

100th Birthday Celebration



Vanceboro Methodist Church, 1916

Vanceboro United Methodist Church

Vanceboro, North Carolina

Our Welcome

"To serve the present age our calling to fulfill. May it all our powers engage to do our masters will." This church opens its doors and in the name of our Lord, says, welcome.



Vanceboro United Methodist Church, 1978

100th Birthday Celebration

Vanceboro United Methodist Church
Farm Life Avenue
Post Office Box 569
Vanceboro, North Carolina 28586

Claude T. Wilson, Minister

R.T. Commander, District Supt.

R. M. Blackburn, Bishop

100th Birthday Committee

The Council on Ministries
Mrs. Donald Witherington, Records and History
Mrs. R. L. Cannon, Jr.
Mrs. Eugelia Taylor
Miss Connie Bryan
Mr. Ricky Cannon

The Flowers for this occasion are given by the descendants of Thomas Buck, an early trustee: Mary Ipock, Pat Ipock, Cora Matthews, Mrs. Tom Buck, Christine Panichelli, Emma Lee Sutton, Doris Bryan, Inez Bryan, Janice Jordan, Cathy Phillips, and Rev. Claude Wilson. They are given in memory of the founders of this church, those we know and those whose names are unknown to us.

The drawing on the front was done by Edward Earl Lancaster about 1951. The church looked this way from 1916 until remodeling was completed in 1957. Mr. Lancaster was thirteen years old when he made the drawing. Now he is a professor of art at the University of Illinois at Champaign.

Wanceboro United Methodist Church

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday May 28, 1978

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------|
| The Prelude..... | Organist & Choir | |
| The Call to Worship..... | Minister | |
| The Invocation | | |
| Hymn | | |
| "The Church's One Foundation" | No. 297 | |
| Affirmation of Faith | No. 738 | |
| Responsive Reading: | | |
| "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place"..... | No. 579 | |
| Gloria Patri | | |
| Special: The Children's Choir | | |
| Words of Welcome and Recognition of Guests | | |
| Recognition of Marriages in the Church | | |
| Pastoral Prayer | | |
| Lord's Prayer | | |
| Prayer Response | | |
| Anthem | "A Special Day" | Choir |
| Announcements | | |
| Offering | | |
| "The Church Triumphant" | Choir | |
| Presentation of Offering | | |
| Offertory Sentence | | |
| Offertory Prayer | | |
| Hymn | | |
| "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord" | No. 294 | |
| Reading of the Scripture | | |
| Sermon: Rev. R. T. Commander | | |
| District Superintendent, Greenville District | | |
| Hymn | | |
| "Blest Be The Tie That Binds" | No. 306 | |
| Favorite Hymn of Mrs. Sallie Smith | | |
| Benediction | | |
| Choral Response..... | Organist | |

A Special Day

Oh this is a special day I hold dear to my heart,
a day of fond memories that all had their start
in this hallowed place, what a sacred place
my home away from home, this church my church,
Happy Birthday from my heart.

I recall as a small child the feeling that I felt,
A tingling sensation that ran right up my spine,
a warmth, such a comfort, that surrounded me you see,
My family, Happy Birthday
My church what a place to be.

100 years of service you've been
as a small foundation of just a few but now you're so grand,
As a child we've got a lot to see and a few more hills to climb
till our mansion that waits for you
and me our home on high.

Happy Birthday, Happy Birthday, my family in God,
Quite a few have gone ahead to meet their father on high.
Till we meet at that golden gate and his face we will see,
Happy Birthday, Happy Birthday,
Dear God we do thank Thee.

Written by Teresa Morris Whitford
(Copyright Pending)

"Descendants of Early Trustees"

Our first deed for the church from Thomas Buck in 1886 lists the following trustees: Thomas Buck, Joshua Purser, Charles C. Butler, Henry Powell and John Allen Jackson.

The following are attenders of our church who descended from these early trustees.

Thomas Buck: grandchildren, Mary Ipock, Cora Lewis, Christine Panichelli, Emma Lee Sutton; great-grandchildren, Cathy Phillips, Doris Bryan, Rev. Claude Wilson; great-great-grandchildren, Janice Jordan, Cindy Gaskins, Inez Bryan, Heather Phillips, Mark Panichelli, John Wilson; great-great-great-grandchildren, Clay Jordan, Lorraine Jordan, Cheryl Jordan, Eddie Jordan, Connie Bryan, Linda Bryan, Tina Bryan

Joshua Purser: grandchildren, Ethel Purser, Charity Spivey

Charles C. Butler: grandchildren, Ralph Hill; great-grandchildren, Ethel Purser, Charity Spivey, Mary Lou Gaskins; great-great-grandchildren, Inez Bryan, Kelly Gaskins, Dale Gaskins; great-great-great-grandchildren, Connie Bryan, Linda Bryan, Tina Bryan

History of The Vanceboro United Methodist Church

Located on Farm Life Avenue in the Town of Vanceboro; Founded in 1878 according to local church records; Earliest deed November 11, 1886, Book, 94, Page 575. In the middle of the nineteenth century, there stood on the west side of what is now the Greenville Highway, a meeting house known as the Post Oak Church. Ministers of all denominations traveling on horseback, and sometimes on foot, would stop and preach there. Here the seeds of Methodism were planted. These seeds were cultivated and nourished by the many Methodist Camp meetings held in this area in the 1880's.

The Vanceboro Church must have been started by an itinerant preacher, as few records can be found dating back to this time. There is record of a William Wine serving Swift Creek on the Lenior Circuit in 1878 and Daniel Reid serving the Vanceboro Circuit, Washington District in 1888. In 1886 a deed was given for a described plot of land, situated on the west side of the Greenville Highway. On this plot was built a church, and later a parsonage was built just back of the church.

Instrumental in the beginning of the church school and it's growth was Mrs. Sallie Lane Smith, who is remembered as teacher, song leader and Superintendent.

In the beginning there was no musical instrument in the church so she raised the tunes for the hymns. One resident recalls that once on a Sunday morning when the minister announced what the closing hymn would be, she could not remember the tune. Taking her baby on her arm, she left the church, walked to the home of Mr. Web Smith (¼ mile away) played the hymn on the organ, walked back to the church, ready to raise the tune when the sermon was over.

About 1906, on a plot of land opposite the Elementary School, and given by W. C. White, a parsonage was built. This served until 1958, when a new eight room parsonage, complete with central heat, was built on the same site.

Both the church school and church services were moved to the Elementary School Building in 1912, out of respect for the age of the minister, Rev. T. E. Wyche. In 1916 the church was torn down, moved and rebuilt on the present site. The church school continued to meet at the school because of lack of class rooms at the church. Members of many denominations attended this thriving Community Church School.

On Sunday, October 6th, 1935, with 56 present, the Methodists organized their own church school and elected Paul Dixon, superintendent. The need for classrooms was felt so keenly, that on the next Sunday the first money was collected toward a building fund. Rev. William Crowder made plans for a building fund drive. In the spring of 1951 under the leadership of Rev. A. P. Hill, Jr. committees were elected and instructed to study the needs of the church and present plans for construction. The plan that was approved provided for an Educational Building with Fellowship Hall, stage, dressing rooms, six classrooms, kitchen, vestibule, storage closets, and complete remodeling of the old church building for the nave. Actual construction was begun on Monday, September 11th, 1951. Much interest was shown by adult and youth groups, and many will be remembered for their generous contributions of time, money, prayers and faithful service.

The church was dedicated Sunday, November 24, 1957. For our dedicatory service we welcomed to our church Bishop Paul Neff Garber, Rev. A. J. Hobbs, District Superintendent and Mrs. Hobbs, Rev. Alton P. Hill and wife, Rev. William R. Crowder and family and a host of interested friends.

For many years the Vanceboro Church was on a five point charge, having only two services each month. At the general session of the North Carolina Conference in Burlington, October 31st, 1952, the church became a station.

Through the years the progress of the church has been measured and strengthened by the work of its related organizations. In the early life of the church the Ladies Aid helped take care of the local needs. In 1940 a complete change in organization took place. Under the new name, Woman's Society of Christian Service, the work was broadened through study and support of missions at home and abroad. Other changes have brought the women together as United Methodist Women. Through all the years, with the many changes, the devotion and dedication of Mrs. Ada Smith

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remained constant. She was an inspiration to all and will continue to live in the hearts of those who knew her. The United Methodist Women began holding a Bazaar every other year in 1972 and this has blessed the church with a day of fellowship and the funds for many needs of the church and the parsonage.

The Youth Work had its beginning during the pastorate of Rev. E. C. Durham. Under his leadership the Epworth League was organized in 1921. After many years of ups and downs, it was reorganized as the Methodist Youth Fellowship, and has continued to be a vital force in the church—accepting responsibility in the local church and participating in Sub-District and District Activities. Many of the Youth have grown through their attendance at summer camps and Conference Summer Opportunities, Workshops, and the Annual Conference Session for Youth. For many years a Junior MYF met weekly for study and recreation.

A group of Young Adults met at the church September 11, 1956 and organized a Young Adult Fellowship. This group of energetic, dedicated Young Adults have filled and are now filling important places of leadership. One of the group (R. L. Cannon, Jr.) served a term as Conference President of Young Adults and two (Rev. C. T. Wilson, Rev. Bobby Smith) are now serving as ministers in the North Carolina Conference.

Rev. J. L. Peterson, Jr., who has served in the N. C. Conference as pastor, spent three years in the Congo and now teaches at Georgia State University, is a product of our congregation.

The Methodist men were organized during ministry of Rev. H. B. Jones. Among their projects was payment of our church's part of the Lake Junaluska fund.

Many additions in the way of physical improvements have been made. In 1966, an organ was added. New pews and hymnals were placed in the church in 1968. The installation of an air conditioning system in 1968 has added to the comfort. Pew Bibles were given to the church by the family and friends of Mrs. Maggie H. Good, as a memorial to her years of service. On July 4, 1971 an American Flag was given by the M.Y.F. and a Christian Flag given in memory of J. Wilfred Buck. Drapes for the Fellowship Hall and a new lighted sign in front of the church were given by the United Methodist Women. In early 1971 the Church Library was opened. The first planning session for this new facility was held in August 1970. The library now contains several hundred books and also some filmstrips.

Ministers Serving Our Church Since 1888

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1888-1889 | Daniel Reid |
| 1890-1892 | J. W. Gurganus |
| 1893-1894 | Nathan L. Seabolt, Vanceboro Circuit |
| 1895-1898 | Nathan L. Seabolt, Grimesland and Vanceboro |
| 1899-1900 | Raleigh Alexander Bruton |
| 1900-1902 | F. F. Eure |
| 1903-1907 | Benjamin E. Stanfield |
| 1907-1908 | T. H. Bain, Vanceboro Circuit |
| 1908-1909 | Eff David Dodd |
| 1909-1910 | J. C. Reynolds |
| 1910-1912 | J. J. Lewis |
| 1912-1914 | T. E. Wyche |
| 1914-1918 | W. J. Covington |
| 1918-1919 | R. L. Carraway |
| 1919-1920 | R. N. Fitts |
| 1920-1923 | E. C. Durham |
| 1923-1925 | Joel Walter Dimmette |
| 1925-1927 | R. Frank Taylor |
| 1927-1931 | W. N. Vaughan |
| 1931-1937 | Thomas Edward Davis |
| 1937-1941 | Henry B. Lewis |
| 1941-1945 | W. H. Brady |
| 1945-1946 (May) | Brooks Waggoner |
| 1946 (May) - 1950 | William R. Crowder |
| 1950-1952 | Alton P. Hill, Jr. |
| 1952-1954 | Alton P. Hill, Jr., Station Church |
| 1954-1956 | E. E. Chambers |
| 1956-1957 | John Reece |
| 1957-1963 | H. B. Jones |
| 1963-1964 | A. S. Lancaster |
| 1964-1969 | D. M. Tyson |
| 1969-1970 | J. P. Snypes |
| 1970-1972 | Kenyon Wheeler, Harold Elliot |
| 1972-1975 | James Hobbs |
| 1975-1977 | H. L. Tenney |
| 1977- | Claude T. Wilson |

Partial List of Marriages at the Vanceboro Methodist Church

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Betty Elizabeth Sutton — Lewis L. Jones | circa 1896 |
| Stella Jones — Claude Morris | circa 1910 |
| Lena Evelyn Hellen — Dr. Alfred A. Kent, Jr. | Aug. 19, 1934 |
| Lella Mae Colvin — John William Joyner | Apr. 20, 1935 |
| Betty June Duboise — Frank McArter | Dec. 26, 1948 |
| Faye June Lancaster — Leslie Eugene Adams | Easter 1950 |
| Janice Powell — Willard McLawhorn | July 2, 1950 |
| Ruby Jordan — T. W. Miller | Sept. 1950 |
| Mavis Whitford — Ross Fulcher | |
| Ann Peterson — James Gilbert Woodall | May 10, 1953 |
| Loyce Fillingame — Gray Lancaster | June 5, 1953 |
| Janis Witherington — R. L. Cannon, Jr. | June 9, 1954 |
| Beverly Witherington — Shirley Bryan | Aug. 29, 1954 |
| Sybil Fillingame — Billy Whitford | Feb. 8, 1955 |
| Peggy Bryan — Eugene Colie | Jan. 21, 1956 |
| Mary Beth Taylor — Max Alan Jordan | Dec. 16, 1955 |
| Lois Ann Sutton — Ronald Pate | May 18, 1956 |
| Jean Sutton — Bobby Whitford | Oct. 12, 1956 |
| Sylvia Buck — Carol Baker | Oct. 20, 1956 |
| Helen Morris — Marvin Aldridge | May 24, 1959 |
| Ann Purser — David Langley | Sept. 16, 1960 |
| Sylvia Jean Taylor — James Robert Brandon, III | June 30, 1962 |
| Kay Bryan — Charles Jernigan | Aug. 24, 1962 |
| Vivian Elaine Taylor — Jimmy Hardy | Dec. 19, 1963 |
| Mary Jo Bryan — Nelson Cannon | Jan. 4, 1964 |
| Olivia Harriett — Douglass Willis | Jan. 25, 1964 |
| Mary Lou Hill — Jimmy Gaskins | Sept. 27, 1964 |
| Mary Sue Gaskins — Roy Gerald Wallace | Dec. 4, 1966 |
| Edna Matthews — Ernest Jones | Oct. 9, 1967 |
| Ann Carol Bryan — Gary C. Williams | Aug. 3, 1968 |
| Hilda Jane Tyson — Robert Wane Barrow | Nov. 9, 1968 |
| Wanda Kite — Ray Braxton | Mar. 5, 1972 |
| Barbara Bright — Charles Smith | Mar. 18, 1973 |
| Teresa Morris — Danny Whitford | Mar. 31, 1973 |
| Brenda Hart — Bruce Mallard | July 6, 1974 |
| Mary Ann Ipock — Thomas Southern | Aug. 24, 1974 |
| Gloria Ipock — Benjamin Medlin | Oct. 26, 1974 |
| Virginia Camille Dixon — Robert Neil McEachren IV | Aug. 23, 1975 |
| Leona Chandler — Cullen Lane | Apr. 15, 1978 |

In Remembrance

The Remembrance Book was presented to the Vanceboro Methodist Church by Mrs. J. E. Witherington in honor of Mrs. Mollie Powell Harper who was a member of the church for more than 50 years.

Memorial Windows

Jesus at the Door — Mrs. Sallie Smith

Bible Window — Bobby Hill

Cross Window — J. C. Hill

Beehive — Ira T. and Sara E. Laughinghouse Hoell

Crown — Jessie Ipock Lancaster

Keys of the Kingdom — Octavius and Nancy Whitford McLawhorn

Star of David — John A. Johnson

Sheaf of Wheat — W. C. White

Cross and Crown — Bryan C. and Annie Bland Peterson

Hand of God — Ada E. Smith

Pews

Charles Clippard

J. Fenner and Ernest Purser

Miss Ida Purser

Lewis Patrick Ipock, Jr.

William R. DuPre', Sr.

Harvey Richard McLawhorn

N. Victor Gaskins

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hellen

Bryan C. and Annie B. Peterson

W. C. White

Kate Kilpatrick White

W. C and Kate K. White

Jather and Edna McLawhorn

Mr. and Mrs. Snodie Lewis

Annie E. Dixon

Altar and Altar Ware and Baptismal Font — Memorial to Lila Moore Stanton niece of
Mary M. Witherington

Pulpit — W. H. and Jasper Smith

Two Offering Plates — Raeford Ross, Jr.

Picture and Large Round Table in Beginner's Class — Patrick Ipock

Picture in Fellowship Hall — Patrick Ipock

Church Register — Mrs. Maggie Good

Rugs in the Church — Memorial to Mrs. Viola Dixon and Mrs. Kate H. Lancaster

Gifts of the Organ and Piano Fund

Mrs. Camilla Averitt

Mr. W. R. DuPre', Sr.

Masters J. C. and Bobby Hill

Master Louis Patrick Ipock, Jr.

Rev. John J. Lewis

Mrs. Florence Matthews

Master Harvey Richard McLawhorn

Mr. Jather McLawhorn

Mr. Harry Grady Morris

Mr. Ernest Purser

Master Raeford Ross, Jr.

Mrs. Sallie P. Sawyer

Miss Lila Moore Stanton

Mr. Phillip Patterson (Pat) Weiss

Mr. W. C. White

Mrs. Leeth Whitford

Mrs. Helen Morris Aldridge

Mr. Marvin F. Aldridge

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Dixon

Miss Camille Dixon

Mrs. Maggie Good

Rev. A. P. Hill, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hill

Mrs. Neva P. Laughinhouse

Miss Laura Rose Lancaster

Mrs. Tora D. Lancaster

Rev. J. L. Peterson, Jr.

Master Ricky Ross

Mrs. Ada Smith

Mrs. Mary M. Witherington

GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| R. M. Blackburn | Bishop |
| R. T. Commander | District Superintendent |
| C. T. Wilson | Minister |

MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| *Chairman | Mr. R. L. Cannon, Jr. |
| *Church Lay Leader | Mr. Earl Wright |
| Chairman of Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations | Mr. S. M. Bryan |
| Chairman of Committee on Finance | Mr. R. E. Ross |
| Secretary of Committee on Nominations and Personnel | Mrs. R. L. Cannon, Jr. |
| Church Treasurer | Mr. J. L. Peterson, Sr. |
| *Chairman of Council on Ministries | Mr. J. B. Gaskins |
| *Education Work Area | Mrs. Wayne Bryan |
| *Evangelism Work Area | Mrs. Billy Whitford |
| *Ecumenical Affairs Work Area | Mrs. S. M. Bryan |
| *Stewardship Work Area | Mr. J. L. Clark |
| *Worship Work Area | Mrs. J. E. Witherington |
| *Missions Work Area | Mrs. Vivian Taylor |
| *Social Concerns Work Area | Mr. Earl Wright |
| *Family Coordinator | Mrs. A. D. Morris |
| *Children Coordinator | Mrs. Leonard Taylor |
| *Youth Coordinator | Mr. R. L. Cannon, Jr. |
| *Adult Coordinator | Mrs. C. W. Bryan |
| *Representative of United Methodist Youth Fellowship | Lorri Wright |
| *President of United Methodist Men | Mr. Ralph Hill |
| *Health and Welfare Representative | Mrs. Donald Witherington |

AT LARGE MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Mrs. W. L. Ipock | Mr. Adolph Whitford | Mr. Wayne Bryan |
| Mrs. Donald Witherington | Mr. Snodie Lewis | Mr. A. D. Morris |
| Mrs. J. B. Gaskins | Mrs. Howard Tyre | Mr. Ralph Hill |
| Miss Helen McLawhorn | | |

TRUSTEES

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mr. Linwood Lewis, Chm. (1978) | Mr. J. L. Peterson, Sr. (1979) |
| Mr. S. M. Bryan (1978) | Mr. Ralph Hill (1977) |
| Irvin McGee (1979) | Mr. A. D. Morris (1977) |

OTHER CHURCH OFFICIALS

Delegates to Annual Conference: Mrs. Donald Witherington — Alter: Jim Gaskins
Delegates to District Conference: Mrs. Donald Witherington
Camp Committee: Mr. R. L. Cannon, Jr.
Audit Committee: Mr. Donald Witherington
Parsonage Committee: Mrs. Royce Jordan
Records and History: Mrs. Donald Witherington
Gifts and Wills: Mrs. H. D. McLawhorn
Higher Education: Mrs. L. P. Taylor, Jr.
Christian Vocations: Mrs. R. L. Cannon, Jr.
Church Librarian: Mrs. Eugelia Taylor
Organist: Mrs. J. E. Witherington
Recording Secretary: Mrs. Ralph Hill
Youth Members, Council on Ministries: Lorri Wright and Irvin McGee
Young Adult Members, Council on Ministries: Shirley Jones-Debbie Gladson
*Denotes member of the Council on Ministries