under the leadership of Marie Taylor, while Mrs. Edddice Dresser continued to work with the Junior MYF. On November 8, 1971, the MYF had a bake sale at the Church in the Fellowship Hall.

The Lee Mitchell family donated and erected five signs giving the directions to Union Church. The signs were placed from Howard's Beach to Union Church.

The Christmas Play presented on December 23, 1971 was enjoyed by everyone. The play was entitled "Why The Chimes Rang." Kelly Johnson purchased the fruit, nuts, raisins, and candy for the Christmas Treat, which was bagged at Church in the Fellowship Hall on December 22. Mr. Garner Clark, who was not a member of Union Church, played an excellent role as Santa Claus when he distributed the treat. He was very convincing to the children, and almost as convincing to the adults.

A continuing problem throughout the years had been that people thoughtlessly parked on the grass. Johnnie H. Taylor had signs made, and he erected them. The people became cognizant of the problem, and there was no more parking on the grass except when there were funerals and weddings and there was nowhere else to park.

In February 1972, Union Church made a contribution of \$5.00 to Pakistan Relief.

J. Lee Taylor and Johnnie H. Taylor built shelves in the storage room to store the projector and record player when they were not in use.

The Methodist Men's Club was organized on March 18, 1972. There were eleven Charter Members. They were Johnnie H. Taylor, J. Lee Taylor, Ronald Johnson, M. D. Gunter, Lee Mitchell, B. F. Wood, Jr., Charles Edwards, Fred Johnson, James Taylor, Cecil Dean, and Reverend Fletcher Fraley. There were two Honorary Charter Members, Mr. I. J. Gilchrist and Kelly Johnson. The Men's Club gained seven new members during the first year. Members gained were Edward Johnson, Gattis Johnson, Hubert Womack, Milton Moore, Jr., Edgar Johnson, and Leon Powell. Their first officers were: President - Johnnie H. Taylor; Vice President - J. Lee Taylor; Secretary-Treasurer - Fred Johnson; Director of Special Events - Ronald Johnson; Chaplain - M. D. Gunter; and Food Committee - Lee Mitchell and B. F. Wood, Jr. The dues for membership were \$1.50 annually. The purpose of the Club was to help the Church and its members and anyone else they were able to help.

They held their meetings on the First Tuesday night following the Third Sunday of each month. From May through October, meetings began at 8:00 P.M. From November through April, meetings began at 7:00 P.M. They planned to have Ladies' Night each year at the June meeting. Their first installation of officers was combined with Ladies' Night in June 1972.

New drapes were needed for the Fellowship Hall; so, in March 1972, the WSCS bought drapes for the Fellowship Hall and part of the classrooms. Mrs. Florence Spence headed the team for buying the drapes.

The choir began to use gold robes in early 1972.

Union Church participated with the other churches in the community in an Easter Sunrise Service in 1972, which was held at Layton's Chapel Baptist Church.

In April 1972, Debra Taylor replaced Mrs. Florence Spence as news reporter for Union Church.

Union and Mt. Ariel Churches combined their revival in April 1972. Reverend Barry Barbour was the evangelist, and he was paid \$125.00 for the week. There were four additions to Union Church's membership.

The following Church School Teachers and Assistant Teachers for the period June 1972 through May 1973 were elected by the Nominating Committee:

Beginners: Mrs. Edddice Dresser and Mrs. Dianne Reynolds.

Primaries: Mrs. Thadean Moore and Mrs. Ethel Dean.

Juniors: Mrs. Doris Wood and Mrs. Kathleen Wilson.

Junior Highs: Mrs. Lenda Taylor and Mrs. Wilma Puryear.

Seniors: Mrs. Jewel Hardison.

Senior Highs: Mrs. Evelyn Gunter and Mrs. Lelia Puryear.

Mixed Adult Class: Mrs. Dorothy Johnson and Mrs. Mollie P. Taylor.

Adult Women's Class: Mrs. Elaine Womack and Mrs. Florence Spence.

Adult Men's Class: Mr. Breland Puryear and Mr. I. J. Gilchrist.

The following were the Church Officials for the Conference  
Year 1972-1973:

Chairman of the Administrative Board: Johnnie H. Taylor.

Secretary of the Administrative Board: Mrs. Doris Wood.

Church Treasurer: Ronald Johnson.

Building Fund Treasurer: Mrs. Dorothy Johnson.

Church Trustees: James Taylor, Breland Puryear, Artis Spence,  
Kelly Johnson, Billy Puryear, and Brigham Wilson.

Church Lay Leader: M. D. Gunter.

Superintendent of Study Program: Breland Puryear.

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee: Charles Edwards and  
Johnnie H. Taylor.

Honorary Stewards: Mrs. John E. Taylor and Mr. I. J. Gilchrist.

Communion Stewards: Mrs. Charles Edwards and Mrs. Bertha  
Powell.

Membership Secretary: Mrs. Lelia Puryear.

Pianists: Mrs. Lee Mitchell, Mrs. Lelia Puryear, Sammy Kinton,  
and Dewon Taylor.

Committee on Nominations and Personnel: Reverend Fraley, Mrs.  
Dianne Reynolds, Mrs. Thadean Moore, Paul Edwards, Mrs. Lenda Taylor,  
and Mrs. Marie Taylor.

Council on Ministries: Mrs. Dorothy Johnson, Chairman; Mrs.  
Mollie P. Taylor; Mrs. Alda Johnson; Mrs. Ethel Dean; Mrs. Sue Johnson;  
Sandra Womack, and Leon Powell.

In June 1972, the Church decided to raise the pulpit area and  
carpet it. This was at the suggestion of Reverend Fraley. Mrs. Lenda  
Taylor, Mrs. Lee Mitchell, and Mrs. Mollie P. Taylor were asked to  
choose the carpet. The carpet they chose could not be delivered by  
the date it was needed, so Mr. Bill Shaw, who did the work in changing  
the altar area, chose carpet as similar to that which they had chosen as  
he could. Carpet for the altar area cost \$396.24; remodeling the altar  
area cost \$428.43. The choir benches were turned so the choir would face  
the congregation.



Reverend Fraley attended Emory University from July 24 to August 18, 1972. In his absence, Mr. James Lancaster, a lay speaker from Fayetteville, conducted the Worship Service.

The Harvest Sale in September 1972 was a success. Mr. J. Lee Taylor was Chairman, and he did an excellent job. The Church quilt was yellow and brown. The highest bidder was Fred Taylor. He paid \$300.00 for the quilt. As had become the custom, the Church had a dinner prior to the sale. The dinner was free, but anyone who wished to do so could make a contribution for the dinner. Proceeds from the Harvest Sale amounted to \$1,238.86.

Mrs. Marie Taylor resigned as Senior MYF Counselor in September 1973. Cecil and Ethel Dean and Fred and Teresa Johnson began to work with the MYF. Mrs. Edddice Dresser continued working with the Junior MYF.

The members of the Kelly Johnson family gave drapes for the altar area in September 1972. The drapes cost \$860.00. They improved the appearance of the Church and matched the carpet well.

On October 15, 1972, Union Church had its first Senior Citizens' Night. All the elderly people and sick people in the community were invited to attend a supper in the Fellowship Hall. Reverend Fraley, M. D. Gunter, Mrs. Lenda Taylor, and Mrs. Edddice Dresser planned the program. Mrs. Lelia Puryear, Mrs. Florence Spence, and Mrs. Dorothy Johnson were in charge of fixing the tables and making the seating arrangements. The supper was very successful, and the senior citizens expressed gratitude for being honored.

Mrs. Lenda Taylor and Mrs. Teresa Johnson set shrubbery around the Church. They did an excellent job, and the shrubbery began to grow immediately.

Leon Powell organized a Youth Group in October 1972. Officers for the group were: President - Leon Powell; Vice President - Debra Taylor; Secretary - Sue Wilson; and Treasurer - Demaris Taylor. These young people took a great interest in Church activities. They organized projects to raise money for a Church bus and planned to purchase the bus as soon as they could raise enough money.

Reverend D. M. Tyson was speaker for the Homecoming Worship Service the last Sunday in October 1972. He was accompanied by his wife. They had not been back to Union since they had received their appointment to another church. They were graciously received, and we had a very enjoyable day. Dinner was held in the Fellowship Hall, which was full to overflowing. Many people had to eat outdoors and in the Sunday School rooms. More people attended Homecoming than ever before.

The November 1972 parsonage payment amounted to \$411.08.

A drive was begun in November 1972 to obtain pictures suitable for framing and hanging in the Fellowship of all pastors who had ever served at Union. Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie H. Taylor undertook this project.

Union had recognized the need for someone to work with the music program for many years. In November 1972, the Administrative Board agreed to pay Mrs. Kate Keil \$20.00 per month to work with the music program of the Church. Under her direction, the younger people improved greatly in their musical ability.

The Christmas Program for December 1972 was directed by Debra Taylor and Leon Powell, who did a fabulous job. It was an improvement over all previous Christmas pageants because Debra Taylor had worked with presenting plays at Pembroke College where she was enrolled. When the Christmas treats were given out, J. Lee Taylor was a convincing Santa Claus.

A carpet sweeper and a vacuum cleaner were purchased in December 1972 for \$179.52.

The WSCS purchased a water cooler for use in the Educational Wing. Kenneth Darroch installed the water cooler.

The Administrative Board felt that Mrs. Kate Keil was doing such an exceptional job with the music program that they decided to pay her \$50.00 monthly to work with the entire music program of the Church. She began to play for the Worship Service as well as work with all the choirs.

In February 1973, the Methodist Men's Club sponsored Reverend Dennis Draper who showed slides at their monthly meeting. He had taken the slides on his recent tour of the Holy Land. Everyone was invited to attend.

In April 1973, the Administrative Board approved obtaining a new insurance policy for the Church for \$418.00 per year.

At a Church Conference, held after Worship Service on May 13, 1973, Union voted to become a station Church in June 1974 if the plan met with the approval of the Annual Conference. A drive had been made in March 1973 to attempt to pay off the debt which existed on the Fellowship Hall. Approximately \$2,000.00 was given during the drive. This debt would have to be liquidated before we could assume the extra responsibility of becoming a station Church.

In May 1973, the roof of the sanctuary and older classrooms needed repair. Shingles were bought for the roof, and plans were made for reroofing the Church.

On May 20, 1973, Mrs. John E. Taylor died. She had been instrumental in founding Union Methodist Church. Her influence will always be felt in the Church she loved so well.

The Conference Year 1972-1973 closed on a hopeful note with plans underway for reroofing the Church, plans already made for Bible School to be held in June, and teachers prepared to begin their 18 months of teaching. The Church officials were prepared to take offices, which would last for 18 months. Preparations had been made for prayer meetings, which had been discontinued some years previously, to resume with Mr. I. J. Gilchrist to conduct prayer meeting the first Wednesday night in June 1973. Mrs. Annie Lou Kinton had already begun to embroider the names on the Church quilt for the Harvest Sale which was to be held in September 1973. Mrs. Maggie Darroch and Mrs. Hubert Womack had volunteered to sew the quilt together.

Union Church was founded on love, fellowship and faith. One of the outstanding achievements of Union Church is that there have been four ministers called to service by God from her doors. This is one of the highest callings man can have--being called by God to fulltime service to proclaim and preach the Gospel truth, the whole word of God. These four ministers are: Reverend William B. Slaughter, Wesleyan Church; Reverend Thomas Holder, John Wesley Methodist Church; Reverend Ralph K. Taylor, Baptist Church; and Reverend William Blair Slaughter, Jr., Wesleyan Church. So you see, this is holding Union United Methodist Church to its original name, Union, because there were several different Church groups making up this body. All these groups were wanting and willing to unite together to serve God for the salvation of souls.

CEMETERY LIST

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
William A. Puryear	March 25, 1886	February 23, 1952
Henry A. Powell	October 1, 1878	April 9, 1954
William C. Cain	December 30, 1904	May 26, 1954
Eddie Byrd Graves	June 30, 1881	December 7, 1955
James A. Graves	November 1, 1881	January 11, 1959
Docia A. Powell	October 6, 1879	February 28, 1959
Wade C. Tingen	September 26, 1889	July 20, 1959
Infant Boy Kinton	August 21, 1959	August 21, 1959
Rickey Porter	September 6, 1959	September 9, 1959
John E. Taylor	October 19, 1882	November 19, 1959
Green C. Womack	November 8, 1885	December 3, 1959
Angela Puryear	December 2, 1959	March 28, 1960
John W. Butler	September 20, 1914	October 8, 1960
Maxine Gilchrist	May 29, 1943	January 17, 1963
James M. Langston	February 18, 1888	April 14, 1964
Sudie B. Tingen	December 22, 1897	April 16, 1964
Mattie F. Womack	March 26, 1896	July 13, 1964
John L. Haire	September 25, 1902	October 24, 1964
Oliver D. Allgood	April 1, 1898	November 3, 1964
A. Kershaw Darroch	April 30, 1901	November 3, 1964
Jeanette I. Holder	February 19, 1941	November 13, 1964
Effie R. Langston	November 3, 1893	April 15, 1965
W. G. (Bill) Johnson	September 27, 1900	May 16, 1965

CEMETERY LIST (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
W. David Spence	November 7, 1918	February 6, 1965
Britt McCrae	May 25, 1916	August 19, 1966
Frank H. Tingen	November 28, 1893	November 12, 1968
Ernest Darroch	September 16, 1912	April 6, 1969
Lynda Mae Clark	November 8, 1925	May 15, 1969
Hal B. Johnson	February 2, 1907	December 15, 1969
W. Raeford Underwood	February 6, 1906	February 13, 1970
Harold E. Kinton	June 11, 1901	October 10, 1970
Larry J. Ellis	December 16, 1909	February 4, 1971
Edd Clifton Clark	December 27, 1917	September 19, 1972
Penny Byrd Taylor	November 2, 1885	May 20, 1973

UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(May 1973)



MAY 73

UNION METHODIST CHURCH

From June 1973 Through May 1974

By Mrs. Marie K. Taylor

The Church Year began in June 1973, and the members of Union Church were glad to welcome Reverend and Mrs. Fletcher Fraley for another year.

All officials and Sunday School teachers were elected to serve for an 18-month period.

The following Sunday School Teachers and Assistant Teachers for the period June 1973 through December 1974 were elected by the Nominating Committee:

Beginners: Mrs. Edddice Dresser and Mrs. Dianne Reynolds.

Primaries: Miss Veve Johnson and Miss Sherrill Brewer.

Juniors: Mrs. Doris Wood and Mrs. Kathleen Wilson.

Junior Highs: Mr. Douglas Wilson and Mr. Fred T. Taylor.

Senior Highs: Mrs. Evelyn Gunter and Mr. Freddie Reynolds.

Mixed Adults: Mrs. Lelia Puryear and Mrs. Mollie Taylor.

Adult Women: Mrs. Noelyne Langston and Mrs. Elaine Womack.

Adult Men: Mr. James Taylor and Mr. I. J. Gilchrist.

The following Church Officials were elected:

Committee on Finance: Kelly Johnson, J. Lee Taylor, B. F. Wood, Jr., and Ronald Johnson.

Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations: Charles Edwards, Johnnie H. Taylor, and Cecil Dean.

Church Trustees: Artis Spence, Kelly Johnson, Brigham Wilson, Ronald Johnson, and Fred T. Taylor.

Committee on Nominations and Personnel: Paul Edwards, Lenda Taylor, Marie Taylor, James Taylor, and Dorothy Johnson.

Church Treasurer: Ronald Johnson.

Assistant Church Treasurer: Leon Powell.

Superintendent of Studies Program: J. Lee Taylor.

Church Lay Leader: Breland C. Puryear.

Membership Secretary: Lelia Puryear.

Committee on Records: Marie K. Taylor.

Recording Secretary: Mollie P. Taylor.

Chairman of the Administrative Board: Charles Edwards.

Financial Auditor: Fred Allen Johnson.

Council on Ministries: Dorothy Johnson, Chairman; Ethel Dean, Evelyn Gunter, Teresa Johnson, Lenda Taylor, Lee Mitchell, Leon Powell, Mollie Taylor, Lelia Puryear, M. D. Gunter, Rachel Edwards, and Genevieve Cox.

Pianists: Mae Mitchell, Lelia Puryear, and Sammy Kinton.

Honorary Members of the Administrative Board: I. J. Gilchrist and J. Amos Powell.

Bible School was held from June 11 through June 15, 1973, from 9:30 A.M. through 11:30 A.M. Reverend Fraley was the Superintendent of Bible School. The teachers for Bible School were: Beginners - Susan Wilson and Thadean Moore; Primaries - Teresa Johnson and Alma Johnson; Third and Fourth Graders - Edddice Dresser and Evelyn Womack; and Fifth and Sixth Graders - Dorothy Johnson and Cindy Puryear. Demaris Taylor, Tricia Surcy, Wanda Porter, Sheila McPhail, and Kathy Darroch worked with crafts for boys under ten years of age and all girls who attended Bible School. For boys ten and above in age, M. D. Gunter, Donald Mitchell, Charles Williams, Jr., Michael Womack, and Douglas Wilson helped with crafts. Various ladies of the Church furnished and served refreshments to students and teachers.

On Saturday afternoon, July 14, 1973, the Union Methodist Men's Club sponsored a dinner for the Senior Citizens of the Community. Many elderly people attended as well as many of our Church members. The Youth Group, under the direction of Mrs. Kate Kiel, sang for the enjoyment of those who attended the dinner. Mr. I. J. Gilchrist gave a gift to each Senior Citizen.



The roof on the older part of the Church was repaired during July 1973 at a cost of \$369.18 for shingles and labor.

The installation of officers for the Union United Methodist Men's Club was held in the Fellowship Hall on July 17, 1973, at 7:00 P.M. All the wives of the members of the Club were invited for a supper in conjunction with the installation service. Newly installed officers were: J. Lee Taylor, President; Leon Powell, Vice President; Fred Allen Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer; and Ray Moore and Lee Mitchell, Food Committee.

Sometime after prayer meeting on August 29 and between 2:00 P.M. on August 30, 1973, the Church was broken into and several items were stolen. Among the items stolen were: 2 microphones, 2 stands for microphones, 1 amplifier, 2 coffeepots, 97 knives, 97 forks, 76 spoons, and 120 corningware plates. Our insurance covered the theft, and the items were replaced. Lucille Darroch Johnson donated 200 plates and some silverware when she learned of the theft.

In September 1973, the Church voted to pay insurance for health benefits for our pastor. We had never paid health insurance for our pastor before.

In September 1973, a new piano was purchased for the Sanctuary. The WSCS and the Methodist Men's Club worked for this project together. The Men's Club gave a barbecue and were aided in this endeavor by the women. After having made all the necessary purchases, they were able to clear \$615.34 which was used toward purchasing the piano.

The Annual Harvest Sale was held on September 29, 1973. J. Lee Taylor was Chairman and Charles Edwards was Assistant Chairman. A covered dish dinner was held in the Fellowship Hall prior to the sale. Anyone who desired to do so could give a donation for lunch. Donations for lunches amounted to \$188.55. After lunch, the sale of various items was conducted. Fred Taylor, J. Lee Taylor, Johnnie H. Taylor, and Reverend Fraley helped with the auctioneering. Two of the most interesting items for sale were a picture of the Church painted by Jimmy McDonald (who is not a member of Union) and the Church quilt made by Mrs. Maggie Darroch and Mrs. Evelyn Womack. There were 125 names embroidered by Mrs. Harold E. Kinton on the lavender and purple quilt. Fred Taylor bought the quilt for \$325.00, and Johnnie H. Taylor bought the picture of the Church. All the other items were sold to the highest bidders, and total proceeds from the Harvest Sale amounted to \$2,385.95 which went to the Building Fund.

The Youth Group purchased a Church bus for \$700.00 during the month of October 1973. The Youth raised money in various ways in order to buy the bus. They had a walk-a-thon from Lillington to the Church. Several of the Church members sponsored the Youth Group in their endeavor. Leon Powell and J. Lee Taylor were appointed as drivers of the bus. Mr. David A. E. Scully, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, lettered the bus for the Church. He made no charge for his work.

All the people who had gone into the ministry from Union and all the former pastors and the pastor for the year were contacted and asked to send a picture suitable for framing to go in the hallway leading to the Fellowship Hall. Almost all of the ministers responded favorably. Johnnie H. Taylor framed the pictures and hung them in the hallway prior to Homecoming Day.

Reverend William B. Slaughter was the guest speaker for the Homecoming Service at Union on October 28, 1973. He was accompanied by his wife Myrtle and his daughter Lucille. He preached a wonderful sermon. Many former members were welcomed back. All former ministers and those who had gone into the ministry from Union had received a special invitation. They had been notified that they were to receive a complimentary copy of the History of Union United Methodist Church, which had just been written. Several of the pastors were unable to attend the Homecoming Services because they had to preach at their own churches. We were fortunate to have Reverend and Mrs. F. R. Davis, Reverend and Mrs. Thomas H. House, and Reverend and Mrs. H. Dennis Draper and their children, Howard and Robbie, with us for Homecoming. Flowers for Homecoming were given in honor of Mrs. John E. Taylor. After Worship Service and prior to the dinner in the Fellowship Hall, the Church bus was dedicated. The meal was enjoyable, and the Fellowship Hall was full to overflowing. Those who had ordered a History Book were given their copies. A song fest was held in the afternoon. Because so many of the former Church members and friends were there, Homecoming was a joyous occasion.

In October 1973, our music director, Kate Kiel, moved and we were again without a hired music director. Advertisements in newspapers for a music director proved to be fruitless. We were fortunate to have Mrs. Mae Mitchell to help the Young People with their music, and they continued to sing under her direction.

On December 9, 1973, Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Gilchrist were honored when their children gave a baptismal font during Worship Service.

During the Christmas season, the WSCS delivered fruit baskets to the elderly and shut-ins of the Union community.

With the help of the teachers and several interested adults, Mrs. Genevieve Cox and Mrs. Teresa Johnson directed a wonderful Christmas Program. The program was presented on the Friday night before Christmas. As has become the custom, a bag of goodies was given to everyone who attended.

In January 1974, the Church hired Sammy Kinton as pianist. Since we had him as pianist, Mae Mitchell was welcomed into the choir.

An Easter Sunrise Service was held in the Sanctuary. Many people attended, and they were served refreshments at the conclusion of the service.

When we had our regular Sunday School and Worship Service on Easter Sunday, Mrs. Edddice Dresser worked with the Youth Group in preparing scenes pertaining to Easter in the hallway of the Sanctuary. In the first scene, there was a tomb with a rock in front of it. Leon Powell and Ray Moore, dressed as Roman soldiers, guarded the tomb. In the second scene, the rock had been rolled away and the guards were in a deep sleep. An angel, Veve Johnson, was sitting in the tomb. In the third scene, the tomb was empty except for the grave clothes.

The remaining debt on the Fellowship Hall was paid in March 1974.

Union Church participated in a chargewide revival held at Cool Springs. Reverend John Brokhoff conducted the revival which began on March 17, 1974.

On May 4, 1974, Mr. and Mrs. Gary LaDue were remarried in the sanctuary by Reverend Fraley on the occasion of their eleventh wedding anniversary. Mrs. Mae Mitchell was matron of honor, and Lee Mitchell was best man. This was the first time that a married couple celebrated their anniversary at Union in this way. It was a quiet, unannounced ceremony attended by Mrs. LaDue's mother--Mrs. West--, the LaDue children, and close friends of the couple. The LaDues had joined the Sunday School at Union two months prior to this occasion. They joined Union Church on May 12, 1974; and Mrs. West joined the same day.

Mr. Terrell Shaw sold the Church a water storage tank to help solve the problem of having a water shortage on the occasions when we used more water than we normally use. He sold the tank to the Church at cost, and the tank was installed in May 1974.

The Church purchased an air conditioner from J. J. Barnes, Inc., who sold it at a discount. The air conditioner was installed by Kenneth Darroch, Charles Edwards, Raeford Darroch, Fred Allen Johnson,

J. Lee Taylor, and Johnnie H. Taylor. They began working to install the air conditioner at 5:30 P.M. on Friday night and worked until 1:30 A.M. on Saturday morning, May 25, 1974. They were determined to have it operational by Dedication Day, May 26, 1974.

Reverend Fraley had informed the Administrative Board that in all probability he and Mrs. Fraley would not return for another year. The Administrative Board voted to place flowers in the sanctuary honoring the Fraleys on Dedication Day. Mrs. Marie Taylor was in charge of purchasing the flowers.

On May 26, 1974, we had Dedication Day for the Fellowship Hall. During the Worship Service, which was conducted by the District Superintendent, Reverend Miller, Leon Powell read a letter from the Youth Group to Reverend and Mrs. Fraley telling them what they had meant to that group. All the members at Union had thought that Reverend Fraley would accept an appointment in the Fayetteville District. During the opening remarks of the service, Reverend Fraley told the congregation that he and Mrs. Fraley would be moving to Oklahoma. As well as being a joyous occasion because we were out of debt, it was also a sorrowful one because many of the members felt that they would never again have the opportunity to visit with the Fraleys and have them in our community.

The Administrative Board had met in a special session that morning to officially decide on a name for the Fellowship Hall. During the Dedication Service, we gave the hall the name "The Gilchrist Fellowship Hall. It was named in honor of I. J. and Nannie Gilchrist, who had done so much for the Church and attended services so faithfully over a long period of years. The members of Union felt that Mr. and Mrs. Gilchrist were well deserving of this honor.

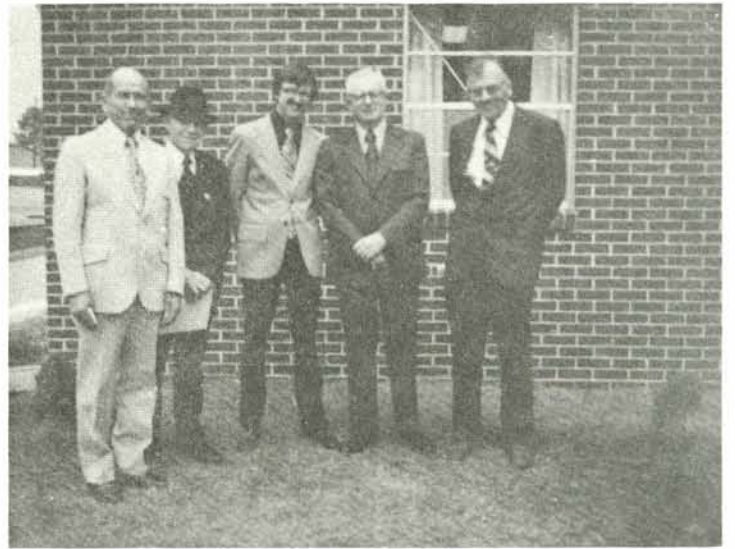
After the Worship Service and before the dinner, a noteburning ceremony was held in the Gilchrist Fellowship Hall. Some of the men decided they would like to keep the note rather than burning it. Johnnie H. Taylor burned another piece of paper instead. A copy of the original note can be found on the next page of this book.

Fred Allen Johnson painted a picture of Union Methodist Church to present as a gift to the Fraleys from the whole Church.

It was with heavy hearts that the congregation at Union bade the Fraleys farewell while we looked forward to the next minister and his family who would come to lead and serve the Mangers Charge and Union Church.

RANDOM SHOTS FROM HOMECOMING

October 28, 1973



RANDOM SHOTS FROM DEDICATION DAY

May 26, 1974



PROMISSORY NOTE

\$11,000.00

Box 607

Mamers, N. C.

April 20, 1968

For value received in money loaned, we the TRUSTEES of UNION METHODIST CHURCH, MAMERS CHARGE, FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT, jointly and severally promise to pay to the BOARD OF MISSIONS, NORTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH, INCORPORATED, or to its order the principal sum of ELEVEN THOUSAND .....NO/100ths(\$11,000.00)DOLLARS with interest thereon from the Twentieth day of April, 1968 until maturity at the rate of six (6) percent per annum, PAYABLE ANNUALLY.

TERMS: This NOTE is to run for ten (10) years from date (April 20, 1968) and is to be paid annually in the amount of \$1,100.00 plus interest on the first day of November. The first payment of \$1,100.00 plus interest will be due November 1, 1968 and each November 1 thereafter until the loan is paid.

Kelly Johnson Trustee  
J. P. Christ Trustee  
James A. Taylor Trustee  
B. T. Wood Trustee

M. D. Hunter Trustee  
Ryan Puryear Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee

We hereby give our consent to the above:

Chapman Eubank District Superintendent

Paid In Full and Satisfied this 25th day of March, 1974.

H. D. Draper, Jr. Pastor

BOARD OF MISSIONS, NORTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH, INCORPORATED

By C. Franklin Grill  
C. Franklin Grill, Executive Secretary

UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM JUNE 1974 - DECEMBER 1977

By Dorothy Johnson

In June of 1974, Conference assigned Union a new minister. Due to illness he was unable to serve. Reverend Aaron Tyson from Spring Hill Church filled in during June and part of July. During this time he was speaker for a senior citizen program.

We were fortunate in July to have our former pastor to return. Reverend Fletcher Fraley, Jean and Brian came to us from Oklahoma. Not only was he an effective minister but he and Jean worked with the choirs for years.

The officers for 1974 were the same as the previous year. They began their office in June of 1973 to serve an eighteen month term. This would make the officers change in January 1975 and begin with the calendar year.

Bible school was held June 10 - 14, 1974 from 9:00 to 11:30. Superintendent was Teresa Johnson. The teachers were the following: Kindergarten - Betty Williams and Dot Johnson; Grades I-II - Chris Bonucchi and Demaris Taylor; Grades III-IV - Lelia Puryear and Cindy Puryear; Grades V-VI - Edddice Dresser and Noelyne Langston; Crafts - Mrs. Hal Johnson and Mrs. Edddice Dresser; Woodcrafts - James Taylor, Donald Mitchell, Michael Womack, and Charles Williams. Pianist - Sammy Kinton; Music Director - Mae Mitchell. Ronald Johnson, Jr., was in charge of audio visuals. Refreshments were served by Lenda Taylor, Beatrice Porter, Sue Johnson, Bertha Kinton and Kathleen Wilson.

At the August 4, 1974 meeting Reverend Fraley notified the administrative board of the appointment of Florence Spence and Bertha Kinton to represent Union on the parsonage committee.

Nancy Skoog was hired as music director for \$50 per month in August. Her job was to work with the youth choir, adult choir and later with the children.

At the Council on Ministries meeting on August 5 a plan was made to update our Sunday school records. The council decided that beginning on the first Sunday of January we would have Promotion Day. Each class would start off with a blank roll. As the people came their names would be entered. Names would stay on the roll until next January unless a person moves or is deceased. The next January we will use the same procedure. This did not affect names in the regular church membership roll. The administrative board approved the recommendation.



In August some landscaping in front of the church had to be done. Mr. Kelly Johnson agreed to purchase some centipede grass seed and give it to the Highway department to sow.

Reverend Fraley made a motion that we purchase a literature rack which was placed in the hallway of the older part of the Church. The Council on Ministries kept the rack stocked.

Reverend Fraley talked to the Board about surveying the street beside the Church by Artis Spence before preparing to grade and pave. This was turned over to Kelly Johnson, Chairman of the Trustees.

On September 22, Union accepted our prorated share of the budget for 1975. Our prorated share had gone from 38 percent to 40 percent.

Revival was October 13 with the Reverend Wilkes, an evangelist from South Carolina conducting. A fellowship supper preceded the revival on Sunday night.

Reverend Ray Sparrow was Homecoming speaker and Leon Powell was in charge of the afternoon singing.

In November 1974, Rachel Edwards was hired to clean the Church for \$10 a week. She was relieved of this job in 1979 for health reasons. There was a period that the MYF cleaned the Church and gave the Edwards family a break.

In November the Methodist Women agreed to organize the kitchen and be in charge of purchasing plates, cups, etc. The Methodist Men were to purchase coffee, sugar and salt.

The Methodist Women served for the Thanksgiving program.

A love offering was taken December 1, 1974 to show our appreciation for Nancy Skoog. The amount was \$32.85.

It was decided that we put cast aluminum letters on the sign as a memorial to Cecil Dean. These letters cost approximately \$8.00 each. Stanly Brown did the masonry work on the sign and Bill Shaw was hired to complete the sign.

A Christmas play was given in December. After the play we went into the Gilchrist Fellowship Hall where refreshments were served.

Union Church used the bus to go Christmas caroling on December 22, 1974. Nancy and Greg Skoog accompanied the group. We went to homes of the shut-ins and elderly in the community.

Our minister in 1975 was Reverend Fraley. Officials nominated by the Nominating Committee for the year 1975 are as follows:

Chairman of the Administrative Board: Johnnie H. Taylor

Vice-Chairman of the Administrative Board: Ronald Johnson.

Committee on Finance: Kelly Johnson, J. Lee Taylor, B. F. Wood, Jr., Elaine Womack.

Church Trustees: 1975 - Brigham Wilson, Hubert Womack.

1976 - Ronald Johnson, Fred Taylor.

1977 - Kelly Johnson, James Taylor, J. Lee Taylor.

Church Treasurers: Elaine Womack, Sue Wilson.

Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations: Charles Edwards, Johnnie H. Taylor, Ronald Johnson, Marie Taylor.

Committee on Nominations and Personnel:

1975 - Lenda Taylor, Marie Taylor.

1976 - James Taylor, Dorothy Johnson.

1977 - Florence Spence, Bertha Kinton.

Superintendent of Study Program: J. Lee Taylor, Charles Williams.

Membership Secretary: Lelia Puryear.

Committee on Records: Lenda Taylor.

Recording Secretary: Mollie Taylor.

Financial Auditor: Fred A. Johnson.

Work Area Coordinators: Education - Dorothy Johnson; Evangelism - Mollie Taylor, Elaine Womack; Missions - Mrs. Evelyn Womack; Worship and Communion - Mrs. Charles Edwards, Mrs. Edddice Dresser; Stewardship - Mr. Gary LaDue.

Council on Ministries: Teresa Johnson - Chairperson; Children - Veve Johnson; Adults - Florence Spence; Youth - Marie Taylor; Family - Patricia LaDue, Edddice Dresser.

Music Director: Nancy Skoog.

Pianist: Sammy Kinton.

Honorary Members of the Administrative Board: I. J. Gilchrist and J. Amos Powell.

In January of 1975, Kelly Johnson agreed to look after paving of parking area. A decision was made by the Administrative Board to pave parking area 6.6 feet wide and 210 feet long.

Johnnie H. Taylor agreed to contact D. S. Miller about meeting with church officials concerning going station.

Reverend Fraley talked with D.S. Miller about Union going station. He was told that if we went station there was a possibility of a Duke student or a retired Army chaplain being assigned as pastor. The Board wanted a younger person to work with the youth.

Peggy Holder agreed to be in charge of punch bowl and dishes that all churches on the charge use.

Mr. Wellons and Mr. Strickland had been responsible for collecting trash from the Church. They refunded the Church \$4.00 and said they would continue to collect trash but without charge.

Edddice Dresser volunteered to embroider names on the Church quilt and Evelyn Womack made the squares.

In May 1975 Johnnie H. Taylor volunteered to cut the grass for the rest of the summer. He was paid \$50 per month which he in turn donated to the Church.

Family Day was held in May. We made ice cream and enjoyed playing games.

Senior Citizens Day was held May 18, 1975. The men of the Church planned the program and provided transportation. A covered dish supper was served.

In June we were able to keep Reverend Fletcher Fraley as minister for another year.

Bible School was held June 16 through June 20. The Methodist Men gave the Bible School a weiner roast on Friday night. Commencement was held the following Sunday. The crafts were on exhibit in the fellowship hall.

Mrs. Dresser obtained the bus from the Church to take the Harnett County 4-H clubs to an annual district activity day in Carthage on June 27. Approximately 30 people rode the bus. Johnnie H. Taylor drove for the group. Later we received a letter from Mary Helen Jones (Ass't Ext. Agent) expressing her appreciation and containing a check.

During the summer, the MYF had a walk-a-thon and collected \$864.00.

On June 29, 1975, Union agreed to accept our prorated share of funds to be paid for Wesleyan College. This amounted to \$383.80. By August we paid \$15 over what was pledged to Wesleyan College Fund.

On September 6, 1975 a group from Union went to Carowinds. Marie Taylor planned the trip, and Leon Powell drove the bus.

Revival began in September with Reverend Jack Hunter from Gardners Chapel, College Lakes, conducting the services. Gardners Chapel Choir sang for the revival on Sunday night. The Flat Branch youth choir sang during the revival.

The United Methodist Women (UMW) were very active during 1975. They had many projects to include bake sales, dinners, yard sales, and selling cards to raise money for the Church. They collected money, coupons, and stamps and sent them to the Methodist Home. The UMW gives a Bible to each graduating Senior who attends Union Church. In 1975 they served lunches at the Mental Health Center in Buies Creek. UMW Officers for 1975 were: Elaine Womack, President; Mae Mitchell, Vice President; Deborah Davis, Secretary; and Lenda Taylor, Treasurer.

On September 21, 1975 Union agreed to accept an increase in the budget for Mangers Charge. Our proportionate share of the increase was \$338.80.

J. Lee Taylor was Chairman of the Harvest Sale held on September 27. A covered dish lunch was enjoyed by participants. Approximately \$2400 was made on the entire Harvest Sale. The UMW made a quilt for the sale.

Homecoming was held on October 25, 1975 with Reverend F. R. Davis speaking at the 11:00 a.m. service. Dinner was served in the Fellowship Hall with singing held in the sanctuary in the afternoon. Breland Puryear, Leon Powell, and James Taylor were in charge of singing. Flowers were given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Graves and Mr. W. A. Puryear, and in honor of Mrs. W. A. Puryear.

On November 17, 1975, Reverend Fraley conducted a workshop for the Council on Ministries and other interested persons. We were taught our responsibilities and how the Council on Ministries should function.

In December 1975, Lelia Puryear agreed to assume the responsibility of mailing get well cards for the Church.

Prior to the end of 1975, the UMW elected their officers for 1976. They elected Deborah Davis, President; Mae Mitchell, Vice-President; Ella McPhail, Secretary; and Lenda Taylor, Treasurer.

Throughout 1975, the UMW ordered copies of The Upper Room for the entire Church and encouraged families to have daily devotional readings in their homes.

The men of the Church prepared fruit bags on December 18 and the tree was decorated at this time in preparation for the Christmas Play which was given on December 19, 1975.

Union purchased fruit baskets for the elderly and shut-ins. The M.Y.F. delivered the baskets.

The average attendance per Sunday in 1975 was 93. The average regular collection was \$261.76.

The following Sunday School Teachers were selected to serve from January 1, 1976 to December 31, 1976

Kindergarten: Gail Brown, Joan Taylor, Dianne Reynolds.

Junior-Primary: Pat LaDue and Kathleen Wilson.

Junior High: Greg Skoog and Donald Mitchell.

Senior High: Lelia Puryear and Paul Edwards.

Mixed Adult: Dorothy Johnson, Mollie Taylor, Teresa Johnson.

Adult Women: Noelyne Langston and Elaine Womack.

Adult Men: Breland Puryear and Fred Taylor.

Officials elected to serve for 1976 are:

Chairman of the Administrative Board: Johnnie H. Taylor.

Committee on Finance: Kelly B. Johnson, Chairman, J. Lee Taylor, James Taylor, Ray Moore, Elaine Womack and Breland Puryear (Breland was made chairman after Kelly Johnson's death).

Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations: J. Lee Taylor, Johnnie H. Taylor, Ronald Johnson, Beatrice Porter and Teresa Johnson.

Church Trustees: James Taylor, Dorothy Johnson - 1976.  
Bertha Kinton, Florence Spence - 1977.  
Annie Lou Kinton, Teresa Johnson - 1978.

Church Treasurer: Ronald Johnson.  
Assistant Church Treasurer: Ethel Dean.

Superintendent of Study Program: Fred A. Johnson and J. Lee Taylor, Assistant.

Church Lay Leader: Breland Puryear.

Assistant Lay Leader: Leon Powell.

Membership Secretary: Lelia Puryear.

Committee on Records: Barbara Ray and Debbie Davis - Assistant.

Recording Secretary: Mollie Taylor.

Financial Auditor: Fred Taylor.

Council on Ministries: Chairperson - Lelia Puryear, Edddice Dresser, Sharon Johnson, Marie Taylor, Leon Powell, Florence Spence, Joan Taylor, Dorothy Johnson, Patricia LaDue, Donald Mitchell.

Work Area Coordinators: Teresa Johnson, J. Lee Taylor, Mamie Jo Darroch, Evelyn Womack, Annette Parchman, Edddice Dresser, Rachel Edwards, Mae Mitchell, Mollie Taylor, Elaine Womack and Bertha Kinton.

Music Director: Nancy Skoog.

Pianist: Sammy Kinton.

Honorary Members of the Administrative Board: Mr. I. J. Gilchrist, Mrs. Nannie Gilchrist, Mr. Amos Powell, Mrs. Irene Powell.

Charge Officers from Union are:

Charge Conference Recording Secretary: Mollie Taylor.

Parsonage Trustees: Kelly Johnson - 1976.

J. Lee Taylor - 1977.

The Administrative Board had decided that the Church bus was not used enough to keep up insurance and maintenance. The bus was sold in February to Milton Holland. The money from the bus went back into the M.Y.F. fund and was used later on the recreation and storage building. The recreation and storage building was financed with money collected by the youth, donations, and money from the building fund. Plans for the building were drawn by M. G. Bonucchi and Leon Powell was in charge of the construction.

Union approved building a storage building for the Charge and purchasing mattresses for the parsonage.

J. Lee and Ray Taylor built the storage building.

On March 28 Mitchell Darroch received his certificate and badge of an Eagle at Union. Mitchell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Lloyd Darroch. Mitchell was the third person to receive an Eagle award from Union. Douglas Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Brigham Wilson received his Eagle award on March 3, 1974 and was the second.

Bibles were purchased to be used by the children during the Children Story.

A committee was appointed to study the cemetery and to make recommendations to the Administrative Board. Serving on the committee were: Ronald Johnson, Chairman; James Taylor, Johnnie H. Taylor, Marie Taylor, Florence Spence.

Their recommendations are:

1. There will be a \$25 charge for members buried at Union.
2. There will be a \$200 charge for non-members without close family relations.
3. A charge of \$100 for non-members that have close family ties to a Union Church member. Close family ties are defined as mother, father, children, husband, wife, brother or sister.
4. Fees collected will be for maintenance purposes and be kept in a separate account. This is not perpetual care.
5. New plots will be for 2 or 4 graves.
6. A member of the cemetery committee shall be present when the stones are set.
7. Copies of the cemetery rules will be sent to each Church family or Church member.
8. Copies shall be sent to area funeral directors.
9. Cemetery Committee will determine whether a person may be interred at Union.
10. Committee members will be rotated but not more than two will be replaced simultaneously.
11. In November 1976, the Cemetery Committee recommended that non-members who paid toward the purchase of the cemetery be charged like members. These are Mrs. Lonnie White, Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Clayton, and Rev. and Mrs. W.B. Slaughter.

The Administrative Board passed on these recommendations.

Nancy Skoog agreed to be coordinator of the Church Directory. Pictures were taken October 17, 1976 by Mr. Roddy.

On January 25, 1976, Lynae and Melanie Skoog were baptized at Union Church by Rev. F. W. Fraley. Baptized on the same day were Natasha Davis and April Davis, and Larry Mitchell joined Union Church on this day.



On Sunday, May 2, 1976 the Methodist Women presented a program during the regular worship service on Mothers Day.

We had lay speakers to fill in on 1st and 3rd Sundays in June, July, and August.

Dewon Taylor was pianist while Sammy Kinton and Nancy Skoog were on vacation.

Revival was held Sunday-Thursday, May 16-20. Dr. and Mrs. Brockhoff spoke the first two nights. Neighboring ministers concluded the revival.

On May 23, the Senior Citizens were honored by the Church. A covered dish supper was enjoyed by all. The M. Y. F. gave the program, and there was a small gift for each guest.

In June Reverend Fraley, Jean and Brian moved to Maxton where Reverend Fraley began his ministry to St. Paul Church.

We welcomed to our charge Reverend David McKay, Joanne and David Jr. Reverend McKay had previously served churches in the Clinton area.

Bible School was held June 14-18. Teresa Johnson was Superintendent. Teachers were:

Kindergarten - Chris Bonucchi and Ronald Johnson Jr.

Juniors - Lelia Puryear and Dot Johnson.

Junior High - Pat LaDue and Kathleen Wilson.

Pianist - Nancy Skoog and Dewon Taylor.

On Friday night homemade ice cream was served. The following Sunday the Bible school gave a program and had an exhibit of crafts the children had made.

The Methodist men went to Autrey's on June 22. They invited their wives and we enjoyed a family style meal.

The Methodist Women sponsored a chicken supper on September 18. Approximately \$600 was made.

The Harvest Sale was held the last Saturday in September. The event was based on the bicentennial. Early 1700's dress was encouraged. The Church name quilt was made by Annie Lou Kinton in red, white, and blue. It had 200 names on it and was bought by Marie Taylor for \$800.00. Approximately \$5,000.00 was raised with the total harvest sale. We enjoyed a covered dish dinner. Leon Powell was chairman and J. Lee Taylor his assistant.

In October, Don Davis was hired to paint the outside of the Church for \$350.00. He also painted the woodwork on the Church sign.

Johnnie Taylor purchased a riding lawnmower for the Church.

Bishop Blackburn was the guest speaker for homecoming on October 31, 1976. The Church sign was dedicated after the morning worship service by Bishop Blackburn and Reverend David McKay in memory of Cecil Dean. Cecil had served as trustee and he and his wife Ethel had served as M.Y.F. counselors. Ethel and their son Chris attended the dedication.

A covered dish dinner was served and a singing was held in the afternoon.

Debbie Davis wrote a history for the directory and pictures were made in October.

Thanksgiving service was held at 8:00 am in the sanctuary. Afterwards refreshments were served in the fellowship hall. Refreshments consisted of foods from the 1700's, such as Hasty Pudding, Snickerdoodle Cookies, and Scripture Cake.

The Christmas play was held on December 19, and was well attended. Chris Bonucchi was in charge of the Christmas play and along with the cast did a splendid job.

Santa visited after the program and passed out fruit bags.

Reverend and Mrs. McKay were thanked after the program for their Christmas gift.

Fruit baskets were delivered to the elderly and shut-in on December 20th by the ladies of the Church.

A Christmas cantata was presented on December 26, 1976 during the regular worship service. Nancy Skoog directed.

A watchnight service was held on December 31.

A letter was sent to Mr. Bill Shaw to express our appreciation for use of front end loader and labor for recreation and storage building.

Average attendance for the year 1976 was 83 per Sunday. Average Sunday regular collection was \$242.37 per Sunday.

Officials from Union nominated to serve for the year 1977 are the following:

Reserve Delegate to Annual Charge Conference - Johnnie H. Taylor.

Charge Conference Recording Secretary - Mollie Taylor.

Parsonage Trustees - 1977 J. Lee Taylor  
1979 Ronald Johnson.

Chairman of Administrative Board - Johnnie H. Taylor.

Vice Chairman of Administrative Board - Ronald Johnson.

Committee on Finances - J. Lee Taylor, Chairman, Leon Powell, Joan Taylor, Ray Moore, Elaine Womack.

Church Trustees - 1977 Bertha Kinton  
James Taylor

1978 Stanley Brown  
Fred Johnson

1979 Freddie Reynolds  
Lenda Taylor

Church Treasurer - Ann Darroch, Deborah Davis, Assistant.

Church Lay Leader - Breland Puryear, Leon Powell, Assistant.

Committee on Pastor Parish Relations - J. Lee Taylor, Johnnie H. Taylor, Ronald Johnson, Beatrice Porter, Teresa Johnson.

Committee on Nominations and Personnel -

1977 Bertha Kinton  
Florence Spence

1978 Teresa Johnson  
Annie Lou Kinton

1979 Leon Powell  
Fred Taylor

Supt. of Study Program - Dewon Taylor, J. Lee Taylor, Assistant.

Membership Secretary - Lelia Puryear.

Council on Ministries: Chairperson - Teresa Johnson,  
Assistant Chairperson - Debbie Davis.

Work Area Coordinators: Education - Teresa Johnson;  
Stewardship - J. Lee Taylor; Missions - Evelyn Womack; Ecumenical  
Affairs - Leon Powell; Evangelism - Mae Mitchell and Elaine Womack;  
Social Concerns - Dorothy Johnson; Recording Secretary - Mollie Taylor;  
Worship - Rachel Edwards, Irene Powell, Assistant.

Age Level Coordinators: Children - Gail Brown; Youth -  
Marie Taylor, Leon Powell, Assistant; Family - Dorothy Johnson,  
Patricia LaDue, Assistant.

Youth Member on Council - Mike Womack.

Committee on Records - Florence Spence, Doris Wood, Assistant.

Financial Auditor - Fred Taylor.

In January 1977 a motion was made by J. Lee Taylor and passed  
that we have fellowship supper at 5:30 on the first Sunday nights  
in February, May and August.

Ronald Johnson and Johnnie H. Taylor were authorized to enter  
the safe deposit box for the Church.

The Administrative Board decided to have future Christmas plays  
on the second Sunday night or the afternoon in December. Members who  
work had found it difficult to get to the plays on week nights.

The Directory Committee met in February to sort pictures that should  
be included in Directory.

The Church decided to pay lay speakers \$10.00 for their gas. We  
had lay speakers from January through Lent.

During the energy crisis we decided to have all meetings except  
Sunday School and Worship Service in the homes of members or cancel them  
altogether.

D. S. Miller was present for our regular Administrative Board  
meeting in February. He had been invited to inform us about going  
station. Some of the things we were told are:

A church is supposed to have 400 members in order to go  
station. The Bishop can appoint a task force to meet with us and listen  
to our reasons. If they are valid and there is enough potential the  
task force can recommend to the bishop that we go station. The D. S.  
also gave us some figures to consider:

Salaries were:

Student Pastor:	Single	\$6,800
	Married	7,000
	With Children	7,200
Pastor Without Seminary Training	Single	\$8,200
	Married	8,400
	With Children	8,600
Pastor With Seminary Training	Single	\$8,800
	Married	9,000
	With Children	9,200

Each pastor would receive \$800 travel expense and hospital and group life insurance paid.

The District Work Fund would increase and the Single Figure asking would be an increase of \$1,261. We would be expected to accept the Missional Priorities Fund and to provide a parsonage.

The D. S. gave us two more options.

1. We could get an associate pastor for the entire charge.
2. We could get a retired Army chaplain that would work part time and have his own house.

The Administrative Board voted to hire the Army chaplain as associate pastor. This did not materialize.

In March 1977, a motion was made and passed that all money from the Harvest Sale go toward getting the Sanctuary carpeted.

Reverend David Jones, from Stedman, was guest speaker for revival starting on March 27. The services were taped and carried to the shut-in.

Leon Powell and Charles Edwards installed lights for the Church sign.

Evelyn Womack made squares for the Church quilt and the women of the Church met one night each week to embroider names.

We had an Easter Sunrise Service at 5:45. Refreshments were served in the Gilchrist Fellowship Hall.

Concrete for the Recreation and Storage Building was poured in April of 1977.

Senior Citizen Day was held May 1st. They were honored with a covered dish supper and a small gift.

Family Day was a fun and work day. We met at the Church at 1:00 pm and cleaned the Church and grounds. We then played games and a cook-out was furnished by the Church.

M. Y. F. had a spaghetti supper on May 21. Marie Taylor and Leon Powell were counselors for several years.

Bible School was held June 13-17. Chris Bonucchi was superintendent. Teresa Johnson was in charge of making ice cream on Friday night. Commencement was on Sunday during Sunday School.

In June 1977, the parsonage committee reported that the parsonage needed painting and the floor refinishing. The drapes were worn. Union agreed to pay its prorated share of the cost.

The Board agreed to spend \$800 to finish the storage and recreation building and to take a special collection for this purpose.

Beatrice Porter donated some of the electrical material for the recreation building.

A census for the surrounding area was taken July 17, and 24th. This was to be used as a means of obtaining new members. If interest was shown by people contacted, their names were turned over to the pastor for him to visit.

Johnnie H. Taylor made signs that are to advertise Bible School, Revivals, Harvest Sale, Homecoming, etc.

On July 14, the pastor-parish committee met with Mrs. Pearl West, who was a prospective Associate Minister for Union. Mrs. West was a seminary student at Duke and had taught music in the public schools.

Mrs. West was hired to start work in September and work until the next pastoral appointments unless we elected to rehire her. We got an unexpected bonus when Mrs. West began to serve. Her husband Ray is also a Methodist minister and has taught in various Sunday School classes and helped in worship services also at Union.

Mrs. West asked for assistance from lay persons on 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays. She suggested a variety of Church services on 5th Sundays with different groups or persons participating. She and Mr. West worked with choirs, and she taught others interested in music some of the fundamentals.

The Administrative Board was furnished samples of carpet and estimates from Trudeau's by Mr. and Mrs. B.F. Wood. Carpet for the sanctuary would cost \$2,000 plus \$200 for removing and replacing the pews.

Bernice Ballance formulated a questionnaire that was to be filled out by the entire church. This helped us to establish our priorities.

In September Lelia Puryear and Nancy Skoog checked the directory for accuracy.

The Administrative Board passed a motion that the ladies proceed with getting cushions for pews as long as the material coordinated in color and quality with the drapes in the altar area. Hilda Lee made the cushions with assistance from various people in measuring and cutting the material.

Johnnie H. Taylor was chairman of the Harvest Sale held on the last Saturday in September. Leon Powell was assistant. We had a free dinner with a donation box. Sue Johnson donated ice and drinks for the harvest sale. M. Y. F. sold ice cream. Proceeds from the sale were approximately \$3,400. It was decided that in the future a minimum price and the donor's name be placed on items for sale.

Teresa Johnson made a motion that we set the month of March for revival. The motion passed.

On October 9, 1977, Union agreed to accept our proportionate share of increase in the budget for 1978. Our increased share was \$300.40. Also the Board voted to raise the pastor's salary from \$10,700 to \$11,200 with the increase going toward travel.

We were asked to pay 50¢ per member for repair at Lake Junaluska which is owned by the Methodist Conference. We paid this.

Reverend Ray Sparrow was guest speaker for Homecoming on October 30, 1977. Dedication of the recreation and storage building was made and it was named Taylor Recreation Building. This was in honor of Marie Taylor (M.Y.F. counselor) and Johnnie H. Taylor (Chairman of the Board).

In October we spent \$369.99 for parsonage repairs and painting.

We had a Thanksgiving service at 8:00 am with refreshments following.

The UMW was active throughout the year of 1977. Officers of the UWM were: Deborah Davis, President; Teresa Johnson, Vice-President; Nancy Skoog, Secretary; and Lelia Puryear, Treasurer.

Fruit baskets for the elderly and shut-ins were prepared on December 7 in Gilchrist Fellowship Hall and delivered.

Mrs. Annie Lou Kinton donated Union's tree for Christmas.

The Christmas program was held on the 2nd Sunday night of December 1977.

We ended the year 1977 with a Watch Night Service, conducted by our Associate Pastor, Mrs. Pearl West. We had an impressive service; and at midnight, those who attended the service joined hands and prayed at the altar. Afterwards they went to the Gilchrist Fellowship Hall and partook of refreshments while they socialized prior to leaving for their individual homes.



PREPARATORY MEMBERS ARE:

Beth Kelli Johnson	1973
Lance David LaDue	1974
Jeremy Johnson	1975
Leslie Brown	1975
April Davis	1976
Christy Renee Mednis	1976
Natasha Davis	1976

WEDDINGS:

Teresa Surcy and John Mednis II	August 24, 1974
Debra Taylor and Needom Hughes III	October 13, 1974
Demaris Taylor and Cecil Clifton Brewer	April 13, 1975
Veve Johnson and Phillip Page	December 19, 1975
Wanda Porter and Robert Graven	January 11, 1976
Rhodena Sue Wilson and Anthony Mobley	December 13, 1976
Sherrill Brewer and Jeffrey Raynor	April 4, 1977
Cynthia Gail Puryear and David Alexander	December 31, 1977

DEATHS:

	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>
Electa A. Matthews	Aug 7, 1904	Jan 22, 1974
Cecil W. Dean	1937	Jul 29, 1974
Wayne D. Dresser	Jan 20, 1909	Aug 9, 1974
Alexander R. Porter	Aug 14, 1921	Nov 21, 1974
Kelly B. Johnson	Jul 4, 1902	Mar 8, 1976
Joseph A. Powell	Sep 13, 1903	Jun 29, 1976
Johnnie C. Clayton	Nov 17, 1907	Nov 3, 1976
J. Shelton Webb	Jun 12, 1921	Feb 8, 1977

UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
FROM JANUARY 1, 1978 - DECEMBER 31, 1980

By Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Darroch

In January 1978, the following members of Union Methodist Church began their official duties:

Chairman of the Administrative Board: Johnnie H. Taylor.

Vice-Chairman of the Administrative Board: Ronald Johnson.

Church Trustees: 1978 - Stanley Brown and Fred Johnson.

1979 - Freddie Reynolds and Bertha Kinton.

1980 - Leon Powell and Lee Mitchell.

Committee on Nominations and Personnel:

1978 - Teresa Johnson and Annie Lou Kinton.

1979 - Leon Powell and Fred Taylor.

1980 - Edddice Dresser and J. Lee Taylor.

Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations: J. Lee Taylor (Chairman),  
Johnnie H. Taylor, Sr., Ronald Johnson, Beatrice Porter, and Lelia  
Puryear.

Church Lay Leader: Leon Powell.

Assistant Church Lay Leader: Jimmy Mitchell.

Superintendent of Studies Program: Dewon Taylor.

Assistant Superintendent of Studies Program: J. Lee Taylor.

Membership Secretary: Lelia Puryear.

Committee on Records: Florence Spence and Doris Wood.

Committee on Finance: J. Lee Taylor (Chairman), Leon Powell,  
Ray Moore, Elaine Womack, and Ann Darroch.

Church Treasurer: Ann Darroch.

Assistant Church Treasurer: Deborah Davis.

Building Fund Treasurer: Deborah Davis.

Financial Auditor: Ronald Johnson.

Council on Ministries: Teresa Johnson (Chairman), Deborah Davis (Vice-Chairman), Mae Mitchell, Elaine Womack, J. Lee Taylor, Dorothy Johnson, Marie Taylor, Rachel Edwards, Irene Powell, Edddice Dresser, Florence Spence, Fred Johnson, Leon Powell, Dorothy Johnson, Patricia LaDue, and Shirley Taylor.

Honorary Administrative Board Members: Mrs. W. A. Puryear, Mrs. Alice Darroch, and Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Gilchrist.

The United Methodist Women (UMW) purchased curtains for the Sunday School rooms and Gilchrist Fellowship Hall. They also decided that we needed more supplies for the kitchen, so they held a kitchen shower.

On February 10, 1978, the Administrative Board decided that all pastors (serving Union in the past, present, and future), their wives, and children would be considered as church members at Union insofar as interment in the Union cemetery was concerned. This meant that there would be no more than a \$25 charge for their being buried in the cemetery.

In March 1978, nine additional tables were ordered at a cost of \$50.55 each for Gilchrist Fellowship Hall.

In April 1978, two ping-pong tables were ordered for Taylor Recreation Building.

Revival services were conducted March 19-23, 1978, by Reverend Neal Smith, who was assisted by our own pastor, Reverend David McKay. Union Church paid Reverend Smith \$200 for holding the revival.

Chris Bonucchi and her husband Marion (Butch) were given a stork shower in March 1978. This was unusual because it was the first time that the men in the church had attended a stork shower with their wives and the first time that an expectant father had been included in the games and opening the gifts at a stork shower. The shower was held in Gilchrist Fellowship Hall, and Chris and Butch received many useful gifts for the expected baby.

Faye Darroch was in charge of Senior Citizens Day on April 30, 1978. Marie Taylor and Leon Powell assisted in planning and preparation for the event. Union Church members brought food, and everyone enjoyed eating and fellowshiping together prior to the musical entertainment. Approximately 30 senior citizens attended the enjoyable affair.

Patricia LaDue and Dorothy Johnson planned an excellent Family Day, which was held on May 20, 1978. They had refreshments available in Gilchrist Fellowship Hall throughout the afternoon. Many of the ladies played bingo. Adults and children joined in the competitive games. After the games, everyone enjoyed a covered dish dinner.

On Tuesday night, June 6, 1978, at Annual Conference held at Methodist College, Fayetteville, North Carolina, 19 members attended and saw their Associate Pastor, Pearl West, ordained for the ministry. At the conclusion of the night's scheduled activities, these members met with District Superintendent Miller to reaffirm our desire to become a station church.

We welcomed Reverend Olive and his family back as the pastor and parsonage family for another year at the conclusion of Annual Conference.

On June 11, 1978, Union Church participated in a fund raising for Dorothy Dollar. The special collection of \$135.08 was donated toward expenses of a benefit dinner for her which was to be held at Lillington School cafeteria on June 28, 1978. Several of the Union members worked at the school during the benefit dinner. Women of the church baked cakes and cookies for sale. Dorothy Dollar was not a member of Union Church but she was a resident of Flat Branch Community. She had terminal cancer, and the funds raised at the benefit dinner were used to help defray medical expenses. She was well known to Harnett County school children as the story-telling lady who worked with the Harnett County library. She was especially talented for working with handicapped children during her tenure with Harnett County Library.

Bible School was held June 26-30, 1978, with Clifford Darroch as Superintendent. The teachers were: Kindergarten - Patricia LaDue, Primary - Dianne Reynolds, Juniors - Teresa Johnson, and Teens - Pearl West. Nancy Skoog was Music Director. Loretta West, Mae Mitchell, Deborah Davis, and Marie Taylor served refreshments each night. On Friday night, they were joined by other parents who helped make ice cream to serve the children, workers, and parents.

During the month of July 1978, Terrell Shaw, a plumber who lived in the Anderson Creek Community, installed a new water pump at the church. Throughout the years, he donated much of his work or charged the very minimum for his labor. Although not a member of Union Church, he was very faithful to assist the church when maintenance problems arose.

The mimeograph machine which Mr. and Mrs. Gilchrist had given in memory of their daughter Maxine had served well for many years, but a new one was needed. Union Church paid its prorated share--\$377.02-- when the charge purchased a new mimeograph machine and a reconditioned Underwood typewriter in August 1978.

In August 1978, a plaque which cost \$30 was added to the church sign which had been dedicated in memory of Cecil Dean.

The Church had sometime before 1978 given permission for the 4-H Club to meet in Union Church. Dorothy Johnson and Peggy Silvers were the first leaders the 4-H had at Union. Later Edddice Dresser and Kathleen Wilson worked with them. In 1978 under the leadership of Edddice Dresser and Kathleen Wilson, the 4-H Club made a quilt for our Harvest Sale.

Mr. George C. Langston died on September 23, 1978 and was interred in the Union Church cemetery. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Marvin Langston, Sr., who had been active in Union Church's founding. He was the husband of Mrs. Noelyne Langston, who served in many capacities in the church.

Johnnie H. Taylor was Chairman of the Harvest Sale held on the last Saturday in September 1978. He was ably assisted by J. Lee Taylor and Leon Powell. The UMW had made a History Quilt for the sale. Faye Darroch had made the Church quilt on which 310 names were embroidered in addition to the pastors' names. The following is the Harvest Sale Report for 1978: Auction Sales - \$3,337.00; Names on Church Quilt - \$1,510.00; Dinner - \$198.25; Primary Class Sales - \$40.20; Kindergarten Class Sales - \$55.40; Donations - \$150.00. Total Proceeds - \$5,290.85. Members brought a covered dish and enjoyed lunch together prior to the afternoon auction, at which there was some lively bidding.

Mr. Edward Johnson, one of our Church members who had been an invalid for several years, died on October 11, 1978, and was interred in the Union Cemetery. Prior to his having been invalided, he had wished to give of his time and service and had cut the grass on the grounds and in the cemetery for several months. He had also been a member of the first organized choir at Union. He was the husband of Sue Tingen Johnson who had helped the church by contributing food and drinks for several occasions held at the church. Both of them had contributed immeasurably toward progress of Union Church over the years.

The first Silver Wedding Anniversary celebrated at Union Church was on October 25, 1978 when the children of Mr. and Mrs. Brigham Wilson invited friends and relatives to celebrate this joyous occasion in the lives of their parents. Many persons attended and congratulated Kathleen and Brigham Wilson on their Silver Wedding Anniversary in Gilchrist Fellowship Hall.

Reverend Thomas House was the speaker for Homecoming Services held the last Sunday in October 1978. He would accept no pay for bringing the message nor for the distance he and Mrs. House traveled to be with us. Many visitors and former members joined the Union Church members for the noon meal in Gilchrist Fellowship Hall. After the meal, Breland Carithers Puryear was in charge of the afternoon singing in the sanctuary. Several groups participated and rendered excellent musical selections.

On Thanksgiving morning, worshipers gathered at 7:00 a.m. for a sunrise service in the sanctuary. After the service, they went into Gilchrist Fellowship Hall where they partook of refreshments.

Several churches in the area had outdoor displays during the month of December. Union Church members wanted to have a manger scene. So Clifford Darroch, Faye Darroch, and Johnnie H. Taylor bought statues of Mary, Joseph, and the Christ Child. J. Lee Taylor built a stable to display the statues on the Northeast corner of the lawn in front of the sanctuary. Other statues of the wise men, shepherds, and animals were added. All the statues arrived in time for the Christmas display.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Langston gave a cedar tree which we decorated for Christmas and placed in the Taylor Recreation Building. The Christmas play was held in the sanctuary on December 10, 1978. A large number of people attended the well-presented program. After the program, Mr. Harry Holder of Woodside Church played Santa. His helpers gave out bags of fruit, oranges, candy, raisins, and nuts which had been purchased from Tingen's Grocery and bagged by the men of the church.

During 1978, Union Church gained six members and lost two members, for a net gain of four members. Average weekly attendance for 1978 was 69. Total collections for 1978 amounted to \$15,705.12.

During December 1978, the UMW took fruit baskets to the sick and shut-ins in the community.

On December 31, 1978, the UMW conducted the worship service. The women even acted as ushers. They did a commendable job in presenting the fifth Sunday services.

On December 31, 1978, the members of Union Church gathered in the Gilchrist Fellowship Hall and ate refreshments at 10:00 p.m. They fellowshiped until 11:00 p.m. when they went into the sanctuary for the Watch Night Service which had become traditional in Union Church. Mollie P. Taylor had been asked to conduct the Watch Night Service. Feeling that she could present a worship service but that she was incapable of writing one, she borrowed one from an Episcopalian friend who had written the sermon and delivered it in a Fayetteville Church. She added her own comments, and no one seemed to notice that it was a combination of both Methodist and Episcopalian writings. The service ended at 12:00 which was a wonderful way to end one year and make a new beginning for a New Year.

In January 1979, the desire to become a station church gained impetus among the members. It became the major goal of most of the members.

On Sunday afternoon, February 25, 1979 at 2:00 p.m. District Superintendent Miller's replacement, District Superintendent Paul Carruth, met with members to discuss station status and to answer our questions. At the beginning of the meeting, Reverend Carruth asked

that the meeting be limited to 45 minutes. We asked him many questions, which he endeavored to answer. The only commitment he made was that if we would communicate with enough force in letters to him from the Administrative Board, Sunday School, UMW, Methodist Men, and MYF during the next two-month period the kinds of things that we felt we were doing that would make us strong enough to become a station church that he would present the Bishop's Cabinet our request for a Task Force study.

A triple stork shower was held to honor expectant mothers, Joan Taylor, Nancy Skoog, and Gail Brown on March 10, 1979. This was the first time the ladies of the church had ever given a triple stork shower. Many people attended and were very pleased to see the many beautiful gifts which were given to the three ladies.

Our revival for 1979 was held March 18-22, 1979. Reverend James Short, pastor of Broadway Methodist Church, brought the sermons each night. He was paid \$200 for holding the revival services.

Under Pearl West's leadership, we decided that we would present a play on Palm Sunday. The actors and actresses were chosen. They began practicing on February 11, 1979, for a play called "Barabbas." The participants practiced faithfully, and the play was superbly presented on Palm Sunday. The costumes were realistic of the period represented in the play, and the actors were very convincing in their roles. Malcolm Darroch and J. Lee Taylor built a house with materials obtained by Gary LaDue. They found some old pieces of furniture to use in the house. The house was built near the south end of the church. The wind blew throughout the entire presentation, but the actors were able to speak loudly enough to be heard. The actors were: Greg Skoog, Ann Darroch, Leon Powell, Marion Bonucchi, Lisa Puryear, Lelia Puryear, and Karen Moore. Marie Taylor, Mollie Taylor, and Noelyne Langston were prompters. Pearl West was the Director. "Barabbas" was the first Easter Play presented at Union.

Ray West, husband of our Associate Pastor, conducted the 1979 Easter Sunrise Service in the cemetery. We had visitors from other churches on the charge. Although the morning was very cold, we enjoyed the beautiful sunrise and the meaningful service. After the service, we were fortified by food served in Gilchrist Fellowship Hall. Ray West readily assisted us in so many projects that it was almost as if we had two Associate Pastors.

In April 1979, we increased the amount of insurance on our buildings from \$210,000 to \$226,450.

Union Church participated in a fund-raising supper at Lillington School cafeteria to show their love and concern for Donnie Butler, who was terminally ill. Donnie Butler was the sister of Delia Powell

and the wife of Robert Butler, who had once been a member of Union Church and had recently made items for sale at our Annual Harvest Sale. Union Church also took a love offering for the Butlers. When Donnie had to commute to a hospital 60 miles distant for daily treatments, some of the women at Union Church volunteered to take her. She was well loved by everyone who knew her.

Our record player was broken in April 1979. Albert Carey, who had attended Union Church in the 1950's and who with his wife had presented us with the American and Christian Flags in honor and memory of their son Jerry who lost his life in Vietnam, repaired the record player at no charge. They had moved from our community, but they still attended some of our special services.

Donna Moore, daughter of Milton and Thadean Moore, was honored with a bridal shower in May prior to her marriage to James Hooper. They had a lovely Church wedding on May 19, 1979, followed by a reception in Gilchrist Fellowship Hall.

Evelyn Womack volunteered to make the green and yellow, queen-size quilt for the Harvest Sale. Faye Darroch embroidered 182 names on the quilt plus all names of former and present pastors.

In May 1979, we honored the Senior Citizens of the community with a fellowship supper at the church. Pearl West played some of the musical instruments she had made. Most of her songs were played on a handmade dulcimer. Pearl West dressed for the occasion in clothes characteristic of the mountains. She and Ray sang several songs together. Each Senior Citizen was given a small gift--a night light. Ann Darroch read a poem to them that she had written about the night light.

The UMW began a project to purchase an organ for the church. A second-hand organ was delivered to the church on June 28, 1979. The choir practiced and decided that they would like to have the organ. A representative from the company who delivered the organ wanted to be paid for the organ that night. The choir requested that the organ be left without being purchased until after the congregation had the opportunity to hear it during the worship service on the next Sunday morning. The representative agreed to leave the organ until Sunday and to pick it up if it did not prove satisfactory. When Sunday morning arrived, the organ would not make a sound. Members of the church were pleased that no firm commitment had been made to purchase the organ without a fair trial.

Shirely Taylor, daughter of J. Lee and Marie Taylor and granddaughter of both James Taylor and Annie Lou Kinton, married Second Lieutenant Joe Gaither in a double-ring ceremony on July 15, 1979.



Reverends Ray and Pearl West performed the ceremony. Joe repeated his vows at Ray's instructions, and Shirely repeated her vows after Pearl's instructions. A reception was held in Gilchrist Fellowship Hall after the ceremony. Joe Gaither was transferred to Germany a few weeks later, and Shirley Gaither was able to join her husband shortly thereafter. She was able to take many of the gifts that she had received prior to her marriage when she was honored with a bridal shower as well as many of the wedding gifts that they received.

On August 25, 1979, Delia Powell was honored with a stork shower in Gilchrist Fellowship Hall. The gifts were very useful when she and Leon were later blessed with a beautiful daughter.

In September 1979, the UMW purchased a five-ton, single-phase Westinghouse airconditioner through the efforts and discount gained by Kenneth Darroch. Cost of the airconditioner was \$400 and it was purchased for installation in the south wing of the church.

The 1979 Harvest Sale was held in Taylor Recreation Building on the last Saturday in September. Johnnie H. Taylor bought the Church quilt for \$200. Proceeds from the names on the quilt amounted to \$910. Proceeds for the Harvest Sale amounted to \$2,925.35. Many handmade items were auctioned off. Several of the men acted as the auctioneers. Judy, Jewel, and Cheri Taylor recorded sales and collected money during the auction.

Throughout 1979, Union hosted many groups who came and presented musical programs. Among these groups were the Melody Masters from Smithfield, composed of Paul Landon, Ollie and Charles Pilkington, and Edgar Johnson; The Tommy Howington Group, The Tri-Lights, and The Sentinels. The UMW always served refreshments at the conclusion of the programs.

On October 12, 1979, Sandra Womack, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Weldon Womack and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Gilchrist, was honored with a bridal shower in Gilchrist Fellowship Hall. On October 14, 1979, she became the bride of Martin Van Pait. Reverend John Olive officiated at the double-ring ceremony when they repeated the vows they had written themselves. The wedding was followed by a reception in Gilchrist Fellowship Hall.

In October 1979, Mrs. Pearl West organized a Young Fellowship Club. They barbecued chicken at the first party. Several young couples joined the club, and a separate Church School Class was formed for them. They became quite active and had a hayride and delivered boxes with household goods to the elderly and shut-ins of the community. They had a Woodchopper's Ball where the wives shaved their husbands' with an axe, and the men had woodcutting contests.

Reverend Fletcher Fraley was the guest speaker at Homecoming Services on October 28, 1979. Breland Puryear was in charge of the afternoon singing service. In addition to the Union Choir, some of the singers were: Windim Family, Woodside Choir, Tommy Howington and the Sunshine Girls, and Ruth and J. L. Holder. Many visitors and former members shared with us in making this an enjoyable occasion.

A project was begun to purchase additional Methodist Hymnals. Various members gave hymnals in memory or honor of friends of members of their families. Teresa Johnson ordered approximately 30 hymnals.

In November 1979, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bryan gave \$150 and some books to assist in beginning a memorial library honoring Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Langston, Sr. Mrs. Bryan was the former Sandra Rackley, niece of Mrs. J. M. Langston, Sr. Each year the Bryans plan to donate money or books to the library once it is established. Mrs. Noelyne Langston volunteered to work toward setting up the library.

In December 1979, a memorial fund was established in memory of Raeford Darroch, who died in November 1979. Raeford Darroch was the son of Mrs. Maggie Darroch and the late A. K. Darroch, whose dedicated work helped build Union Church. The money was spent to build a wooden cabinet in which to store records pertaining to the layout of cemetery plots and deeds to Union Church property. In addition to the cabinet, many Methodist Hymnals were given in memory of Raeford Darroch.

Union Church participated in the Harnett County Christmas Parade in Lillington on December 8, 1979. The following persons sang carols on Float Number 63: Fred, Teresa, Beth, and Jeremy Johnson; Ray and Pearl West; Bertha Kinton; Greg, Nancy, Lynae, and Melanie Skoog; Barbara, J. Lee, and Marie Taylor; Gail and Leslie Brown; Garnett, Suzanne, Mark, and Kimberly Hicks; Deborah, Jerry, and April Davis; Ronald and Dorothy Johnson; Lelia Puryear; and Elizabeth Reynolds.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kinton held a reception in their honor in Gilchrist Fellowship Hall on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on December 9, 1979. Theirs was the first Golden Wedding Anniversary to be held at Union for two of its members. Many friends and relatives attended the joyous occasion.

Barbara Taylor gave the welcoming speech to those who attended the Christmas Program on December 21, 1979. Lisa Puryear read the scripture and led the opening prayer. Lelia Puryear, Nancy Skoog, Leon Powell, Jane Langston, Bertha Kinton, and James Taylor sang "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem." The Nursery and Beginners Classes presented a skit "Christmas Day." The Primary Class presented "This Wonderful Season." The small children sang "Away in a Manger", and the congregation sang "Joy to the World." A play entitled "To All People" was presented under the direction of Alda Johnson and Marie Taylor. Lelia Puryear and Deborah Davis were prompters. J. Lee Taylor and Stanley Brown provided stage properties.

The cast of characters included; Connie Wicker, Jimmy Wicker, Veve Page, Timmy Johnson, Jerry Davis, Teresa Johnson, Jeffrey Johnson, Darrell Watkins, Gail Brown, Barbara Ray, Karen Moore, Kimberly Johnson, Barbara Taylor, Fred LaDue, Linda Farrar, and Maria Johnson. The play was well presented; and, at the conclusion of the play, our special guest was Santa enacted by Marion Bonucchi. As a token of our appreciation and esteem, the church presented Reverend Olive a suitcase and Mrs. West a stole to wear with her robe when she conducted services.

On December 27, 1979, the performance was presented to the patients at Adams and Kinton Rest Home in Buies Creek.

Throughout 1979, the UMW was an active and effective organization. During the year, they had bake sales, a chicken supper which netted \$1,000, took fruit baskets to the elderly and shut-ins in the community, gave Bibles to the high school graduates with the graduate's name engraved in the lower right-hand corner, prepared and served food at the Mental Health Center in Buies Creek, and conducted the Worship Service on the fifth Sunday in December. Their faithfulness and diligent work added immeasurably to the use and comfort of the church.

Our Associate Pastor, Mrs. Pearl West, conducted the traditional Watch Night Service on December 31, 1979. At 10:30 p.m., those who planned to participate in the service gathered for fellowship and refreshments in Gilchrist Fellowship Hall. At 11:00 p.m., they went into the sanctuary for the very meaningful service. Thus the year of 1979 ended with worship and gratefulness for having been blessed throughout another year.

The Church School Teachers for 1980 were:

Nursery - Marie Taylor

Beginners - Connie Wicker

Juniors - Harold and Cheri Taylor

Junior Highs - Greg Skoog

Senior Highs - Suzanne Hicks and Lelia Puryear

Young Adults - Mrs. Evelyn Gunter

Mixed Adults - Clifford Darroch, Mollie Taylor, and Alda Johnson

Adult Women - Jane Langston

Adult Men - M. D. Gunter and Breland Carithers Puryear

In January 1980, the following Church officials assumed their duties:

Chairman of the Administrative Board: Clifford Darroch.

Vice Chairman of the Administrative Board: Ronald Johnson.

Church Trustees: 1980 - Leon Powell and Lee Mitchell.

1981 - Fred Johnson and James Taylor.

1982 - Ronald Johnson, J. Lee Taylor,  
Malcolm Darroch, and Johnnie Taylor, Jr.

Committee on Finance: J. Lee Taylor (Chairman), Leon Powell, Elaine Womack, Ann Darroch, Barbara Ray, Marshall Underwood, and Reverend John Olive.

Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations: Ronald Johnson, J. Lee Taylor, Lelia Puryear, Beatrice Porter, and Bertha Kinton.

Committee on Nominations: Reverend John Olive, Teresa Johnson, J. Lee Taylor, Florence Spence, Dorothy Johnson, Fred Taylor, Annie Lou Kinton, and Ann Darroch.

Church Treasurer: Barbara Ray.

Assistant Church Treasurer: Ann Darroch.

Superintendent of Studies Program: J. Lee Taylor.

Church Lay Leader: Leon Powell.

Membership Secretary: Florence Spence.

Historian: Clifford Darroch.

Recording Secretary: Mollie P. Taylor.

Financial Auditor: Ann Darroch.

Pianist: Nancy Skoog.

Music Director: Russell Dixon.

Honorary Members of the Administrative Board: Alma Johnson, Annie Lou Kinton, Irene Powell, Rebecca Puryear, Charlie Cotten, Alice Darroch, I. J. Gilchrist, Sam Kinton, and Nannie Gilchrist.

The Administrative Board hired Tony Holder as janitor in January 1980 at \$50 per month.

On January 19, 1980, Georgianna Quinn, daughter of Mrs. Noelyne Langston, was given a stork shower in Gilchrist Fellowship Hall. She received many useful and beautiful gifts for the expected baby.

On January 20, 1980, a group of singers from the First Baptist Church in Benson, North Carolina, came to Union Church and presented a musical program. Mrs. Eleanor Tyson, a wife of a one of our former pastors, sang and accompanied them on the piano. Persons in the group in addition to Mrs. Tyson were: Lottie Stephenson, Jean Royals, and Benton Dunn. Everyone enjoyed the singing and the fellowship.

When the Secret Pals had been organized for a year, they went to dinner at the Barbecue Lodge in Fayetteville on February 16, 1980. Mrs. Pearl West had helped organize the Secret Pals Club. At the dinner, they exchanged gifts and learned who their Secret Pal had been for the past year. They drew names for the next year.

In February 1980, Mollie Taylor and Dorothy Johnson cleaned out the file cabinet that the church had owned for years. They realized that it was no longer large enough to hold all the records. Mollie Taylor purchased a new file cabinet for \$135.17. After the file cabinet was placed in the room that was to serve as a library, she set up a new filing system.

Twice during 1979, the Young Fellowship Club scheduled a square dance. Both times it had snowed, and the dance had been cancelled. On March 1, 1980, the dance was held at the Anderson Creek School cafeteria. Vance McDaniel, who had instructed some of the participants in dance classes, was the caller.

During 1980, the UMW gave a special donation to the Olympics.

The members of Union United Methodist Church began a concerted effort to become a station church in 1980. On March 20 at 4:00 p.m., a group of members--Ronald Johnson, Dorothy Johnson, Lelia Puryear, J. Lee Taylor, Bertha Kinton, and Mollie Taylor--met with Bishop Blackburn and District Superintendent Carruth at Haymount Methodist Church to discuss Union's becoming a station. They talked at length, but no definite promise was given that Union would be able to become a station church in the foreseeable future. The Bishop promised to send a task force to study the situation.

The Methodist Conference had scheduled the week of March 23, 1980 for "Proclaim the Word" Evangelistic Services. Reverend Douglas Lamb was the visiting minister for these services, and he stayed in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Patterson of Cool Springs Church. Members of Union Church joined with the other charge churches for these services and joined them for a fellowship supper at Woodside Church on Sunday night prior to the first service. The worship services began nightly at 7:30 p.m. Union Church gained two members through these services, which were attended by more than 100 persons each night.

The members of Union Church had a new experience on April 4, 1980. Mrs. Pearl West held an incorporated Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Order of Worship. Those church members who participated were asked to fast all day on Friday until the time of the service at 7:00 p.m. Members brought uncooked food, such as dates, grapes, raisins, carrots, cheese, and juice for a meal during the service. The service began with worship, prayer, and communion. The evening's worship service included: The Word of God, singing a hymn, Prayer of Confession and Pardon, prayer, and scripture reading, the sermon, and communion. Some members participated in the footwashing service, the first ever held at Union Church. After that portion of the service, the Love Feast was observed in Gilchrist Fellowship. After the Love Feast, the people returned to the sanctuary for the Tenebrae Commemoration. This began with a hymn, the greeting, another hymn, and prayer. The last of the service was The Passion of Our Lord, with Leon Powell, Sharon Murnahan, Tim Murnahan, Mollie Taylor, Greg Skoog, and Faye Darroch participating. Karen Moore and Barbara Taylor lit the candles.

True to his word, Bishop Blackburn sent a Task Force Group on April 17, 1980 to listen to our reasons for becoming a station church. The following people represented Union Church: Ronald R. Johnson, Johnnie Lee Taylor, and Clifford Darroch. Mollie Taylor and Connie Wicker attended in the capacity of recorders. Harry Holder represented Woodside Church; Lucius Stewart represented Mount Ariel Church; and Elijah Currin represented Cool Springs Church. Reverend Olive represented all the churches of the charge. District Superintendent Paul Carruth attended with the group composed of: Reverend Paul G. Bunn, Reverend Albert F. Fisher, Dr. Clyde G. McCarver, Reverend Warren B. Petteway, Jack Williams, and Robert L. Wilson. A long discussion ensued. The Task Force said that we would be apprised of their decision within a short period of time.

On April 28, 1980, the Task Force notified Bishop Blackburn and District Superintendent Carruth of their decision, which was relayed to the disappointed members of Union Church. Our request to become a station church was denied. We were forwarded a copy of the Task Force report. Upon reading the report, we learned that two of our valid reasons why we should be allowed to become a station church were not included in their summary. We had given them five reasons as to why we should be allowed to become a station church, and they had listed only three. Mollie P. Taylor who had given the two omitted reasons wrote to the District Superintendent requesting that an addendum to the study be prepared to include her two reasons which were: (1) Because the cost of building a parsonage was steadily escalating, if we did not build in the near future we would be unable to do so; and (2) that at the cost of gasoline, members of Union would be unable to continue to participate in functions that were held at the farthest point on the charge and people at the farthest distance (Cool Springs) would be unable to attend services at Union for the same reason.

District Superintendent Carruth wrote a letter to the Task Force on May 13, 1980 and furnished a copy of the letter to Mollie Taylor and to Bishop Blackburn, requesting that the two points be made a part of the Task Force Report. If an addendum was later prepared to include the two reasons, Union Church has not been furnished a copy of the corrected report.

Greg Skoog and Breland Puryear requested an appointment with Bishop Blackburn in order to discuss the Task Force's negative response to our request to become a station church. They met with Bishop Blackburn on May 20, 1980 at his office. He told them the main reason we were not allowed to go station was due to our lack of active members.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kinton donated 200 gallons of fuel oil to Union Church in May 1980.

When Annual Conference convened, we learned that Reverend Olive would work with us as our pastor for another year. Mrs. Pearl West had graduated from Duke Divinity School, and she was assigned to a charge in Turkey, North Carolina. The choir honored Pearl and Ray West by taking them out to dinner at a Chinese Restaurant in Sanford. The members of Union Church wished them success in serving the charge at Turkey.

Union Church usually honors all the community's senior citizens on a Sunday night during the month of May each year. Ann Darroch and Mollie Taylor were in charge of the event for 1980. They had heard of the Coats Kitchen Band, and wanted that group to come and entertain everyone when the senior citizens were honored. The band could not come to Union during the month of May, so the date to honor the senior citizens was changed to June 8. Members of the Young Fellowship Club were asked to help in setting up tables and getting centerpieces for the tables. They put lovely roses in white vases on each table. Cooperation during the event was superb. Ronald Johnson and J. Lee Taylor also helped prepare for the event in various ways. Clifford Darroch welcomed everyone to the event and related some of the changes that had taken place at Union Church within the past year. Reverend Olive led in prayer. After a splendid meal in Gilchrist Fellowship Hall, everyone went into the sanctuary where the Coats Kitchen Band performed by playing washboards, tubs, spoons, and other homemade instruments. The youngest member of the Coats Kitchen Band was 65, and the oldest was 90 years of age. They played their instruments with zest and exuberance. Those who attended said that they enjoyed hearing such lively instrument playing. At the conclusion of the program, all senior citizens to include those who performed were given gifts. All the senior citizens were given a bookmark and a daily guide for Bible readings for the year. In addition to those small tokens, each senior citizen was given a figure that glowed in the dark--a kneeling child, a pair of praying hands, or a cross.

On June 7, 1980, Judy Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie H. Taylor, was honored with a bridal shower, prior to her marriage on June 21 to Charles Lee Norris.

Many members felt that they had questions that they wanted to ask the Bishop and District Superintendent. On June 18, 1980, they came to Union and met with the church members. No real progress was made at the meeting, and the church members were discouraged. Both the District Superintendent and the Bishop said that it would be good if we hired another Associate Pastor to replace Mrs. West, even though the Administrative Board had voted not to do so.

Connie Wicker was in charge of Bible School on June 23 through 27, 1980. Teachers and Assistant Teachers were: Lula Mae Olive, Suzanne Hicks, Dianne Reynolds, Gail Brown, and Veve Page. Kimberly Johnson was pianist. Elaine Womack and Faye Darroch were in charge of refreshments daily. The workers prepared hot dogs for all the children the last day of Bible School. The children enjoyed various projects such as paper mache, plant life, pottery, and painting. On Sunday morning following Bible School, the children presented their program before the Church School audience.

The tape player and microphones were stolen from the church in June 1980. Value of the stolen articles was \$74.19.

The Administrative Board decided that we should hire another Associate Pastor. In July 1980, Reverend Fletcher Fraley became our Associate Pastor. He had served in the capacity of Pastor on three separate occasions previously. In addition to bringing the worship service on the first, third, and fifth Sundays, he agreed to help Reverend Olive with other projects associated with the ministry. We felt very fortunate to have him with us again. He instituted two programs of training. He trained both ushers and acolytes. Mrs. Bertha Kinton, the Methodist Men, and the UMW each donated a vestment to be used by the acolytes.

One of our members, Alice Darroch, mother of Alda Johnson and wife of the late Ernest Darroch, died on August 19, 1980. Alice Darroch had been very active in Union Church prior to the time she became an invalid. While she was an invalid, worship services were taped and taken to her so she could enjoy the worship services. Even though she was ill for several years, she served as a source of inspiration to ministers and church members when they visited her.

Russell Dixon, a student at Campbell University, became our Music Director on September 7, 1980.

Johnnie H. Taylor, Sr. and Russell Taylor were in charge of cooking the barbecue for the Harvest Sale held on Saturday, September 27, 1980. The Church sold plates consisting of barbecue, slaw (made by Elaine Womack), string beans, and cake (made by the women of the church).



A new design was selected for the Church quilt which was made and embroidered by Faye Darroch. Evelyn Womack quilted the quilt. Faye Darroch embroidered 225 names in addition to the names of all ministers who had served the church. For the first time, we had professional auctioneers to auction off the items. The church quilt, bought by Johnnie H. Taylor, Sr., sold for \$1,050. The UMW made a quilt with symbols of the Christian faith on it. Mrs. Edith Johnson bought the UMW quilt. Auction sales amounted to \$4,219.50; dinner, \$450; and names on the quilt, \$780--for a total proceeds of \$5,449.50.

Homecoming was held on October 26, 1980. During the worship service, Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Gilchrist were honored. A poem had been written for each of them. Leon Powell read both poems. Framed copies of the poems were given to Mr. and Mrs. Gilchrist. (These poems later appeared in the Harnett County News.)

Reverend Ray Sparrow was the Homecoming Speaker. He brought a very inspirational message. After the message, everyone went into Gilchrist Fellowship Hall and enjoyed a sumptuous meal. At 2:00 p.m., we went into the sanctuary for the afternoon singing. In addition to the Union Choir, the children from the Gourd Springs Baptist Church sang under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Dewon Taylor.

The choir presented a cantata "An Old-Fashioned Christmas" under the direction of Russell Dixon. Prior to the cantata, the children presented a skit. Some of the children had roles during the cantata. Everyone enjoyed the music, and the children enjoyed talking to Santa in the person of Donald Mitchell. Santa's helpers passed out bags containing raisins, oranges, tangerines, apples, candy, and nuts at the conclusion of the program. Then goodies were served in Gilchrist Fellowship Hall. The Church gave Reverend Olive a pen and pencil set, two shirts, and two ties. They gave Reverend Fraley an engraved pen and pencil set.

During the Christmas season, the UMW carried fruit baskets to the sick and elderly in the community.

On New Year's Eve, we gathered in Gilchrist Fellowship Hall for refreshments at 10:30 p.m. Afterwards we went into the sanctuary where Reverend Olive conducted the traditional Watch Night Service, which has become very special to us. We ended the year of 1980 with worship and thanksgiving for the special blessings bestowed upon us for another year.

PREPARATORY MEMBERS 1978 - 1980:

James Theodore Bonucchi	April 23, 1978
Kristen Ann Skoog	July 8, 1979
Stephanne Grant	July 8, 1979
Casey Leanne Powell	July 8, 1979
Jason Neal Davis	May 11, 1980
Eric Duane Johnson	May 11, 1980
Melissa Johnson	May 11, 1980
Jill Renee Brown	May 18, 1980
Charity Leigh Mobley	June 1, 1980
Kimberly Ann Hicks	June 8, 1980
Mark Linwood Hicks	June 8, 1980
James Timothy Hooper	November 9, 1980

NEW CHURCH MEMBERS 1978 - 1980:

Samson Wade Williams	April 23, 1978
Emma Jean Williams	April 23, 1978
Marion George Bonucchi	April 23, 1978
Christiane Maria Bonucchi	April 23, 1978
Lisa Darlene Puryear	October 22, 1978
Barbara Sue Taylor	October 22, 1978
Jane Langston	March 25, 1979
James Marvin Langston	March 25, 1979
Charlie Cotten	April 22, 1979
Betsy Karen Moore	September 27, 1979
Delia Coleman Powell	September 27, 1979
Ricky Darroch	November 1, 1979
Sharon Murnaham	April 13, 1980
Tim Murnaham	April 13, 1980
Connie Wicker	April 27, 1980
Jimmy Wicker	April 27, 1980
Gary Leon Johnson	May 11, 1980
Sharon Denise Johnson	May 11, 1980
Brigham Wilson	May 11, 1980
Kathleen Wilson	May 11, 1980
Lisa Ann Wayne	June 8, 1980
Sammy Arthur Wayne	June 8, 1980
Garnett Hicks	June 8, 1980
Suzanne Hicks	June 8, 1980
Faye Darroch	August 10, 1980
Cheri S. Taylor	October 5, 1980
David Bonucchi	November 9, 1980

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS 1978 - 1980:

Greg Skoog	August 7, 1979
Nancy Skoog	August 7, 1979

CHURCH WEDDINGS 1978 - 1980:

Donna Moore and James Hooper	May 19, 1979
Shirley Taylor and Joe Gaither	July 15, 1979
Sandra Womack and Martin Van Pait	October 14, 1979

DEATHS 1978 - 1980:

	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>
George C. Langston	December 6, 1921	September 23, 1978
James Edward Johnson	May 17, 1929	October 11, 1978
Raeferd Darroch	January 21, 1934	November 10, 1979
Alice M. Darroch	March 14, 1917	August 19, 1980