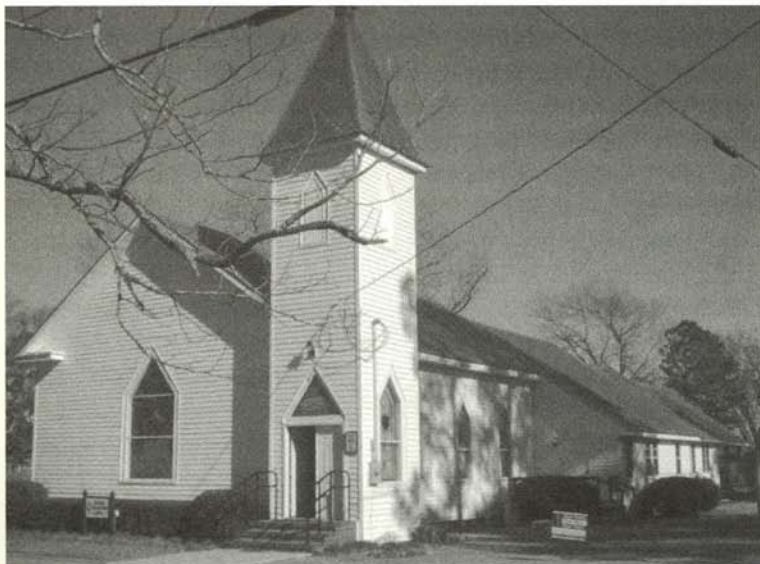


The History of
VANDEMERE
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

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VANDEMERE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1910 – 2010

Researched & Compiled by
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Hazel Alcock & Dale Jones



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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the early families, present families and future families of Vandemere and surrounding communities.

To the memory of the early founders who loved the Lord enough to persevere against great hardships and adversities in order to establish churches and schools.

To the present congregation blessed by the labor of those who came before, who now faithfully love and support the church as witnesses for Jesus Christ.

To future families, as we pass on the faith of our ancestors to them that they may continue to build upon the foundation that has been laid.



"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." I Cor. 1:3

All proceeds from the sale of this book
will go toward the preservation of
Vandemere United Methodist Church in honor of:

Rev. Michael Gene Roach
and
Deborah Lupton Roach



A TRIBUTE TO MIKE ROACH

by Buddy Rice

George Harrison, a very famous songwriter, once wrote a song entitled, "All Things Must Pass." Wise words indeed, with any number of meanings. For the Vandemere Methodist Church, the meaning for us has become extremely clear and heartfelt. For the last nineteen years, we have been blessed to have Mike Roach as, not only our preacher, but our minister, our mentor, our spiritual guidance counselor, our Sunday School teacher, our business director, our handyman, our event organizer and the list goes on. When Mike steps into the pulpit on Sunday morning, you can believe he has spent several hours preparing the sermon. The message is clear and never fails to reach into the hearts and souls of the congregation.

Recently, events have evolved that have led to Mike's retirement from being the leader of our church. To say the least, yes, we are going to miss Mike Roach with a passion few congregations ever have the pleasure of knowing. Mike took on the role of preacher, but I'm sure he was anointed by God to be His servant and Mike has never looked back. He has given one hundred percent of himself in fulfilling not only an obligation, but a burning desire to spread the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. In a common phrase of today, Mike doesn't just talk the talk, but he walks the walk. It has been an amazing walk and journey for Mike and all who have been in his presence.

Having been a classmate of Mike's in high school, I remember a fairly quiet and introspective young man; but, as time passed, he blossomed with the force of the Rose of Sharon (that may be a little extreme.) But honestly, he has had the confidence in his work that only comes from the hand of God. He squeezes every ounce from the scriptures and shares it enthusiastically with his flock. What a blessing it has been to have Mike as a mentor and a friend. He has stood shoulder to shoulder with many of our members during the most trying times of their lives and has lifted them up with a kind and understanding heart. Not many people have the gift of such strong spiritual healing as Mike does. I can only say "Thank you, Lord, for allowing him the opportunity to be a part of this church," which incidentally has grown significantly since Mike came here.

Every member of this congregation has their own stories about Mike's generosity and kindness; and, for the most part, most of us will never be able to express our inner feelings about this good man. But, God knows

and Mike can only imagine how much he has touched and blessed us with his hard work and undying love for each of us.

Mike, we all wish you the very best for your new life; and, though it is with a degree of sadness that we have to let you go, there is a bountiful supply of joy that is stored up in us and will continue to spread as only you would have it. Farewell, old friend and I'll never forget your favorite saying, "Ain't God good!" A-men!

A TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH LUPTON ROACH

by Annette Jones

The old adage "Behind every good man is a good woman" is surely personified in the posture of Deborah Jo Lupton Roach, wife of our pastor, Rev. Michael Roach. Affectionately called Debbie by members of our congregation, she is with Mike every Sunday morning. Debbie is a helper, encourager and more. She teaches a Sunday School class, tends children during the worship service, arranges flowers for the pulpit, sings in the choir, helps organize church activities, is team captain of the church Relay for Life team and always has time for fellowship. These are visible attributes that we see every Sunday and I'm sure Mike can name many, many more!

An only child of a middle-aged couple, perhaps one could say that little Debbie was "spoiled," but "spoiled with love" would be more accurate. She was loved not only by her parents but also by her church, friends and neighbors. The result was a loving little girl with the sweetest spirit!

One of Debbie's earliest memories is probably Hobucken Methodist Church. Traditionally, the children sat on the front pews on the left side of the church during Sunday school. They were each called on to recite a Bible verse. They were usually ready and as they stood and recited their favorite verse, the congregation beamed! Then it was time to sing several songs. The older children led the singing and when Debbie was old enough, she and her friend, Sherry Pate, proudly stood at the front and led the younger ones. Josephine Pate was MYF leader and she and Debbie's mother, Reba, provided many activities for the group. They also took them on outings including trips to the beach at Minnesott, swimming at Lumber Landing in Mesic and even for a dip in the canal (Intracoastal Waterway) occasionally. When Debbie became a teen, she was given the assignment of teaching a Sunday school kindergarten class, which she happily accepted. She was well structured. Her classroom was decorated, pencils sharpened, crayons, books and supplies were ready for each well-planned lesson. She was an excellent role model for the young boys and girls and they loved Debbie Jo!

Debbie's mother was owner and operator of Reba's Beauty Shop and Debbie and friend, Sherry, spend many hours playing there, so Debbie enjoyed and was at ease being with people. The girls also spent time with Josephine who worked in the Hobucken Fire Tower. They enjoyed climbing to the top where they could see for miles and miles. They were

also welcomed at the fish house where her daddy, Fenner, worked or at Pate Boat Yard where Sherry's daddy worked. Who says there is nothing to do in Hobucken!

The first "Trick or Treaters" that I remember on Hobucken were Debbie Jo and Timothy Gray Carawan. They were so cute dressed in their Halloween costumes. This was something unexpected, but I gathered all the goodies I could find to fill their bags. Later on, when Debbie was too old for Trick or Treating, she and Sherry went door-to-door for UNICEF.

We were blessed with excellent teachers at Hobucken Elementary School. Under the guidance and teachings of Mrs. Ruth Mayo, Mrs. Ada Mayo, Mrs. Janet Carawan, Mrs. Birma Alcock, Mrs. Iva Jones, and others, I'm sure this is when Debbie decided she wanted to become a school teacher! Debbie was a participator. She played basketball, took piano and dance lessons, joined clubs and had many friends.

After graduating from high school, Debbie was encouraged by her parents to pursue her dreams by attending Atlantic Christian College. It just so happened that another bright young Pamlico County High School graduate by the name of Michael Roach had opted to attend the same college and many times they rode together back and forth to Wilson. Mike was fortunate enough to win Debbie's affection and they married!

Mike and Debbie were actors in "God's Country," a historical pageant of Goose Creek Island. (This was my first attempt at play writing.) They were always willing to help the community in any way!

Of course, we all know the rest of the story. Our Debbie Jo has a love for people—especially children, a love for teaching, a love for worthy causes and a love for going to the beach!

Debbie, knowing you has made our lives richer and our hearts warmer. Thank you.

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PREFACE

Compiling and publishing a hard back history book of Vandemere United Methodist Church became a dream of Rev. Mike Roach. As a former high school history teacher, he loves history and wanted to see our church history preserved. In 2004, he organized a small group to begin the arduous task of research.

Armed with the Methodist Church picture album, *A Book of Memories of Vandemere United Methodist Church*, the quest for further historical information began. The book of memories was compiled and edited by Letha W. Forrest and Sharon C. Harris in 1996. It contains some early history, names of Sunday School Superintendents, pastors and happenings prior to 1996. The pictures date back to a Confirmation Class held in 1977. During 2004, the pictures were re-arranged in chronological order and the pictured events are now identified by typed inserts beside each photo.

A Book of Memories of Vandemere United Methodist Church is kept in the Fellowship Hall and is available for visitors and the congregation to enjoy. Pictures are still being added. Many thanks to Sharon and Letha for the research, time and love they invested in this wonderful album and also to those who took the pictures throughout the years. This book of memories is deeply valued by our church.

Also, a book of weekly Sunday School bulletins has been organized. To our delight, it was discovered that Sally McCotter and Letha Forrest had been saving the bulletins throughout the years.

The next step was searching for Sunday School and Church records. We were happy to find some old record books in the attic. Although several were incomplete and books for some years were not there, it was still quite a find. From the records, we were able to form a picture of attendance, trends and development.

Old membership records were found. A few newspaper items and other bits and pieces came forth.

Interviewing was a great adventure. We gathered so much valuable information by personal visits and telephone conversations. Thanks to all who spent time with us and shared their knowledge and memories.

Gladys Sodoma spent hours on church records. Annette Jones worked on Sunday School records and Sally McCotter worked on church weddings and membership lists.

Eventually the group moved to Sally's house, meeting there once a week. Much material was collected and organized. We worked hard and accomplished a great deal, looking forward to completing the manuscript in a few months. However, "life happens." Due to health problems and various other reasons, the project was laid aside for weeks and months at the time. Then, the unfinished project sat idle for three years.

At the beginning of 2009, our small committee rededicated itself with a renewed determination to completing the church history book. This time a deadline was set! With the centennial of the church coming up in 2010, our goal was to have *The History of Vandemere United Methodist Church* for sale during the 100th year celebration. Many thanks to Ann Sadler, Gail Stephenson, Janice Daniels, Teresa Harrison and Mary Perrotti who helped Dale Jones, transcriber, type material prior to the re-organizational meeting. In 2009, Adam Persky and Hazel Alcock volunteered to assist in getting the project completed. Adam contacted the publisher for an updated quote and Hazel set about editing, making additions where needed, keying the remaining chapters, finalizing the project and working with the publisher to get the book printed.

The purpose of this book is to document the history of the Vandemere United Methodist Church. It is a compilation of works done at different times in the history of the church. It is not meant to be a complete history for no history can ever be complete. It is meant to be a learning tool for following generations as well as a remembrance by those who shared in making the church history.

The data in Chapters I and II is included in order that a clearer understanding of America's religious heritage may be formed by our readers. One can only imagine the diversity in the newly settled colonies. It seems that groups usually stayed together and socialized mainly within their own church circles.

As historians, the work of the compiling this book entailed many facets that could only be sorted out if one had actually been there at the time the events took place. To be able to view history as it happened would have helped considerably. A dream of historians has always been to not only witness the present, but to partake of the past. If only we could have had the good fortune to take part in all that could be seen, experienced

emotions of those involved and been able to record those events for posterity. If only! Also, we must rely on materials left to our disposal. Many times a key piece of the puzzle may elude us for years or may be lost for all time. We feel fortunate when something does reveal itself to the researchers.

In conclusion, we are humbled that our pastor put this project in our hands. We appreciate his confidence in our work and his continued support and encouragement. We sincerely thank everyone who has contributed. We do hope you enjoy *The History of Vandemere United Methodist Church*. Mistakes undoubtedly exist and corrections will need to be made, but historians' jobs are never done. History never ends.

MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER



Rev. Michael G. Roach
Pastor VUMC 1991-2010

Since the beginning of time, man has endeavored to document events that future generations would read and, hopefully, benefit from. It is with great appreciation that this book has been compiled to record events that have occurred in the life of Vandemere United Methodist Church. I realize that the founding, the building projects, the financial endeavors are all important and, rightfully, should be incorporated into its history; but I am most appreciative of those people who had insight, vision and faith to make this church stand as a beacon of light. The strength and weaknesses of any church are revealed in the people who support it. We have been blessed with faithful, dedicated and supportive members. I praise God for those who have not only sat in the pews since 1910, but for those who have worked hard, prayed often and worshipped faithfully.

I would hope that by your reading of this historical account, you would receive a deeper understanding and appreciation of this little church “by the sea.”

Mike Roach

CHAPTER I

RELIGION IN THE NEW WORLD

Early Churches in America

Many years prior to the establishment of Methodism, organized religion was taking root in America. As can be seen from the following chronological review, better known religious groups were here in the 1600's at the very beginning of American colonization.

Twelve Roman Catholic priests were with Columbus on his second voyage in 1493. They planted scattered missions and churches throughout the land.

In the early 1600's, the Church of England, also known as the Established Church or the Anglican Church, was here with the first colonists. The King of England tried to force the colonists to accept the teachings of the Church of England.

In 1607, the Episcopal Church sent early missionaries. In 1789, it became independent of the Church of England.

During the 1600's, the Presbyterians fled to America to escape persecution for their beliefs. They were welcomed in Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey.

In 1620, the Pilgrims and Separatists who wished to leave the Church of England came to America for religious freedom.

In 1623, the Lutherans came from Holland and settled in New Amsterdam, now Manhattan Island, New York.

In 1629, English Puritans established settlements in the Massachusetts Colony.

From the 1600's to 1680's, French Protestants Huguenots settled in various colonies, usually choosing seaport towns.

In 1639, the Baptists were organized at Providence, Rhode Island by Roger Williams.

Circa 1654 Jews settled in New York City.

In 1682 Quakers, also known as the Society of Friends, settled in Pennsylvania and were led by William Penn.

John Wesley, the Founder of Methodism



John Wesley (1703-1791) was born in Epworth England, the son of Samuel Wesley (1662-1735), an Anglican Priest and a minister of the Church of England. His mother, Sussannah Wesley, was of Puritan Heritage.

John Wesley attended Charterhouse School in London and Oxford University. During their college days, John and his brother, Charles Wesley, who was also a student at Oxford, organized the “Holy Club,” sometimes referred to as the “Little Society” or a “Religious Society.” A small group of students from diverse backgrounds met regularly at Oxford for Bible study and prayer. John Wesley soon became the leader. His determination to lead a Christian life through “method” or “discipline” was the initial step in his continuing spiritual growth and his ability to lead others.

After his college days, Wesley settled down to a career of preaching in England, Scotland and Ireland. However, there was another calling that he yearned to pursue. A new frontier across the ocean was being settled with missionaries from many religions establishing new churches there. It was John Wesley’s dream to one day preach and spread the gospel in the British colonies in America.

The Proprietary Period

During the Proprietary Period, 1663 to 1712, the Lord Proprietors of England ruled the colonies. The Church of England by legal authority could levy taxes to support ministers. In 1705, the settlers openly opposed the rules of the Church of England. Thus, in North Carolina was asserted the principal of separation of church and state.

America!

John Wesley and his brother, Charles Wesley, as Church of England missionaries, embarked on a journey to the colony of Georgia in 1736. Their dreams of visiting the new world had finally materialized. While in Georgia, Charles Wesley was General Oglethorpe's secretary at Fort Frederica on St. Simon's Island. Unfortunately, the trip was not successful. The settlers in Georgia did not accept the Wesley's way of preaching. The brothers returned to England disappointed and discouraged. This was the only time the Wesley brothers had the opportunity to visit America.

The Moravians

During the 1736 ocean voyage to the Georgia Colony, John Wesley met a small band of Moravians aboard ship. This was a positive experience for Wesley and he spent much time with the Moravians. They, too, were on a missionary trip to Georgia. Wesley sought the company of these simple hearted believers who seemed to hold the secret of inner spiritual contentment. Wesley received help from the band when he was at a very low point in his life.

The Moravians introduced Wesley to the practice of the "Love Feast," a Christian fellowship meal. After establishing churches in the Georgia Colonies, these new Christians adopted the Love Feast as a part of their services. Today, in Vandemere United Methodist Church the congregation participates in the Love Feast during the Christmas season.

Love Feast

The Love Feast is a Christian Fellowship "meal" recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during His ministry and expressing the sharing and fellowship enjoyed by the family of Christ.

Its origins in the early church are closely interconnected with the origins of the Lord's Supper. The two services became quite distinct and should not be confused with each other. The Lord's Supper is universally accepted among Christians; the Love Feast, however, has appeared only at certain times and among certain denominations.

The modern history began when the Moravians in Germany introduced a service in 1727. Ten years later, in Georgia it was experienced by Christians and quickly became a part of church services. Although not held frequently, the Love Feast continued to be held in various places at various times, not only at Christmas.

One advantage was that any Christian could conduct it and was not limited to clergy. Praise within the Feast may be in the form of hymns, songs, poems, etc. Scripture is an important part. The Love Feast is spontaneous and informal.

Most Love Feasts include the sharing of food but not communion bread or grape juice which might lead to confusion with the Lord's Supper. The bread may be ordinary loaf bread or crackers usually passed in a basket. The beverage has usually been water. At any rate, the food and beverage is served quietly with no other activity taking place.

During the Love Feast a collection for someone in need is taken as a sign of thanksgiving for our blessings and the desire to reflect Christ by helping others.

New Organization in England

In May of 1738, after returning from America to England, both of the Wesley brothers had transforming religious experiences. John Wesley realized a renewed trust for Christ alone, for salvation, and an assurance that He had taken away his sins and saved him from the law of sin and death.

Between 1739 and 1744, Wesley reorganized the "societies" thus charting the beginning of the Methodist Church. In 1744, the Conference first met at the Foundry in London marking the early organization of Methodism. (This appears to be the first "Conference." John Wesley and Charles Wesley attended the meeting with six Anglican clergymen and four lay preachers. Today, Methodist Churches still hold

annual meetings called conferences). The Methodist movement was now well underway, although still within the Established Church.

England suffered spiritually at this time in history and needed a fundamental change. Ill-feelings between the British government and the colonies in America had gradually developed. Many people were seeking religious guidance, while others remained apathetic seeing no need for any kind of spiritual life.

Even those within the church, hardly able to deal with their own new found faith, began finding fault and correcting others in the church. As dissention was created, the tensions were rising with the various groups of the "societies." Although Wesley was impressed with many features of Moravian life, he disagreed on degrees of faith and the use of means of grace. Henceforth, the Moravians and the Methodists went separate ways. The controversy with the Calvinist and Anglicans was even more complex. One branch of Methodist, known as Calvinists, broke away from the main church body. Problems with the Established Church of England were not brought to a head at this time. The Methodists did not separate from them during the John and Charles Wesley's lifetime.

In spite of the adversities and schisms in the early church, the Wesleys succeeded in leading a lively renewal movement. Methodism swept over England in the eighteenth century. John Wesley and Charles Wesley wrote numerous hymns. The Methodist Revival was a singing revival. The Methodists were happy in their beliefs. The rise of many itinerant preachers added to the enthusiasm. John Nelson, Jon Haime, Silas Todd, Alexander Mather and hundreds of others emerged to stand beside John and Charles to win souls! England was changing.

Methodist services consisted of preaching from the Bible, prayer, hymn singing and use of the highly regarded *Book of Common Prayer*. The meeting places were not churches or chapels, as we know them today, but were generally called "Preaching Houses." These "Preaching Houses" were served by Wesley's growing number of lay preachers. Many times "open air" services were held in fields or on street corners.

Great Awakening in America

Circa 1740-1745, there was a flurry of spiritual revival in the colonies which came to be known as the "Great Awakening." Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), an American Congregationalist clergyman who preached Calvinistic views, was one of the key figures. The Awakening brought powerful religious influence which greatly strengthened all churches. It also brought in tensions which resulted in divisions, new sects and more opposition to the Church of England.

Records reveal that during this time the Baptists were among the first religious groups to put down roots in what is presently Pamlico County. "The first churches founded in the Bay River area do appear to have been Baptist churches." *A History of the Disciples of Christ in North Carolina* says, "The first Baptist Churches founded in North Carolina were Free Will Baptist in belief, but were known historically as General or Separate Baptists."

This religious awakening took hold in eastern North Carolina. As colonization continued, the need for schools and churches increased. In his book, *Pamlico County, a Brief History*, Joe Mobley states, "The Bay River area became a site of religious activity. Although the official religion in colonial North Carolina was the Anglican Church, or Church of England, German and other colonists who settled in the Neuse, Pamlico basin included organized members of the Reformed Church, Lutherans, Baptists, Presbyterians and a few Catholics. In 1740, a group of First Day Baptist (or Anabaptists) from Bay River and Neuse River petitioned the General Court 'for permission to establish houses of worship at Bay River.'" The petitioners were then named. Apparently, because non-Anglican sects were considered dissenters, the petition was never approved, despite appeals by the Baptists.

Although the Baptist petition was denied, with so much religious interest being generated, the petitioners of the 1740's, who lived in the Bay River and Neuse River area, were not to be denied. They were more determined to establish meeting places, if only in "free meeting houses" or private homes.

Further documentation comes from an article of the Pamlico County Historical Association, by Larry Prescott, "As far back as 1741, court records of Craven County, North Carolina, show that there were four

groups of Baptists living in or near New Bern, Goose Creek, Slocum's Creek and Swift Creek, who were charged as "dissenters" and held under bond by the court. After the "Act of Toleration" was pled, they were permitted to build houses that they might worship among themselves."

A Primitive Baptist Church was founded at Goose Creek, Craven County March 12, 1763. The strong Baptist movement grew quickly and spread over the area.

According to local Church history, Goose Creek Island Primitive Baptist Church in Lowland was founded September 20, 1823 by Elder Green Carawan. Elder Carawan came to Lowland from Hyde County. For many years, this body held services in homes and a community building shared by other churches. The Primitive Baptist Church building was constructed in 1898 and is still standing with active membership.

Methodism in America

As Methodism was thriving in England in the 1700's, it also began to spread to the American Colonies. Methodist missionaries began making the long hazardous voyages to the new colonies. Among the earliest leaders was Robert Strawbridge who organized work in Maryland and Virginia circa 1760. Phillip Embury and cousin, Barbara Heck, began work in New York in 1766. Capt. Thomas Webb came to Philadelphia in 1767. Then in 1769, Wesley sent lay preachers Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmore to America. Richard Wright and Francis Asbury followed soon after. Asbury became the most important figure in the Methodist movement in America.

The first Conference was held in 1773 in Philadelphia and was attended by ten Methodist preachers. At this meeting, a system of holding regular "Conferences" of the preachers was developed and inaugurated. These Conferences were to follow the design of those originally set up by Wesley in England. The purpose of these meetings was to better organize and conduct the business of the Methodist movement.

With the impending revolution close at hand, Wesley let it be known that he did not support the revolution. However, after America won independence from England, he realized that changes were necessary in American Methodism. At the time of the Revolutionary War, he formally recognized his differences with the Anglican Church (Church of

England). He appointed Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury as joint superintendents of work in America. This was the beginning of a separate Methodist Episcopal Church in America.

After General Rules were adopted in 1784 at the Christmas conference, still dealing with problems of discipline (p. 39), church leaders went to work. Standards were progressively devised for both the people and preachers. "The General Rules" became a goal for all members of the movement. Their regular reading before the societies was insisted upon. These regulations were collected and codified and were called the "Large Minutes." The Large Minutes became the basis for the first *Book of Disciplines of the Methodist Episcopal Church* published in 1785.

After the war, in 1784, the Christmas Conference was held in Baltimore, Maryland at Lovely Lane Chapel. At this Conference, the Methodist Episcopal Church in America became organized. In 1785, the Methodist Episcopal Church published its first book of Discipline. They soon adopted the Quadrennial General Conference with the first meeting being held in 1792. In 1808, a constitution was drafted. The conference then became active in revivals and camp meetings.

While the Methodist Episcopal Church was still young, two other Methodist Churches were being formed. In 1800, the Church of the United Brethren in Christ was formally organized. A second church, the Evangelical Association was officially organized in 1803.

The Second Great Awakening

The second Great Awakening was the main religious development among Protestants in America in the early part of the nineteenth century. The Methodist churches enjoyed growth in the nineteenth century in America just as they had in England during the previous century. Through revivals and camp meetings, the circuit riding preachers and lay pastors were able to bring many sinners to conversion. This style of faith and discipline was agreeable to all three of the churches--Methodist Episcopal, United Brethren in Christ and the Evangelical Association.

There was a deep commitment of all members and they willingly adhered to the spiritual disciplines and guidelines of the church. They were strictly guided by the set of General Rules which were adopted at

the Christmas Conference of 1784. These rules are still printed in the *United Methodist Book of Discipline*.

Although many positive things were happening within the Methodist movement, there were still serious problems. Divisions in the church began. The African Methodist Episcopal Church was formed in 1816 by Richard Allen, an emancipated slave and Methodist preacher. In 1821, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was organized. Several Methodist churches were founded in Pamlico County by blacks. Among them were Holt's Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Oriental, organized in 1890, and Pierce's Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Oriental, organized in 1869. St. James African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church started in Maribel and re-located to Vandemere in 1907, just three years before the Vandemere Methodist Episcopal Church, South opened. There are several AME Zion Churches currently active in Pamlico County.

In 1830, a new body called Methodist Protestant Church was formed. Another secession occurred in 1843 when a group opposing slavery founded the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

Other Early Churches in Bay River Area

Although the Baptist denomination took hold in the Bay River and Neuse River areas of the territory that was to later become Pamlico County, other denominations followed closely. Settlement of the Bay River area began by the close of the Tuscarora War, or possibly before, according to the *Book of the Discipline of the United Methodist Church*.

Concord Christian Church in Florence was founded circa 1801-1802 and Bay Creek Christian Church just across Bay River from the Florence community was founded around the same time.

Under the leadership of Jane Tillman, the Bayboro Methodist Church was founded in the early 1800's.

Slavery

John Wesley and many other Methodist leaders were opposed to slavery, but it was a problem that would not go away. Up to the time of the American Revolution, slavery was spread throughout the colonies. By

1850, there were only a few slaves in the North but thousands in the South. This came about because between the years of 1789-1850 slave labor became very profitable to the economic life of the South; and, at the same time, it became very unprofitable to the industrial North. With the invention of the cotton gin and the southern soil so suited to growing cotton, slave labor was much needed in the South. On the other hand, with machinery shipped in from England, the northern states were well equipped for the manufacturing of the cotton which was produced in the South. Slave labor was unsuited and unneeded in the industrial life of New England.

The division became increasingly solid with the South favoring slavery and the North opposed to it. Our Methodist fathers were citizens of these two areas which were so torn apart by a very serious controversy. As a result of the slavery issue, the Methodist church split. Things came to a head when one of the Church's bishops, who had acquired slaves through marriage, was suspended because he would not or could not free his slaves. Dissidents drafted a Plan of Separation which permitted the Annual Conferences in slaveholding states to organize their own ecclesiastical structure. The groundwork was laid for the creation of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. This church was organized in May 1845 in Louisville, Kentucky.

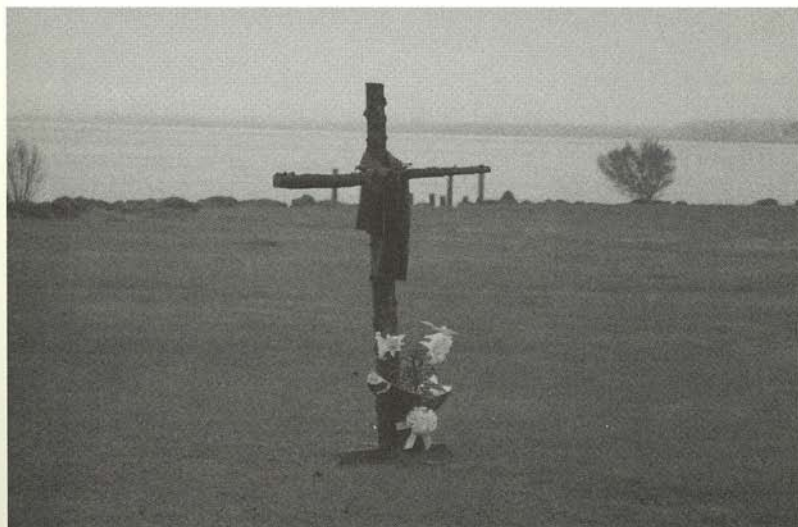
Methodist Episcopal Church, South

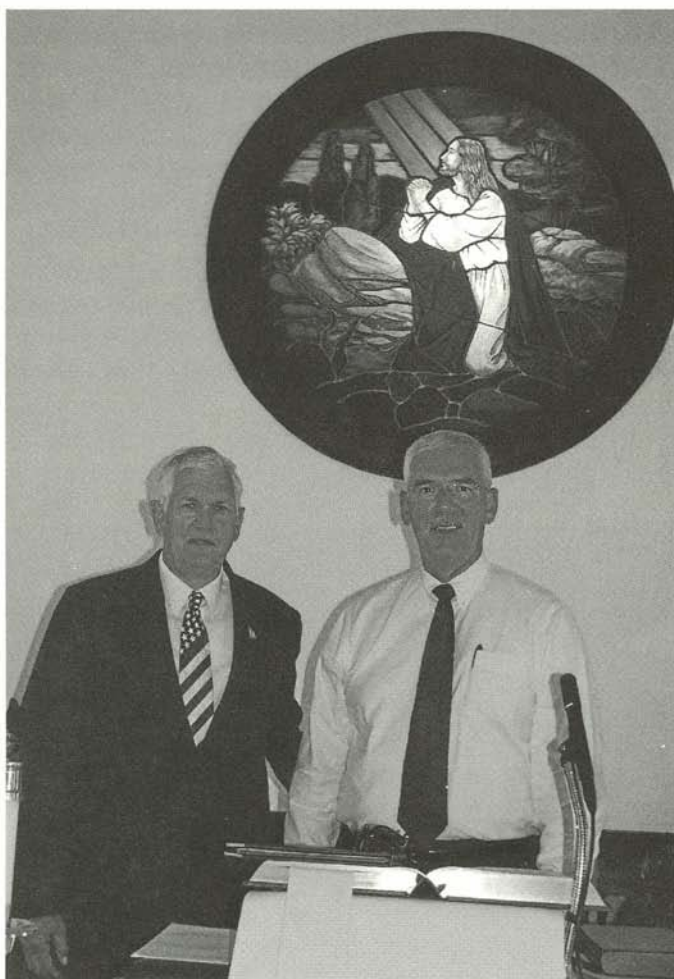
The Methodist Episcopal Church, South held their first General Conference the year of 1846 in Petersburg, Virginia. They adopted a Book of Discipline and a hymn book. Bitterness between the north and south became more intense and war was inevitable. With such a sharp division, unity between the Methodist churches was impossible. Each section of the country claimed divine sanction for their region and prayed for victory for its side during the Civil War. The War Between the States began April 12, 1861 and ended four years later on April 9, 1865.

After the war, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South suffered a severe loss of members. Many of the churches were destroyed during the battles. Their educational, publishing and missionary programs were disrupted and membership declined drastically. African-Americans continued to establish their own churches. Another church formed by the black constituency was the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Methodist Episcopal Churches in the northern states did not suffer as harshly as the southern Methodist. Membership grew to about four million. Methodist Protestants, United Brethren and Evangelicals all experienced similar growth. Mission work was on the increase. Two issues during this period were lay representation and the role of women. Finally, in 1932, all of the churches granted laity rights. By 1922, all of the Methodist churches agreed for women to be delegates to the General Conference.

Charles Griggs (4 July 1929 - 7 Jan 2007) of Vandemere recalled from oral family history that his grandfather from Currituck County attended the Methodist Conference in Richmond, Virginia in 1844. His Methodist group went in opposition to slavery.





Memorial Day Service, May 30, 2010

U. S. Army Chaplain and New Bern District Superintendent Rev. Dennis Goodwin (right) brought the morning message in remembrance of those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice and all who have served our country in the many battles for our freedom. Pastor Mike Roach (left) placed special emphasis on Memorial Day during his 19 years as pastor of Vandemere United Methodist Church.

CHAPTER II

VANDEMERE/CASH CORNER CHURCHES

Early Religious Services

Records indicate that a great deal of religious growth began to form in eastern Pamlico County during the last decade of the 1800's and the early 1900's. This is evident today as many local churches have celebrated centennials during the last decade or so. Vandemere United Methodist will celebrate in 2010. The Baptist, Methodist and Christian churches were the first in the Bay River and Pamlico area. Generally, people attended the church in their own community but did enjoy visiting neighboring churches if the distance was not too great.

Prior to the building of church houses in Vandemere and Cash Corner, religious services were held on the second floor of the Ulysses C. Holton store in Vandemere. Traditionally, this was the usual way for communities or groups to gather for worship. Many places had free meeting houses or met in private homes. It is not known when these services first commenced, but they were going on in 1882 as documented by an article in the Pamlico Enterprise on August 11, 1882.

“The servants of the Lord were busy in his vineyard. Rev. Alonzo Holton is holding a protracted meeting at Bay Creek, which commenced last Saturday, if I mistake not. How many accessions to the church there have been as yet I have not learned. I trust his labors will not be in vain. Vandemere, I regret to say, is without a regular meeting house, but we have a temporary one in which Rev. F. B. McCall delivered a very edifying discourse sometime since, and we would be glad to have friend Holton come and do likewise.”

J. S. B. Vandemere, Aug. 1882

Rev. Alonzo Holton was the minister from 1884 to 1889 at Bay Creek Christian “Disciples of Christ” church in Mesic. Rev. F. B. McCall was a Methodist minister. Ulysses C. Holton (1850 – 1929) married Violene McCotter (1858 – 1930) daughter of John Richard and Sarah Jones McCotter. The McCotters later deeded land to Barnes Chapel and the Free Will Baptist Church. At a later time, Ulysses became a trustee of the Missionary Baptist Church in Vandemere. Hence, with three

different potential denominations and a Disciples of Christ preacher being represented at three early religious meetings, it is most likely that the word was preached from the Bible without any doctrinal leanings.

As the research of Vandemere United Methodist Church progressed, a clearer picture of the religious movement in the Vandemere area developed. Four churches in close proximity—Barnes Chapel, Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist, Vandemere Methodist and Vandemere Missionary Baptist—were all deeded land and each constructed a house of worship. This growth took place between 1885 and 1916.

Another interesting factor was that the same families supported all of the newly established churches in one way or another, primarily the McCotter family. John R. McCotter (1825 – 1910) and wife Sarah Jones (1835 – 1909) and Seth Muse (1821 – 1888) and wife Mary Muse (1830 – 1908) donated land to Barnes Chapel in July of 1885; and then in August of 1885, just a month later, John and Sarah McCotter donated land to the Free Will Baptist Conference.

With these local churches being so closely intertwined, it would hardly be possible to write the history of just one congregation without including the other. So, throughout this book, an attempt has been made to relate the history of our forefathers who all worked so hard to lay a spiritual foundation for present and future generations in our community. With the help of the Lord, they were able to leave us with three churches today—Methodist, Free Will Baptist and Missionary Baptist. It was obvious that our founders felt deep loyalties toward each of the churches.

Barnes Chapel

Barnes Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, South was established in 1885 and closed circa 1936. The church belonged to the group that separated from the Methodist Episcopal Church and formed their own ecclesiastical structure. Barnes Chapel was located in Cash Corner. The building stood near the front section of the present Celestial Gardens Cemetery lot.

The years following the Civil War were years of unrest, uncertainty and confusion. The demands of the war had seriously strained the economy of the south. Times were hard. Clothing, shoes, flour and other

necessities were available only at inflated prices, if at all. People had to do without many things they needed.

Many families lost sons, husbands, and fathers during the war. Unfortunately, in addition to all the sacrifices and suffering the South endured, the war left an undeniable heritage of hate for all concerned.

Although Pamlico County was not in the thick of any major battles, they still experienced the effects of this great war in many ways. However, our ancestors were hardy and courageous. They saw the need for rebuilding and growth.

Mrs. Emma Whealton of nearby Mesic expressed feelings so well in an article written in 1968:

“In the early years of our country, churches were, as now, hopelessly divided. Dedicated scholars and Christian people everywhere were concerned. They were diligently searching their Bibles, the Word of God, for light and understanding. It seems that widely separated people in diverse places of the country, and also the world, envisioned a Unity of Christ, based on His teaching through His Apostles, under the direct power of the Spirit.”

Residents of Cash Corner, Vandemere and Maribel were indeed searching their Bibles, under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Although some attended church at Bay Creek and also Bayboro, travel was difficult by horse and buggy. The need for a local church building became more urgent.

Community leaders of these small communities came together in 1885 and took the first step in building a church. Mr. John R. McCotter donated a centralized plot of land. (According to the records of Al Hopkins, formerly of Vandemere, this land was previously used for a “sheep pit.” The pit was filled with a disinfecting mixture. Sheep and cattle were dipped there.) It was decided to build a church of the Methodist denomination. At that time in history, the Methodist Churches attended by whites in the New Bern District area were Methodist Episcopal Churches, South. This secession from the Methodist Episcopal Church was a result of hard feelings caused by the Civil War.

Pamlico County Deed Book 11, Page 445
State of North Carolina

Know all men of these presents that we John R. McCotter and wife and Seth Muse and wife Mary Muse for and in consideration of the love we bear for the cause of Christ and from our earnest desire to promote His heritage on earth do give, grant and by these present convey to A. P. Barnes, Moses Fentress and Andrew Armstrong, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and to their successors in office the following piece or parcel of land lying in the county of Pamlico and State of North Carolina and bounded as follows:

Beginning at the main road twenty feet from what is known as Seth Muse marl ditch and run parallel with said ditch southwardly 70 yds., then southwardly 70 yds. Thence, westwardly 70 yd. to the main road; thence with said main to the beginning containing one acre.

To have and to hold the aforesaid piece or parcel of land and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging to said A. P. Barnes, Moses Fentress and Andrew Armstrong as trustees for said Methodist Episcopal Church of their successors in office and the said parties of the first part for and in consideration aforesaid covenant that they are seized of said premises in fee and have a right to convey the same in fee simple that the same is free from all encumbrances and that they will warrant and defend the said title to the same against the claims of our heir administrations, executors and assigns.

In testimony whereof the said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals this the 11th day of July A.D. 1885.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of witnesses:

Seth Muse
Mary F. Muse
J. R. McCotter
S. A. (her mark) McCotter

State of North Carolina, Pamlico County

I, C. A. Flowers, Justice of the Peace, do hereby certify that Seth Muse and Mary F. Muse, his wife, and John R. McCotter and his wife personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of this annexed deed of conveyance and the said Mary F. Muse and Sarah A. McCotter being by me privately examined separate and apart from their husbands touching their voluntary execution of the same doth state that they signed the same freely and voluntarily without fear of compulsion of their said husbands or any other persons and that they

doth still voluntarily assent thereto witness my hand and private seal this 11th day of July 1885.

C. A. Flowers, J. P.

State of North Carolina, Pamlico County

This certificate of C. A. Flowers, a J. P. of Pamlico County is adjudged to be correct. Let this instrument with certificates be registered.

F. Miller, Clerk of Court

Since there are no available records to determine when a church building was constructed in Cash Corner, we assume it was soon after the land acquisition.

Celestial Gardens Cemetery must have been established prior to Barnes Chapel Church being built. The earliest burial date found was 1882 and then another in 1883. There were surely more early burials. All graves did not have dates or markers.

Senior citizens say that Barnes Chapel Church was a small wooden building, built very much as most churches were during that time era. Mrs. Vera Barnes Jones (2 Aug 1906 – 22 Feb 2009) said it was about the same size as the Mt. Zion FW Baptist Church which was built soon after. According to Mrs. Vera, age 98 at the time of the interview, there were choir lofts on each side of the pulpit. Mr. D. C. McCotter was Sunday School superintendent circa 1915.

In an interview with Lendon Earl Barnes (18 Apr 1928 – 28 May 2009), we learned that Andrew P. Barnes was a carpenter and the main builder of Barnes Chapel Church. Therefore, there is a strong probability that the church was named for Andrew P. Barnes who was also a trustee.

Mrs. Trixie Rowe Potter, born 1914, remembers going to Sunday School at Barnes Chapel during the 1920's. Trixie and sister Pheobe went with Rufus and Lina Harris. The Harris daughters, Irene and Nina, were best friends of Trixie and Pheobe. Worship services were held the first Sunday of the month at 3:30 p.m. at Barnes Chapel.

Mrs. Vera and Mrs. Trixie remember Barnes Chapel as a very friendly church, but not a "shouting" church. One can only imagine the excitement of the congregation to finally have a house of worship.

We found documentation of at least one Barnes Chapel wedding. On September 17, 1902, Thomas G. Willis, age 30, from Ocracoke married Judith English, age 21. W. A. Jenkins, Methodist minister, performed the ceremony.

Free Will Baptist Church

During the late 19th century, the Free Will Baptist denomination was becoming very well established in eastern North Carolina and all over the south. Just when the church was formed in Cash Corner is not known. While researching material for a high school history project in 1978, Teresa Caroon found Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist Church in Cash Corner first mentioned in the 1860 minutes of the General Conference of Craven County. (At that time, Pamlico County had not yet been formed.) It was recorded that the church received seven new members, baptized five and had a total membership of fifty-nine. We can conclude that the congregation was meeting in a free meeting house or a private home.

The following was taken from the church bulletin of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church centennial celebration. The centennial was held on the date when the church was deeded land from J. R. and Sarah McCotter.

HISTORY

On August 11, 1985, Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist Church will have been a part of the Free Will Baptist Denomination for 100 years. But, our church dates back many years earlier. It was built around 1835 and is the oldest church in Pamlico County. It was put together with wooden pegs and it once had a balcony for slaves to sit in.

Our church has seen many changes over the years. It began as a small wood framed sanctuary with no electricity or heat. In the 1960s, a vestibule, four classrooms, two bathrooms and a small kitchen were added. The church was also bricked. In 1979, a parsonage was built in Vandemere. Then in 1982, a fellowship hall with four more classrooms, a kitchen and two bathrooms were added to the church. The parsonage and fellowship hall were built entirely by donations of time and money by members and friends of Mt. Zion F.W.B. Church.

The growth of Mt. Zion F.W.B. Church, be it in the church building, the number of people, or in the spiritualness of our lives, is for the glory of God.

Our prayer is that no matter how large we grow, we will remain, in spirit, "the little country church in the wildwood."

The following deed documents land being given to the Baptists by J. R. and Sarah McCotter:

This indenture made the eleventh day of August in the year of our Lord 1885 between J. R. McCotter and Sarah McCotter, his wife of the first part, and the Freewill Baptist Conference of the second part & Charlie Swan, and J. W. Wesket and J. R. McCotter, trustees of the same, all of the County of Pamlico and State of North Carolina.

Witnesseth for the love we have for the Church we give this tract or parcel of land to said Church to them the said Church the right whereof is hereby fully acknowledged hath granted, bargained and gave and conveyed unto the said Freewill Baptist Church and trustees C. Swan & J. W. Wesket and J. R. McCotter as long as they remain in office and then to their successor in office a tract of land lying on the north side of Bay River and west side of Smith Creek beginning at the main road at F. P. Caraway's leading ditch bridge then down said ditch 82 yards thence south 56 yds. Thence west 82 yards to the main road, thence with said road to the beginning containing one acre to have and to hold the said land and premises and all and singular the appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining to said church. C. Swan & J. W. Wesket & J. R. McCotter, trustees, to have and to hold the aforesaid tract or parcel of land in fee simple forever.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:

J. R. McCotter (seal)

Sarah A. (X her mark) McCotter (seal)

B. B. Albritton

S. B. Hudson

State of North Carolina

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Pamlico County

I, C. A. Flowers, Justice of the Peace, do hereby certify that J. R. McCotter and Sarah A. McCotter, his wife, personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the deed of conveyance and the said Sarah A. McCotter, being privately examined separate and apart from her said husband, touching her voluntary execution of the same doth state that she signed the same freely and voluntarily without fear or compulsion of her said husband or any other person and that she doth still voluntarily assent thereto.

Witness my hand and private seal this 12th day of August, 1885.

C. A. Flowers, J. P.

North Carolina, Pamlico County

The forgoing certificate of C. A. Flowers, a Justice of the Peace, of Pamlico County is adjudged to be in due form and according to law therefore let the instrument with this certificate be registered. Witness my hand and seal this August 18th, 1885.

Festus Miller, Clerk of Superior Court

North Carolina, Pamlico County

I, T. Z. Spencer, Register of Deeds in and for said county and state do hereby certify that the foregoing deed is a true and correct transcript of the original recorded in Book 11, Page 509-10.

1962 – T. Z. Spencer, Register of Deeds

Today, Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist Church is thriving. A beautiful new church building has been constructed beside the original building.

Methodist Episcopal Church, South Vandemere

At the dawn of the 1900's, the seaside village of Vandemere was growing! Pamlico County was formed in 1872 and a Vandemere Post Office was established. Schools were doing well. By 1873, Vandemere was the main center of trade in the county and the county government was moved there. In 1874, Vandemere was incorporated. Sadly, a courthouse was never built in Vandemere and the town lost its status as county seat.

With all the growth in Vandemere, the town still didn't have a church building. According to *Vandemere, NC – Village by the Sea*, Missionary Baptists gathered as early as 1893 and, most likely, they were the dominant group who met at the Ulysses Holton store. However, they did not build a sanctuary until circa 1916. The Ulysses C. Holton store was located across the street from the present site of the Vandemere United Methodist Church.

In 1910, Mrs. Caroline "Kine" McCotter Robbins (13 Oct. 1856 – 28 Mar. 1943), now widowed, sold a lot in the town of Vandemere to the Methodist Church trustees.

According to the *United Methodist Churches of Pamlico, North Carolina*, in 1910, before selling the lot, Mrs. Caroline Robbins offered a building site to the first group that would signify its intent to and willingness to erect a church by placing lumber on the lot. Mrs. Nettie McCotter, wife of John Andrew McCotter, delivered lumber to the site and secured the property for the Methodist Church.

According to research by Letha Forrest and Sharon Harris, Methodists were also holding services in Vandemere prior to 1910 when the church was first built. Perhaps they were meeting at the Holton Store. The fact that "Mrs. Nettie McCotter delivered lumber to the site and secured the property for the Methodist Church" shows that the Methodists were partially organized in Vandemere. Also, C. A. Flowers is listed as Sunday School Superintendent 1902 – 1905.

The United Methodist Church book article goes on to say that some of the lumber used was salvaged from an old church, known as Barnes Chapel, located outside the town. This was questionable because Barnes Chapel was not razed until the late thirties! Perhaps there was lumber left from the original building project? Perhaps the lumber was put at Barnes Chapel for renovations or additions and was never used? Al Hopkins said that he had always heard that the timbers, etc. from Barnes Chapel were used to build the original Vandemere Methodist Church fellowship hall in the 1950's.

State of North Carolina, County of Pamlico
Record of Deeds – Book 53, Page 210

This deed, made this 15th day of June A.D. 1910 by Carolina Robbins of Pamlico County and State of North Carolina of the first part to S. F. McCotter, J. A. McCotter, D. H. Abbott, John Morris, J. L. Fowler, Charles Griggs and W. T. Mayo, Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South of the North Carolina Conference, New Bern District, Pamlico Circuit, Vandemere M.E. Church Parties of the second part, witnesseth:

That Caroline Robbins in consideration for the sum of fifty dollars to her paid by the said parties of the second part the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged; have bargained and sold and by thine presents do bargain, sell and convey to said parties of the second part, their successors and assigns, a certain lot or parcel of land situated in the town of Vandemere, N.C. on the east side of the Third Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Main Street, bounded as follows, viz, Beginning at a stake on Third Street one hundred and sixty feet south of Pennsylvania Ave., running southerly on Third Street forty (40) feet to D. H. Abbott's line, then easterly fifty eight and one half feet (58 ½) to S. F. McCotter's line, then northerly forty (40) feet, then westerly, parallel with Pennsylvania Ave. fifty eight and one half feet (58 ½) to the beginning containing a lot 40 by 58 ½ feet. To have and to hold the aforesaid premises together with the improvements and appurtenances thereunto appertaining unto then said parties of the second part and their successors forever; In trust, that said premises shall be used, kept, maintained and disposed of, as a place of Divine worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; subject to the discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of said church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference within those bounds the said premises are situated. And the said party of the first part has a right to convey the same in fee simple; that the same are free and clear from all encumbrances, and that she will warrant and defend the said title to the same against the claims of all persons whomsoever. In testimony whereof, the said party of the first part, has hereunto set her hand and seal this day and year first written above.

Carolina Robbins (seal)

North Carolina, Pamlico County

The execution of the foregoing deed was this day duly acknowledge before me, a Notary Public, in and for the county aforesaid, by Caroline

Robbins, the grantor named therein. Witness my hand and notarial seal this 19th day of July 1910.

U. C. Holton, Notary Public

The foregoing certificate of U. C. Holton, N.P. of Pamlico County is adjudged to be correct. Let the Instrument with the certificates be registered. Witness my hand this 28th day of Sept. 1910.

George T. Farnell, Clerk of Superior Court

Filed for registration at 9 o'clock a.m. Sept. 28 1910

E. C. Ross, Register of Deeds

The Missionary Baptist Church

The Missionary Baptist Church congregation was established circa 1893. The membership began in 1895. Between then and 1920, approximately 44 people joined the church. See *Vandemere, NC – Village by the Sea* for membership list and other information.

In 1916, The Missionary Baptist purchased land.

State of North Carolina – Pamlico County

“D. H. Abbott and wife in consideration of the sum of \$75, bargained and sold to U. C. Holton, J. F. Miller, and R. B. Phipps, trustees of the Vandemere Missionary Baptist Church and on Elm St. 150' by 150'.”

The Missionary Baptist Church is presently active at this original location on Elm Street in Vandemere.

Methodist Unity

Vandemere United Methodist Church has not always had that name. Note the bulletin on the following page.

The Journal of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South lists the following churches in Pamlico County:

Alliance 70 members, Kershaw 28 members, Oriental 193 members, Pamlico 82 members, Bayboro 69 members, Barnes Chapel 41 members, Bernard's Chapel in Lowland 4 members, Hobucken 54 members, Stonewall 104 members, Vandemere 45 members. The conference was held in Wilmington, Nov. 21-25, 1935.

All Methodist churches were Methodist Episcopal Churches, South in the New Bern District.

Back in 1926, the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South asked for an exhaustive study of all phases of the unification problem and to report back to the General Conference in 1930.

**ONE HUNDREDTH ANNUAL
SESSION**

**THE NORTH
CAROLINA CONFERENCE**

**OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH, SOUTH**



**HELD IN
NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA
November 19-23, 1936**

PRICE 25 CENTS

The Methodist Protestant Church prepared a plan of union 1934-39. The plan of union was voted upon at the 1936 session of the General Conference and it was approved.

Thus came an end to the long years of division and in the place of the former Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and the Methodist Protestant Church now stands the Methodist Church. The three churches were united in April 1939. At the time of its formation, the new church included 7.7 million members.

And now there were two, The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church.

The General Conferences of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church was held Nov. 11, 1966. A plan of Union was recommended to the two churches.

1. Article I Declaration of Union – The Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church shall be united in one church. The United Church as thus constituted, is, and shall be, the successor of the two united churches.
2. Article II Name. The name of the Church shall be The United Methodist Church.

The plan of Union was made effective by the Uniting Conference in Dallas, Texas on April 23, 1968.

Barnes Chapel Discontinued

The following announcement was taken from the Journal of Proceedings of the one hundredth annual session of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The session was held in New Bern, Nov. 19-23, 1936.

“Barnes Chapel, Pamlico Circuit is to discontinue as a preaching appointment. The membership is transferred to Vandemere and the property is placed in the hands of Pamlico Quarterly Conference.”

Unable to find any further records, we can only guess as to why Barnes Chapel was discontinued. Members could have disagreed with the

General Conference's decision to unite their church with the other Methodist Churches. They were no longer Methodist Episcopal Church, South. This is only conjecture!

Mrs. Vera Barnes Jones said she believed the church was closed because attendance had greatly declined. Yet, the 1935 membership count shows there were 41 members. There were only 45 in Vandemere, so it would appear Barnes Chapel was doing well. However, it could be that members were not attending regularly. Another possibility is that the building was not being properly kept up.

Glen Barnes, who now attends Vandemere Missionary Baptist Church, can remember playing in the yard of Barnes Chapel when he was about 10 years of age. This would have been in the late thirties. Glen remembers the floor of the church was sagging and was weak.

He believes that after the building was torn down some timbers, wood, etc. were carried to Vandemere and left in the lot across from the Methodist Church in Vandemere where the tennis court is now. He thinks it stayed there for a long time and was never used for any building or additions to the church.

Jerry Morris and others born prior to 1935 can remember the old Barnes Chapel Church.

Betsy Ewell recalls that W. J. Swan from Stonewall was hired to raze the old Barnes Chapel Church in 1938 or 1939. Most likely, his crew then carried the timbers and other salvageable parts to the lot in Vandemere. W. J. Swan was brother to Hugh Swan and Mary Swan McCotter.

Early Residents of Cash Corner/ Vandemere

The Vandemere United Methodist Church History Committee visited Mrs. Vera Barnes Jones in April or 2004. She was very alert and happy to talk with us. She remembered well the "old people" from her youth. Following are excerpts from our notes:

Mr. Walter Lincoln married Ms. Lula. He was a small man and a carpenter by trade. He was still living in 1959. He and Ms. Lula gave the Methodist Church in Vandemere a piece of land.

Mr. J. W. Rolison married Augusta Carawan. They lived in the large house across the road from the railroad track in Cash Corner.

Dan Sawyer never married. He lived with his mother in the large two story house that used to stand on the left side of the loop road going to Barnes Chapel (coming from Vandemere). Dan and his brother, John, attended Barnes Chapel.

Hillary Potter married Jenny Hooker from Aurora. They were Louise Gooding's parents.

D. C. McCotter married Leona Muse, daughter of John Muse from Lowland. They lived where Glen Hopkins now lives.

Archie Newton was a lighthouse attendant and a carpenter.

Mrs. Kine Robbins was a fine old lady, a devout member of Mt. Zion F.W. Baptist Church. Her sister, Violene and husband, Ulysses Holton, were pillars of the Missionary Baptist Church in Vandemere. Mrs. Kine had two children who died young. She and husband Andrew adopted a son named Cleve.

Earl Holton's parents were early members of Mt. Zion F.W. Baptist Church.

Mrs. Vera Barnes Jones joined Mt. Zion F.W. Baptist Church at 8 years of age. Mrs. Vera (2 Aug 1906 – 22 Feb 2009) was the daughter of the late Della Williamson and William Lindsey Potter. Her brother, Virgil Rex Potter, married Trixie Rowe.

The J. R. McCotter Family (From McCotter Family Bible)

John Richard McCotter (24 Oct 1825 – 19 Nov 1910) was the son of Hezekiah McCotter and Dorcas Riggs of Cash Corner. He first married Maple Jones. He married second Susan Jones and he married third Susan's sister, Sarah Jones (10 Mar 1835 – 12 Sept 1909), daughter of Joanne Lincoln and Samuel Jones.

Children of John and Sarah McCotter:

Susan b. 29 April 1852 m. John A. Muse

Martha A. b. 26 Mar 1854 m. Louis Fowler
Carolina "Kine" b. 13 Oct 1856 m. John Robbins
Violene b. 14 Sept 1858 m. Ulysses Holton
Samuel Francis b. 27 Apr 1860 m. Hannah Muse
Cora Pauline b. 14 Dec 1861 m. Ed Hough
Florance Delone b. 3 Feb 1863
Emma Jane b. 27 Jan 1865 m. John Fentress
John Andrew b. 5 Mar 1867 m. Nettie Godwin
Bradford Lewis b. 5 Mar 1871 m. Jenny A. Sawyer
Alford Delone b. 28 Nov 1872
Victor Delone b. 19 Aug 1877 m. Mary Swann

The black pulpit Bible now being displayed in the curio cabinet in the fellowship hall of Vandemere United Methodist Church belonged to Sarah Jones McCotter.

D. C. McCotter (1874 – 1959), who was superintendent at Barnes Chapel circa 1915, was the son of B. F. and Brittain McCotter. He married Lorena Muse, born 1880. They were married by Henry E. Tripp, Methodist minister, 19 March 1902. Leona was the daughter of John C. Muse and Susan McCotter.

Church Activities Photos



1998 VUMC Vacation Bible School led by Kim Sadler (top right)



Easter Sunday 2005

(Bottom step) Zachary Jones holding Cecelia Marshall, (top L to R) Tyler Cross, Jonathan Cross holding Jonah Marshall, Jenna Jones, Mark Jones, Jonathan Gaskill, Matthew Jones



Patriotic kids Cece Marshall, Jonathan Gaskill and Jenna Jones honor Eric Marshall before he is deployed. Adults pictured are Annette and Bennie Jones, Lisa Swindell, Debbie Roach and Stanley Styron, Jr.

CHAPTER III

THROUGH THE YEARS

Vandemere Methodist Episcopal Church, South

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South built in 1910 in Vandemere was a wood frame structure about the same as Barnes Chapel and Mt. Zion F.W. Baptist Church houses. As best we can determine, there was a raised area to the left of the pulpit. This was the place for the choir and pianist. An old pot-bellied stove sat on the right side of the pulpit.

Lig! Patriotic Kids Cece Marshall, Jonathan Gaskill and Jenna Jones honor Eric tal-
fran Marshall before he is deployed. Adults pictured are Annette and Bennie
Jones, Lisa Swindell, Debbie Roach and Stan

Churches in the area circa 1910 and earlier, as far as can be determined, did not include a vestibule and steeple or front stoop. Due to limited funds and many times voluntary, unskilled carpenters with very few tools, the early churches were simply constructed. The original Vandemere church was approximately 30 ft. X 45½ ft., a white washed building with lapped-board siding. The original lot was only 40 ft. X 58 ½ ft.; therefore, the building covered most of the lot.

Please notice in the recent Vandemere United Methodist Church picture on the title page that the vestibule (8 ft. x 8 ft.) is attached to the southwest corner of the building, setting out approximately one foot from the sanctuary. Although most church vestibules are built in the center of the front of the building, it can be assumed that the vestibule which was added to the Vandemere Church was constructed on the side due to lack of space on the lot. Even so, the structure is still very close to Third Street.

In referring to the above mentioned picture of the church, please notice the large single window in front. This window is approximately seven ft. wide, including framing. It is believed that this window replaced a set of double doors which originally led directly into the sanctuary. Most likely this renovation took place when the vestibule was constructed.

In a careful study of the architectural styles of churches in the early 1900's, it was noted that many of the buildings had two windows in the front. Although we have no proof, we believe this was the case with the original Vandemere Methodist Church. An examination of the swinging

entry doors leading into the sanctuary from the vestibule introduced new theories. These double doors and the archway are solid wood. It is evident that they had been used somewhere else because the door locks had been removed, plugged with wood and sanded. Also, the hinges had been removed and pins were put in for hinges in order for the doors to freely swing open and shut. There is a strong possibility that these doors were originally the front doors of the sanctuary and the archway over the swinging doors is the original archway used at the front entrance of the original church. Without available records, it is sometimes productive to do a little detective work!

Conjecture that the Vandemere Methodist Church builders of 1910 followed the usual pattern of other local church buildings was confirmed by interviews with Mrs. Vera Barnes Jones and Mrs. Trixie Rowe Potter. The family of Mrs. Vera Barnes Jones moved from Lowland to Cash Corner around 1912 and then moved to Vandemere around 1921. She had early memories of the Vandemere Church and recalls a set of steps in front of the church that led directly into the sanctuary. Mrs. Trixie also remembered the church when there was no vestibule.

The windows in the original church were clear glass. Mrs. Vera said she remembered the clear glass windows "very well." Mrs. Trixie Rowe Potter also remembered the clear glass windows. Mrs. Vera said the same was true at Barnes Chapel and Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist Churches. Neither of these original buildings had vestibules nor stained glass windows.

Betsy Ewell also shared her early memories. She remembered the raised choir loft and the clear windows. The windows did not have screens and during the summer when they were opened the flies and mosquitoes came right in! She remembered having hymn boards at the front of the sanctuary where songbook page numbers, the offering and the attendance were posted. She recalled that money was tight during that time and the church could not afford "good ministers." Betsy thinks Violene McCotter taught Sunday school for a time.

There is no known documentation of when the vestibule steeple was constructed or when the first stained glass windows were installed. Those stained glass windows, which were replaced in 1997, consisted of a large glass panel in the center of the window pane with smaller blocks of colored glass all around the outside.

Jean McCotter Ruth, born 1925, does not remember the clear glass windows, nor does she remember the vestibule not being on the church. Therefore, it might be concluded that the vestibule was added circa 1930-35 and possibly the new windows were installed around the same time.

One can only visualize the small white-washed church in 1910 with a hitching post in front. On Sunday's during Worship Service, horses and buggies filled the small 40 ft. frontage on Third Street. No doubt there were riding horses, farm carts, fancy buggies and an occasional "surry with a fringe on top!" The ladies wore frocks and the men and boys wore suits and ties. One can only imagine! These days, however, ended quickly with the automobile appearing circa 1912. Actually, a local gentleman, D. C. McCotter of Cash Corner, owned one of the first cars in Pamlico County. It is reported in the Goose Creek Islander that he made quite a commotion when he rounded Clark's Corner in Lowland doing ten miles an hour!

The earlier years of the nineteenth century were marked by the spread of the Sunday School movement in America. By 1835, Sunday Schools were encouraged everywhere. According to Pamlico Circuit records, the Methodists were holding Sunday School in Vandemere as early as 1902. C. A. Flowers was listed as Sunday School Superintendent from 1902 until 1905. Other names were not recorded until 1913-1915 when J. L. Fowler was Superintendent.

The Women's Society of Christian Service (sometimes called the Ladies Aid) was organized in 1911 and was very active throughout the years until 1985 when it was discontinued due to lack of interest.

Frank Fulcher was the first pastor serving from 1909 to 1910. Vandemere Methodist Episcopal, South evidently held worship services as well as Sunday School at least one year prior to constructing the new church house.

From 1910 to 1915, eighteen names were placed on the membership roll. They all transferred from Barnes Chapel in Cash Corner. For a complete listing of names, please refer to the "Membership Roll." Documentation proves that the Methodists were organized in Vandemere by 1902 and had at least one pastor before they acquired a church building. Therefore, there may have been early members whose names were not recorded on the membership roll.

New members who transferred from Barnes Chapel in 1911 were received by Pastor R. L. Beasley; however, Pastor Beasley's name is not recorded on the Pastor's List in the New Bern District, Pamlico Circuit Records. Other pastors from Vandemere who recorded many of the new members also are not included on the Pastor's List.

Mrs. Senia Armstrong is the first church member on the old membership list. Those who remember "Ms. Sene" describe her as a hard working Christian lady who organized Sunday School, Bible Studies, youth groups and other church activities. With the support of other dedicated workers, we are sure that Vandemere Episcopal Methodist Church, South was the hub of the community during those years.

From April 4, 1915 to 1928, fifty additional members were added to the membership roll.

Seeing the need for a parsonage, the church trustees acquired a lot in 1916.

Pamlico County - State of North Carolina, Book 66 Page 152

D. H. Abbott and wife H. L. of Vandemere deed to D. C. McCotter, J. A. McCotter, J. L. Fowler, Peleg Goodwin and W. T. Campen, trustees of Vandemere Parsonage, Aug 3 1916 for \$1.00 and for other good reasons a lot in Vandemere on the north side of Elm St. beginning 10 ft. from the southwest corner of a lot owned by the Junior Order of Mechanics and adjoining said lot, Mrs. Caroline Robbins and the Washington and Vandemere Railroad lot, 150 ft X 150 ft X 150 ft and with Elm St. to the beginning, for use as a parsonage.

Registered 17 Nov. 1916

The proposed parsonage was never constructed. The land was sold for \$150 in 1947 to Eva Dudley.

In 1929 T. B. Attmore and wife deeded lot number twenty two (22) to Vandemere Methodist Church. The lot was 20 feet on Third Street and 58½ feet on Elm Street giving the church a little more space on the side.

NORTH CAROLINA,
BEAUFORT COUNTY.

This Deed, Made this 5th day of June 1929, by T. B. Attmore and Mertie Attmore, parties of the first part to Vandemere Methodist Church, parties of the second part.

WITNESSETH, That the parties of the first part for and in consideration of One Dollar which is acknowledged, does hereby sell and convey to the party of the second part their successors and assigns, forever, the following described property:

Lying in the Town of Vandemere and being lot No. 22 as described on a plot of River View Park recorded in Book 83, page 40 of the records of Pamlico County.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same in fee simple.

And the parties of the first part hereby covenant with the parties of the second part that they will forever warrant and defend the title to the same against all claims.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year above written.

T. B. Attmore (Seal)

Mertie R. Attmore (Seal)

NORTH CAROLINA,
PAMLICO COUNTY.

I, J. T. Miller, do hereby certify that T.B. Attmore and Mertie Attmore, his wife, personally appeared before me and acknowledged the due execution of the within deed of conveyance; and the said Mertie Attmore being by me privately examined, separate and apart from her said husband, doth state that she signed the same freely and voluntarily without fear or compulsion of her said husband and that she doth still voluntarily assent thereto. Let the same with this certificate be registered.

This the _____ day of June, 1929.

J. T. Miller J.P.

NORTH CAROLINA,
PAMLICO COUNTY.

The foregoing certificate of J. T. Miller, of Pamlico County is adjudged to be correct. Let the instrument with the certificate be registered.

Witness my hand this 28 day of June, 1931.

J. P. Woodard C. E. C.

Filed for registration at 3:00 o'clock P.M. May 28th, 1931, and registered.

J. Alfred Mayo,
Register of Deeds

EUREKA! by Annette Jones

During our numerous interviews, we always asked these questions. Who were the church carpenters? Who constructed the building? Where did the lumber come from? Did someone donate it? The questions went unanswered; however, the Lord does work in mysterious ways and evidently he wanted us to have this piece of information for our history book.

On July 16, 2005 Bennie and I were invited to a Jones Family Reunion which was held at Camp Vandemere. We were warmly greeted by Edward Tate, Sr., Frank Mayfield, III, Billy Seawell and other family members. Soon we realized that, although this was indeed a Jones Family reunion, there were no Joneses.

We soon learned that this family group were descendants of six Jones sisters, daughters of O'Conner Lee Jones (29 Nov 1871 – 29 Nov 1948) and Frances Linton Jones (20 Mar 1876 – 13 May 1959) who lived in Vandemere. O'Connor was the son of Elijah Jones b. 1838. Elijah's parents were Samuel Jones (15 Nov 1802 – 8 Sept 1865) and Joanna Lincoln Jones (1803 – 9 Jun 1841) who are buried in an old cemetery near Big Vandemere Creek bridge n. of Cash Corner. The Jones Family had followed their ancestry through *Kissin' Cousins*, a genealogy and history of the Mayo and Jones families which I co-authored with Lois Mayo Jones. It was so interesting to discover how closely this family line of Joneses fit into the history of Cash Corner/Vandemere and the religious movement that developed in the area. Elijah's sister, Susan, was married to John R. McCotter and later his sister, Sarah Ann (10 Mar 1835 – 22 Sept 1909). For more information on the Jones family, please refer to *Kissin' Cousins* by Mayo/Jones.

Mr. O'Connor and Mrs. Fannie lived in Vandemere as well as Roper and Greenville. They were the parents of six daughters:

Mary Ann Elizabeth Jones m. William Seawell b. 1906

Connie Lee Jones b. 1908 m. Edward Tate

Novella Moye Jones b. 1908--twin to Connie m. Gene McCauley

Queenee Victoria Jones b. 1911 m. Frank Mayfield

Freddie Odell Jones b. 1913 m. Paul Dean

Julia Mackey Jones b. 1917 m. Fred MacEntire

Mrs. Vera Barnes Jones remembers the family and was especially good friends with the twins, Connie and Novella.

There were about 150 people in attendance at the Jones Reunion. Bennie and I enjoyed meeting new friends from all over the United States. We sat across the table from Billy Seawell and wife during lunch. We both remembered his father, Billy Seawell, Sr., from our high school days and enjoyed talking about the "good ole days."

However, the best was yet to come. I shared with Edward Tate and Frank Mayfield that we were in the process of compiling the history of Vandemere United Methodist Church. Frank calmly mentioned that, according to family tradition, O'Conner Jones built the Methodist Church in Vandemere! Eureka! I was thrilled and astounded to learn this valuable piece of information. I was immediately full of questions. Did they have any kind of documentation—records of receipts, payments, etc.? Who helped him? What year did the building take place? Anything?

To my disappointment, they couldn't recall any recorded documentation. This was what they had been told by their mother and the family. It was simply oral family history and they accepted it. They also said Mr. Con built the house on Third St. where the family lived in front of the Methodist Church, as well as several other houses in Vandemere.

Upon further investigation, it was confirmed by documentation that Mr. O'Conner Jones was indeed a carpenter. The 1920 Pamlico County census lists him as "carpenter and veteran," living with his wife and six daughters on Third Street in Vandemere. The 1930 census lists O'Conner L. Jones, 58 years, living on Griggs Rd. No one else was listed in the household.

In a following conversation, Mrs. Vera Barnes confirmed that Mr. Con built the house on Third Street. Mr. Charlie Griggs said Mr. Con built bungalow type houses with front porches, which were popular at that time.

Following the July Reunion, I placed several phone calls to Jones family descendants; but, unfortunately, they had not come across any records concerning the building of the Vandemere Methodist Church.

It was so great to discover that Mr. O'Connor Lee Jones was the builder of the Vandemere Methodist Church. I only wish we had the names of those who helped with the construction. Mr. Walter Lincoln was a carpenter; perhaps he helped. Andrew P. Barnes built Barnes Chapel; perhaps he helped. We believe we can safely assume that all the able-bodied men in the community probably assisted, simply because that is the way things got done in those days.

Following are abstracts from a letter from Frank H. Mayfield, Jr. written on September 1, 2005:

Dear Annette and Bennie:

Kindly forgive this belated correspondence. You deserved it much sooner. Having you a part of the Jones Girls Family Reunion was high privilege and a special treat. Re-reading *Kissin' Cousins* is a favorite past-time of mine. Your contribution to the greater Jones Family is a significant historical reference, and we are grateful. I am also enjoying *The Goose Creek Islander*. Thanks for making that available.

Thank you very much for the Abstract from the Vandemere Methodist Church historic records. I can picture my Grandma making sure Mother and her sisters professed their faith. Mother would have been ten-years-old at the time. She was born in 1910, the year your church was built.

A few of the first generation cousins remember our mothers (the Jones Girls) stating their father, O'Connor Lee Jones, was the builder of several homes and the Church in Vandemere. He was a master carpenter and a goodly part of his adult life was in home building and ship building, which followed a distinguished and decorated military career.

My cousin, Edward O'Connor Tate, of Charlottesville, Virginia, is the one person among us who intimately knew our Grandfather Jones, having spent summers with him at the Farm on the Bay River. You met Ed at the reunion. He was recovering from a recent stroke and put forth a gallant effort repairing in time for the reunion. Ed is a historian in his own right and knows Grandpa's history better than any of us. Ed says, "Grandpa built the Methodist Church in Vandemere." Grandpa's military record is storybook material and Ed will help me assemble the sequence of events so we can present it to you and the membership. Let me initially share, that the record includes being on the front lines at San Juan Hill with Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders, and being Sergeant Major for General Arthur MacArthur in the Philippines, teaching the General's young son, Douglas MacArthur, to be a marksman with a Carolina squirrel rifle. O'Connor Jones was an Expert Marksman.

It was nice to learn Billy, Linda, and Elizabeth joined your church services on Sunday morning. Billy is the son of my late first cousin, Bill Seawell, who like Ed Tate, benefited by being close and personal with Grandpa Jones. I learned last year from another of my late first cousins, Eva Tate (sister of Ed), that there was a box stored somewhere, a box that had been in the possession of our cousin, Bill Seawell, which held all of the old papers and records of Grandpa Jones. I am going to ask Billy of the current generation to help Ed Tate and I locate that box. If we can find it, it may yield some secrets, maybe the records of his building projects and perhaps through that source we can verify with a written record what we believe is fairly certain, that Grandpa was engaged by the Founding Members of Vandemere Methodist to build their church. It may be that some of the Founding Members had been members of Barnes Chapel in Cash Corner where it appears my grandparents attended prior to Vandemere Methodist.

I am enclosing a few items. One is a pictorial record of events as we know and remember. Another is an envelope for the offering plate at Vandemere Methodist next Sunday.

My niece, Amy Mayfield, my brother and sister-in-law, Sarah and Glen Mayfield, along with Judy and myself, thank you for the special courtesy of showing us through the Church. I loved it. I felt the vibes, the spirit. I think it was Mother, her sisters, Grandma and Grandpa saying, "Thanks for coming home."

Your warm invitation to the Vandemere Church Annual Homecoming on October 23, 2005 was greatly appreciated. I regret the timing doesn't allow us attending this year, but perhaps, you could find means to keep us on the invitation list, so a future year may be considered.

Lastly, I am enclosing enlarged copy machine reprinted color photos of our Grandma and Grandpa Jones. My best guess would have their age in the mid-thirties, just about the time they moved from Roper to Vandemere, shortly prior to construction of your church in 1910.

May cousins we better be,

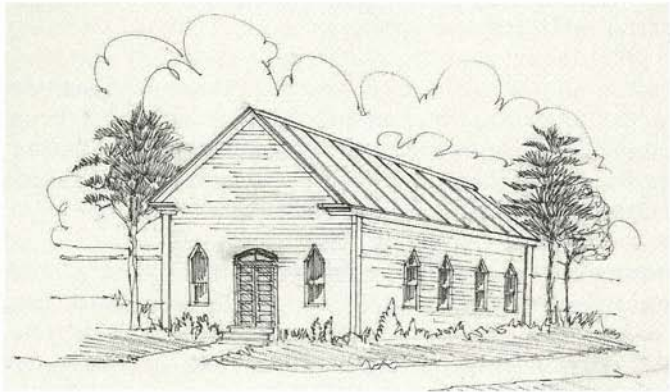
Frank H. Mayfield, Jr.



O'Conner Lee Jones



Frances Linton Jones



Sketch of Vandemere United Methodist Church as constructed in 1910



Sadie Lupton and Sybil Forrest (right) were the two oldest members of Vandemere United Methodist Church attending the Vandemere Centennial on May 20, 1995. Both ladies were young girls when the church was built in 1910.

The 1930's showed a very impressive growth in Church membership with fifty-one members. Most joined by a Profession of Faith but some by transfer. The Holy Spirit was surely at work in Vandemere! With good preaching and fellowship, the church body was growing both spiritually and numerically. The pastors were C. N. Phillips, A. P. Hill, J. M. Jolliff and W.A. Tew.

We do not have Sunday school records for this decade; but, according to New Bern District records, in 1934 there was a Sunday School enrollment of 79. Mrs. Sene Armstrong is remembered as being Sunday School Superintendent and teacher. Other teachers were Glennie McCotter, Jenny Potter and John R. P. Carawan. Mr. Todd was a prominent church leader. The Methodist Church held Sunday school and Worship Services in the morning and the Missionary Baptist Church held all services in the afternoon. Many people attended both churches.

Hannah McCotter Cowell, born 1928, recalls revivals being held every summer during the 1930's and 40's. She remembers one particular revival when she was a small child, becoming very distracted and wriggly. The minister finally spoke directly to her, "We'll be through in just a minute, Hannah."

During the 30's and before, bathroom facilities consisted of an outdoor toilet and a chamber pot inside the building. No doubt the pot was concealed discreetly behind one of the Sunday school partitions and used for the younger children.

Although about half of the new membership in the 1930's was male, it is recalled by one of our seniors that very few men were attending services in the late 30's. The most dependable ones were Oscar Griggs, Sam McCotter and Charlie Todd. The women, children and teenagers remained faithful.

According to the *Journal of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, South* in 1934, Vandemere had 41 members. In 1935 they had 45 members. The value of the building and equipment was \$1800. Insurance carried was \$1000. Total enrollment in Sunday School was 79. There was not a Woman's Missionary Society (we believe there was a Ladies Aid). The Presiding Elder was apportioned and paid \$23. The preacher in charge was apportioned and paid \$331. Other apportionments were: General and Conference work \$60, District

work \$2, Orphanage Special \$29, Raised for Incidentals and other objects \$106, Amount raised for Church and parsonage \$68, Insurance Premiums \$30. Grand total raised for the year \$769.

In April of 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Protestant Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South were united; therefore, Vandemere Episcopal Church, South was now Vandemere Methodist Church.

The 1940s

As the 1940's began, Vandemere Methodist Church was doing well. The pastors were H. H. Cash, R. N. Fitts, E. H. Bromley, W. P. Combs and L. G. Vereen, students from Duke University and T. E. Maness. Nineteen (19) were received into membership. Revivals continued to be popular. This was the time when many came to the altar and professed their faith in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Although "sprinkling" is customary in the Methodist Church, there was a baptism by immersion in 1946. Elaine Griggs and Ann Griggs were received by Profession of Faith by Pastor R. N. Fitts. Elaine and her sister Ann were baptized by immersion in Bay River in front of the old hotel in Vandemere.

Sunday school records for the 1940's have not been found but older members recall the attendance as being very good. On occasions, various types of contests were run to increase the attendance and perfect attendance pins were awarded to those who came every Sunday. Some acquired long rows of these pins which were worn on the lapel.

Worship Services were not held on a regular basis, usually twice monthly or sometimes only on the fifth Sunday of the month; therefore, Sunday school became the service that could be relied upon every Sunday. In many local churches, Sunday school drew larger crowds than Worship Service. Families would attend Sunday school, enjoy the large family meal at home, and many times attend the baseball games (very popular at the time) in the afternoon.

Bonnie Smith was Sunday School Superintendent during much of the 1940's and Jenny Potter played the piano. Mrs. Jenny also played for Mt. Zion F.W. Baptist Church in Cash Corner. It is said that there were

times when she would leave one church and go directly to the other to play the piano. That piano, which is now in the Fellowship Hall, was donated by Bonnie and Lena Smith.

The church did not have classrooms at that time and the Sunday School classes would form groups all around the sanctuary. There were usually four different classes. Although there were several devoted teachers during the time, Mrs. Senia Armstrong stands out in the memory of many as being a very devoted, loving teacher and role model to all.

Mr. Bonnie took his place at the front of the sanctuary every Sunday morning. He welcomed the congregation, lead them in song and prayer and lead the service step by step. Those who had had a birthday during the past week proudly came to the front, placed a dollar in the plate and lined up across the front. The congregation joyfully sang "Happy Birthday" to all. Announcements were made along with any other necessary business that needed to be discussed. This all took about 20 minutes or so. Then everyone was dismissed to go directly to their class area. After classes ended, all joined together to sing the closing hymn and pray the benediction prayer. Sunday School was a blessing.

Margaret Newton Rose remembers teaching a nursery class during the late 1940's. She was just a young teenager at the time. There was a screen set up in one corner of the church and that area became their classroom. Her students were Sally Woodard, Woody Woodard, Dickie Newton and others.

Mrs. Sene Armstrong was the Methodist Youth Fellowship Leader during the 1940's and most likely on into the 1950's. Also, she organized summer Vacation Bible Schools which were held in her back yard.

Mr. Charles Mayo also led a MYF group in the 1940's. His students were teenagers. Many times after the MYF meeting, usually held on Sunday afternoon, the group of young people would travel to New Bern to the movies. Some of the young people were Hannah McCotter, Charles Griggs, Audrey Tuten, Ralph Forrest, Edith Salter, Elaine Griggs, Otis Newton, Jr., Billy Potter, James Newton, Edward Forrest, Josephine Morris, Joyce Holton and others.

Vandemere Methodist Church houses two bells, a tolling bell and a church bell. During the 1940's and most likely prior to that time, the tolling bell was used to announce the occurrence of a death within the community. The bell was tolled once for each year lived by the deceased. The church bell was rung for other occasions, such as announcing church time on Sunday mornings or a fire in the community. So far as we know the condition of both bells is good but neither has been used for years.

Margaret Newton Rose remembers having the honor of ringing the church bell on Sunday mornings. Mrs. Sadie Lupton was in charge of seeing that the bell was rung. Margaret recalls that she enjoyed "riding the rope" as she pulled on it. Through the years many of the Vandemere children had the honor of ringing the church bell.

During the late 1940's and probably into the 1950's, Mr. Sam McCotter, Mr. Grady McCotter and Mr. E. H. Holton furnished fish for church fish fries. The worker at the fish house would fry the fish in large containers over an open fire. The money raised from these events went to the church for whatever was needed at the time. The fish were delicious and the social event was special to everyone.

Mrs. Sadie Lupton lived just across the street from the church and loved the church with all her heart. Mother's Day was very special. Mrs. Sadie would cut a large basket full of roses and many times they would have dew on them. The basket was placed at the front of the church and as the congregation entered each lady was given a rose. Those whose mother was deceased took a white or yellow rose and pinned it to their lapel. Those whose mother was living picked a red rose. This tradition was carried on in the church for years.

During the year of 1946, I. J. Hudson, a very dedicated member, had the exterior of the church building painted.

The 1950s

Revivals were held every summer during the 1950s. The conference usually sent a young preacher from Bible College to hold the revival. Thirty-three believers joined the church during this decade. Pastors were T. E. Maness, David M. Lewis and J. H. Bryant.

Sunday School was doing so well in the 1940s; we feel sure that this trend continued on into the early 1950s. However the only records we found began in September of 1959. During these last months of the decade, the Vandemere Methodist Church Sunday School Records show an average attendance of about 57 per Sunday. Very impressive! The average offering each week was \$13.60 for Sunday school. Garland Woodard and Ralph Forrest served as superintendent and Ivy Morris as secretary, with Thelma McCotter and Ruth Hudson filling in at times.

During the early 1950s, Mrs. Sybil Forrest taught the teenage class. Students were Jerry Morris, Dick Hudson, Pat McCotter, Billy McCotter, James Newton, Otis Newton, Geraldine Carawan, Shirley Dowdy, Al Hopkins, Shelby Wetherington and Margaret Newton and others.

Later in the decade, Bobby McCotter, taught the young adult class. Among the students were Jimmy Hudson, Sally Woodard, Katie Newton, Mona Carawan, Judy Carawan, Pat McCotter, Margaret Newton, Charles Mayo, Charles Griggs and Gloria Griggs.

The following roll was taken from a Sunday School Record book with no date recorded. We believe it was circa 1958-1959. Joyce Forrest was teacher. Students were Barry Carawan, Robert Campbell, Dale Carawan, Eddie Newton, Sam Woodard, Nancy Woodard, Cynthia Woodard, Paul Voliva. Mrs. Sene's name was on the roll, so she must have taught some of the time or assisted Joyce.

During the mid-50s, Mr. I. J. Hudson donated equipment to the church so that "Chimes" could be played. He had speakers installed in the steeple to carry the sound through the air and a phonograph in the sanctuary to play the chimes record. The chimes were played every Sunday morning thirty or forty minutes before Sunday school began. When the lovely chimes rang out across Vandemere, everyone knew it was time to get up and get ready!

Another big project was undertaken with the building of the original Fellowship Hall. This addition housed a dining area, kitchen, two classrooms and a restroom.

Mrs. Jenny Potter continued as pianist with the help of Ruth Hudson. Charles Mayo also played. In 1956, Sally Jensen married Pat McCotter and they settled in Vandemere. Sally began playing and also taking care of the communion. Throughout the years, Sally has been a faithful servant and role model to all.

Rachel and Hugh Barnes were married in 1955. The Ladies Aid group of Vandemere Methodist and Mt. Zion F.W.B. came together and gave them a shower. She recalls how well the two groups got along.

In 1957, the trustees of Barnes Chapel Church deeded land in Cash Corner to the Vandemere Methodist Church. This land is the site of the present Celestial Gardens Cemetery. At that time the cemetery was already well established.

On Sunday, May 11, 1958, Vandemere Methodist Church celebrated its 47th birthday in conjunction with Mother's Day. The following article was taken from the May 7, 1958 edition of *The Pamlico County Herald*:

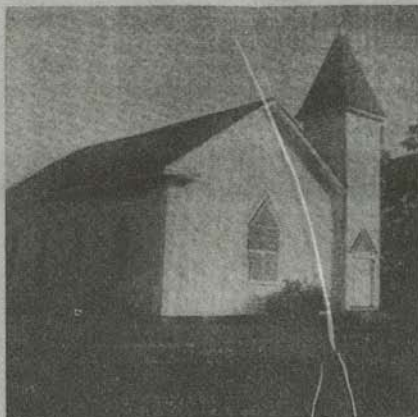
Mother's Day Will Be Birthday Of Vandemere Methodist Church

Vandemere has a Methodist church because the members worked fast, back in 1910. Progress in the ensuing 48 years may have bogged down a little at times, but since 1954, the church has doubled its membership. Now, with a church school addition slated for the near future, the little church has the same fast-moving spirit shown nearly a half century ago.

Mrs. Caroline Robbins owned a nice piece of property near the center of Vandemere in 1910. She offered to give this land to the first group who would begin building a church. That was all the incentive Mrs. John A. McCotter needed—within a few days, "Uncle Johnnie" McCotter began unloading lumber on the site, which was fashioned into the Methodist church. In return, Mrs. Robbins deeded the land on June 10, 1910 to S. F. McCotter, J. A. McCotter, D. H. Abbott, John Morris, Charles Griggs, J. L. Fowler, and W. T. Mayo, as trustees of the proposed church.

Mrs. John McCotter came to Pamlico County from Dunn as a school teacher. She soon changed her name from Miss Nettie Barnes to Mrs. McCotter, and it is she who is regarded as the "mother" of the Vandemere Methodist church, which will have a 47th birthday celebration on Sunday, May 11.

Two of the charter members who joined the church when it was organized on May 5, 1911 are still active. They are Mrs. H. A. Armstrong and



Mrs. Alice Jones Potter. Other charter members were J. L. Fowler, Martha Fowler, Susan Gibbs, Nettie Barnes McCotter, Willie Ann Jones, John Morris, Sarah Morris, Radford Morris, S. R. Hickman, R. S. Griffin, Mary Jines, Samuel F. McCotter, and R. E. Evans. The first pastor was the Rev. R. L. Beasley.

Last year, another donation of land was made to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lincoln of Vandemere. On this land, four church school rooms will be built. Under the guidance of the Rev. David M. Lewis, who has served the Stonewall circuit four years, the Vandemere church has renewed its enthusiasm to work fast and build.



REV. DAVID M. LEWIS

Walter B. and Lula Lincoln deeded 1/10 acre of land to the church in 1959. Mr. Walter and Mrs. Lula's home faced Pennsylvania Avenue and was between Grady McCotter's home and C. P. Hough's home. Deed follows:

FILED FOR REGISTRATION AT 10:50 O'CLOCK A. M.
April 16, 1959 AND REGISTERED IN THE OFFICE
 OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OF PAMLICO COUNTY, N. C.

J. J. Linn
 REGISTER OF DEEDS

NORTH CAROLINA
 PAMLICO COUNTY

BOOK 125 PAGE 466

THIS DEED, Made and entered into this 15th day of April, 1959, by and between Walter B. Lincoln and wife, Lula Lincoln, of the County of Pamlico and State of North Carolina, parties of the first part, and Joe Morris, Earl H. Holton, I. J. Hudson, S. F. McCotter and L. G. McCotter, Trustees of Vandemere Methodist Church, of the Town of Vandemere, County of Pamlico and State of North Carolina;

W I T N E S S E T H :

THAT WHEREAS, the parties of the second part are owners of a lot on the East side of Third Street and on the North side of Elm Street in Vandemere, which lot fronts 59 feet on Third Street and 58½ feet on Elm Street, and which was conveyed to the Trustees of Vandemere Methodist Church in two deeds, one from Caroline Robbins, dated June 18, 1910 and recorded in Book 53, at Page 210, Pamlico County Registry, and the other from T. B. Attmore and wife, dated June 5, 1929, and recorded in Book 89, at Page 301, of said Registry; and

WHEREAS, under date of June 2, 1951, the parties of the first part conveyed to the Trustees of the said church a lot immediately east of said church lot fronting 20 feet on Elm Street and having a depth of 49 feet 6½ inches along the rear of the church lot, said deed being recorded in Book 120, at Page 31 of said Registry; and whereas, a question exists as to whether or not the said lot was properly located and described in said deed recorded in Book 120 at Page 31; and

WHEREAS, the parties of the first part have bargained to sell to the parties of the second part additional land to the rear of the said church lot and fronting on Elm Street so that the church lot will be extended along Elm Street the full width of the residence lot of the parties of the first part and

DEMAND S. HOLLOWELL
 ATTORNEY AT LAW
 SAVANNAH, S. C.

to the depth (or width) of the church lot; and whereas, in order to remove any question as to the location of the lot conveyed by the deed recorded in Book 120, at Page 31, it has been mutually agreed that the description of the land to be conveyed herein will cover the land intended to be conveyed by said former deed.

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the sum of Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars and other good and valuable considerations to them in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties of the first part have bargained and sold and by these presents do bargain, sell and convey unto the said parties of the second part, their successors and assigns, a certain lot or parcel of land lying and being in Number Three (3) Township, in the Town of Vandemere, Pamlico County, North Carolina and more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Lying and being on the North side of Elm Street; BEGINNING at a point in the northern edge of Elm Street which is South 64 degrees 25 minutes East 58 1/2 feet from the eastern corner of the intersection of Third and Elm Streets, it being the northeast corner of the church lot and the northeast corner of Lot No. 22 of a subdivision, a plat of which is recorded in Deed Book 83, at Page 40, Pamlico County Registry, and running thence South 64 degrees 25 minutes East along the northern edge of Elm Street 75 1/2 feet to the dividing line between the Lincoln and Hough lots; thence North 25 degrees 35 minutes East along said dividing line 59 feet to a stake; thence North 64 degrees 25 minutes West 75 1/2 feet to the eastern corner of the church lot (conveyed by Caroline Robbins); thence South 25 degrees 35 minutes West with the line of the church lot 59 feet to the BEGINNING, containing one-tenth (1/10) of an acre, more or less.

Being a portion of the lot conveyed by W. H. Muse and wife, Lula Muse, to Walter B. Lincoln and wife, Lula Lincoln, by deed dated October 15, 1912, and recorded in Book 59, at Page 43, Pamlico County Registry.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said lot or parcel of land, together with all privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging, to them the said parties of the second part as Trustees of the Vandemere Methodist Church in trust, that said premises shall be used, kept, and maintained as a place of divine worship of the Methodist ministry and members of The Methodist Church; subject to the Discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of said

BERNARD B. HOLLOWAY
ATTORNEY AT LAW
DARTMOUTH, N. C.

church as from time to time authorized and declared by the Southeastern Jurisdiction, ²⁹⁸ and by the Annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises are situated. This provision is solely for the benefit of the grantee, and the grantor reserves no right nor interest in said premises.

And the said parties of the first part, for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators, covenant with the parties of the second part and their successors and assigns, that they are seized of said premises in fee; that they have the right to convey the same in fee simple; that the same is free and clear of all encumbrances whatsoever; and that they will warrant and defend title to the same against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals, all the day and year first above written.

Walter B. Lincoln (SEAL)
WALTER B. LINCOLN

Lula Lincoln (SEAL)
LULA LINCOLN

NORTH CAROLINA
PAMLICO COUNTY

I, G. B. GARNER, a Notary Public in

and for Pamlico County, North Carolina, certify that Walter B. Lincoln and wife, Lula Lincoln, this day personally appeared before me and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing deed of conveyance, for the purposes therein expressed.

Witness my hand and notarial seal, this 16th

day of APRIL, 1959.



G. B. Garner
Notary Public

My commission expires: 10-27-59

BERNARD B. HOLLOWELL
ATTORNEY AT LAW
SAYERS, N. C.

NORTH CAROLINA
PAMLICO COUNTY

The foregoing certificate of G. B. Garner, a Notary Public in and for Pamlico County, North Carolina, is adjudged to be correct.

Let the instrument, with the certificate, be registered.

Witness my hand, this 16 day of April, 1959.

Hallett W. Mayo
Hallett W. Mayo, Clerk of the Superior Court

FILED FOR REGISTRATION AT 10:30 O'CLOCK A. M.,
April 16, 1959 AND REGISTERED IN THE OFFICE
OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OF PAMLICO COUNTY, N. C.

J. J. Spencer
REGISTER OF DEEDS

The 1960s

During the 1960s, 16 people joined the church. Ministers were L. H. Dodson, Ivey J. Wall and H. Charles Davis

The Pamlico Parrish was established in the 1960's. Vandemere Church became a part of the Stonewall Charge, along with Alliance, Bayboro and Stonewall. Prior to the 60's, the Methodist churches in the area were part of a circuit with one minister officiating. Later, rotating ministers were established.

In 1963, Vandemere joined with other parish churches in the building of a new parsonage at Stonewall, replacing a very old structure. Ivey J. Wall was the first minister to live in the new parsonage.

During the 1960's, Sunday school was held first, followed by Worship Service. The church began having Worship Services every Sunday morning, instead of every other Sunday or once a month.

1960 Superintendents were Ralph Forrest, Garland Woodard and I. J. Hudson. The average attendance was 49. The average offering was \$12.68. Ruth Hudson served as secretary with Mrs. Alice Potter filling in.

Circa 1960, Mrs. L. D. Forrest – Children's class students included Chuck Forrest, Robbie McCotter, Jan Gregory, Ronnie Pipkin, and Sandy Pipkin.

In 1961, Pat McCotter served as superintendent; others who filled in were Alma Newton, Elizabeth Lupton and Carol Dixon. Minutes were taken by Ruth Hudson and Ralph Forrest. The average attendance was 32 and the average offering was \$8.51.

Circa 1961, Mrs. Senia Armstrong, teacher, no date, students Doug Gregory, Sam Woodard, Dale Carawan, Eddie Newton, Barry Carawan, Leslie Voliva, Nancy Woodard, Cynthia Lupton, Daphne Hewitt, Paul Voliva.

1961-1962 Adult Bible School Class members – Senia Armstrong, Gladys Hopkins, Mrs. Tom Campbell, L. D. Forrest, I. J. Hudson, Joella

Norman, Sybil Forrest, Garland Woodard, Jennie Potter, Alice Potter, Sam McCotter, Glennie McCotter, Ivy Morris, Oscar Griggs, Connie Harris, Alice Moore, Robert Woodard, Lena Smith, Bonnie Smith, Alma Carawan, Florence Walmsley, Sadie Lupton, Ida McCotter, Joyce Forrest, Ralph Forrest, Bobby McCotter, Ruth Hudson and Sadie Woodard.

In 1963, those who served as superintendent were Pat McCotter, Bobby McCotter, I. J. Hudson, Cynthia Lupton, Nancy Woodard, Ralph Forrest and Mrs. Potter. Secretary was Ruth Hudson. Average attendance – 22. Average offering was \$8.46.

Sally McCotter was teacher of this teenage group: Elizabeth Lupton, Alma Newton, Julius Walker, Dicky Newton, Sandra Hopkins, Arline Carawan, Charles Smith, Phyllis Lochrico, Hop Hudson, Woody Woodard, Hilda Alfred, Carol Dixon, Sally Woodard.

1963-64 Bobby McCotter, teacher, young adult class. Student were Jimmy Hudson, Dale Carawan, Sam Woodard, Elizabeth Lupton, Barry Carawan, Nancy Woodard, Cynthia Lupton, Sandra Hopkins.

1964 Juniors – Joyce Forrest, teacher. Students were Sandy Pipkin, Ronnie Pipkin and Sammy Woodard.

1964 Kindergarten Class – Sally McCotter teacher. Wendy Forrest, Kim McCotter, Chuck Forrest, Robby McCotter, Bryan Potter, Mary Mayo. Visitors Pam Morris, Cathy Smith and Richard Hudson.

1968 Intermediate Class – Cynthia Lupton, teacher. Students Mary Mayo, Kim McCotter, Charles Griggs, Wendy Forrest, Gigi Warren and Timmy Savage.

The 1970s

Three people joined the church during the 1970s. Pastors were Ray Sparrow and Jesse Staton. While Pastor Staton was pastor, Ed Armstrong taught a Confirmation Class at Vandemere. Students were Johnny Warren, Kim McCotter, Wendy Forrest and David McCotter.



Johnny Warren, Kim McCotter, Glennie McCotter, Wendy Forrest, David McCotter

David McCotter and Johnny Warren served as ushers, taking the offering every Sunday all through their teen years. Mrs. Mary Mayo was the church treasurer.

Year	Avg Monthly Donation	Total for Year	Avg Month Expense	Total Year
1974	254.09	3049.02	227.61	2731.28
1975	300.71	3608.49	340.14	4081.65
1976	326.66	3919.93	319.06	3828.71
1977	254.57	3054.88	247.78	2973.33
1978	277.81	3333.74	274.00	3287.69
1979	314.95	3779.33	313.80	3765.59

As can be seen monthly tithes and offerings were not high. In 1975, the expenses exceeded the income. During other years, there was barely enough money. However, the bills were paid, probably by outside offerings and fundraisers.

Mrs. Mary Martin recalled the Ladies Aid still being active in the 1970's. She said there were about twenty members. She also recalled teaching the Adult Sunday School Class at times.

Between 1970 – 1976

Members of the Congregation and Supporters of the Church
as listed in an old record book

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Davis	James L. Lupton
Jean Dixon Ruth	Alton H. McCotter
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Dixon	Bonnie Smith
Sadie Edwards	Senia Armstrong
Sybil Forrest	Kim McCotter
Ralph Forrest	David McCotter
Connie Harris	Oscar Griggs
Gladys Hopkins	George Campbell
Gladys Hopkins Woodard	Paul Delamar
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Savage	Sue & Edward Forrest
Mr. & Mrs. Garnett Leary	Elizabeth Lupton
Mr. & Mrs. I. J. Hudson	Cynthia Lupton
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Mayo	Fallon Melvin
Carolyn Stirrup	Ida McCotter
Mr. & Mrs. Pat McCotter	Irvin James
Mr. & Mrs. Sam McCotter	Dr. & Mrs. C. P. Morris
B. Eugene Smith	Alice Moore
Rev. G. C. Smith	Alice Potter
Mr. & Mrs. Percy Woodard	Mr. & Mrs. Joe Morris
Barbara H. Chesser	Florence Walmsley
Mr. & Mrs. R. F. McCotter	Rev. J. C. Staton
Timothy W. Zeeler	Roger Mayo
Harry C. Kirschner	Leona McCotter
Jean M. Ruth	Mr. & Mrs. Vancie
Katherine Raiford	Jim Hudson
James L. Atkinson, Jr.	Donald Williams
James & Judith Osborn	Jenny Flood
Rev. Ray Sparrow	Sally W. Stanley
Mr. & Mrs. Lambert	Hannah Cowell
Iris Shelly Etheridge	Ray Ewell
John F. Williams	Charles Griggs
	Nancy A. Lupton

Sunday School

1970 – Sunday School Superintendents recorded were Joyce H. Forrest, Ralph Forrest and Bobby McCotter for November and December. Records for the other months could not be found. Sandy Pipkin was Secretary. Average attendance 23 and average offering \$9.01.

1971 – Those whose names were recorded as superintendents were Dick Dixon, Bobby McCotter, Sandra Pipkin, Joyce Forrest, Mary Dixon, and Ralph Forrest. Those who served as secretary were Ivy Morris, Joyce Forrest, Sandy Pipkin & Cynthia Lupton. Average attendance 21. Average offering \$8.56.

1972 – Records were available for only 22 weeks of this year. Officers were about the same with the additions of Chuck Forrest and Bonnie Smith filling in as superintendent and Sally McCotter as secretary. Average attendance 18. Average offering \$8.87.

1973 – Records were available for 12 weeks. Average attendance 16. Average offering \$7.14.

1974 – Records were available for 7 weeks. Cynthia Lupton served as superintendent. Average attendance had fallen to 14. Average offering was \$4.57.

No further Sunday School Register records available for the 1970's.

When Pastor Jesse Staten was at Vandemere, he called on Mrs. Ivy Morris to write a poem about the church. Mrs. Ivy enjoyed writing poems for her grandchildren on special occasions. This poem is a reflection of Mrs. Ivy's sweet spirit and love for the church.

Our Church

Our church is in the Town of Vandemere
Which means – Village by the Sea,
Has had quite a history, and it
Means a lot to me.
For fifty-four years I have been here
And watched it grow and slump.
But for the past few years it has

Taken a downward bump.
Lot of our older citizens have
 Recently passed away.
But the new comers who have moved
 To our town
Are trying their best to turn
 It around.
And with their presence and their
 Good will
Some of our empty pews they fill.
As they come in and take their
 Seats.
It fills our hearts with pleasure.
 For each one that enters our church
Somehow we have come to treasure.
From our head minister, I have had a Request
To write a poem, and I have done my best.

Ivy Morris

The 1980s

The 1980s were filled with success but also challenges and adversities. Looking back to the 1950s, Vandemere was a thriving community. The farming and fishing industries were doing well. Pamlico County was blessed with talented young men and women, many of whom settled in Vandemere. Most became members or were a part of the congregation of Vandemere United Methodist Church. As today's seniors, they recall many precious memories of their early training at the church. These memories will be treasured forever.

We cannot determine exactly when or why, but a gradual decline in attendance began to take place in the 1960s and 1970s. By the 1980s, Vandemere United Methodist Church had reached a very low point. However, the Lord provides and a few dedicated members along with other citizens of Vandemere were determined to keep the church doors open. We will not attempt to name those devoted Christians because so

many contributed in various ways. We simply thank the Lord for their strength, insight and desire to continue and we give God the glory.

Thirteen believers became members of the church; Jesse Staton, W. Nelson Fulford and G. C. Smith were pastors. J. C. Parker and J. Rodney Lane, Jr. shared time as ministers. Ed Cross was chairperson of the Administrative Board.

The Women's Society of Christian Service, formed circa 1911, was discontinued in 1985 due to lack of interest and declining attendance. This was a sad event in the church history. Throughout the years, the WSCS held special dinners and put on Christmas and Easter programs and other holiday events. They took care of cleaning the church and raising money for the building fund. They made sure there were fresh flowers in the church every Sunday. During summer revivals, members took turns feeding visiting ministers and provided lodging if needed. Anything that needed to be done in the church was usually backed and taken care of by the Women's Society.

The earliest Sunday school records found for the 1980's were those of the 1985, September to December. Average attendance for those months was 11. Average Sunday school offering was \$7.42. In 1986, the average attendance was 6 and the average offering was \$2.22. Available records for 1987 show an average attendance of 5 and average offering was \$1.17. After this record, several pages were torn from the book. We found nothing more for the 1980's.

An organizational meeting was held September 8, 1985 with three teachers/officers representing the Sunday school present. They were Ralph Forrest, Superintendent; Mary Martin, Secretary/Treasurer; and Robert Martin, Assistant Superintendent. No action was recorded.

We have not been able to establish the time when Sunday school was discontinued in the main sanctuary. Since no records could be found for the early 1980's and the ones that were found show such a decline, we assume this was the point that Sunday school, as it was for so many years, ceased to exist. Evidently, those who were still interested in the Sunday school lesson met in the fellowship area for classes. This remains the custom today.

Although Sunday school was no longer popular, the church carried on. Mrs. Mary Mayo, Church Treasurer, recorded the following for 1980 – 1989:

Year	Avg Monthly Donation	Total for Year	Avg Monthly Expense	Total for Year
1980	273.73	3284.40	282.10	3385.22
1981	283.77	3405.19	244.32	3531.83
1982	359.79	4317.48	408.66	4903.86
1983	232.56	2558.20	246.67	2713.35
1984	308.70	3704.42	326.31	3915.72
1985	406.41	4876.94	406.16	4873.96
1986	609.45	7313.41	614.88	7378.60
1987	668.13	8017.60	621.30	7455.61
1988	683.31	8199.73	579.82	6957.79
1989	691.97	8303.63	738.02	8856.20

A Building Fund was opened in August 1982, accounting for a withdrawal of \$765.00 from the regular account. As of Dec 23, 1982 the Building Fund balance was \$3,830.76.

The mid-1980's seems to be the point when attendance and interest reached the lowest point in the church. Jean Wall recalls Christmas of 1985. Jean, her mother and Polly Cross were the only ones in church. Polly went home and returned with a poinsettia for the altar. G. C. Smith was pastor at the time. Mrs. Mary Martin recalled a Sunday when she went to church and she and the preacher were the only two people that showed up. They both went back home.

Times such as these are often referred to as "growing pains." We surely realize that many congregations suffer through bad times. We are reminded of James 1:2: "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience." James tells us to turn our hardships into times of learning. Tough times can teach us patience. How else would we realize how blessed we are today?

In the fall of 1989 the hardwood floors in the sanctuary were carpeted with a beautiful cranberry colored carpet.

Pamlico Co-operative Parish
Organizational Outline 1986 – 1987

Those appointed to the Parish for the Conference Year 1986-1987 are:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Minister/Director | - George Smith |
| Minister | - Penny Dollar Farmer |
| Local Pastor | - Fallon Melvin |
| Student Pastor | - Richard Johnson |
| Weekend Preacher | - Ed Armstrong |
- Minister: Full time position responsible for all pastoral ministry throughout the Parish.
- Local Pastor: Part-time position responsible on a part-time basis for Parish ministry.
- Student Pastor: Student part-time position responsible on a part-time basis for Parish ministry.
- Weekend Preacher: Preacher in Parish ministry, no weekday responsibilities.
- Primary Leadership Responsibilities: Pastor will have responsibility for worship 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays, primary administrative responsibility of visitation.
- Primary Leadership Stations:
- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Reelsboro/Bridgeton | - Fallon Melvin |
| Arapahoe/Alliance | - Penny Dollar Farmer |
| Pamlico/Stonewall/Bayboro | - George Smith (Preaching assisted by Ed Armstrong) |
| Vandemere | - Richard Johnson |
- Areas of Leadership:
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Co-operative Parish Director | - George Smith |
| Youth | - Penny Dollar Farmer |
| Hospital Visitation | - Fallon Melvin |
| Transportation/Work Team Coordinator | - Richard Johnson |

Photos from the 1990s



Christmas 1990

Ellen Van Hook, Bob Martin, Ralph Forrest, Gladys Sodoma, Ed Forrest, Letha Forrest, Rev. Joe Parker, Sybil Forrest, Bill Potter, Sandy McCotter, Marena Potter, _____, Mary Martin, _____, Polly Cross and Joy McCotter



Mother's Day 1994—Pancake cooks Don Kennedy and Ed Forrest prepare breakfast for the ladies of the church

CHAPTER IV

A NEW BEGINNING

The 1990's

The 1990's ushered in a vitalized and wonderful decade of growth for the Vandemere United Methodist Church. The church was blessed with our minister, Rev. Michael Roach, in 1991. This was Mike's first preaching assignment and he was truly excited and eager to begin this new chapter in his life. Through his messages, his demeanor and his conduct, Mike gave witness to Jesus Christ. From the very onset, the congregation realized that God had truly blessed Vandemere Church when He sent Michael Roach to lead us. We became more united and love and fellowship began to flourish once again within the congregation.

Michael Gene Roach, born 27 May 1947, son of Howard and Jeanie Roach married Deborah Jo Lupton, born 9 Aug 1950, daughter of Reba Sadler and Fenner Lupton of Hobucken. Mike and Debbie graduated from Atlantic Christian College, now Barton College in Wilson, North Carolina. After graduation, they each pursued careers in teaching. They were married 26 July 1970 in the Hobucken United Methodist Church in Hobucken.

Mike and Debbie are the parents of two children, Jenny Roach Grimes and Michael Gene Roach, Jr. and two grandchildren, Lindsey Stilley and Bailey Grimes. They live in a lovely brick home in Reelsboro.

Mike was a history teacher at Pamlico County High School in Bayboro when the Lord called him to preach. After beginning his career as a minister, he still taught for several years. Debbie taught first grade at Fred A. Anderson Elementary School and Pamlico Primary School for most of her 35+ years in the teaching profession.

During the 1990's, 21 became members of the church. J. Rodney Lane, Jr. and J.C. Parker, Associate, shared ministerial duties in 1990 and 1991. Mike Roach began preaching and teaching Sunday School in 1991.

The following article was taken from *A Book of Memories of the Vandemere United Methodist Church* by Letha Forrest and Sharon Harris as well as from the notes of Rev. Roach and the authors:

Rev. Michael Roach Arrives

Mike Roach came to Vandemere United Methodist Church as a lay preacher in July of 1991. Prior to this, the minister serving the Pamlico Parish would perform the services for Vandemere. Services were held at 9:30 AM to allow the minister enough time to travel to reach Bayboro, Stonewall, Pamlico or Reelsboro in time for their 11:00 AM service. With a small congregation and without a permanent minister assigned to Vandemere, very few church functions other than regular Sunday services were held. Shortly after Mike arrived, this began to change.

We encouraged everyone, young and old, to get involved. To Mike, no project was too big for our small congregation. At first, some of us were reluctant to undertake such an enormous task; but Mike would not give in to us. Before long we had changed; he had us convinced that our small size was not an obstacle. The various programs, fund raisers and jobs that we got involved with brought us closer together. The fellowship was great. Mike knew what he was doing! The larger the project, the harder we had to work because of our numbers. The harder we worked and struggled, the more united we became. Now things did not always go smoothly. We may be few in number but we all have strong opinions that we voice. The selection of the color for the new hymn books was very heated, but the dark red won. The conflicts have been few and small.

Mike's enthusiasm was catching. Sally formed a choir in 1993. The original members were Polly Cross, Mary Mayo, Sharon Harris, Joy McCotter, Marena Potter, Bill Potter, Ed Forrest, and Ralph Forrest. From that day on to hear Mike speak of the choir, one would think he was speaking of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. For Mother's Day, the men of the church were to cook breakfast for the women. The women were surprised to find Mary Ellen Ham, of Oriental in the kitchen, not the men, cooking breakfast. During the church service, Sandy McCotter sang a song, which she dedicated to her mother, Joy McCotter. A sunrise service was held Easter Sunday on First Street. During the closing prayer, a flock of Canadian Geese flew over with the rising sun as a background. The geese flying over was all the talk at breakfast following the

service. Mike could not figure out how they saw those geese when their heads were bowed in prayer. Sunday services followed breakfast and no one answered Mike's question.

The women of the church cooked breakfast for the men on Father's Day and the church services followed. The summer was busy, especially the end of June and July. McCotter Farms donated the seconds from their sweet corn harvest. We set up road side stands in front of Forrest Farm Supply in Bayboro and Mike's mother, Jeanie Roach, had a stand in front of her home in Reelsboro. In addition to the corn, we sold onions which were grown locally by Sodoma Farm, owned by John & Gladys Sodoma. We also took orders and delivered large orders. Our building fund grew that summer from the profits, which came to more than \$4,000.00. The hard work paid off. That summer was especially busy for Mike, he obtained license to preach. In October, we used some of the money for the renovations that had begun. November was the perfect month for a homecoming. The altar was surrounded with fresh fruits and vegetables. The front doors were decorated with corn. During the services, McCotter and Sodoma Farms were thanked for their help with our fund raiser. The Islanders of Hobucken, NC sang for the homecoming. Sally and Mike were busy in December planning the Christmas program which is still held the first Sunday in December.

A grant which was received inspired the congregation to do a little sprucing up to the church. Early one Saturday morning in October, the congregation turned out for a workday. The windows were washed, re-caulked, and storm windows were installed. All of the pews were scrubbed from top to bottom and all the chewing gum was removed. Howard Lupton was hired to repair the cracks in the walls and to paint the interior. New ceiling tiles were installed in the sanctuary and it was painted. New curtains were made for the fellowship hall and bathroom by Letha Forrest. To greet the guests and members, a new sign was placed in front of the stained glass window in the church yard. The new Vandemere United Methodist Church sign was crafted by Joe Buck. The program provided funding for the ceiling fans, storm windows, interior plexiglass panels for the windows in the sanctuary, and insulation. Most of the worked funded by the grant was performed by private contractors; however, we could not find anyone willing to install the insulation under the church due to the tightness of the crawl space. Rev. Mike Roach volunteered to install the insulation. Two interior drop chain lights in the sanctuary were removed and in their place, Willis Electric installed

ceiling fans with lights. The drop chain light fixtures were sold to Ralph Lupton, Sadie B. Lupton's grandson for \$500. Wiley Mercer cut and installed the plexiglass for the interior of the stained glass windows. All of these repairs and updates were started in October of 1993 and completed in time for the first homecoming in November of 1993.

Sunday School and Fellowship

Sunday school records were available in 1990 beginning in July. Sunday school classes were held in the Fellowship Hall classrooms. Students went directly to the classroom. There was no group assembly and just a few attended. Mike Roach, Joe Parker, Jean Wall and Dee Lloyd were recorded as teachers during the 1990's. At some time the custom of each person contributing \$1.00 in Sunday school class was initiated.

Dale Jones and Janie Newton began teaching children's class during the 1990's. The children's class initially met at a small table in the corner of the kitchen. Later, when the fellowship hall was expanded, a classroom was built.

Sunday school hour was set at 8:45 AM and worship Service hour at 9:30 AM.

In 1994, Mike's dream came true as the choir was "on the road." They had been requested for an engagement in Hobucken, but first they had to sing for the sunrise service in Vandemere. The sunrise service was again held on First Street and breakfast was served at the church. Following breakfast was the 9:30 Easter service. The new hymn books were dedicated during the service. The Saturday before Easter, the children hunted eggs in the church yard and surrounding yards. After the egg hunt, adults and children alike enjoyed a cookout. The next week, Rev. Mike Roach was the guest minister at the revival at Hobucken United Methodist Church and was joined by the Vandemere choir. On Mother's Day, the men of the church cooked and served breakfast. They really cooked this time and washed the dishes! They did a really nice job. A holiday did not get past Mike without a special service being planned. Memorial Day was no different. Flags belonging to the family of veterans were placed over the windows in memorial to our service men. The flags were from the following families:

Blaine Burrus, U.S. Coast Guard
Owen Potter, U.S. Army
John F. Williams, U.S. Army

Marena Potter
Bill Potter
Don Williams

A flag was also on loan from the Forrest family. It had been in Ms. Sybil's possession but they were unsure to which family member it belonged. Mike was surprised by the church on his birthday. A cake decorated with praying hands was given to Mike and was served after services. The fathers of the church were served breakfast prior to services on Father's Day. Sandy McCotter and Sharon Harris sang for the services and the song was dedicated to the fathers. July of 1994, the corn sales were good, but the work was hard. McCotter Farms did not plant sweet corn in 1994 but offered to plant approximately four acres for the church. We picked corn and picked corn and picked corn and picked corn! That summer we learned that raccoons pick corn fast. With the proceeds, which we added to the building fund, we were able to continue our renovations. In November, the renovated vestibule was dedicated in memory of Bob Martin. The dedication was part of our homecoming service. The Christmas program was much more comfortable with our new heating system.

The first two months of 1995 were consumed with work. A new walkway and foundation vent, the fellowship hall was remodeled, and the pews were repaired. The renovations did not stop; they continued through the year. In March, the choir was invited to sing at the revival at Oriental Methodist Church and Rev. Mike Roach was the new on the road singer. He claims he cannot sing, but he is wrong. The choir would never have allowed just anyone to join their group.

The Easter egg hunt was scheduled the Saturday before Easter and the church yard was filled with children. Rev. Mike Roach gathered the children inside for an Easter program. The children saw the Easter Bunny, in Vandemere! The Easter sunrise service was held on First Street and the morning was beautiful. Sunday service and breakfast followed at the church. The church sold fried fish plates in April. A tent was set up next to Roy's Marine in Bayboro. In keeping with the corn theme, the church had a corn dog stand at the Vandemere Centennial Celebration on the 20th of May. Both the mothers and fathers of the church were honored with special services on Mother's Day and on Father's Day. The homecoming was moved up to October and the theme

was the harvest from the sea. Seafood along with the usual homecoming menu was served. The Christmas program was filled with local talent. Wendy Forrest Davis sang, the Vandemere Methodist Choir sang and Jasper Voliva played Silent Night on his guitar. And best of all, the children dressed in costumes and acted out the Christmas story. The children were members' children and grandchildren. This was a beautiful program.

The renovation to the church was still going on in 1996. The Easter sunrise service was held inside due to cold and damp weather. Breakfast was catered by Mary Ellen and Ponce Ham. The cheese biscuits were fluffy and filled with cheese. After a wonderful breakfast, the morning services were held. Everyone seemed to be yawning, but not from the service. Easter Sunday fell on the first day of daylight savings time. Jimmy Watt is to begin the new handicap ramp in May.

We have really been busy since June of 1992 and loved every minute of it! Thank you, Mike. God is Good!

(From *The Book of Memories*)

Hymn Books, Renovations and Dedications

On Easter Sunday 1994, the newest Methodist Hymnals were dedicated. Many of the new hymn books had been purchased for \$15 by members and others in memory of or in honor of friends and loved ones. Labels were placed inside the front of the books recognizing those individuals.

The Cokesbury Worship Hymnal was first copyrighted in 1938, and a second printing was released in 1966. In July of 1955, Mr. & Mrs. L. D. Forrest presented hymnals to the church. The Senia Armstrong Circle and the W.S.C.S. Circle #1 presented several hymnals to the church in January of 1960. These tattered brown hymnals books are still used in the church today and favorites of us all. The possibility of having them rebound was discussed. New Methodist Hymnals were purchased sometime after the last printing of the Cokesbury in 1966. The church did not have enough of them and later received books from the congregations of the Methodist churches in Reelsboro and Stonewall, NC. Hymnals were also sent from Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Cary, NC—Polly W. Cross' hometown church.

In 1994, Joe Buck was commissioned to design a plaque for the entrance of the church with the founding date of Vandemere United Methodist Church. Ken and Dee Gillikin gave a much needed face lift to our portrait of John Wesley, with a new frame and matting. In addition, the Gillikins selected several inspirational pictures which they hung in the fellowship hall.

In the summer of 1994, the renovation of the vestibule started and, upon completion, was dedicated in memory of Bob Martin. An engraved brass plaque with the date was placed in the window sill in the vestibule. Howard Lupton returned to paint the roof and the exterior of the church. With the proceeds of the second corn sale, a gas pack heating and air system was installed by C/A Heating and Air Conditioning in December.

The cold air of January 1995 did not slow up the ongoing renovations. Ken Gillikin and Rev. Mike Roach removed two walls in the fellowship hall which eliminated the hallways and created a large open space for church gatherings. They also cut an opening in the kitchen wall to make serving during church functions easier. During the same time period, Mike installed additional cabinets in the kitchen, which were much needed. Upon the completion of this project, the hardwood floors in the fellowship hall and the Sunday school room were sanded and refinished by Billy E. Respers of New Bern. Meanwhile, Letha Forrest's sons, Johnny and Jimmy Watts, worked outside forming and pouring a new front cement walkway. Their little helper for this job was Jimmy's son, Jonathan. Jimmy also installed the foundation vents. Some of the pews had become unstable and Sherry Howlett volunteered her husband, David, to repair them. The repairs began in February and David did a great job. In the fall, the pews were made a little more comfortable with permanent cushions for the seats and back. A straight back oak chair and table, two of the oldest pieces of furniture in the church, were sent to Craven Evaluation Training Center in New Bern to be refinished. Dee Gillikin found a long forgotten folding screen in the attic. The screen was possibly used, before the addition was built, to separate the Sunday school classes which were held in the sanctuary. Ken and Dee repaired and refinished the screen and Letha, after removing the existing muslin, replaced the fabric to match the curtains in the fellowship hall. Letha also made new curtains for the Sunday school room to coordinate with the fabric used on the screen and curtains she made in 1993. Ken and Dee have since added blinds and sheers to filter the morning sun.

A hymnal board given by Sally J. McCotter and dedicated in memory of her mother, Mrs. Alice Jensen of Minnesota, hangs on the wall behind the choir loft. Also, a round table was ordered and placed in the Sunday school room in memory of Mr. Jensen. The exiting round table was dedicated in memory of Dee Gillikin's mother, Pat Hunter. At the time of this writing, a handicapped ramp for the side entrance of the church has been scheduled for construction in 1996, and Jimmy Watts has been contracted to do the work.

(Taken from a *Book of Memories of Vandemere United Methodist Church* by Letha Forrest and Sharon Harris written in 1995)

After the A/C system was installed in 1995, the old gas heater and window air conditioners were removed from the church and sold.

In 1996, the handicapped ramp was added to the side entrance of the church. The kitchen was renovated with new cabinets, sink, faucet, two electric ranges and exhaust fans. The bathroom was made handicap accessible with a new commode added and a wide door.

In 1997, a deck was added to the back entrance of the fellowship hall. A new light fixture was installed in the vestibule in memory of Irene Ford, donated by Gladys Ford Sodoma. New stained glass windows were installed at a cost of \$24,000. A sound system was put into operation in memory of Dick Dixon donated by Mary Martin.

Doug Alvord

Doug moved to Pamlico County in 1993. He was born in New Brunswick, Canada, and lived and worked in Boston and New York City before moving to Maine and eventually finding his way to Vandemere. He is a man of many talents. He has worked in the publishing field and as a writer and illustrator as well as an artist, working in many media.

Now Doug is mostly interested in sculpting and has done many projects in the area of the fine arts. Just a few years ago, Doug found his love of music actually had an outlet by composing music and playing the piano.

We are not sure what is next on Doug's agenda in the arts and music or maybe as yet an undiscovered talent. Way to go Doug!

A Leap of Faith

As church members began making improvements and renovations, the old windows could not be overlooked. The sills were sagging as the rotting wood could no longer give support. The time had come for the old windows to be replaced.

This was the time for a show of faith and that is exactly what the small congregation did—showed their faith!

The following article, entitled “Glorious View” was printed in *The Sun Journal*, November 2, 1997. The article was beautifully written by Fran Hume, Features Editor. Permission to include this article in our history book was given by Editor Mark McKillop of *The Sun Journal* on May 6, 2005.

Glorious View

Church gets busy on project to let a more colorful light shine on congregation by Fran Hume, Features Editor

Deep in Pamlico County, down by the water in Vandemere, a breeze of renewal is kissing the hearts of people who touch a small church. They are finding revival through hard work, persistent hope, tenacious faith—and in new stained glass windows.

If God’s identity can be defined as the sum of His gifts, the Vandemere United Methodist Church must be rich with a view of God, especially when bright sunshine passes through those amber, cobalt, maroon and indigo masterpieces.

Consider the demands placed upon all 46 members of the church’s extended family. Backs had to be willing to carry the load, hands had to be open and eager to part the way, legs had to stand strong and keen to travel as far as it would take. Most of all, their eyes and ears had to be open to possibilities.

With Rev. Mike Roach leading them, congregation members joined hands with the community to ride through the \$24,000 project.

While they worked, they touch the essence of a message from Walter Pater in the mid-1800s: “Art comes to you proposing frankly to give nothing but the highest quality to your moments as they pass.”

Their journey began with the arrival of the right people at the right time.

The Rev. Mike Roach arrived in 1991 to minister to a congregation that by then had dwindled to three or four members. Roach convinced them that small numbers were not an obstacle—a monumental shift from the words of an itinerant minister who in 1985 told them that the church would close within a year.

“We decided we didn’t want it to close,” Polly Cross said.

And it didn’t. Those few and a few more who came along over the years held on until Roach arrived and started teaching them that the harder they worked the more united they would become.

It was when McCotter Farm donated its “seconds”—sweet ears of corn too small for national distribution—to the church that they formed a plan to raise money for renovations to the failing church structure. Everybody in the congregation and everyone they knew joined hands, pitched a tent in front of Forrest Farm Supply in Bayboro and started selling the corn.

While the small church in Vandemere struggled to survive, David and Vicki Goforth in Newton Grove were dealing with their own problems. David Goforth had quit his job on the road in late 1989 to take care of his mother, stricken with cancer. He met, then married Vicki Boris in 1991, and by 1992 they were waiting for the arrival of their first child. John Robert Goforth arrived in July. David’s mother—John Robert’s grandmother—died barely two months later.

Goforth had been working a job at a local transmission factory, and work began slowing down. Within two years, he and Vicki decided to move back to his mother’s family home—Vandemere. They wanted John Robert to know the kind of support only grandparents could give. He wouldn’t have grandparents, but he would have family.

Goforth found a job at a boatyard in Oriental and worked there until two years ago. The last four months of those years, Goforth was working with a broken foot. He held out as long as he could, then he had to quit. His visit to a doctor’s office began a drawn-out battle for workman’s compensation.

In the meantime, John Robert was beginning to seize life in each fist. He crawled, then walked, then started exploring. His gaze through the window of his family’s home eventually lit upon the little clapboard church across the street, and he started asking his father what everyone was doing.

Goforth, a Lutheran, had been looking for a church for two years. At his son's urging one bright Sunday morning last year, Goforth took his son over to the church to see about Sunday school.

"They didn't have a Sunday school—there weren't any children in the church," Goforth recalled. "John Robert cried when I brought him home. I had to tell him there wasn't any place for him to go to Sunday School."

The next week, Vandemere Methodist member Sally McCotter called on the family to say the church was starting a Sunday school, and asked Vicki Goforth to be the teacher.

"Since then we've had another child (Audra Michael), and more children are coming to the church with new families, and more teachers have come," said David Goforth.

Thanks to John Robert, the Goforth family started attending church there, and David and Vicki Goforth began finding more family than they ever knew existed: Rev. Michael Roach and all the McCotter family, Jerry and Berry Morris and all the Potters, Gladys and John Sodoma and all the Forrest family and a double dozen more.

The congregation was continuing the renovation work they'd started in 1992, using money earned through what was now regular sales of corn from the McCotters and onions from John Sodoma. With each year's corn crop, they managed to raise about \$4,000 and put it right back into the church. When David and Vicki Goforth walked in, church members were confronting the next critical need. Last year's hurricanes and 85 years of wear on the church had left the windows and their frames severely damaged.

"More air than water was coming through," Rev. Roach said. "There were no two that matched. The glass and framing were different in each one. The main window frame was rotting. A year ago, we knew something had to be done."

He and board members looked for help from a variety of manufacturers of vinyl cladding. The day Roach told the congregation that repairing the frames and replacing regular glass in the eight windows, a picture window facing the street and a circular one behind the pulpit would cost between \$14,000 and \$15,000, David Goforth was in the congregation. He decided to commit his knowledge, experience and connections to the collection plate.

Goforth had spent from 1982 to late 1989 working for Shenandoah Studios and Stained Glass out of Front Royal, Va., one of the nation's top stained

glass providers and restorers. He was sure something could be worked out to replace the windows with stained glass.

“The people in the church reached out to us. They stood by us when they found out about my injury and my inability to work, and they helped us every step of the way. I just wanted to give something back—I wanted to give back more than I’d gotten,” Goforth said.

With Goforth providing the link, Shenandoah Studios and church members managed to work out a deal. Goforth, who had worked his way from a scaffold builder up to a crew foreman before his mother’s illness, guided church members through the process and stepped in to make sure they were getting what they wanted at a price they could afford.

That’s a mouthful, considering each stained glass window the company creates is sealed in Lexan, a super-tough polycarbonate produced by General Electric that make the windows virtually indestructible. Even if hit by hurricane-strength winds or rifle bullets, the glass will survive. Instead of the roughly \$15,000 quoted for repairs and replacement, the bill for the stained glass window installation came in at \$24,000. A bargain at that price, it was still a substantial chunk of change.

Everyone in the congregation and everyone they knew turned to the task, and raised 25 percent, enough for a down payment. Another 25 percent came in from church savings, members’ contributions and donations from outside the church. Another 25 percent has been paid through monthly payments, leaving a fourth of the cost to go.

“When you set your mind to it, you can do anything,” Roach said. “We’ll have this paid off within six months.”

So, the little church that thought it could, did!

Now, brightly surrounding the old wooden pews are a series of stained glass windows that reflect God’s gifts in each medallion, the centerpiece of each panel. One medallion features a vine and its branches, one a chaff of wheat and basket filled with bread. On another medallion is a cluster of bread loaves surrounded by fish, and one shows an ark floating on rough seas beneath a colorful rainbow. Yet another is a crown supporting a cross and fig leaf, and one medallion portrays faith, hope and charity. Another window features a dove carrying an olive branch in its beak. There’s one that features a Bible, cross and crucifixion. The large circular window in the wall behind the pulpit shows Jesus kneeling and praying, and the much larger picture window shows Jesus standing among low hills, holding a lamb.



They all carry double meanings—one from treasured Bible verses, another from the reflection they provide of the community's reliance on the farms, fields and sea that have nurtured Vandemere and its descendants. The windows are more than that, though. They are the sum of all the pieces that made the gift possible. When bright sunshine passes through those amber, cobalt, maroon and indigo masterpieces, they place God's gifts into keener focus and His will seem closer.

Certainly, God's timing reveals itself with each pass of the sun. How, without that timing, would the congregation have been ready to raise the money, would John Robert Goforth have been ready to ask his papa about the little white church across the street, would David Goforth have been ready to give back more than he had received?

October 12, 1997, Homecoming! What a Day! There were 165 present with an offering of \$2,775.00. The church now owes less than \$6,000 on the windows. Contributions have been excellent.

In 1997, as the new stained glass windows were being installed, members of the congregation tossed around ideas of how to keep mementoes of the past using the old stained glass windows. Irma Alvord contacted Rick Daniels of New Bern, who works with stained glass. She contracted him to make small crosses and angels from the old glass. The result was lovely sun catchers attached to sturdy cords that could be hung in windows. The crosses and angels were sold as commemoratives of Vandemere United Methodist Church.

Later on, a group of ladies met at the Pamlico County Primary School and, under the instruction of Sue Clark, learned to make other items from the old stain glass windows. Some of these items were also sold as commemoratives.

A Vacation Bible School was held by Kim Sadler during the summer of 1998.

New Fellowship Hall

In March of 1999, a ground breaking ceremony was held for the 1,000 square foot addition to the Church Fellowship Hall. Arvis Barrow Construction Company did the work. The Fellowship Hall was enlarged; two bathrooms, a classroom and a storage room were added. The church borrowed \$60,000 from Wachovia Bank on a ten year loan. The new heating/AC system, as well as numerous other items, were donated.



Mary Mayo, Joy and Bobby McCotter, Rev. Mike Roach, Mary Martin and Polly Cross conducted a groundbreaking ceremony for the addition to the Vandemere UMC fellowship hall.

In October 1999, the Fellowship Hall was completed. Homecoming was held in the new facility and dedicated that day to the Glory of God. County water and sewer was hooked up to the church building for the first time. Prior to this Donald and Kim Ireland, who lived next door, had provided water and sewer hook-up. The church purchased new tables and chairs to accommodate the larger Fellowship Hall!

Officers and Reports

VANDEMERE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 1995

Administrative Chairperson	Joyce Forrest
Lay Leader	Mary Martin
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Mary Mayo
Treasurer	Letha Forrest
Financial Secretary	Letha Forrest
Recording Secretary	Sharon Harris
Finance	Ed Cross
Evangelism and Missions	Gladys Sodoma
Nurture and Membership Care	Joyce Forrest
Pastor Parish Relations	Dee Gillikin
Trustees	Polly Cross
Records and History	Mary Martin
Worship	Mary Mayo
Camping Ministry	Don Cross
Stewardship	Ralph Forrest
Higher Education	Sandi Pipkin
Sunday School Superintendent	Polly Cross
N.C. Christian Advocate	Marena Potter
Church Pianist	Sally McCotter

Pastor Parish Relations-Ed Cross, Chair

- 1995 - Ed Cross
- 1996 - Mary Mayo and Patsy Cross
- 1997 - Dee Gillikin and Ken Gillikin

Finance-Ed Cross, Chair

Bobby McCotter, Letha Forrest, Mary Martin, Ralph Forrest, Ken Gillikin

Nominations-Mike Roach, Chair

- 1995 - Mary Mayo and Mary Martin
- 1996 - Joyce Forrest and Kay Cross
- 1997 - Joy McCotter and Sandy McCotter

Trustees-Ed Forrest, Chair

- 1995 - Ed Forrest
- 1996 - Robert McCotter
- 1997 - Polly Cross and Ralph Forrest

Worship- Mary Mayo, Chair and Communion Steward

- Pianist Sally McCotter
- Altar Guild Mary Martin and Gladys Sodoma
- Acolyte Director Ed Forrest

Nurture and Membership - Joyce Forrest, Chair

- Health and Welfare Mary Martin
- Hostess Director Joy McCotter

VANDEMERE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 1996

Administrative Chairperson	Joyce Forrest
Lay Leader	Mary Martin
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Mary Mayo
Treasurer/Financial Sec'y	Letha Forrest
Recording Sec'y	Sandy McCotter
Finance	Ed Cross
Evangelism and Missions	Gladys Sodoma
Nurture/Membership Care	Berry Morris
PPR	Dee Gillikin
Trustees	Robert McCotter
Records/History	Mary Martin
Worship	Mary Mayo
Stewardship	Ralph Forrest
Higher Education	Sandi Pipkin
Sunday School Supintendent	Dee Gillikin
N.C. Christian Advocate	Marena Potter
Church Pianist	Sally McCotter
Membership Sec'y	Sandy Potter/Patsy Cross

Pastor Parish Relations-Dee Gillikin, Chair
 1996 – Mary Mayo and Patsy Cross
 1997 – Dee Gillikin and Ken Gillikin
 1998 – Jerry Morris and Amy McCotter

Finance-Ed Cross, Chair
 Bobby McCotter, Letha Forrest, Sherry Howlett, Virgil Potter, Pat McCotter, Ken Gillikin

Nominations-Mike Roach, Chair
 1996 – Joyce Forrest and Berry Morris
 1997 – Joy McCotter and Sandy McCotter
 1998 – Bill Potter and Marena Potter
 (other nominations may be made from the floor)

Trustees-Robert McCotter, Chair
 1996 – Robert McCotter and Sally McCotter
 1997 – Polly Cross and Ralph Forrest
 1998 – Ed Forrest and Ed Cross

Worship- Mary Mayo, Chair
 Altar Guild Joy McCotter Mary Martin & Amy Carlton
 Acolyte Director Ed Forrest
 Usher Director Jerome Weeks
 Communion Steward Mary Mayo

VANDEMERE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 1999

Administrative Chairperson	Gladys Sodoma
Lay Leader	Mary Martin
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Mary Mayo
Treasurer/Financial Sec'y	Irma Alvord
Recording Sec'y	Sandy McCotter
Finance	Ed Cross
Evangelism and Missions	BerryMorris/Kim Sadler
Nurture/Membership Care	Anne Sadler
PPR	Buddy Rice
Trustees	Robert McCotter
Records/History	Sharon Harris/Letha Forrest/Mary Martin
Worship	Mary Mayo
Stewardship	Ralph Forrest
Higher Education	Gay Rice
Elementary Education	Dale Jones/Janie Newton
Sunday School Supt.	Mary Mayo
N.C. Christian Advocate	Patsy Cross
Church Pianist	Sally McCotter/Buddy Rice

PPR-Buddy Rice, Chair

1999-Patsy Cross & Bill Potter

2000-Buddy Rice & Kitty Cribb

2001-Jerry Morris/Marena Potter/Kim Sadler

Finance-Ed Cross, Chair

Bobby McCotter, Letha Forrest, Sherry Howlett, John Sodoma, Virgil Potter, Pat McCotter, Dick Cribb, Gladys Sodoma

Nominations-Mike Roach, Chair

1999-Berry Morris & Jerry Morris

2000-Joy McCotter & Sandy McCotter

2001-Bill Potter/Doug Alvord

Trustees-Bobby McCotter, Chair

1999-Joyce Forrest & Bobby McCotter

2000-Polly Cross & Ralph Forrest

2001-Ed Forrest & Ed Cross

Worship- Mary Mayo, Chair

Altar Guild

Acolyte Director

Usher Director

Benevolent Steward

Special Function Steward

Church Supply Steward

Media Coordinator

Joy McCotter/Mary Martin/Amy Carlton

Sandy McCotter

Jerry Morris/Buddy Rice/Donnie Potter

Sally McCotter/Sandy Potter/Patsy Cross

Janie Newton/Mary Ellen Ham/Letha Forrest

Joy McCotter/Sandy McCotter

Dale Jones

Approved by the Adm Board
8/2/98

Vandemere United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 421
Vandemere, North Carolina 28587
April 6, 1999

A special Charge Conference for an addition for the Fellowship Hall at Vandemere UMC.

1. Election of a Secretary, Irma Alvord
2. Introduction – Reason for having a special Charge Conference – Mike Weber
3. Review. Facts presented to the New Bern District Board of Church Location and Approval.
4. Motion. To go ahead with Arvis Barrow Construction Company to add the additional 900 square feet of space to the Fellowship Hall

Seconded: Gladys Sodoma Approved by the Charge Conference

Secretary: Irma Alvord

Pastors: Mike Weber and Sam Wynn

Financial Data

1. Line of credit received by Wachovia Bank of Bayboro:
\$60,000.00 for 10 years. Average monthly payments 739.00
2. Resources:
 - a. Cash on Hand \$ 5,000.00
 - b. Certificates of Deposits 10,000.00
 - c. Fundraising: Heritage Festival in June 99 10,000.00
 - d. Pledges, contributions & gifts 35,000.00Total \$60,000.00

Vandemere feels they can pay this amount of \$35,000 in two years. In the past two years, they paid \$30,000 for stained glass windows in addition to meeting budget needs.

CHAPTER V

A NEW MILLENNIUM

Welcoming the 21st Century

The congregation grew steadily during the 1990s and that growth still continued in 2000. Believers come from communities throughout Pamlico County and Craven County. To date, 21 have become members during this decade with Rev. Michael Roach as pastor.

Sunday school began at 8:45 AM. Students went directly to the classrooms. Rev. Roach taught the adult class. At that time, students were Sally McCotter, Gladys Sodoma, Annette Jones, Bennie Jones, Debbie Roach, Jimmy Jones and Doug Alvord. Dale Jones and Janie Newton taught the youth group. Ronnie McCotter was a regular student during the early 1990s and helped Dale and Janie with the church newsletter. Students who attended during this decade were Matthew Jones, Zachary Jones and Lindsey Stilley.

Worship Service began at 9:30 AM as it does today. Rev. Roach held a "youth service" prior to the regular sermon. He presented a creative message about God and the Christian faith which was beneficial to all.

In August of 2000, Vandemere left the Pamlico Cooperative Parish and became a "stand alone church." The first Charge Conference was held August 8, 2000 with a goodly number of the congregation in attendance. Since Vandemere was no longer a part of the Pamlico Parish, we were reimbursed for our investment in the Parish Parsonage in Stonewall.

Altar cloths and accessories were given in memory of John Sodoma by his family.

Vandemere United Methodist 90th Anniversary

In October of 2000, we were given a beautiful sunshiny day to celebrate Homecoming and the 90th anniversary of the Church. The following writings were used in the Homecoming program:

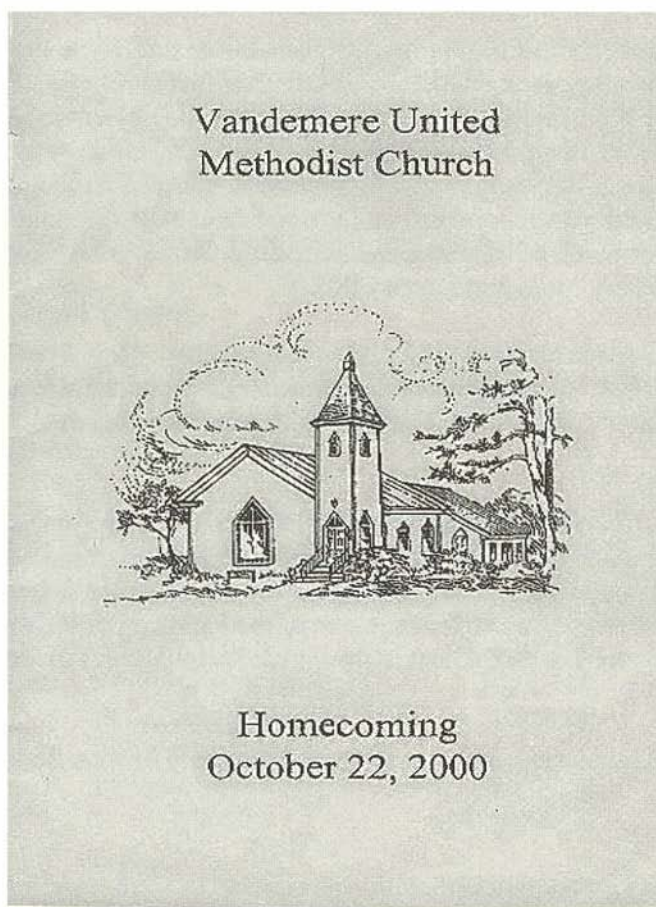
Our Church by Ivy Morris (See page 55)

Welcome Home by Michael Roach

Then and Now by Annette Jones

Memories of Bobby McCotter

Reflections of Sherry & Jimmy Jones



Cover page of 2000 Homecoming Program

First page of 2000 Homecoming Program: "Our Church" by Ivy Morris

Second page of 2000 Homecoming Program:

Homecoming 2000
90th Anniversary Celebration

Prelude

Call to Worship 186

Invocation

*Hymn 92

For the Beauty of the Earth

*Affirmation of Faith 881

*Act of Praise 781

Psalm 47:1-9

*Gloria Patria 70

Welcome/Announcements

Prayers of Concern/Lord's Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*Doxology

Special Music

Homecoming Remarks

Rev. Mike Roach

Call to Christian Discipleship

*Hymn 672

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

*Benediction

Third page of 2000 Homecoming Program:

Welcome Home

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I welcome each of you to this special day and special worship service. I pray that each one may receive a blessing as we celebrate the wonderful heritage that has made Vandemere Methodist Church home to so many.

Since our last homecoming, this church has witnessed the "HOMEGOING" of four of our members. It is important for us to give thanks for their lives and the countless number of faithful souls that have given so much of their time and efforts in support of this church. During the span of 90 years, there have been many "ups and downs." There were times of struggle and success. All through the years, there has been a determined effort to keep going. We can thank God today for those who stood firm and maintained this place as God's House of Worship.

Our heritage is important to us and will be important to future generations. We need to preserve our past and we need your help. Would you share your memories and recollections? Do you have documents, church papers, pictures, newspaper clippings or anything that may be of help in compiling a church history? If so, please contact Sally McCotter or Annette Jones and share what you can. We look forward to hearing from you.

Again, thank you for coming. We love visitors! If you do not have a church family, we would invite you to join us at 8:45 for Bible Study and 9:30 for Worship Service. You will always be welcome here!

Mike Roach

Fourth page of 2000 Homecoming Program:

THEN AND NOW

As the world enters into a new century, and a new millennium, Vandemere United Methodist Church today celebrates its 90th anniversary. We appreciate your presence today, and we do thank you so much for being here to share in this special occasion!

On June 10, 1910, Mrs. Carolina Robbins deeded property near the center of Vandemere to S. F. McCotter, J. A. McCotter, D. H. Abbott, John Morris, Charles Griggs, J. L. Fowler, and W. T. Mayo as trustees of the proposed church. Thence, the foundation of Vandemere United Methodist Church was laid.

As we celebrate our 90th anniversary and rejoice in homecoming, let us take the time to reflect on past years; remembering that life was not easy back in 1910 for the founders of our church. Even so, they were mindful of God's love and blessings and had the vision for a church in the community. Their hard work and perseverance blessed the people of this community and surrounding areas. From 1910 to the present time, faithful members, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, have labored in love for this church. Today, we pay special tribute to those who came before us.

Now in the year of the Lord, 2000, the church is entrusted to our generation. We must continue, with guidance of the Holy Spirit and the same diligence shown by our forefathers, to keep working for our Lord and Saviour. Through our witness of Christ, the Vandemere Church will surely continue to grow both spiritually and numerically. It is our blessed assurance that this house of worship will stand, strongly united, until our Lord and Saviour comes again.

Annette Jones

Fifth page of 2000 Homecoming Program:

Memories of Bobby McCotter (raised in the church)

Vandemere Methodist Church has always been home to me as this the church I grew up in. My children were also raised in this church and now my grandson also knows this church to be his home. It has always been a quaint place for all its members for those who choose to visit. No place is so dear to my childhood as this quaint house of the Lord, called Vandemere Methodist Church.

I have seen many changes take place especially in the structure of the church. I remember the choir stand was built up with rails around it and you had to step up to get into the choir. There were no Sunday school rooms, kitchen or a bathroom. There was only the sanctuary with 4 or 5 Sunday school classes held in the sanctuary with different age groups. Sunday school was held every Sunday but church was every 5th Sunday. A revival was held every summer by visiting evangelists.

One of the first preachers that I remember was a man named Rev. Cash. He was from the mountains of N. C. The time was around the 1940's. He was also my Boy Scout master. I remember our trip to Mt. Mitchell and as a child, I would think, "he was a better scout master than he was a preacher."

The first wedding I remember in this church was my sister's wedding. Hannah McCotter to Jackie Cowell on 6/28/47 by Preacher Vereen. I remember that it was one of the hottest days on record and there was no such thing as air conditioners.

Yes, there have been many changes in this church, but there is one thing that has never changed and that is the love that you feel whenever you walk into to door of ...

Vandemere United Methodist Church.

Sixth page of 2000 Homecoming Program:

Reflections of Sherry & Jimmy Jones

What do you think of when you think of home and family? Do you think of warmth, love, nourishment, comfort and a safe haven where you know you are wanted?

Imagine being lost for a long time. So long, you start to weary of ever finding your way home. You dream of the welcome you will receive. You can almost feel the warmth and joy your loved ones will heap upon you at your safe return. You hunger for the nourishment you need, knowing if you can just reach that safe haven, you will not be denied.

When we decided to visit Vandemere Methodist Church for the first time, we had no idea God was leading us to a church family that would make us feel at home. The church family there embraced us with their love and welcomed us with open arms. We have received the nourishment of God's word every Sunday we have been there since the first visit. We have witnessed faith in God and felt the power of His will being done.

If you feel there is something missing in your life and the burdens you are carrying are too heavy for you alone, put your faith in God. He will help you carry the load. His word will nourish you and guide you. The peace and joy you will find is like no other.

Come worship God with the family at Vandemere United Methodist Church. We know you will be "Welcomed Home" too because the love of God is in the hearts of people there and they will share that love with you, just as they have with us.

Thank you God for this Blessing—Jim and Sherry

In December of 2000, the debt for the Fellowship Hall was paid. Also, rocks were hauled and spread on the area behind the new addition. It provided a very nice parking lot for the church use. Bruce Spain hauled the rock at cost and spread it for free. Many thanks to Ed and Patsy Cross for the use of this lot.

In the year of 2000, total tithes and offerings were \$65,463.46, a monthly average of \$5,455.29. Expenses totaled \$65,842.04, a monthly average of \$5,486.83.

The Year 2001

In January of 2001, a bridge was constructed by Buddy Rice, Jim Hartman, Bill Potter and Michael Roach which leads from the parking lot to the back deck. In July, an additional rail was added for safety.

On January 7, 2001, the first Memorial Service was held.

January 28, 2001, with debt paid in full, the loan papers were burned during a brief, but thankful ceremony. After Worship Service, a fellowship lunch was enjoyed in the Fellowship Hall.

In April of 2001, Vandemere United Methodist Cookbooks arrived from the publishers. Members provided recipes for Feed My Sheep which was dedicated to the memory of Joyce H. Forrest. The cookbooks sold for \$10 each. Many thanks to Janie Newton for heading this project.

In April 2001, the attic floor was covered and shelving added for extra storage.

In August of 2001, Vandemere United Methodist Church sponsored the County-wide Ladies Day. Organizers were Berry Lynch Morris and Rhonda Scott with the assistance of Ernestine Mattocks, Rhonda Mayo,

Miriam Prescott and Jean Rowe. Sandy McCotter and Gay Rice presented special music. Karin Ham and Sue Brinson gave inspiring testimonies. Praise and Worship was led by Traci Hopkins Sottile and Meeting Place Praise Team. The message was brought by the Rev. Ernestine Mattocks. Nikki Nethercutt gave the prayer and song of invitation. The altar area and entire front of the church was filled with ladies seeking prayer, giving praise, and rededicating themselves to the service of the Lord. A delicious luncheon was served by the ladies of the church in the Fellowship Hall. What a wonderful day of blessings, love and fellowship.

For the year 2001, the total tithes and offerings were \$52,224, with a monthly average of \$4,352. Expenses were \$54,639.95, a monthly average of \$4,553.32.

The Year 2002

In January of 2002, the Ten Dollar Club was started in our church. Donations from members are earmarked to establish new churches in North Carolina. Patsy Cross and Jim Hartman are Chairpersons. Vandemere has around twenty who are members of the club.

January 20, 2002 – Gary Whorton donated time and equipment to clean Celestial Gardens Cemetery in memory of Berry Lynch Morris. McCotter Farms volunteered to haul the debris away.

(No information on Memorial Day in 2002)

March 2002 – Two major construction projects were scheduled – a new roof and vinyl siding on the sanctuary and the old Fellowship Hall section to match the new addition. New brick steps were built and the concrete walkway was widened for the front church entrance.

April 2002 – A new sound and video system was donated to the church in memory of Berry Jean Lynch Morris by her family.

In May 2002, Ed and Patsy Cross sold land behind the church to be used as a parking lot. Several large trees on the lot were cut down, which provided additional parking space.



Easter egg hunt in 2005 before the deck was added to the church



Easter egg hunt in 2010 showing paved parking lot and covered deck addition

NORTH CAROLINA
FAMLICO COUNTY

FILED in Pamlico County, NC
on May 31 2002 at 02:23:39 PM
by: Sue H. Birman
Register of Deeds
BOOK 378 PAGE 920

THIS DEED, made and entered into this 7th day of May, 2002, by and between W. EDWARD CROSS and wife, PATSY B. CROSS, hereinafter called "grantors", and ROBERT F. McCOTTER, SALLY J. McCOTTER, WILLIAM O. POTTER, JR., POLLY CROSS, GERALD D. MORRIS, RICHARD B. CRIBB and KENNETH GILLIKIN, Trustees of the VANDEMERE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Post Office Box 421, Vandemere, North Carolina 28587, hereinafter called "grantees";

W I T N E S S E T H:

That grantors, for and in consideration of the sum of ten dollars and other good and valuable considerations to them in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, have bargained and sold, and by these presents do bargain, sell and convey to the said grantees and their successors and assigns, a certain lot or parcel of land in the Town of Vandemere, Number Four (4) Township, Pamlico County, North Carolina, particularly described as follows:

That certain lot containing 17,540 Sq. Ft. and being shown on a survey and map prepared by Mark R. Lee, Professional Land Surveyor, dated September 3, 1999, copy of which is attached to the deed to W. Edward Cross dated September 9, 1999, recorded in Book 347 at page 938, Pamlico County Registry, and incorporated herein by reference.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the aforesaid lot or parcel of land, together with all privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging, to the said grantees and their successors and assigns, in fee simple forever.

And grantors, for themselves, their executors and administrators, covenant with grantees and their heirs and assigns, that they are seized of said premises in fee; that they have a perfect right to convey the same in fee simple; that the same are free and clear of all encumbrances whatsoever; and that they will warrant and defend the title to the same against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, grantors have hereunto set their hands and adopted as their seals the typewritten word "SEAL" appearing beside each name, the day and year first above written.

Issued May 31, 2002

\$28.00

Pamlico
County
North Carolina
Reg. Estate Secs. Tax

III 840

RETURNED TO
DATE RETURNED
6-7-02

701040-0
HARRIS & HARRIS
REGISTER OF DEEDS
PAMLILO COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

W. Edward Cross (SEAL)
W. Edward Cross

Patsy B. Cross (SEAL)
Patsy B. Cross

NORTH CAROLINA
PAMLICO COUNTY

I, JACKIE M. McCOTTER, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, do hereby certify that W. EDWARD CROSS and wife, PATSY B. CROSS, each personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and notarial seal/stamp, this the 31st day of May, 2002.

Jackie M. McCotter
Notary Public

My commission expires: 10/23/2003



NORTH CAROLINA
PAMLICO COUNTY

The foregoing certificate of Jackie M. McCotter, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, is certified to be correct.

Sue H. Brunson
Register of Deeds

By: Lynn H. Lewis, Deputy
Asst. Register of Deeds

May 2002, our own Doug Alvord created bronze sculptures of Rachel Carson and two children. The sculptures were unveiled at the Museum of Natural Science in Raleigh on May 9th at 10 AM. The unveiling was part of the Rachel Carson Day events at the museum.

May 26, 2002, was another special Memorial Day service. The message was brought by Chaplain Dan Link from Cherry Point and the colors were presented by the U.S. Coast Guard. The service was filled with special music and followed by a potluck lunch.

During the month of May, our church collected school supplies for the Afghan children. We encouraged friends, relatives and neighbors to join in and help. The project was very successful and numerous boxes were shipped to Afghanistan.

In 2002, the Helping Hands Closet was organized. The storage space is climate controlled and used to store wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, etc. These items are loaned to anyone who needs them.

July 2002, Richard and Rosa Flowers had hand rails for the front steps designed and built. They donated the rails to the church.

In October, 2002, Vandemere UMC celebrated the annual Homecoming.

It was quite interesting when in December of 2002 the church welcomed three new babies who all had names beginning with the letter J. Jonah Marshall, Jenna Jones and Jonathan Gaskill. Our three J's have been a Joy to all.

December 29, 2002 – Richard and Rosa Flowers joined Vandemere United Methodist Church.

For the year 2002, tithes and offerings were \$91,411.70, a monthly average of \$9,617.64. Expenses were \$87,891.29, a monthly average of \$7,324.27.

VANDEMERE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2002

Administrative Chairperson	Gladys Sodoma
Lay Leader	Mary Martin
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Dale Jones
Treasurer/Financial Sec'y	Irma Alvord/Sherry Jones
Recording Sec'y	Sandy McCotter
Evangelism and Missions	Berry Morris/Kim Sadler
Nurture/Membership Care	Letha Forrest
Records/History	Annette Jones/Letha Forrest
Worship	Marena Potter
Stewardship	Jim Hartman/Dennis Fornes
PreSchool Education	Anne Sadler/Beth Bynum
Higher Education	Gay Rice
Elementary Education	Dale Jones/Janie Newton/Sheron Styron
N.C. Christian Advocate	Patsy Cross/Jim Hartman
Church Pianist	Sally McCotter/Buddy Rice
PPR-Buddy Rice, Chair	
2002 – Patsy Cross/Kay Cross	
2003 – Buddy Rice/Kitty Cribb	
2004 – Jimmy Jones/Lola Fornes	
Finance-Jerry Morris, Chair	
Bobby McCotter, Letha Forrest, Ponce Ham, Ed Cross, Jim Hartman, Dick Cribb, Gladys Sodoma, Don Cross, Doug Alvord, Frank Alcock	
Nominations-Mike Roach, Chair	
2002 – Jerry Morris/Ed Cross	
2003 - Joy McCotter/Sandy McCotter	
2004 – (nominated from floor)	
Trustees-Bobby McCotter, Chair	
2002 - Sally McCotter/Bobby McCotter	
2003 – Bill Potter/Polly Cross	
2004 – Jerry Morris/Dick Cribb/Ken Gillikin	
Usher Director	Jerry Morris/Doug Alvord/Bennie Jones
Benevolent Steward	Sally McCotter/Kay Cross/Patsy Cross
Special Function Steward	Janie Newton/Mary Ellen Ham/Patsy Cross
Church Supply Steward	Joy McCotter/Sandy McCotter/Irma Alvord
Media Coordinator	Dale Jones/Hazel Alcock

The Year 2003

In February, 2003, the Memorial Service was held to honor past members and extended family. Members honored were Richard and Rosa Flowers who were tragically killed in January. Their son, Rodney, and his family and their daughter, Teresa, were in attendance.



Richard and Rosa Flowers

In May of 2003, work began on the church foundation. Due to termite and rodent damage, piers, sills and floor joist were replaced. The cost was estimated at \$15,000. As a result of the foundation work, the plaster cracked throughout the sanctuary.

During July 2003, work continued on the floor of the sanctuary. The wood damage was extensive. Water had been standing under the church. A sump pump was used to drain the water. During August, worship services were held in the Fellowship Hall due to work continuing in the sanctuary. Repairing cracked plaster began. Siding was replaced on the outside of the building. The underpinning was completed all around the sanctuary perimeter.

In September, the sanctuary was re-plastered and painted. Ceilings, walls and vestibule all received a new coat.

On September 15, 2003, Hurricane Isabelle struck in all her fury. There was water damage to the ceilings of the kitchen and classrooms. New suspended ceiling was installed in the kitchen, classrooms and bathrooms. Additional lights were installed and the altar rail was repainted.

In October, new carpet was installed in the sanctuary. Cost was about \$3,500. On October 12, the congregation was happy to move back into the sanctuary.

On October 26, the annual homecoming was held with a large crowd in attendance. There was special music by Craig Cooper and Buddy and Gay Rice.

The 2003 Love Feast was held on December 7 with good attendance.

The Year 2004

In February, 2004, a new keyboard was purchased for the church.

In February, the traditional Memorial Service was held. In celebration of Easter, the annual egg hunt for children and adults was held on Saturday, April 10, followed by a hamburger and hot dog cookout. Janie Newton and Dale Jones led the group in an Easter craft project.

On Easter Sunday morning, April 11, a beautiful Sunrise Service was held on the waterfront in Vandemere on the lawn of Ed and Patsy Cross. The group then enjoyed a delicious breakfast in the church fellowship hall followed by the regular worship service.

A special Memorial Day Service was held on May 30, 2004, to honor our veterans and active military. "God Bless America" was sung by Craig Cooper with Gladys Sodoma signing. Rev. Mike Roach read the "Ragged Old Flag" tribute. Veterans were recognized at the front of the sanctuary as a tape played the theme song from each branch of the military. Other special music included "God Bless the USA" and "Just a Common Soldier." The attendance was smaller than usual. The special service was followed by a covered-dish luncheon in the Fellowship Hall.

In July of 2004, a fence was put up on the church property line. Another large tree was cut down and removed.

On September 7, 2004, new District Superintendent Doug Jesse held his first Annual Charge Conference meeting in Vandemere with 27 members of the congregation present.

On October 6, Gladys Sodoma and Sally McCotter attended a lay meeting at Centenary Methodist Church in New Bern with Bishop Al Gwinn.

In October, 2004, Charles F. West Construction added a shelter to the back of the Fellowship Hall. The shelter was completed on October 22 at a total cost of \$24,711.

October 24, 2004 – Homecoming service; attendance 154; offering \$3,764. Rev. Michael Roach dedicated the new shelter. Our visiting speaker for the day was former pastor, Rev. & Mrs. Joseph Parker. Jennifer Alcock, Craig Cooper, Gay Rice and Gladys Sodoma sang with Gladys signing “The Lord’s Prayer.”

On October 27, Michael Roach and Jerry Morris removed the old ramp from the side entrance and replaced it with a small deck.

On December 5, the annual Love Feast was held with a large number in attendance. Gay Rice and Craig Cooper provided special music. The service was beautiful! Refreshments were served afterward in the Fellowship Hall.

The Year 2005

On February 6, 2005, the District Lay Rally was held at the Riverfront Convention Center in New Bern. The speaker was Bishop Al Gwinn. Doug Jesse, District Superintendent, gave greetings to all. Those in

attendance from Vandemere were Rev. Michael and Mrs. Debbie Roach, Gladys Sodoma, and Sally McCotter.

On February 13, the Annual Memorial service was held honoring member Polly Cross and extended family, Birma Alcock, who passed away during the previous year. All deceased past members and extended family members were also honored.

In February, 2005, Johnny Swindell donated and installed additional kitchen cabinets.

March 2005 – Many thanks to Jimmy Jones for building and installing the new coat rack in the Fellowship Hall. We also appreciate the good job he did on repairing and replacing the book racks on the backs of the pews.

The largest Easter egg hunt yet was held on March 26, 2005. The children and adults enjoyed every minute. A great cookout followed. Dale Jones and Janie Newton did a beautiful job!

On Easter Sunday, March 27, in celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. the annual Sunrise Service was again held on the river in front of the Ed and Patsy Cross home. Although a bit chilly, it was a beautiful morning as one looked out over the waters of Bay River. The service was lead by Pastor Roach. Best attendance ever; 80 people! Following the service, the group took the short walk back to the church for breakfast followed by Worship Service. Special music, “Three Rusty Nails” was provided by Chris Wall.

In May, 2005, several large picnic tables were purchased for the deck. Also, several round tables were purchased for the Fellowship Hall, with some being donated in memory of individuals.

On May 29, 2005, a beautiful Memorial Day Service honoring veterans was held with Frank Hosteller as our guest speaker. Special music was provided by Craig Cooper who sang "God Bless the USA," "Some Gave All," and "Go Rest High on the Mountain;" Chris Wall who sang "Red, White and Blue;" and Buddy and Gay Rice sang "God Bless America" with Gladys Sodoma signing. Timmy Sodoma played "America the Beautiful" and "Taps" on the trumpet. There were 126 people in attendance. Rev. Mike Roach read "The Ragged Old Flag" and "Just a Common Soldier." As always, the food was great.

On July 31, 2005 a fellowship meal was given in honor of Capt. Eric Marshall who was being deployed to Iraq. Children CiCi and Jonah Marshall, Jonathan Gaskill, and Jenna Jones marched to the Marine Hymn while Gay Rice sang. The children wore little hats, waved flags and had a big time honoring Eric.

On August 22, 2005, Charge Conference was held with District Superintendent Doug Jesse, with 29 members in attendance. Gladys Sodoma gave an overall report of the past year. Buddy Rice gave the Pastor Parrish Relations report and Jerry Morris gave the Finance Report and Rev. Mike Roach gave his report. The sermon was given by Rev. Mike Roach and Gay Rice sang two beautiful songs—what a beautiful voice. After the meeting, lots of desserts were served.

September, 2005 – Hurricane Katrina, a powerful Category 4 hurricane, struck parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas in September of 2005. Our church was much in prayer for the people of that area and began financial help. As Buddy Rice watched the televised news, the Lord gave him the words to this song for which he also composed music. Buddy has sung this heartfelt song several times in our church and also at other functions.

NEW ORLEANS 10,000

by Buddy Rice 9/8/05

Saw a little boy on the T.V. . . . Standing in the street
Scared and crying. . .no shirt on his back. . .no shoes on his feet.
His big round eyes stared straight at the screen. . . and he spoke these
words so dear,

We ain't got nothing left...and we need some help down here.

Well, I never felt so small..as I did right then.
I just thought about 9/11..oh God...here it comes again!
I'm asking the question...that's on everybody's mind.
Why do these things happen...An answer we just gotta find.

Oh Jesus...oh Jesus...where are you now? Do you feel the pain of the people and can you help them some how?
Oh Jesus...oh Jesus....suffering like I've never seen! Will you take time today for the Folks of New Orleans?

Well I turned away from that scene...I was sad and feeling low!
Found a place to search my soul...asked God to let me know.
And bit by bit the answers came..and I started to see the light.
When the human spirit is against the wall...that's when it starts to fight.

Oh Jesus..yes Jesus...I know where you are now...I know you feel the pain
And you're helping them some how!
Oh Jesus..yes Jesus..suffering I've never seen. I believe you're taking time
Today...to help the Folks of New Orleans!!

Oh Jesus..yes Jesus..I know you're in my heart..I know you feel the pain
And you're helping with a brand new start!
Oh Jesus..yes Jesus..suffering I've never seen. I believe you're taking time
Today..to help the Folks of New Orleans!!
Oh Jesus..yes Jesus..suffering I've never seen. Thank you Lord for taking
time
To help the Folks of New Orleans!!
Can you and I take some time today to help the folks of New Orleans?

October 16, 2005 – For the morning service, the “Heart Song” drama group from Reelsboro United Methodist Church presented “Just Beyond.” It was a beautiful service. The attendance was 85.

October 23, 2005 – The annual Homecoming Service was held with 158 in attendance. It really seemed like more; we were packed. The theme was “Our Cup Over Floweth.” Gay and Buddy Rice and Chris Wall sang. Rev. Michael Roach delivered an inspiring message. God has truly blessed the Vandemere Church. The offering was \$3,437.

November 12, 2005 – The church welcomed a most delightful visitor today. Cora Pauline Moore, daughter of Rufus L. Moore and Bonnie Lynn Hough, who were married at Vandemere Methodist Church on 20 May 1914. Cora is the granddaughter of Cora Pauline McCotter Hough. She expressed her happiness and excitement in being in Vandemere and was thrilled to find the Methodist Church as warm and beautiful as she remembered from her childhood. Cora was raised in Ayden, but always came with her mother to visit grandparents, relatives and friends in Vandemere. Now age 74, Cora excitedly told old stories about Billy Potter and Pat McCotter. She was thrilled to see another childhood friend, Jerry Morris, in church and exclaimed, “Jerry, you’re just as cute as ever!” Cora told us how quickly she had driven to Vandemere from Greenville. She said she may have broken the speed limit just a little bit! We were so thankful she made it safely and hope she can come see us again!

On December 4, 2005, the Annual Love Feast was held. There was a large number in attendance—over 100. The Love Feast is a Christian Fellowship meal recalling meals Jesus shared with his disciples. The meal consists of bread and water. The music was beautiful. Children dressed in costumes relating to the birth of Jesus. Children sang “Away in a Manager.” Craig Cooper sang “Angels Among Us,” “We Three Kings” and “What Child is This.” Gay Rice sang “Do You See What I See” and Chris Wall sang “Mary Did You Know.” God has truly blessed Rev. Mike Roach and our church. Amen.



Christmas 2005
Samantha Persky, Jonathan
Gaskill, Hunter Leary, Lindsey
Stilley and Zachary Jones

2005 Apportionment Report

Control Number:	445
Location Number:	7501
Church Name:	Vandemere

Calculation of the 2005 Apportionment from 2003 Table II

2003 Table II Grand Total Paid:	\$59,536
Less 2003 Table II excluded line items:	
2003 World Service and Congregational Ministries	\$1,026
Lines 36, 38, 46, 48, 53, 54, 56, 60, 62, and 63 less PGL app. below.	
2003 Past Service Liability	\$627
That part of Line 63 paid to the PGL apportionment.	
61. 2003 Episcopal Fund	\$69
36. 2003 Africa University	\$14
37. 2003 Black College Fund	\$60
52. 2003 Interdenominational Cooperation	\$12
40. 2003 General Advance Specials	\$0
42a. 2003 Human Relations Day	\$0
42b. 2003 One Great Hour of Sharing	\$0
42c. 2003 Peace With Justice Sunday	\$0
42d. 2003 Native American Awareness	\$0
42e. 2003 World Communion	\$0
42f. 2003 UMI Student Day	\$0
44. 2003 Conference Advance Specials	\$125
45. 2003 Ten Dollar Club	\$550
49. 2003 Disaster Preparedness	\$0
50-61. 2003 All Local Benevolences	\$2,100
72a. 2003 Property Insurance Expense Allowed	\$0
73. 2003 Principal and Interest paid on buildings	\$0
74. 2003 Buildings and Grounds Improvements	\$28,750
75. 2003 Paid to District or Conference UMW	\$0
67. 2003 Travel Allowed for all pastors	\$3,000
56. 2003 District Work Fund	\$300
2003 Net Disbursements:	\$20,883
Prior Year Net Disbursements:	
2002 Net Disb:	\$20,453
2001 Net Disb:	\$16,047
2000 Net Disb:	\$21,585
Average Net Disbursements:	\$19,742
Lower of 2003 Net or 4 Year Average Net Disbursements	\$19,742

2005 Apportionments

2005 World Service and Connection	0.21462879485	\$3,964
2005 Past Service Liability	0.0470902706	\$870
2005 Episcopal Fund	0.0066247327	\$126
2005 Africa University	0.000901769089	\$17
2005 Black College Fund	0.00392625115	\$73
2005 Interdenominational Cooperation	0.000771962424	\$14
Total Apportionments for 2005:		\$5,064

All apportionments are limited in total to a 15% maximum increase or decrease. The apportionments shown above reflect this limitation, if applicable, according to CFA policy approved by Annual Conference unless the alternate formula for a new church is being followed. Your original 2005 apportionment increase (decrease) was calculated to be 22.94% from the 2004 calculation before applying the 15% limit.

The Year 2006

In January, 2006, an 8' x 12' storage building was completed in memory of Bill Potter.

On February 12, 2006, a Memorial Service was held. Bill Potter and Dick and Kitty Cribb passed away in the past year. Past members and extended family members were also honored. Craig Cooper sang "Wind

Beneath My Wings” and “I Got Here as Fast as I Could.” Gay Rice sang “Wish You Were Here.” There were 81 in attendance. A fellowship meal followed the service.

On February 14, 2006, Rev. Mike Roach and Bennie Jones started working on the old Fentress—McCotter Cemetery. A bridge was built by Mike and Bennie to make it easier to get to the cemetery. Plans were made to get more help and continue the work.

On February 25, Rev. Mike Roach, Johnny Swindell, Buddy Rice, Mitch Sadler, Bennie Jones, Dale Jones, Jerry Morris and James Newton cleaned the Fentress—McCotter Cemetery at Cash Corner.

April 5, 2006 – Vandemere UMC Goes Global. Many of our church members and friends have traveled to foreign lands and surveyed the circumstances of the people who live there. Economic and religious policies have been viewed and perhaps even aided in some small way. There is, however, a woman in our midst who has personally tackled the chore of making things better for citizens of several countries. Kiki Harris, who for more than 20 years was with the State Department in the Foreign Service, retired to Vandemere. To Kiki, retirement must have meant that it was time to “get going.” During her career with the Foreign Service office working with US Embassies, she spent time in Africa, India, Romania and Greece. She has also been working to develop a 4-H exchange program that would link Pamlico County and Romania. Even after her retirement, Kiki left Vandemere in April, 2006, bound for Iraq where she served a one-year stint as leader of a provincial reconstruction team. She was a liaison between the military and the Iraqi Governor of her province. The teams worked to rebuild roads, sewers, courthouses—“almost anything you can think of that helps coordinate our relief efforts,” she said. Kiki left, for a while, the safety of Pamlico County. Why? “It is something for which I have the experience and I felt the need to go and try to do something constructive there,” she said (The Pamlico News, April 5, 2006)

On April 16, 2006, the annual Easter egg hunt for children and adults was held at Vandemere United Methodist Church with over 100 people in attendance. There were plenty of plastic eggs filled with candy and

gifts for winners. A wonderful cookout of hot dogs and hamburgers was held following the egg hunt. God has blessed our church. Mike, Debbie, Dale and Janie along with other members do an outstanding job each year.

The Easter sunrise service was held on April 17 on the water front at the Ed and Patsy Cross home. Craig Cooper sang "Morning has Broken." There was a very nice crowd. Rev. Mike Roach gave a beautiful SonRise message. The crowd then went to the church for breakfast followed by the regular worship service and Holy Communion. Jennifer Rice and Craig Cooper provided special music. Those in attendance were touched by the Holy Spirit when Craig sang "Watch the Lamb." Rev. Roach asked everyone to come forward with Jerry Morris for special prayer. The attendance for worship was 76. Other songs were "Via Delarosa" and "That I May Live."

Eighty people were in attendance to celebrate Mother's Day on May 14, 2006. The oldest mother, Alice Harrison, and the youngest mother, Jenny Roach Stilley, each received a beautiful plant. See photo below.



Mother's Day 2006
Jenny Roach Stilley, Mike Roach, Alice Harrison

On May 28, 2006, a special Memorial Day Service was conducted at Vandemere UMC with guest speaker Retired Marine Major General Tom Braaten presenting the message on God and Country. Veterans and active military were honored. There were 111 in attendance and Craig Cooper provided special music—"God Bless the USA," "All Gave

Some, Some Gave All,” and “Go Rest High on the Mountain.” Buddy and Gay Rice sang “God Bless America” with Gladys Sodoma signing. Timmy Sodoma played the “National Anthem” and “Taps.” The Color Guard from Hobucken Coast Guard Station presented the Colors. Several men wore their uniforms. A covered-dish luncheon was served following the service.

On June 4, 2006, following the morning service, cake and drinks were served to everyone honoring Ken and Dee Gillikin. Ken and Dee are moving to Florida on June 6. They will be missed a lot.

On August 27, 2006, Lendon and Priscilla Barnes and Louis and Zelda Daniels joined the church following the worship service. Louis’ mother, Ruth Daniels, had been a member of Vandemere United Methodist Church and he felt that he had returned to his roots—the place where he was meant to be.

On August 27, 2006, Charge Conference with District Superintendent Doug Jesse was held with 35 in attendance. The meeting was opened by singing “Holy, Holy.” Rev. Jesse called the meeting to order, then gave a short sermon. Gladys Sodoma gave a yearly report on things accomplished throughout the year. “Excellent!” Buddy Rice gave the PPR report; Jerry Morris provided the report on finances; and Gay Rice reported on Ministry. Rev. Roach gave his report on the church and its members. The benediction was given and the closing hymn, “Amazing Grace” was sung by those in attendance. Apportionments for the year 2006 were paid in full in January.

The 2006 Homecoming was held on October 29 with an attendance of 149+ (may have reached 160) and an offering of \$3,563. It was a beautiful day with lots of family, friends and visitors. Special music was provided with Craig Cooper singing “Surely the Presence,” “How Great Thou Art” and “Our Children are Coming Home.” Myrl McCotter sang “Bless This House.” Everyone was so pleased with her selection. What do you say about the food; it just gets better and better each year!

December 3, 2006 – The annual Love Feast was held with a hundred people in attendance. Singers and players consisted of Mike Avery on the flute playing “Ava Maria” and a medley of Christmas carols. Craig Cooper sang “It Wasn’t His Child,” “O Holy Night,” and “Joseph’s Prayer.” Jennifer Alcock and Bill Hartman sang a beautiful song. Brenda Stilly read “A Soldier’s Christmas Story” then sang “Star of Bethlehem.” The children’s Sunday school class sang three songs. Chris Wall and Gay Rice sang “Silent Night” with Gladys Sodoma signing. Brent Stark also played and sang. Refreshments were served following the Love Feast. Everyone was given a bag of goodies as they departed.

December 24, 2006 – Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service began with the lighting of the Christ candle in the Advent wreath at 5:00 p.m. Holy Communion was then served to those present and to others who came in until 6:00 p.m. There was a large number in attendance. The attendance has grown each year since Rev. Mike started the service. It is a beautiful way to celebrate the birth of Christ and to end the old year.

The Year 2007

February 11, 2007 – A Memorial Service was held honoring past members and extended family members. Charles Griggs, Sr.; Hal Potter, Jr.; and Jean McCotter Ruth were honored. Attendance was 106. Craig Cooper sang “On Eagle Wings,” “Go Rest High on the Mountain,” and “I Got Here as Fast as I Could.” Gladys Sodoma signed to “Blest Be the Tie.” A lovely fellowship dinner was served to all.

February 25, 2007 – Members attending the New Bern District Lay Rally were Rev. Michael Roach, Stanley & Gail Stephenson, Gladys Sodoma and Sally McCotter. Garber United Methodist Church was the host this year. The programs were very enjoyable.

April 7, 2007 – The annual Easter egg hunt was held on a very cold Saturday morning. To add to the excitement of the children and adults, it snowed just as the first group of children headed out to find eggs! Such fun! The attendance was over 100 with some saying it was closer to 150, if not more. Delicious hot dogs and hamburgers were cooked on the new

grill that Stanley and Sheron Styron donated to the church. Dale Jones and Janie Newton did an excellent job in organizing the Easter Egg Hunt and craft activity.

April 8, 2007 – Sunrise service was held on the waterfront in front of Ed & Patsy Cross' home with a very large crowd in attendance. Craig Cooper closed the service by singing "The Lord's Prayer." It was a cold, cold morning! The group hurried back to the church where lots of hot coffee and a large breakfast catered by Mary Ellen Ham were waiting for everyone. Mary Ellen said 120 people were served. The regular morning worship service was held following breakfast with 119 in attendance. Craig Cooper sang "Via Delarosa." Communion was served. It was a beautiful Easter, even if it was cold. Hal, Linda and Amanda Potter joined the church. Amanda was baptized and her daughter, Haley, was dedicated.

May 8, 2007 – Tryon Lighting installed two brass and glass chandeliers over the center aisle in the sanctuary. Beautiful!

May 9, 2007 – Jerry Morris, Buddy Rice, Bennie Jones and Eddie Taylor painted the interior of the Fellowship Hall. Linda Potter and Patsy Cross spent the morning cleaning and re-organizing. Sally McCotter, Gladys Sodoma and Patsy Cross prepared and delivered a delicious lunch for the painters. The group was delighted to discover that beautiful new light fixtures had been installed. Many thanks to Hazel Alcock for heading the project.

May 13, 2007 – The attendance for Mother's Day was 66. Jenny Grimes was the youngest mother and Sally McCotter was the oldest mother. Each received a beautiful red geranium.

May 27, 2007 – What a beautiful Memorial Day Service! The attendance was lower than last year, with 90 attending. The United States Coast Guard Hobucken unit sent four of their group to assist in our service. John Krauss and Adam Persky, Honor Guard also assisted in presenting our flag. Special music was provided by Craig Cooper.

Timmy Sodoma played the National Anthem and John Krauss played Taps. Retired Marine Major General Tom Braaten was our guest speaker. "A hero is no different than an ordinary man; he's just brave five minutes longer." The church choir sang the benediction. Johnny Swindell took care of the P.A. system this year. The food was great! "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." Psalm 33:12

May 26-27, 2007 – Vandemere United Methodist Church welcomed visitors from India. The following is Kiki Harris' description of the visitors in the Vandemere News Column of The Pamlico News, May 29, 2007.

Vandemere News by Kiki Harris, News Correspondent

Black veils skittering in the breeze, the men's beards ruffled by the wind, our guests leaned against the pull of the boat and smiled. Vandemere, international destination that it is, hadn't seen anything like this since the memory of man runneth not to the contrary. Four black clad young women sitting on the bow brought several Vandemerians out to their docks.

Terrorists? Hardly. It was simply two Indian Muslim families, two sets of parents with three children each, delighted with our spring weather and country life. After the boat ride, Chelsea McCotter and mother Debbie drove over in a snazzy golf cart so that Chelsea and her friend could play with the Muslim girls. Our guests taught Chelsea several games one of which, "Black Magic," may enter Pamlico County lore.

Debbie McCotter chatted with the ladies for some time, noting that they flipped back their veils when the women were alone but hastily brought them forward whenever host Wayne Harris came into view, so that only eyes were visible.

Ten people hadn't really been expected to spend the night although light began to dawn when the women said after lunch, "We'll cook Indian food for you this evening." It all worked out. Whatever. Sometimes it's good to be fatalistic.

Sunday morning the equine half of the Vandemere Equestrian Team graciously allowed various guests to climb on their backs and be walked around. Rather, one member of the Equestrian Team did, the other indicating in short order that he was tired of this pastime and wanted no more. Or perhaps he simply wanted to enjoy the sight of giggling women, covered head to toe in black, atop his team mate.

One mother actually knew what she was doing; she had learned riding in the military in India years before. Different clothing.

The morning was rounded off for the two fathers and one daughter by attending morning service at the Vandemere United Methodist Church. They were warmly welcomed—both the men had gone to Jesuit schools as children in India and, though very religious Muslims, were deeply interested in and respectful of Christianity—and they in turn appreciated our town's hospitality.

Our guests have written that this was a "never to be forgotten vacation." There are a fair number of us who will never forget it.

June 3, 2007 – The Adult Sunday School class presented pastor and teacher Mike Roach with a sculpture of "The Ascension of Christ" in honor of his 60th birthday. The sculpture was the work of class member Doug Alvord who made the presentation. During worship service, Gladys Sodoma read a poem that she composed which expressed the feelings of the congregation. Happy Birthday, Mike! The actual date of Mike's birthday is May 27; but due to the Memorial Day activities on that Sunday, recognitions were postponed.

Happy Birthday, Mike!
by Gladys Sodoma

There is a man in Vandemere,
Because of him, we can face tomorrow.
He is our rock of ages,
He comforts us in times of sorrow.

So, onward Christian soldier!
Like a shepherd lead us.
We feel God's blessed assurance,
And we're standing on the promises – thus—

Some say sixty is an age
Or maybe miles per hour and things
But we here in Vandemere
Know sixty is a year of new beginnings.

Happy Birthday, dear friend.
Let your little light shine.
You've made something beautiful for us,
And, believe me, sixty is Just Fine!

June 17, 2007 – Father’s Day 2007 was a beautiful day! There were 86 in attendance at Vandemere UMC and the offering was \$1,275. Adam Persky was the youngest father and Robert McCotter, Sr. was the oldest. As usual, Rev. Mike’s sermon was wonderful with scripture taken from Proverbs 1:5.

June 24, 2007 – The Methodist Conference assigned Rev. Michael Roach to Vandemere United Methodist Church for another year, making a total of 17 years that Mike has been with us. We have been Blessed!

October 1, 2007 – The annual charge conference was held on Monday night with our new District Superintendent, Rev. Dennis Goodwin. Eighteen members were present: Sally McCotter, Gladys Sodoma, Doug Alvord, Jerry Morris, Doris Southerland, Ponce and Mary Ellen Ham, George and Luray Jones, Jimmy and Sherry Jones, Gail and Stanley Stephenson, Zelda Daniels, Lisa and Johnny Swindell, and Hal and Linda Potter. Everyone enjoyed the meeting. Rev. Goodwin has a beautiful singing voice. The scripture lesson was taken from Ephesians 4:11. Communion was served in the form of Eucharist (minister breaks bread and places in the hand of the members who in turn dip it in the wine). Rev. Roach was very impressed with Rev. Goodwin and the service.

October 7, 2007 – Following the morning worship service, Zachery Russell Jones, 12 year old son of Mark and Jennie Jones, was baptized by immersion in Bay River in front of Ed and Patsy Cross’ home. Rev. Michael Roach performed the baptismal ceremony and Zach’s family and many of the church members were witnesses. So far as we know, this was the first Vandemere Methodist Church baptism by immersion since 1946 when Elaine and Ann Griggs were also baptized in Bay River in front of the old hotel.



October 14, 2007 – Zachery Jones joined the church.

October 28, 2007 – The Vandemere UMC homecoming was held with 110 in attendance and an offering of \$3,004. Craig Cooper blessed the congregation with his singing. What a beautiful day! As usual, the food was out of this world. We could have fed the crowd three times! What a church!

December 2, 2007 – The Love Feast was held and there was a great turn out. The music was very pretty. Craig Cooper sang “O Holy Night,” “New Kid in Town,” “Mary Did You Know,” and “He Wasn’t His Child.” Doug Alvord played a musical arrangement of “Joseph.” The choir sang “Gloria;” Brenda Stilley and the children sang “Come Into my Heart,” with Gladys Sodoma signing. Brenda then sang “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” with Adam and Laura Persky and Dustin and Jenny Grimes participating. Refreshments followed and goodie bags were distributed.

December 21, 2007 – At 6:00 p.m., a Christmas program entitled “Cooking Up Christmas” was performed by members of the Vandemere UMC congregation with Brenda Stilley directing. Those in the cast were Hazel Alcock, Dustin and Jenny Grimes, C. J. and Melissa Force, Lisa Swindell, Stanley Stephenson and Ponce Ham. Singers were: Brenda and Ray Stilley, Gladys Sodoma, Ann Sadler and Debbie Roach. Everyone enjoyed the program. A meal for Relay for Life followed.

December 24, 2007 – The Christmas Eve Communion Service began at 5:00 p.m. with the lighting of the Christ candle in the Advent wreath. By the end of the hour, 92 people had participated in the quiet, peaceful, and beautiful service. Everyone loves this service! What a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas!

The Year 2008

January, 2008 – Stanley Stephenson began conducting the “Children’s Church” during the morning worship services. His mini-sermons captivate the children as well as the adults. Other members of the congregation are invited to conduct the message to the children when they feel led to do so. Stanley also teaches Zachary Jones every other

week during church services. They call it Sunday School. All young people are encouraged to join them.

February 10, 2008 – A Memorial Service was held honoring past members and extended family members who have gone to be with the Lord. Extended family member Willis Gallop McCotter was honored. Among those in attendance were his wife, Myrl McCotter; son, Shane McCotter; and his brother, Al McCotter and his wife, Joyce, plus other relatives. The attendance was 75 and the offering was \$1,525. Craig Cooper sang, “Go Rest High on the Mountain” and “Serenaded by Angels.” Brenda Stilley sang “What’s Left of You” and “Peace in the Midst of the Storm.” Scripture for the day: John 11:21-26
The service was followed by a delicious dinner.

March 9, 2008 – The New Bern District Lay Rally was held at Garber United Methodist Church. Those attending from Vandemere UMC were Doug Alvord, Jim and Sherry Jones, Dale Jones, Mary Ellen Ham, Stanley and Gail Stephenson, Lewis and Zelda Daniels, Debbie and Mike Roach, Gladys Sodoma and Sally McCotter. Good singing by the choir and congregation. Rev. Dennis Goodwin, District Superintendent Lay Leader.

March 22, 2008 – The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held at Vandemere UMC. I think the adults like the Easter Egg Hunt the best of all. The sun was out, but it was on the cold side. Janie Newton and Dale Jones do an excellent job in planning crafts and food. God Bless those two.

March 23, 2008 – The sunrise service was held in front of Ed and Patsy Cross’ home at 7:00 a.m. with 92 in attendance. Rev. Mike Roach’s message was beautiful. Craig Cooper sang “He was Her Little Child.” After the service on the Bay River, everyone went to the church for breakfast and “hot coffee.” The morning service followed with Rev. Mike’s sermon taken from Luke 24: 1-3. Craig sang “Via Delarosa.” This song is a message in itself to a Christian. Buddy, Gay and Jennifer Rice sang “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.” Easter Sunday was Gay’s first Sunday singing since her illness. It was wonderful to hear her sing again!

May 25, 2008 – The Memorial Day celebration was held with 125 in attendance. After the Call to Worship, Pledge of Allegiance, and Responsive Reading, the church choir sang “All Across the Country, the Country Needs the Cross.” The children’s choir sang “I’m in the Lord’s Army.” “God Bless America” was sung by Gay Rice with Gladys Sodoma signing and the congregation joining in the singing. Rev. Mike Roach read “The Ragged Old Flag” and the musical tribute was given to honor our patriots, recognizing those from each branch of the military. Craig Cooper sang “God Bless the USA.” Rev. Mike read “Just a Common Soldier” followed by Craig singing “Some Gave All.” The morning message, entitled “Remember to Remember,” was brought by Retired Marine Major General Tom Braaten. How fortunate we are to have both freedom and choices. Members of the U.S. Coast Guard Station Hobucken joined the Pamlico County Veterans Honor Guard in presenting the flag on the church lawn followed by the Honor Guard’s 21-gun salute. John Krauss played “Taps” on the trumpet. Dinner followed. God Bless America!



The following article appeared in *The Sun Journal* on Monday, May 26, 2008. On March 20, 2009, permission was granted by Charlie Hall, on behalf of the newspaper, for the use of this article in *The History of Vandemere United Methodist Church*.

Remember to Remember **By Charlie Hall, The Sun Journal**

VANDEMERE – Retired Marine Gen. Tom Braaten’s Memorial Day weekend message of “Remember to Remember” was fully understood by the Sunday morning gathering at Vandemere United Methodist Church.

For the past decade, the church has used the holiday weekend service as a time to honor veterans – including about 2,000 in Pamlico County – topped by an old-fashioned covered-dish lunch.

“We always promote God and country at this church,” said the Rev. Mike Roach, who has been pastor for 17 years. “I’m a firm believer in what this country stands for and the men and women who have fought to make this country as great as it is.”

Roach said the memorial weekend tribute to living and fallen veterans was a significant event on the church calendar. We observe this a lot like Christmas and Easter because this is so special,” he said.

Braaten, the director of the Craven County Regional Airport and former commander at Cherry Point, told the audience they were fortunate to have both freedom and choices.

“Many of your friends and neighbors right now are on vacation taking short trips,” he said. “They have the freedom to choose where they wanted to go and when they wanted to go. You chose to be here.”

He used humor and quoted author George Orwell, poet Robert Orr, Founding Father Thomas Paine, and President Abraham Lincoln to illustrate his message that freedom did not come without courage and sacrifice.

“We gained and maintained our freedom the old-fashioned way,” he said. “We earned it.”

Braaten said four boxes guarantee freedom – soapbox, ballot box, jury box and cartridge box. “Those first three boxes are all fairly common and we understand them, but I say that without the fourth box we would not be where we are today,” he said. “Having the will to step forward when necessary and do what it takes to actually earn and maintain liberty is different than just standing up and talking about it.”

He noted that in the country’s history, more than 1.2 million service men and women have died in combat or of war wounds. “Remember to Remember, not just on Memorial Day,” he said. “Every time you enjoy your liberty, think why you have that, and keep those patriots in your heart so they will never die.”

Veterans were honored during the service, coming forward as their service branch song was played. Members of the Coast Guard Station Hobucken joined the Pamlico County Veterans Honor Guard afterward in presenting the flag on the church lawn.

The Pamlico honor guard, which gave a rifle volley and played taps, will be on hand today for the 11 a.m. Pamlico County veterans service at the courthouse in Bayboro.

June 29, 2008 – The annual summer picnic was held after worship service with a large crowd in attendance. Adam Persky cooked hot dogs and hamburgers. The picnic was enjoyed by one and all.

September 14, 2008 – Members attending the New Bern District Vision Event at Garber UMC were Rev. Mike Roach, Debbie Roach, Gladys Sodoma, Jerry Morris, Jim Hartman, Gail and Stanley Stephenson, Dale Jones and Janie Newton. Rev. Dennis Goodwin gave the Introduction and Purpose of the Vision Event.

October 26, 2008 – The annual Vandemere UMC homecoming was held with 115 in attendance and an offering of \$1,782. Special music for the day was by Lori Grimes and Craig Cooper. Rev. Mike Roach brought a wonderful homecoming message. The weather was beautiful and the food was delicious. The fall theme decorations were perfect! Pictures from past homecomings were displayed on the tables.

December 4, 2008 – The traditional soup and sandwich dinner was enjoyed by the large number of members who gathered to fill goodie bags for distribution following the Love Feast and to decorate the Chrismon tree and the church in preparation for the Love Feast and the Advent Season.

December 7, 2008 – The annual Love Feast was held with 125 people in attendance. The program was beautiful. The Christmas story was read and singers Gay Rice, Craig Cooper and Ronnie Avery sang songs that went along with the Christmas story. Songs were “Mary, Did You Know,” “New Kid in Town,” “It wasn’t His Child,” “Do you Hear What I Hear” and “O Holy Night.” Doug Alvord played an organ piece which he had written. As the program was closing, “Silent Night” was sung by Gay Rice and the congregation with Gladys Sodoma and Sam Persky signing. Rev. Mike Roach did a great job with the reading and placing of singers. Servers provided the congregation with the traditional bread and water feast. A love offering was taken to distribute to the needy. The church was beautifully decorated with red and white poinsettias and the Chrismon tree. Goodie bags containing fruit, candy and special gifts were given to everyone in attendance.

December 24, 2008 – A Christmas Eve service began at 5:00 p.m. with the lighting of the Christ candle in the Advent wreath. Holy Communion was then served to the 75 people who came between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. “God, we thank you for sending your precious Son to save us all.”

The Year 2009

February 8, 2009 – A Memorial Service was held honoring Robert McCotter, Sr., who passed away at the end of January. Several members of his family attended and lit the candle in his memory. Past members and extended family members were also honored with the lighting of candles. A fellowship meal followed.

April 11, 2009 – An Easter egg hunt was held on a beautiful, cool Saturday morning with a large crowd in attendance. Adults enjoy the hunt just like the children. As usual, Dale and Janie did a good job planning the event and making sure everyone was well fed and having a great time. Hamburgers and hot dogs were served to the crowd.

April 12, 2009 – A beautiful sunrise service was held on the Vandemere waterfront with a large crowd in attendance. Breakfast was then served in the fellowship hall followed by the regular worship service and communion. Craig Cooper and Gay Rice and her daughter, Jennifer, provided special music. Mike’s sermon was taken from John 20:1.

May 24, 2009 – A special Memorial Day service was held to remember the veterans who gave their lives in service to our country and to honor all veterans and active military. The United States Coast Guard Hobucken presented the colors and the Pamlico County Honor Guard was in attendance. All who had served in the military came forward to be recognized as the military theme songs were played. Craig Cooper and Gay Rice sang patriotic songs and Gladys Sodoma signed to Gay’s “God Bless America.” Retired General Thomas Braaten was the guest speaker. More than 100 people were in attendance. Following the service, the Honor Guard did a 21-gun salute and John Krauss played Taps. A covered dish meal was served to all.

June 14, 2009 – On behalf of Vandemere UMC, Rev. Roach presented Bibles to the 2009 PCHS graduates Zachary Cross, Matthew Jones and Frank Leary.

June 28, 2009 – The Vandemere-Hobucken Charge began today. Hobucken United Methodist Church moved from the Greenville District to the New Bern District and Rev. Michael Roach will serve both churches. Vandemere services are held at 9:30 a.m. and Hobucken at 11:00 a.m.

September 29, 2009 – The first charge conference for the sister churches in the newly established Vandemere/Hobucken Charge was held at Hobucken United Methodist Church with a good representation from Vandemere UMC in attendance. Rev. Dennis Goodwin, New Bern District Superintendent, was the speaker. Stanley Stephenson presented the report for VUMC and Odell Spain presented the HUMC report. Special music was provided by Gary Palush and refreshments were served in the fellowship hall following the service.

October 25, 2009 – The annual VUMC Homecoming was held with Rev. Dennis Goodwin, District Superintendent, as the guest speaker. There were 95 in attendance and the offering was \$2,142. Everyone enjoyed the special music provided by Craig Cooper and Brenda Stilley. Gladys Sodoma and Jonathan Gaskill signed during Brenda's song. Food was awesome, as usual! Best cooks in Pamlico County! God bless each and everyone who partakes!

December 6, 2009 – The annual Love Feast was held with 121 people in attendance. Hobucken UMC had 10 members in attendance, joining with their sister church for the special event. Special music was provided by Hobucken members Odell Spain and Gary Palush followed by a skit read by Vandemere's Brenda Stilley. Several members of the Hal Potter family and others acted out the skit. More beautiful music was provided by Gay and Buddy Rice, Doug Alvord, Jessie Perrotti and the congregation. Gladys Sodoma and Samantha "Sam" Persky signed. The Christmas story was read by Rev. Mike Roach. The bread and water

feast was served to the congregation before the service ended and delicious refreshments were served in the fellowship hall. The church was beautifully decorated. God, thank you for your blessings and love.

December 24, 2009 – Christmas Eve communion service was held and the Christ candle was lit.

The Year 2010

February 14, 2010 – A Memorial Service was held in honor of Lendon Barnes. His wife, Priscilla, lit the candle in his memory. Past members and extended family members were also remembered by the lighting of candles. Special music by Craig Cooper. Lunch followed the service.

February 21, 2010 – The District Lay Rally was held today at Garber United Methodist Church in New Bern with Rev. Dennis Goodwin, District Superintendent, directing the service. VUMC members in attendance were Rev. Mike and Debbie Roach, Stanley and Gail Stephenson, Mitchell and Ann Sadler, Gladys Sodoma, Sally McCotter and Priscilla Barnes. The message was given by Ed Salaw.

February 12, 2010 – The annual Valentine steak dinner for Relay for Life was held with about 90 in attendance. Craig Cooper provided the music and a special testimony was given by Ronnie McCotter. The fellowship hall was decorated beautifully and the meal was delicious.

March 14, 2010 – Rev. Mike Roach delivered a beautiful sermon, but the service ended on a very sad note. Pastor Mike told the congregation that he was retiring at the end of June. After 19 years of preaching at Vandemere UMC, the thought of his leaving is very sad. God, bless this man. He will be greatly missed.

March 28, 2010 – A beautiful Palm Sunday service. Sally McCotter and Gladys Sodoma had placed palm branches in the church. Mr. James Newton, Janie's father, gathered the palms for the church.

April 3, 2010 – What an Easter egg hunt we had! Between 155 - 200 people attended. Adults love to hunt eggs as much as the children. The adult prize eggs were hidden in challenging places this year. Prizes were given to those who found prize eggs; then all young children received a stuffed Easter bunny. Dale Jones and Janie Newton did their usual great job of planning the event. The church provides the hamburgers and hot dogs and members of the congregation bring other food items and drinks.

April 4, 2010 – The “SonRise” service was held at 7:00 a.m. on the Vandemere waterfront with the largest crowd ever in attendance. Following the service, breakfast was served in the church fellowship hall with Mary Ellen and Ponce Ham catering the delicious meal. The tables were beautifully decorated for springtime. The regular worship service immediately followed breakfast with 103 in attendance. Craig Cooper, our guest who now feels like one of us, sang several beautiful songs and Hazel Alcock, dressed in costume, acted out a recitation of Mary at the Tomb. Pastor Mike delivered a very moving Easter sermon and held communion.

May 8, 2010 – A special birthday celebration in the form of a pig picking was hosted by the Jones family members at the church to honor Pastor Mike Roach for his birthday and retirement. Around 80 people were in attendance. A special tribute to Mike, written by Buddy Rice, was read by Hazel Alcock.

May 30, 2010 – The annual Memorial Day service was held with 155 in attendance. The Pamlico County Honor Guard presented the flags for the service and the U. S. Coast Guard Hobucken presented the flags for the 21-gun salute following the service. Special patriotic music was provided by several members and guests. District Superintendent Dennis Goodwin, who is also an Army Chaplain, was the guest speaker and delivered a very moving message with several personal stories of his contact with wounded veterans and families who had lost loved ones in battle. The service was following by a covered dish lunch.

June 13, 2010 – Debbie Roach was presented with a special gift from the church congregation in appreciation for her dedication and service to the

church. Gladys Sodoma made the presentation and read a tribute to Debbie that she had composed for the occasion. Doug Alvord played a special composition on the keyboard in honor of Pastor Mike and Debbie and Hazel Alcock read the Tribute to Mike Roach written by Buddy Rice.

June 20, 2010 – Rev. Mike Roach delivered two sermons on this special, but somewhat sad, Father’s Day. Doug Alvord presented a portrait of Debbie Roach to hang in the fellowship hall with the one he had done of Mike. After Mike recognized Bennie Jones as the oldest father in attendance and Dustin Grimes as the youngest father, he brought a very special Father’s Day message to the 118 in attendance. The sermon was followed by a communion service. Mike then returned to the pulpit to deliver his final message as pastor of Vandemere UMC. A brief farewell message brought comfort to the many heavy hearts in the congregation; he reminded us that the Heavenly Father would always be with us.

In the late afternoon of June 20, Pastor Mike and Debbie were honored with a retirement celebration hosted by Ponce and Mary Ellen Ham at their home in Oriental. About 75 church and family members were in attendance. Children enjoyed swimming in the pool and everyone enjoyed a special time of visiting with Mike and Debbie before the delicious seafood dinner was served. Following dinner, Hazel Alcock, church treasurer, presented Mike and Debbie with a retirement gift of a two-week trip from the church. Mike responded with his famous quote “Ain’t God good!”

June 27, 2010 – A new era began today with Rev. Stan Brown, who recently retired from full-time ministry, coming to serve as pastor of Vandemere United Methodist Church. He told the congregation who welcomed him that he had come to “water the seeds that Mike Roach had planted.” We believe he will do a good job tending to the flock. Welcome Stan and Christa Brown! They will be living in their home in Oriental and serving Vandemere and Hobucken Methodist churches.

July 17, 2010 – Vandemere UMC hosted their second Ladies’ Day. It was an awesome experience! Speakers were Jerlvine Collins and Carol Richardson. There were 73 ladies from 24 different churches in attendance and all went away spiritually uplifted. Music was beautiful!

Between 2000 and 2010

During this decade, young Zachary Russell Jones has served as acolyte for the Sunday Worship Service. Zack lights the candles as the service begins and extinguishes them at the close. He is very conscientious and faithful in his duties. In 2010, Jonathan Gaskill began assisting as an acolyte-in-training in order to take over the role when Zachary graduates and leaves for college.



Acolyte Zachary Jones at age 10 in 2005



Acolyte Jonathan Gaskill in 2010



Sally McCotter

Buddy Rice

Sally McCotter has served as pianist for many years. Buddy Rice now also plays the keyboard. We have been blessed by having special music by Buddy and Gay Rice and their daughter, Jennifer Rice, as well as Sandy McCotter, Marena Potter, Brenda Stilley and our special guest from New Bern and Temple Baptist Church, Craig Cooper. Among other guests who have rendered special singing during the past decade or so are Nelson Cowell, Myrl McCotter, Jennifer Alcock, Bill Hartman, Chris Wall and Lori Grimes. On occasion, a church choir led by Brenda Stilley provides special selections. Artist and composer Doug Alvord also occasionally provides special music.



Craig Cooper



Sandy McCotter



Doug Alvord



Gay Rice



Buddy Rice



Jennifer Rice

We all extend a special thanks to our lay speakers who have lead worship services on the rare occasions when our pastor has not been present. Buddy Rice, Doug Alvord and Stanley Stephenson have filled in and have delivered inspired messages.

CHAPTER VI

OUR CHURCH

Vandemere United Methodist Church has quite a few activities that have traditionally continued through the years. Most have been included in the proceeding chapters. We complete our history with the following recaps and lists.

Mission Statement

This congregation is loving and compassionate toward the sick and the needy. We will continue to help, both physically and spiritually, those in our immediate area as well as those in surrounding areas that are in need.

The Administrative Board

The Administrative Board conducts the business of the church. Officers are elected and a slate is approved on a yearly basis. Meetings are held the first Sunday of the month following church services.

The financial health of the church is discussed and plans are made and/or approved for improvements to the church building and for donations from the church to worthy causes or those who are in need.

Finances of Our Church

In researching old records it is interesting to see the progress and growth of the VUMC. It is amazing how the church functioned on so little income. In the 1970's the average income was \$200 per month; the 1980's showed an increase to \$660 per month; the 1990's showed another increase to \$2,240 per month and the average monthly offering was \$6,880 in 2009 plus an average of \$1,917 in other donations.

To supplement the monthly tithes and offerings by dedicated church goers, fund raisers were held, these included such events as yard sales, participation in the Mum Fest and Pepsi Festival. Many meals have been prepared and sold as fundraisers. Sweet corn and onion sales also boosted the income for several years.

In addition to the usual church expenses, we have donated to the Gideons and in 1997 we started a Samaritan's Purse Project which continues. Shoe boxes for needy children are packed each year in November.

The church budget has increased from \$2,769 for 1960-70 years to \$46,563 for the year 2004 and \$56,980 in 2010.

Apportionments in 1960-70 were \$719. In 2010, the apportionment total was \$6,022. For several years, VUMC has paid apportionments in full and before they are due; this makes everyone thankful and happy!

Conference

Vandemere UMC is a member of the New Bern District of the United Methodist Church Southeast Jurisdiction, successor to the N.C. Conference. The beginnings of record included the Methodist Protestant Church, 1828-1939, The N.C. Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, 1837-1844, the N.C. Methodist Episcopal Church South 1845-1939, Blue Ridge Atlantic Conference Methodist Episcopal Church 1879-1939 and the Eastern District, NC – VA Conference Central Jurisdiction, the Methodist Church 1940-1967.

In 1967 the United Methodist Church was formed by uniting the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

The Lay Member to the Annual Conference from Vandemere United Methodist Church is confirmed by the board and may attend the conference.

The District Superintendent leads the Annual Charge Conference, usually held in the autumn, at our church.

Reports are given by the board chairman and the finance chairman.

The District Superintendent reviews the business of the church of the previous year and concerns, if any, are heard at this time.

In 1999, a Special Charge Conference was held concerning an addition to the Fellowship Hall. The facts were presented to the New Bern District Board of Church location and approval. Our application was approved.

We secured a loan and the addition was constructed, completed in October 1999.

American Cancer Society Fundraiser

By Debbie Roach, Team Captain

Pamlico County had been a part of the Craven-Pamlico-Jones Relay for Life for approximately nine years when Pamlico was encouraged to begin its own relay. The relay materialized in the year 1999-2000. Vandemere United Methodist Church was encouraged to become a team and Berry Morris asked me about organizing it. Berry had taken up money in the neighborhood in years past and she had also developed breast cancer during that year. I had worked with the relay since it's beginning in Craven County and thought it a worthy project. Many valuable church members, friends and family members had died because of this dreaded disease and taking up the fight was a way we could honor those who had passed and help those living to lead a longer, fuller life.

During the first year, we were amazed when our collections amounted to approximately \$3,500. The second year of the relay we captured an award for the Best Theme when we did "A WALK TO REMEMBER." We raised approximately \$4,000. The third year our total went to approximately \$5,000 and we had a barbecue fundraiser. The fourth year we raised over \$7,500 dollars and had generous donations, a meal and a portable DVD raffle. We gained a reputation as the number two team in the county for raising funds.

In 2004, through the support of general donations, meals in the county and at the church, relay jewelry, yard sales and raffles, we reached a total of approximately \$12,500. Vandemere had collected more money than any other team at the end of this year's relay. We also captured a theme idea award. Our campsite theme was "Licking Cancer."

The 2004-2005 all-night relay event was canceled soon after its beginning on Friday, April 1, 2005, because of heavy rain and high winds. It looked like this year the county would not reach its goal of \$100,000. Sunday night the teams came back to the field to complete the luminary service and close out the relay. It was announced then that money was continuing to come in and that we were surpassing our county goal.

In the beginning, the relay in Pamlico County was held the weekend after Easter. It was later changed to the first weekend in May. It is a 24-hour event. Teams have 15-20 people who sign-up for a time to walk during the event. Cancer survivors walk the opening lap and a beautiful 9:00 PM luminary service is held to honor those fighting the disease or to remember those we have lost.

Vandemere United Methodist Church has continued to work together to raise money to fight cancer. The relay team has remained strong. The 2006 relay brought new ideas to the team. A Valentine's candlelight dinner was held in the church fellowship hall. It has continued and is one of the most lovely and enjoyable evening dinners held at the church. The night includes music by Buddy and Gay Rice and/or Craig Cooper.

Another big fundraiser for the team began in 2007 with an idea from George Jones to hold a fox chase to benefit relay at the Bay City Fox Preserve. This event begins weeks before the day it is held as people with dogs call Jerry Morris and sign up for the chase. We have had as many as 130 dogs to participate. Church members and friends as well as dog owners arrive by 4:00 a.m. on a cold, Saturday morning in January to begin the chase. The chase ends around lunch with a meal of homemade Eastern Carolina barbecue, potatoes, slaw, hushpuppies and dessert. A cake auction is also held along with a raffle for donated items and a 50/50 drawing.

In 2008, our relay team raised \$15,000 of a \$149,000 total for the county. Our theme was childhood cancer. In January, the annual fox chase was held and was a very successful fundraiser. On February 16, 2008, the annual Relay for Life Valentine steak dinner was held in the church fellowship hall with 80 people in attendance. Funds raised totaled \$820. Doug Alvord and Craig Cooper entertained the group.

The 2009 VUMC relay totals came to approximately \$17,000, with more than \$5,000 coming from the annual fox chase event. The 2009 VUMC theme was bone cancer. The church became a \$3,000 diamond level sponsor for the first time and had top billing on the county relay t-shirts. We sold barbecued chicken plates at the relay. Our team consisted of 40 members.

The 2010 relay event was the best ever! The new Pamlico County Relay for Life archway was dedicated and the PCHS track was filled with walkers. The beautiful night brought out a big crowd and the VUMC barbecued chicken plates, hot dogs, chicken nuggets and French fries were a real hit. Our totals were a little lower this year (just over \$15,000) due to an extremely cold day for the annual fox chase in January. The fox chase yielded about \$3,000 compared to the previous year's \$5,000. Special thanks to the entire church for their support.

Traditions

When a baby is christened the church presents the family with a Bible for the baby.

Lawn mowing and grounds maintenance have traditionally been taken care of by congregation volunteers. David Goforth was hired to mow for a year or two during the late nineties followed by Jerry Morris and Ed Cross, with the help of Ray Respass. The church currently pays Ponce and Mary Ellen Ham to mow the yard.

Patsy Cross and several other ladies took care of the flowers for a number of years. In the early 2000's, Carla's Florist was paid to place live plants in the church each Sunday. Currently, Debbie Roach, with the occasional help of other members, places arrangements of cut flowers in beautiful vases for display in the church each week. The flowers really beautify the Lord's house. Thank you, Debbie!

In addition to apportionments, Vandemere United Methodist Church donates annually to the Gideons, Vandemere Volunteer Fire Department, the Methodist Home for Children, HOPE Clinic, Heartworks, the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Pamlico County Teacher Appreciation and Project Graduation.

Marriages

Apr 18, 1914 Bonnie Hough – Rufus L. Moore
 Minister – Rev. C. N. Caviness

- Jun 28, 1947 Hannah McCotter – J. W. Cowell, Jr.
Minister – Rev. L. C. Vereen
- Mar 10, 1956 Salona J. Jensen – Louis P. McCotter
Minister – Rev. H. K. King, D.S.
- Jun 8, 1974 Cynthia Lupton – Paul Delamar
Minister – Rev. Ray Sparrow
Rev. James G. Lupton
- Nov 27, 1982 Mary Kennedy Dixon – Robert S. Martin
Minister – Rev. Jesse Staton
- Dec 4, 1982 Mary E. Mayo – Robert F. McCotter
Minister – Rev. Jesse Staton
- Jan 15, 1995 Nelia Grace Knowles – David Martin
Minister – Rev. Michael G. Roach
- Sept 25, 2000 Kim Ham Whorton – William Sanders
Minister – Rev. Michael G. Roach
- Dec 9, 2000 Anne Marie Smith – James H. Hartman
Minister – Rev. Michael G. Roach
- Feb 14, 2002 Debbie Harrell – Richard Snyder
Minister – Rev. Michael G. Roach
- Jun 23, 2001 Kim Sadler – Brent Stark
Minister – Rev. Michael G. Roach
- Jul 28, 2001 Laura Lozica – Adam Persky
Minister – Rev. Michael G. Roach
- Jun 1, 2002 Donna Morris Best – Charles E. Anderson
Minister – Rev. Michael G. Roach
- May 16, 2003 Kimberly Rae McCotter – Kenneth E. Whorton
Minister – Rev. Michael G. Roach
- May 30, 2005 Beverly Adkins – Christian R. McCotter
Minister – Rev. Michael G. Roach
- July 22, 2006 Jennifer R. Stilley – Dustin R. Grimes
Minister – Rev. Michael G. Roach
- Oct 7, 2006 Melissa Swindell – C. J. Force
Minister – Rev. Michael G. Roach
- Mar 10, 2007 Courtney L. Norfleet – Rusty Daniels
Minister – Rev. Michael G. Roach
- Dec 15, 2007 Anna Jones Lozica – Rufus Brinson, Jr.
Minister – Rev. Michael G. Roach

Sunday School Superintendents
Vandemere Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Vandemere Methodist Church

The list of Sunday school superintendents dating back to 1910, though incomplete, is treasured. It is one of the only pieces of documentation that gives names of active members and their involvement in the church. It also gives us a date prior to 1910, the founding of Vandemere Methodist Church, that Methodists were holding services in the town of Vandemere. In 1915, it gives a listing for Barnes Chapel, which indicates that Methodists were holding services in both Cash Corner and Vandemere.

New Bern District, Pamlico Circuit

Sunday School Superintendents

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1902 | C. A. Flowers – Vandemere |
| 1905 | Same as 1902 |
| 1913 | J. L. Fowler – Vandemere |
| 1915 | J. L. Fowler - Vandemere
D. C. McCotter – Cash Corner (Barnes' Chapel) |
| 1947-1952 | Isaac J. Hudson |

Pastors

The following pastors have faithfully served Vandemere United Methodist Church since it was established in 1910.

<u>Years Served</u>	<u>Pastors</u>
1909-1910	Frank Fulcher
1911-1912	W. B. Humble
1912-1913	F. S. Becton
1913-1915	C. N. Caviness
1915-1916	R. L. Carraway
1916-1917	E. C. Durham
1917-1919	H. M. Wellman
1919-1922	W. E. Hocutt
1922-1923	R. L. Cooke
1923-1925	W. C. Jones

1925-1926	A. J. Hobbs, Jr.
1926-1930	L. C. Brothers
1930-1932	C. N. Phillips
1932-1933	A. P. Hill
1933-1935	J. M. Jolliff
1935-1938	W. A. Tew
1939-1940	N. B. Strickland
1940-1942	H. H. Cash
1942-1946	R. N. Fitts
November 1946—March 1947	E. R. Bromley
June—September 1947 Duke Student	W. P. Combs
June—September 1947 Duke Student	L. C. Vereen
1947-1954	T. E. Maness
1954-1958	David M. Lewis
1958-1960	J. H. Bryant
1960-1963	L. H. Dodson
1963-1967	Ivy J. Wall
1967-1972	H. Charles Davis
1972-1975	Ray Sparrow
1976-1984	Jesse Staton
	Fallon Melvin
	Ed Armstrong
1984	W. Nelson Fulford
1984-1989	G. C. Smith
1988-1991	J. C. Parker
1989-1991 (Associate)	J. Rodney Lane, Jr.,
1991-2010	Michael G. Roach
2010-	Stan Brown

District Superintendents and Bishops

1911-1920	District Superintendents J. E. Underwood, J. B. Hurley and F. M Shawburger. Bishops E. E. Hoss, J. H. McKay, Bishop Waterhouse, J. C. Kilgo and U. V. W. Darlington.
1920-1930	District Superintendents F. M. Shawburger and J. C. Wooten. Bishops Collins Denny and E. D. Morgan.

- 1930-1940 District Superintendents J. C. Wooten, I. H. M. Cracken, Dalton Patten, T. M. Grant and E. L. Hillman. Bishops E. D. Morgan, Paul B. Korn and Clair Purcell.
- 1940-1950 District Superintendents J. A. Russell and B. B. Slaughter. Bishops Walter W. Peele and Clair Purcell.
- 1950-1960 District Superintendents B. B. Slaughter and H. K. King. Bishop P. N. Garber.
- 1960-1970 District Superintendents A. J. Hobbs, Jr. and R. G. Dawson. Bishop P. N. Garber.
- 1970 – Bishop Marion Edwards
- 1991-2010 District Superintendents Tom Holzclaw, Sam Wynn, Caswell Shaw, Doug Jesse and Dennis Goodwin. Bishop Al Gwinn.

Record of Preparatory Membership

- Michael Harrison McLean – Baptized 5-24-1989 – Received by Rev. J.C. Parker
- Jonathan Tucker Cross – Baptized 9-5-1995 – Received by Rev. Michael Roach
- Jonathan Marcus Gaskill – Baptized 4-13-2003 – Received by Rev. Michael Roach
- Haley Potter – Dedicated 4-8-2007 – Received by Rev. Michael Roach
- Payton Lynn Force – Dedicated 5-11-2008 – Received by Rev. Michael Roach.
- Bailey Nicole Grimes – Dedicated 12-20-2009 -- Received by Rev. Michael Roach.
- Ashley Dawn Warren—Dedicated 5-16-2010 – Received by Rev. Michael Roach.

Membership List

Membership grew quickly at the new church in Vandemere. In 1911, the following saints transferred membership from the old Barnes Chapel in Cash Corner; they were received by Pastor R. L. Beasley.

Senia Evans Armstrong, wife of H. A. Armstrong, recorded by Pastor George C. Smith DOB 12/21/1886 DOD 6/28/1985
Burial Celestial Memorial Gardens Cemetery

Sarah Jones, wife of Robert Evans, recorded by N. B. Strickland
DOD 1/26/1939

John Lewis Fowler, husband of Martha McCotter, recorded by W. A. Tew.
DOD 11/4/1936

Martha McCotter, wife of John Lewis Fowler, recorded by R. N. Fitts
DOD 1949

Ray S. Griffin, recorded by Pastor C. N. Caviness
DOD 9/23/1915

Susan Salter Gibbs, wife of Hillard Gibbs, recorded by Pastor N. B. Strickland
DOD 1940

Seth R. Hickman, husband of first wife Reva Griffin and second wife Maggie Griffin, recorded by Pastor N. B. Strickland
DOD 4/14/1956

Willie Ann Austin, wife of George L. Jones, recorded by R. N. Fitts
DOD 3/28/1943

Alice Jones, wife of Baker Potter, recorded by R. L. Beasley

Mary Jones, wife of Dr. W. A. Seawell, recorded by R. L. Beasley

Nettie Barnes McCotter, wife of J. A. McCotter, recorded by W. A. Tew
DOD 1/2/1938

Sarah Morris, wife of John Morris, recorded by Pastor J. M. Jolliff
DOB 4/15/1856 DOD 4/19/1934
Burial: Morris Cemetery

1912-1915

Radford Morris, recorded by Pastor C. N. Caviness Transferred
2/18/1915 DOB 2/22/1888 DOD 1931

12/4/1912 Henry Barnes, husband of Mamie Barnes, received by Pastor
F. S. Becton, recorded by Pastor W. C. Harnet. Transferred from Barnes
Chapel 12/4/1912 DOD 1921

12/4/1912 May Muse, wife of Mr. Barnes, married first to Mr.
Carraway, recorded by Pastor F. S. Becton, recorded by Pastor A. J.
Hobbs, Jr. Removed by quarterly conference action at death 10/10/1926

4/20/1913 Benjamin Willis, received by Pastor F. S. Becton, recorded by
Pastor C. N. Caviness Certificate of Transfer 2/18/1915
Burial: Amity Churchyard, Baird's Creek DOD 9/17/1934

1913 – Ella May Willis, received by Pastor F. S. Becton, recorded by C.
N. Caviness. Certificate of transfer 2/18/ 1915
Burial: Amity Churchyard, Baird's Creek DOD 11/26/1939

1915 – George L. Jones, husband of Willie Ann Austin, received by
Pastor C. N. Caviness DOB 11/1851 DOD 1925
Burial: Celestial Memorial Gardens

4/4/1915 Oscar C. Griggs, husband of Ethel Mae Day received by
profession of faith by C. N. Caviness DOD 6/22/1975

4/4/1915 Hazel Thelma Jones, received by profession of faith by C. N.
Caviness recorded by L. C. Brothers DOB 1906 DOD 9/10.1926
Burial: Celestial Memorial Gardens

5/5/1916 Ralph L. Jones, received by profession of faith by Pastor E. C.
Durham DOB 10/28/1900 DOD 11/23/1969
Burial: Celestial Memorial

6/25/1916 Erwin Jones, received by profession of faith by Pastor E. C.
Durham. Recorded by Pastor L. C. Brothers. Membership terminated by
certificate of transfer 7/2/1929

5/25/1916 Maggie Griffin Hickman, wife of S. R. Hickman, received by profession of faith by E. C. Durham. Recorded by Pastor D. M. Lewis
Burial: Celestial Memorial Gardens DOD 6/12/1956

5/25/1916 Earl Hickman, husband of Ester Cayton, received by profession of faith by Pastor E. C. Durham

5/25/1916 Sybil Hickman, wife of Lee Drew Forrest, received by profession of faith by E. C. Durham DOD 2003
Burial: Celestial Memorial Gardens

5/25/1916 Daniel Voliva, received by Pastor E. C. Durham

9/1916 Nellie Jones DeBruhl, wife of Seth DeBruhl, received by profession of faith by Pastor C. N. Phillips DOD 1/17/1931

9/1916 Seth DeBruhl received by profession of faith by E.C. Durham.
Recorded by H. M. William DOD 1/22/1917

Dessie Gibbs, wife of Wesley Mayo
DOB 4/17/1901 DOD 12/6/1974

9/1/1916 Nancy Lee Lincoln, wife of Dallas Franks, received by profession of faith by Pastor E. C. Durham. Recorded by Pastor A. J. Hobbs, Jr. Membership terminated by certificate of transfer 10/10/1926

9/1916 Novilla Jones, wife of Gene McCauley, received by profession of faith by Pastor E. C. Durham. Recorded by Pastor W. C. Jones.
Membership terminated by certificate of transfer 7/22/1934

9/1/1916 Connie Jones, wife of Jimmy Tate, received by profession of faith by E. C. Durham. Membership terminated 7/22/1924 by certificate of transfer; W. C. Jones, pastor of charge

3/18/1920 Harry Peed received by certificate of transfer by W. E. Hocutt. Membership terminated in 1943 by certificate of transfer; R. N. Fitts, pastor of charge.

4/11/1920 Lillian Peed received by certificate of transfer by W. E. Hocutt. Membership terminated in 1943 by certificate of transfer.

4/15/1920 R. R. Peed received by certificate of transfer by W. E. Hocutt. Terminated 1/29/1927 by certificate of transfer; L. C. Brothers, pastor of charge.

7/1920 James Sadler received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt. Membership terminated 1923 by withdrawal.

7/1920 O'Conner L. Jones, husband of Frances Linton, received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt. Membership terminated at death by T. E. Maness, pastor of charge. DOD 11/29/1948

7/1920 Gladys Harris, wife of Frank E. Hopkins, received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt. DOD 10/21/1993

7/1920 John A. McCotter, husband of Nettie Barnes, received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt.

7/29/1921 Mildred Sadler, wife of Robert Rice, received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt. Terminated at death by D. M Lewis, pastor of charge. DOD 5/27/1956

5/29/1921 Agness Mizell, received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt. Membership terminated in 1926 by withdrawal.

5/29/1921 Queenie Jones, wife of Dr. Frank Mayfield, received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt. Membership terminated 7/22/1924 by certificate of transfer by W. C. Jones, pastor of charge.

5/29/1921 Ruth Peed Lupton received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt. Membership terminated 7/22/1924 by certificate of transfer by W. C. Jones, pastor of charge.

5/29/1921 W. C. Selby received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt. Terminated 9/8/1925 by certificate of transfer to Bayboro Methodist Church by W. C. Jones, pastor of charge.

5/30/1921 E. L. Hollingsworth received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt. Terminated in 1936 by withdrawal; W. A. Tew, pastor of charge.

10/1921 Earnest Hollingsworth received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt. Terminated 12/1/1923 by certificate of transfer by W. C. Jones.

10/1921 Elizabeth Hollingsworth received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt. Terminated 12/1/1923 by certificate of transfer by W. C. Jones.

5/1/1922 Ada Cowley received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt. Terminated 8/25/1922 by certificate of transfer by W. E. Hocutt.

5/1/1922 Irene Cowley received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt. Terminated 10/25/1922 by certificate of transfer by W. E. Hocutt.

5/1/1922 Freddie Jones received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt. Terminated 7/22/1924 by certificate of transfer by W. C. Jones.

5/1/1922 Cassie Voliva received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt. Terminated 9/4/1936 by certificate of transfer by W. A. Tew.

5/1/1922 Blanch Voliva received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt.

5/1/1922 Sina Voliva received by profession of faith by W. E. Hocutt.

5/19/1921 Grace McCotter, wife of John Peele, received by profession of faith by W. E. Jones. Terminated 7/1923 by certificate of transfer by W. C. Jones.

10/14/1923 J. B. Bailey received by certificate of transfer by W. C. Jones. Terminated 4/11/1925 by certificate of transfer by W. C. Jones.

5/1/1924 Walter Williamson received by certificate of transfer by W. C. Jones.

5/1/1924 Myrtice Rainey Attmore, wife of Taylor Attmore, received by certificate of transfer by W. C. Jones. Terminated by certificate of transfer to Episcopal Church.

8/5/1924 William Taylor Ferrell, husband of Martha Louise Ferrell, received by certificate of transfer by W. C. Jones. Terminated 7/12/1934 by certificate of transfer by J. M. Jolliff.

8/5/1924 Martha Louise Ferrell, wife of William T. Ferrell, received by certificate of transfer by W. C. Jones. Terminated 7/12/1934 by certificate of transfer by J. M. Jolliff.

7/24/1925 Glennie Lee Woodard McCotter, wife of Samuel F. McCotter, received by certificate of transfer from Pamlico Methodist by W. C. Jones. DOD 5/22/1979.

7/19/1925 Lorenburg Moore received by profession of faith by W. C. Jones. Terminated 1925 by certificate of transfer by W. C. Jones.

7/19/1925 Ernest Leroy Hickman received by profession of faith by W. C. Jones

7/19/1925 Armstead Elisha Hickman, received by profession of faith by W. C. Jones.

7/19/1925 James Franklin Carney received by profession of faith by W. C. Jones. Terminated 2/7/1927 by certificate of transfer by L. C. Brothers.

8/1/1925 James P. Carney received by profession of faith by W. C. Jones. Terminated 2/7/1927 by certificate of transfer by L. C. Brothers.

8/1/1925 Ruby Deete Carney received by profession of faith by W. C. Jones. Terminated 1927 by certificate of transfer by L. C. Brothers.

2/15/1926 Cola William Lupton, wife of Crawford Lupton, received by profession of faith by A. J. Hobbs, Jr. Terminated 1945 by certificate of transfer by R. N. Fitts.

5/30/1926 Eliza Jones received by profession of faith by A. J. Hobbs, Jr.

5/30/1926 Phil C. Jones, husband of Mary Jones, received by profession of faith by A. J. Hobbs, Jr. Terminated 7/1934 by death; recorded by J. M. Jolliff.

5/15/1927 Julia Gibbs Hopkins, wife of Robert Hopkins, received by profession of faith by L. C. Brothers. Terminated 9/9/1933 by death; recorded by A. P. Hill.

- 5/15/1927 Lula Muse Lincoln, wife of Walter Lincoln, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by L. C. Brothers.
- 5/15/1927 Cabell DeBruhl received by L. C. Brothers. Terminated by death.
- 5/15/1927 Cola C. Lupton received by L. C. Brothers. Terminated 6/4/1937 by certificate of transfer by W. A. Tew.
- 5/15/1927 Cate Jones received by L. C. Brothers. Terminated 8/25/1954 by T. E. Maness.
- 5/15/1927 Edward G. Wood received by profession of faith by L. C. Brothers. Terminated 6/4/1937 by certificate of transfer by W. A. Tew.
- 4/17/1928 E. M. Bell received by certificate of transfer by L. C. Brothers. Terminated 6/4/1937 by certificate of transfer by W. A. Tew.
- 1/11/1931 Horace B. Ives, husband of Elizabeth Rice, received by certificate of transfer by Charles N. Phillips. Terminated 12/14/1936 by death; recorded by W. A. Tew.
- 1/11/1931 Elizabeth Rice Ives, wife of Horace Ives, received by certificate of transfer by Charles N. Phillips. Terminated by certificate of transfer to Bayboro Church.
- 1/11/1931 Freeman C. Ives, husband of Cleo Hollomon, received by certificate of transfer by Charles N. Phillips. Terminated in 1941 by death; recorded by H. H. Cash.
- 1/11/1931 Cleo Hollomon Ives, wife of Freeman Ives, received by certificate of transfer from Cary Methodist Church by Charles N. Phillips. Terminated in 1941 by certificate of transfer by H. H. Cash.
- 1/11/1931 Alice Gallop McCotter, wife of C. J. McCotter, Sr. and (2) Clarence Moore, received by profession of faith by Charles N. Phillips.
- 1/11/1931 Charles Jennings McCotter, Sr., husband of Alice Gallop, received by profession of faith by Charles N. Phillips. Terminated by death on 6/22/1940; recorded by N. B. Strickland.

8/9/1936 Charles J. McCotter, husband of Frances Gray, received by profession of faith by W. A. Tew. Terminated 1950 by certificate of transfer to Bayboro Methodist Church by T. E. Maness.

8/9/1936 Samuel Francis McCotter, husband of Glennie Woodard, received by profession of faith by W. A. Tew. Terminated 2/17/1982 by death.

8/9/1936 Ivy Woodard Morris, wife of Joe Morris, received by certificate of transfer from Pamlico Methodist by W. A. Tew.

8/9/1936 Ruth Woodard Hudson, wife of Isaac J. Hudson, received by certificate of transfer from Pamlico Methodist. Terminated 1937 by certificate of transfer to Raleigh Hayes Barton Methodist Church by W. A. Tew.

8/9/1936 Isaac James Hudson, husband of Ruth Woodard, received by certificate of transfer from Methodist Church, Irvington, Virginia, by W. A. Tew. Terminated 1937 by certificate of transfer to Raleigh Hayes Barton Methodist Church by W. A. Tew. DOD 1978

9/15/1936 Ethel James Croom, wife of Charles Croom, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew. Terminated by death in 1994.

12/13/1936 Emma McCotter Fentress, wife of John Fentress, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew. Terminated 9/9/1994 by death.

12/13/1936 Lu Hunnings Miller, wife of Jim Miller, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew. Terminated by death.

12/13/1936 J. W. Rolison, husband of Augusta Carawan, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew. Terminated by death 3/25/1950; recorded by T. E. Maness.

12/13/1936 Augusta Carawan Rolison, wife of J. W. Rolison, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew. Terminated by death 2/13/1942; recorded by R. N. Fitts.

12/13/1936 William M. Newton, husband of Nevada Jordan, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew.

12/13/1936 Dan Sawyer, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew. Terminated 10/30/1939 by certificate of transfer.

12/13/1936 Hilary D. Potter, husband of Jenny Hooker, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew.

12/13/1936 Jenny Hooker Potter, wife of Hilary Potter, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew. Death 1/24/1970.

12/13/1936 Louise Potter, wife of Lenwood Gooding, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew.

1/10/1937 Frank Rhem Ewell, husband of Carlye Keel, received by certificate of transfer from Bayboro Missionary Baptist by W. A. Tew. Terminated by death 5/14/1951.

2/14/1937 Grady L. McCotter, Sr., husband of (1) Annie Flowers and (2) Ida Johnson, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew. Terminated by death 3/21/1962.

2/14/1937 Jean McCotter, wife of (1) Leon Dixon and (2) Wesley Ruth, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew. Terminated 11/18/1953 by certificate of transfer to Episcopal Church. Death 1/21/2007.

5/7/1937 Ruth Arden Forrest, wife of Dickie Layton, received by profession of faith by W. A. Tew. Terminated by death 11/18/1962.

5/7/1937 Gloria Collins Hopkins, wife of B. Skinner, received by profession of faith by W. A. Tew. Terminated 1958 by certificate of transfer to New Bern Lutheran.

5/9/1937 Frances May Ewell, wife of Robert Jenkins, received by profession of faith by W. A. Tew. Terminated by certificate of transfer to New Bern First Baptist.

10/31/1937 Dewitt C. McCotter, husband of Leona Muse, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew. Terminated by death 12/10/1959.

10/31/1937 Leona Muse McCotter, wife of Dewitt McCotter, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew.

10/31/1937 J. Muse McCotter, husband of Emma Dunn, received by certificate of transfer by W. A. Tew. Terminated by certificate of transfer to New Bern Christ Episcopal.

10/31/1937 Dewitt C. McCotter, Jr., husband of Metta Moore, received by certificate of transfer by W. A. Tew. Terminated by certificate of transfer to New Bern Christ Episcopal.

4/9/1939 Annie Patrick McCotter, wife of John McCotter, received by certificate of transfer by W. A. Tew. Terminated by death.

8/13/1939 Hannah Bryan McCotter, wife of Jackie W. Cowell, received by profession of faith by W. A. Tew. Terminated 1959 by certificate of transfer to Arapahoe Bethany Christian Church. DOB 3/30/1028

8/13/1939 Iola Patrick, received by certificate of transfer by W. A. Tew. Terminated 12/24/1940.

8/13/1939 Robbie Fentress Johnson received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew.

1939 Lillie Hope Fentress received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew.

8/13/1939 Minnie Simmons Fentress, wife of Clyde Fentress, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew.

1939 Annie Lee Jones received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew. Terminated by certificate of transfer 10/23/1939.
1939 Iris Ives Williams, wife of W. H. Williams, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by W. A. Tew. Terminated by death 3/5/1960.

- 1941 Frankie McCotter, husband of Joan Dees, received by profession of faith by H. H. Cash.
- 1941 Alton McCotter, husband of Joyce Land, received by profession of faith by H. H. Cash. Terminated 7/17/1952 by certificate of transfer to Methodist Church in Akron, Ohio.
- 3/8/1942 Delia Rice Armstrong, wife of Rev. C. O. Armstrong, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by R. N. Fitts. Terminated by death 1/4/1951.
- 1944 Ida Johnson McCotter, wife of Grady McCotter, Sr., received by profession of faith by R. N. Fitts.
- 1944 Louis Patterson McCotter, husband of (1) Salona Jensen and (2) Harriett Barnes, received by profession of faith by R. N. Fitts.
- 1944 Willis Gallop McCotter, husband of Myrl Maness, received by profession of faith by R. N. Fitts. Terminated 3/25/1959 by certificate of transfer to Roanoke Rapids Methodist Church.
- 1944 Gerald Dean Morris, husband of Berry Jean Lynch, received by profession of faith by R. N. Fitts. Terminated 8/12/1960 by certificate of transfer to Washington Street Methodist Church, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 1944 Josephine Morris, wife of (1) Vincent Roberson and (2) Paul Driscoll, received by profession of faith by R. N. Fitts. Terminated by certificate of transfer to Falls Church, Virginia.
- 1944 Joyce Holton, wife of Ralph Forrest, received by profession of faith by R. N. Fitts. Terminated by death 3/1/2000; recorded by Michael Roach.
- 1944 Joyce Hopkins, wife of Douglas Gregory, received by profession of faith by R. N. Fitts.
- 1944 Violet Thompkins received by R. N. Fitts. Terminated 10/14/1948 by certificate of transfer.
- 1946 Elaine Griggs, wife of Kermit Sadler, received by profession of faith by R. N. Fitts.

1/18/1946 Ann Griggs, wife of William Haddock, received by profession of faith by R. N. Fitts. Terminated 5/9/1953 by certificate of transfer.

1946 Margaret Newton, wife of Bennie Rose, received by profession of faith by R. N. Fitts. Terminated 6/14/1961 by certificate of transfer to Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

1946 Edith Salter, wife of Joseph Senna, Jr., received by profession of faith by R. N. Fitts.

11/9/1947 Ruth Woodard Hudson, wife of Isaac James Hudson, received by certificate of transfer from Hayes Barton Methodist Church, Raleigh by T. E. Maness. Terminated by death in 1991.

11/9/1947 Isaac James Hudson, husband of Ruth Woodard, received by certificate of transfer from Hayes Barton Methodist Church, Raleigh by T. E. Maness. Terminated by death in 1978.

1947 Bonnie C. Smith, husband of Lena Ives, received by certificate of transfer by T. E. Maness.

1947 Lena Ives Smith, wife of Bonnie Smith, received by certificate of transfer by T. E. Maness.

7/2/1950 Richard Woodard Hudson, husband of Jeannette Banks, received by profession of faith by T. E. Maness. Terminated 11/17/1963 by certificate of transfer to Bayboro Methodist.

10/10/1954 Gabriel Tripp Campbell, wife of Thomas G. Campbell, received by certificate of transfer by T. E. Maness. Terminated 8/23/1961 by certificate of transfer to Aurora Methodist.

1955 Florence Woodard Walmsley, wife of R. A. Walmsley, received by certificate of transfer from Pamlico Methodist by David M. Lewis.

2/12/1955 Connie Woodard Harris, wife of (1) John Shipp and (2) Ben L. Shipp, received by certificate of transfer from Pamlico Methodist Church by David M. Lewis.

2/7/1955 Robert Francis McCotter, Sr., husband of (1) Thelma Russ and (2) Thelma Riggs Pipkin, received by profession of faith by David M. Lewis. Terminated 1/29/2009 by death; recorded by Mike Roach.

2/7/1955 Thelma Russ McCotter, wife of Robert Francis McCotter, Sr., received by certificate of transfer from Kelly Missionary Baptist by D. M. Lewis. Terminated 2/24/1961 by death.

1955 Linda Rose Harris, wife of Bryan Harris, received by profession of faith by D. M. Lewis. Terminated 1961 by certificate of transfer by L. H. Dodson to Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

3/13/1955 Otis L. Newton, Jr., husband of Geraldine Carawan Newton, received by profession of faith by D. M. Lewis.

4/10/1955 William Jasper Voliva, Jr. (born 2/20/1940) husband of Julia Dixon, received by profession of faith by D. M. Lewis.

4/10/1955 Thomas David Smith, husband of Sylvia How, received by profession of faith by D. M. Lewis.

4/10/1955 Isaac James Hudson, Jr. received by profession of faith by D. M. Lewis.

4/10/1955 Kenneth Hopkins Hudson received by profession of faith by D. M. Lewis.

4/10/1955 Geraldine Carawan Newton, wife of Otis L. Newton, Jr., received by profession of faith by D. M. Lewis.

5/5/1955 Eva Richardson McCotter, wife of John A. McCotter, received by certificate of transfer from Greenville, NC. Terminated 6/27/1958 by certificate of transfer to Greenville by D. M. Lewis.

10/4/1955 Joella Sadler Norman received by certificate of transfer from Hobucken Methodist by D. M. Lewis.

9/27/1955 James Archie Newton, husband of Grace Noel, received by certificate of transfer from Barnes Chapel by D. M. Lewis. Terminated by death 10/6/1959.

9/27/1955 Thomas G. Campbell, husband of Gabriel Tripp, received by certificate of transfer. Terminated 8/23/1961 by certificate of transfer to Aurora Christian Church by D. M. Lewis.

9/27/1955 Grace Newton, wife of J. Archie Newton, received by certificate of transfer by D. M. Lewis.

11/10/1955 Jennie Scott Evans, wife of Robert Evans, received by certificate of transfer by D. M. Lewis. Terminated 8/10/1959 by certificate of transfer to Rock of Zion FW Baptist by J. H. Bryant.

12/7/1955 Charles V. Griggs, husband of Gloria Carawan, received by certificate of transfer by D. M. Lewis.

12/7/1955 Gloria Carawan Griggs, wife of Charles V. Griggs, received by profession of faith by D. M. Lewis.

12/8/1955 Ralph Charles Forrest (born 1/9/1926), husband of Joyce Holton Forrest, received by profession of faith by D. M. Lewis. Terminated 7/8/2000 by death; recorded by Mike Roach.

12/9/1955 Garland Attwater Woodard, Jr. (born 11/27/1945) received by profession of faith by D. M. Lewis.

12/12/1955 Edward Earl Forrest (born 8/1/1929), husband of (1) Sue Hardison and (2) Letha Watts Forrest, received by profession of faith by D. M. Lewis. Membership transferred back from Centenary UMC 5/4/1986 by Geroge Smith. Terminated 9/3/2000 by death; recorded by Mike Roach.

12/12/1955 Ethel Day Griggs, wife of Oscar Griggs, received by profession of faith by D. M. Lewis. Terminated 2/5/1967 by death; recorded by Ivy J. Wall, Jr.

2/4/1956 Alton E. Hopkins, husband of Sonja Godwin, received by certificate of transfer from Lowland by D. M. Lewis. Terminated 1961 by certificate of transfer to Goldsboro, NC by L. H. Dodson.

2/14/1956 Garland A. Woodard, husband of Sadie Laughinghouse McCabe, received by certificate of transfer from Pamlico UMC by D. M. Lewis. Terminated 2/1961 by death.

3/30/1956 Salona Jenson McCotter (born 2/4/1934), wife of Louis Patterson McCotter, received by certificate of transfer from Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota by D. M. Lewis.

5/3/1957 Douglas Robert Gregory, husband of Joyce Hopkins, received by certificate of transfer from Pamlico UMC by D. M. Lewis.

4/12/1959 Douglas Robert Gregory, Jr. received by profession of faith by J. H. Bryant.

4/12/1959 Lee Drew Forrest, husband of Sybil Hickman, received by J. H. Bryant. Terminated 2/18/1965 by death.

6/12/1960 Elizabeth Lupton received by profession of faith by J. H. Bryant.

1960 Alma Lee Newton, wife of Jerry Finch, received by profession of faith by J. H. Bryant.

1960 Nancy E. Woodard (born 3/25/1948) received by profession of faith by J. H. Bryant. Membership terminated 5/25/1966 by certificate of transfer to Oriental UMC by I. J. Wall, Jr.

1/21/1960 Sonja Godwin Hopkins, wife of Alton E. Hopkins, received by certificate of transfer from Neuse Forest Presbyterian Church, New Bern. Terminated 1961 by certificate of transfer by L. H. Dodson.

10/15/1960 Hilda Alfred received by certificate of transfer from Bayboro UMC by L. H. Dodson.

3/4/1962 Minnie Fentress, wife of Clyde Fentress, membership restored by L. H. Dodson.

12/14/1962 Clyde Fentress, husband of Minnie Fentress, membership restored by L. H. Dodson.

12/13/1964 Ronnie Pipkin (born 3/28/1953) received by profession of faith by I. J. Wall, Jr. Terminated 3/8/1981 by death.

12/13/1964 Sandra Pipkin McCotter (born 3/19/1954) received by certificate of transfer from Tabernacle Baptist Church, New Bern by I. J. Wall, Jr.

12/13/1964 Thelma Joyce Pipkin McCotter (born 8/14/1935), wife of Robert McCotter, Sr., received by profession of faith by I. J. Wall, Jr.

12/13/1964 Sammie Woodard (born 9/30/1954) received by profession of faith by I. J. Wall, Jr. Terminated 6/17/1966 by certificate of transfer to Oriental UMC.

12/13/1964 Jessie J. Flowers, husband of Viola Jones, received by certificate of transfer from Pamlico UMC.

1/24/1965 Charles Mayo, husband of Mary Bunch, received by certificate of transfer from Vandemere Missionary Baptist Church by I. J. Wall, Jr.

1/24/1965 Mary Bunch Mayo, wife of Charles Mayo, received by certificate of transfer from Vandemere Missionary Baptist Church by I. J. Wall, Jr.

1965 Walter Lindsey Sadler, husband of Beulah Moore Sadler, received by certificate of transfer from Hobucken UMC by I. J. Wall, Jr.

1965 Beulah Moore Sadler, wife of Walter L. Sadler, received by certificate of transfer from Hobucken UMC by I. J. Wall, Jr.

1969 Mary Kennedy Dixon Martin (born 9/8/1919), wife of Robert Martin, received by certificate of transfer from Garber UMC. Terminated 7/19/2003 by death; recorded by Michael Roach.

1976 Johnny Spencer Warren (born 5/27/1964) received by profession of faith by J. C. Staton.

1976 Kimberly Rae McCotter (born 3/2/1961) received by profession of faith by J. C. Staton.

1976 David Alan McCotter (born 12/18/1964) received by profession of faith by J. C. Staton.

5/12/1986 Herbert Cross, husband of Polly Cross, received by certificate of transfer from Ebenezer UMC, Raleigh, by George C. Smith. Terminated by death 11/19/1989.

5/12/1986 Polly Cross, wife of Herbert Cross, received by certificate of transfer from Ebenezer UMC, Raleigh, by George C. Smith. Terminated by death.

5/4/1986 Letha Watts Forrest (born 10/29/1929), wife of Edward Forrest, received by certificate of transfer from Centenary UMC, New Bern, by George C. Smith. Terminated by certificate of transfer.

5/18/1986 Edward Cross (born 5/22/1933), husband of Patsy B. Cross, received by certificate of transfer from Bayboro UMC by Ed Armstrong.

5/18/1986 Patsy Bayliss Cross (born 11/30/1952) wife of Edward Cross, received by profession of faith by Ed Armstrong.

5/16/1986 Homer Wall, husband of Jean Wall, received by certificate of transfer from Yanceyville UMC by George Smith. Membership terminated 2/15/1994 by certificate of transfer to Semora UMC by Michael Roach.

5/16/1986 Jean Wall, wife of Homer Wall, received by certificate of transfer from Yanceyville UMC by George C. Smith. Membership terminated 2/15/1994 by certificate of transfer to Semora UMC by Michael Roach.

6/25/1986 Richard Johnson, husband of Carol Johnson, received by certificate of transfer from Ann Street UMC, Beaufort, by George Smith. Membership terminated 11/1/1987 by certificate of transfer to Bridgeton UMC by George Smith.

6/25/1986 Carol Johnson, wife of Richard Johnson, received by certificate of transfer from Ann Street UMC, Beaufort, by George Smith. Membership terminated 11/1/1987 by certificate of transfer to Bridgeton UMC by George Smith.

4/24/1989 William Don Cross, husband of Pamela Kay Cross, received by profession of faith by Joe C. Parker.

4/23/1989 Pamela Kay Page Cross, wife of Don Cross, received by profession of faith by Joe C. Parker.

5/24/1989 Linda S. Laier received by certificate of transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Babylon, NY, by J. C. Parker. Membership terminated by withdrawal 1/28/2005 by Michael Roach.

5/6/1990 Ellen Garrett Van Hook received by certificate of transfer from Coral Gable Presbyterian Church, Florida, by J. C. Parker. Membership terminated 1/23/2006 by certificate of transfer to Oriental UMC by Michael Roach.

4/28/1991 Deloris Ann Lloyd, wife of Bill Lloyd, received by certificate of transfer from Greenland Heils UMC, Dallas, Texas, by J. R. Lane, Jr.

1/15/1995 Marena Potter, wife of William Potter, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach. Membership terminated 10-5-2009 by certificate of transfer to Reelsboro UMC by Michael Roach.

1/15/1995 William Potter, husband of Marena Potter, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach. Terminated by death 9/17/2005.

3/5/1995 Sherry Howlett, wife of David Howlett, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

7/9/1995 Gerald Morris (born 7/2/1935), husband of Berry Lynch Morris, received by certificate of transfer from Bayboro UMC by Michael Roach.

7/9/1995 Berry Lynch Morris (born 11/25/1935), wife of Gerald Morris, received by certificate of transfer from Reelsboro Christian Church by Michael Roach. Membership terminated 12/30/2001 by death.

9/8/1996 Amy McCotter, wife of Pat McCotter, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

9/8/1996 John Sodoma (born 4/4/1926), husband of Gladys Sodoma, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach. Terminated 6/9/2000 by death.

9/8/1996 Gladys Sodoma (born 11/28/1927), wife of John Sodoma, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

9/8/1996 Virgil Potter (born 10/28/1938), husband of Sandi Potter, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

9/8/1996 Sandi Potter (born 3/22/1951), wife of Virgil Potter, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

3/9/1997 Kitty Carawan Cribb, wife of Richard Cribb, received by certificate of transfer from Bayboro UMC by Michael Roach.
Membership terminated 7/5/2005 by death.

3/9/1997 Richard Cribb, husband of Kitty Cribb, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach. Membership terminated 7/8/2005 by death.

9/8/1996 Edward "Buddy" Rice (born 10/21/1946), husband of Gay Vinci Rice, received by certificate of transfer from Arapahoe UMC by Michael Roach.

9/8/1996 Gay Vinci Rice (born 7/5/1950), wife of Buddy Rice, received by certificate of transfer from Arapahoe UMC by Michael Roach.

9/8/1996 Douglas Alvord, husband of Irma Alvord, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

9/8/1996 Irma Alvord, wife of Doug Alvord, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

9/8/1996 Ken Gillikin, husband of Deloris Lloyd Gillikin, received by certificate of transfer from White Hill Baptist Church by Michael Roach.

4/27/1997 Sharon Harris received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

9/7/1997 Kimberly Sadler received by profession of faith and other denominations transferred from Rock of Zion FWB Church by Michael Roach.

5/7/2000 Ron McCotter (born 11/5/1988) received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

6/2/2000 Leslie Dale Jones received by profession of faith and other denominations transferred from Mt. Zion FWB Church by Michael Roach.

7/23/2000 Mary Ellen Ham, wife of Ponce Ham, transferred from Catholic Church and profession of faith by Michael Roach.

- 7/23/2000 Ponce Ham, husband of Mary Ellen Ham, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.
- 9/24/2000 Jim Hartman, husband of Anne Marie Smith, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.
- 4/29/2001 Frank Knopf, husband of Shirley Knopf, received by certificate of transfer from other denominations Catholic church by Michael Roach. Membership terminated by death 7/13/2003.
- 4/29/2001 Shirley Knopf, wife of Frank Knopf, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.
- 8/12/2001 Anna Lozica received by certificate of transfer from other denominations by Michael Roach.
- 8/12/2001 Luray Jones, wife of George Jones, transferred other denominations by Michael Roach.
- 8/12/2001 George Jones, husband of Luray Jones, transferred other denominations by Michael Roach.
- 9/23/2001 Jimmy Jones, husband of Sherry Styron Jones, transferred other denominations by Michael Roach.
- 9/23/2001 Sherry Styron Jones, wife of Jimmy Jones, transferred other denominations by Michael Roach.
- 9/15/2002 Johnny Swindell (born 5/23/1952), husband of Lisa Swindell, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.
- 9/15/2002 Lisa Swindell (born 9/15/1960), wife of Johnny Swindell, received by certificate of transfer from Reelsboro UMC by Michael Roach.
- 9/15/2002 Melissa Swindell Force (born 2/19/1986) received by certificate of transfer from Reelsboro UMC by Michael Roach.
- 12/29/2002 Richard Flowers, husband of Rosa Flowers, received by certificate of transfer from Stonewall UMC by Michael Roach. Membership terminated by death 1/14/2003.

12/29/2002 Rosa Flowers, wife of Richard Flowers, received by certificate of transfer from Stonewall UMC by Michael Roach. Membership terminated by death 1/14/2003.

3/7/2004 Doris Southerland (born 1/19/1936) received by transfer from other denominations, Catholic church, by Michael Roach.

3/7/2004 Debbie Lupton Roach (born 8/9/1950), wife of Michael Roach, received by certificate of transfer from Reelsboro UMC by Michael Roach.

5/9/2004 Hazel Hunnings Alcock (born 5/1/1945), wife of Frank Alcock, received by certificate of transfer from Hobucken UMC by Michael Roach.

7/25/2004 Marena Potter Hayes received by profession of faith by Michael Roach. Terminated 10-5-2009 by certificate of transfer to Reelsboro United Methodist by Michael Roach.

10/9/2005 Gail Brigman, wife of Tim Brigman, received by certificate of transfer from Bayboro UMC by Michael Roach.

7/23/2006 Stanley Stephenson, husband of Gail Stephenson, received by certificate of transfer from Alliance UMC by Michael Roach.

7/23/2006 Gail Stephenson, wife of Stanley Stephenson, received by certificate of transfer from Alliance UMC by Michael Roach.

8/27/2006 Lendon Barnes, husband of Priscilla Barnes, received by certificate of transfer from Alliance UMC by Michael Roach. Membership terminated by death.

8/27/2006 Priscilla Barnes, wife of Lendon Barnes, received by certificate of transfer from Alliance UMC by Michael Roach.

8/27/2006 Louis Daniels (born 6/18/1950), husband of Zelda Daniels, received by certificate of transfer from Alliance UMC by Michael Roach.

8/27/2006 Zelda Rice Daniels (born 9/2/1954), wife of Louis Daniels, received by certificate of transfer from Alliance UMC by Michael Roach.

12/6/2006 Charles Griggs, Sr. received by profession of faith into membership at home due to medical condition by Michael Roach. Membership terminated by death 1/7/2007.

1/21/2007 Hunter Leary received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

1/21/2007 Lindsey Stilley received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

1/21/2007 Leah Holton received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

1/21/2007 Tim Brigman, husband of Gail Brigman, received by certificate of transfer from Wagley Heights, Fayetteville, NC by Michael Roach.

4/8/2007 Amanda Potter (born 9/10/1924) received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

4/8/2007 Linda Potter (born 3/9/1943), wife of Hal Potter, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

4/8/2007 Hal Potter (born 4/26/1942), husband of Linda Potter, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

10/4/2007 Zachary Russell Jones (born 1995) received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

10/21/2007 George Holt received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

12/16/2007 Mitchell Sadler, Jr., husband of Ann Sadler, received by profession of faith by Michael Roach.

12/16/2007 Ann Sadler, wife of Mitchell Sadler, Jr., received by certificate of transfer from Rock of Zion FWB Church by Michael Roach.

CHAPTER VII

CEMETERIES

CELESTIAL MEMORIAL GARDENS

During the late 1940s, Isaac J. Hudson and Oscar Griggs began working on the grounds of the Barnes Chapel Cemetery which was unkempt after the church building was torn down in the 1930s. Sybil Forrest, Gladys Hopkins Woodard, Pauline Mizelle, Fannie Whealton and other volunteers worked on cleaning up the grounds to make the cemetery presentable and suitable for future burials. Charles Griggs recalls making trips to the cemetery with his father, Oscar Griggs, to mow and maintain the grounds.

In 1957, the trustees from Barnes Chapel deeded the trustees of Vandemere Methodist Church the property on which Barnes Chapel Church once stood. The property is now part of the original cemetery.

The monument at the entrance to the Celestial Memorial Gardens was erected in the 1950s. The primary benefactor of this project was I. J. Hudson. Since a name was not mentioned in the deed, it is believed that the cemetery was named "Celestial Gardens" around the time the cemetery sign was erected.

There is also another stone monument not far from the Celestial Memorial Gardens sign with the Lord's Prayer engraved on it. It is likely the two monuments were put there at the same time.

Doris Swindell is currently employed by the church as grounds keeper. Bobby McCotter took care of cemetery records for many years. After his death in 2009, his widow, Joy, continued to maintain the cemetery records.

Deeds to the cemetery are kept in a locked box at Wachovia Bank.

It has been established that history is never ending. For that reason the dates of birth, death and burial sites are enclosed in the membership list. It is hoped that this book may become a reference record to be added to over the coming years. A true history may be not only of the past but also of the future. Perhaps that is why it is said "Yesterday is history, Tomorrow is a mystery and Today is a gift. That is why it is called the present."

The first person to be buried in Celestial Gardens cemetery was a baby Flowers who was born in 1882 and died in 1885. As of April 10, 2009, there were 261 gravesites there. They are as follows:

NAME	BIRTH DATE	DATE OF DEATH
Gladys Cowell Abbott	10-28-1924	6-15-2008
John C. Abbott	1-17-1910	1-23-1988
Andrew B. Armstrong	9-27-1844	6-23-1915
Benita L. Armstrong	6-14-1960	3-21-1963
Billy H. Armstrong, II	9-12-1980	3-4-1981
Brittie Mary Armstrong	2-14-1895	9-24-1944
Doris Riggs Armstrong	1-6-1920	11-7-1993
Floyd L. Armstrong	11-9-1913	1-7-1979
Holland A. Armstrong	1-5-1884	1-23-1945
Hanna H. Armstrong	2-17-1890	8-1-1991
Hattie P. Armstrong	8-1-1925	4-21-1991
James Armstrong	1-7-1916	4-30-1971
James Lee Armstrong	7-16-1940	11-4-1963
Johnnie Bert Armstrong	7-14-1931	10-28-1998
Kenneth E. Armstrong	4-22-1944	3-8-2008
Luther Armstrong	12-4-1912	7-15-1914
Ralph W. Armstrong	11-9-1943	3-25-2004
Ralph W. Armstrong	7-16-1918	3-24-1986
Senia Armstrong	12-21-1886	6-29-1985
Willis Harry Armstrong	2-9-1949	5-4-1988
Willie Ann Austin	7-1870	3-1943
Josiah Ball (WWI)	2-17-1894	8-25-1945
Andrew Barnes	3-30-1838	1-18-1911
Alberta Barnes	8-13-1898	12-21-1908
Ella Barnes	10-31-1891	6-4-1975
Francis Michael Barnes		3-25-2009

Herbert C. Barnes	9-17-1889	6-3-1957
Herbert LeRoy Barnes (Navy WWII)	7-16-1915	11-23-1988
James W. Barnes	4-7-1912	7-2-1970
Joshua A. Barnes	12-27-1880	10-27-1918
Mamie Muse Barnes	5-24-1878	2-5-1941
Marcille Nobles Barnes	5-1-1930	3-3-2002
Mary Hudson Barnes	4-11-1870	4-22-1939
Mary M. Barnes	7-3-1904	10-26-1916
Pearl Barnes	1-13-1902	10-9-1951
Ralph W. Barnes	11-9-1904	10-8-1908
Stephen Barnes	11-22-1894	6-7-1985
Thelma Barnes	2-13-1921	2-4-1923
William H. Barnes	4-29-1856	5-20-1922
William J. Barnes	1-4-1876	4-10-1905
Elizabeth Berry	3-9-1925	12-11-1997
Melinda Berry	8-6-1985	8-6-1985
Nathan Berry	6-30-1917	2-9-2002
Samuel Browning (Army WWI)	8-15-1895	1-9-1969
William H. Carawan	7-16-1906	5-22-1988
Frank Chase (U.S. Navy)	6-14-1944	1-7-1996
Annie Cooper	6-10-1861	4-23-1918
Barbara Armstrong Cousins		4-21-2010
Julius G. Daniels	1-14-1904	10-20-1967
Ruth W. Daniels	5-24-1905	9-4-2000
Pearl Edwards	10-15-1885	3-19-1961
Sadie Edwards	12-21-1917	4-7-1986
Navada N. English	6-18-1882	11-6-1974
Robert C. Evans	6-1-1867	10-18-1955
Sarah J. Evans	3-14-1860	1-26-1939
Annie Flowers	4-2-1893	6-22-1929
Hubert Flowers	3-17-1882	8-23-1882
Naoma Flowers	12-15-1900	12-31-1900
Sophia Cabell Flowers	4-2-1903	9-20-1908
Edward Forrest (U.S. Marines)	8-1-1929	9- -2000
Joyce Holton Forrest	9-15-1932	2- -2000
LeeDrew Forrest	1902	1965
Ralph Forrest	1-9-1927	7- -2000

Sybil Forrest	1903	2003
Carl James Gibbs (Army WWII)	7-21-1905	1-1-1967
Daisy May Gibbs	1-11-1898	3-12-1899
Grady D. Gibbs (WWI)	11-26-1896	10-17-1918
Hillard Gibbs	2-8-1855	8-3-1936
Lillie May Gibbs	1912	3-8-1941
Sue Gibbs	5-11-1872	8-13-1944
Hiram Graham	1-28-1901	11-11-1905
Douglas Gregory	1926	2004
Joyce H. Gregory	1930	2005
John E. Griffin (U.S. Navy)	8-29-1881	10-24-1959
Blanch V. Griggs	8-12-1930	9-4-2005
Charles W. Griggs (U.S. Army)	7-4-1929	1-7-2007
Charles Griggs	9-3-1849	9-6-1927
Mary Ann Griggs	1-14-1856	1-18-1927
Charlie Oscar Griggs	6-19-1890	6-22-1975
Ethel Mae Griggs	5-9-1895	5-24-1970
Ida Griggs	7-13-1886	2-7-1910
Annie B. Harris	4-30-1922	10-22-1990
Billy Harris, Sr. (U.S. Navy)	1-1-1941	3-3-2000
Connie W. Harris	1-30-1897	4-4-1984
Willy G. Harris	3-19-1902	4-10-1968
Ernest L. Hickman (Army WWII)	1913	1976
Margaret G. Hickman	11-19-1881	7-12-1956
Severn R. Hickman	7-11-1864	5-14-1956
Severn R. Hickman, Jr.	8-24-1908	8-13-1924
Baby Holton	5/18/1936	5-18-1936
Earl Heath Holton	2-16-1912	5-8-1978
Nellie Holton	2-18-1928	10-23-1996
Ovelma Spruill Holton	1-14-1913	2-5-1999
Abbott Hopkins (U.S. Navy)	7-17-1891	2-4-1962
Frank E. Hopkins	12-29-1900	1-23-1965
Gladys H. Hopkins	9-24-1906	10-23-1993
Julia Hopkins	11-17-1857	9-9-1933
Isaac J. Hudson	1903	2-14-1978
Ruth Hudson	1911	1991
Alona Nicole Johnson (infant)	12-2-2000	12/2/2000
Cate C. Jones	2-1898	8-1954

Clarsey A. Jones	9-18-1856	2-10-1933
Eliza Jones	8-18-1845	1930
Fannie H. Jones	2-11-1885	12-18-1960
George Jones	11-1851	12-1923
Hazel Jones	9-1906	9-1926
Horace Jones	12-87-1886	5-7-1928
Infant Jones	1908	1908
James N. Jones	1-5-1896	8-15-1900
Lessell Jones	1876	1958
Nettie Jones	2-23-1891	1-6-1899
Paul C. Jones	11-22-1857	5-18-1920
Ralph Jones	10-28-1900	11-23-1969
Sallie E. Jones	4-23-1893	10-22-1898
Samuel H. Jones	4-30-1848	6-2-1916
Sarah J. & Sarah Jones (same marker)	1-26-1939	
	3-14-1960	
Frank E. Leary	3-25-1935	2-9-1997
Michael Leary	11-25-1957	8-23-1979
Lula Muse Lincoln	1880	1968
Walter B. Lincoln	1878	1961
Annie Lupton	3-19-1903	12-9-1997
George Lupton	1-13-1908	9-3-1986
Guy Everett Lupton	8-19-1903	12-17-1973
Juanita Lupton	11-10-1921	1-15-1990
M. Braxton Lupton	7-14-1911	11-23-1979
Ruth Peed Lupton	4-14-1909	2-21-1992
Charles J. McCotter	5-13-1897	6-18-1940
Charles J. McCotter, Jr.	5-11-1923	10-13-1999
Fannie Virginia McCotter	1-6-1896	5-21-1896
Frances McCotter	1-25-1922	8-27-1999
Glennie McCotter	10-30-1899	5-22-1979
Hannah J. McCotter	9-17-1860	10-24-1914
Hannah Olivia McCotter	4-19-1915	4-18-1916
Ida McCotter	3-1-1906	12-9-1982
Infant son of J.B. & N.B. McCotter		2-27-1902
John A. McCotter	3-5-1867	5-27-1956
Julia B. McCotter	4-15-1889	9-2-1889
Louis Grady McCotter	9-21-1890	5-21-1962
Robert Francis McCotter	1-8-1927	1-29-2009
Samuel "Sam" T. McCotter	2-3-1899	2-17-1982

Samuel F. McCotter	4-27-1860	12-14-1935
Susan McCotter	7-24-1893	9-2-1901
Thelma Russ McCotter	7-2-1929	2-24-1961
Charles Mayo	12-9-1922	12-22-1976
Dessie Mayo	4-17-1901	6-12-1974
Ernest H. Mayo (Navy WWII)	1-8-1928	3-11-1964
Grady Mayo	11-10-1926	11-29-1976
James Wesley Mayo	8-4-1906	12-6-1969
Janice Mayo	1-13-1936	4-14-1999
Mary Mayo (Army WWII)	10-4-1921	3-18-2001
Joshua H. Miller	6-13-1989	5-11-199 ?
Alice Gallop McCotter Moore	5-18-1901	11-11-1982
Andrew R. Morris	12-27-1905	11-14-1981
Berry Jean Lynch Morris	11-25-1935	12-30-2001
Ivy Morris	8-22-1905	10-15-1982
Joseph Morris	2-27-1900	2-6-1980
DeWitt Muse	1-21-1872	11-27-1883
Elizabeth Muse	1-5-1852	3-29-1911
Mary P. Muse	8-8-1830	5-22-1908
Seth H. Muse	3-11-1858	1-13-1916
Seth Harland Muse	11-11-1912	2-27-1976
Seth Muse	2-26-1821	1-21-1888
Stephen Henry Muse	1874	1929
William Muse	12-12-1850	7-8-1916
Annie T. Newton	8-18-1913	11-21-1975
Archie Vernon Newton (Navy WWII)	7-29-1921	3-20-1945
Dora Maready Newton	5-12-1904	8-30-1966
James A. Newton	1-18-1883	10-6-1959
Joseph E. Newton	1969	1999
Lola T. Newton	9-14-1951	4-14-1981
Mary Fodrey Newton	8-2-1909	10-24-1998
Odos L. Newton	1-2-1912	3-10-1981
Richard F. Newton, Jr.	1966	1972
Robert B. Newton	1-23-1910	12-4-1981
Sarah L. Newton	5-20-1883	1-29-1945
Walter Emmett Newton	9-7-1907	No Date
Nurcie Dalia Paul	10-7-1900	9-12-1901
Grace McCotter Peele	1-28-1902	4-25-1989

John Peele	11-5-1889	12-27-1974
Charles Wm. Pegram	10-2-1945	8-22-1975
Kara R. Pegram	2-14-1987	
Myrtle J. Pegram	3-31-1921	12-8-1990
Paul Pegram	8-1-1952	5-16-2008
William A. Pegram	1-28-1920	7-16-1989
Alice J. Potter	11-23-1886	(Illegible)
Baker Potter (Army)	1-2-1886	7-25-1951
Benjamin Potter	10-23-1853	2-23-1925
Callie D. Potter	3-9-1879	2-9-1915
Isla Page Potter	5-31-1894	5-28-1982
John W. Potter	2-25-1883	9-2-1966
John W. Potter (Coast Guard)	10-20-1915	10-20-1995
Josephine R. Watson Potter	8-12-1858	6-16-1935
Landon D. Potter	7-26-2004	11-2-2004
Nathaniel Potter	1-29-1832	1-17-1895
Pearl S. Potter	2-6-1888	9-2-1966
Virgil Potter	3-1-1909	10-6-1916
William O. Potter	8-30-1931	9-17-2005
William O. Potter (Army WWI)	7-3-1889	10-6-1970
Joseph A. Price	1929	2007
Eugene Royster Richardson	4-17-1903	5-30-1955
Evelyn Robinson	5-18-1915	8 (no year)
Fay Morse Robinson		2-16-1920
Augusta Rolison	2-16-1857	2-13-1942
Emma H. Rolison	1-14-1889	1-2-1973
Emma Jane Rolison	2-4-1894	3-30-1976
Ephraim Rolison	6-14-1891	12-7-1921
Jesse Rolison	1-7-1882	5-28-1957
John G. Rolison	2-26-1856	3-25-1950
Julia Rolison		Age 5 (no dates)
Rita M. Harris(wife of Rufus Rolison)	1-30-1893	12-19-1967
Rufus Rolison	1-31-1885	7-21-1919
Benny R. Rose	5-5-1937	11-28-1992
Christopher Lee Rose	9-20-1958	2-18-2008
Henry L. Rowe	1925	2005
Kermit Ives Sadler (Navy Korea)	1-19-1930	6-22-1971
David Jones Salter	10-6-1864	2-8-1931
Fred E. Salter	10-12-1901	7-1-1903

Matthew Osborn Salter	5-13-1906	1-14-1982
Rigdon Salter (U.S. Air Force)	10-7-1908	11-7-1984
Rosie Evans Salter	4-22-1921	3-2-2005
Sarah Clark Salter	6-6-1882	6-7-1955
Zella D. Salter	8-7-1922	8-22-1923
Joshua Glenn Savage	1-27-1931	3-30-1989
Timothy J. Savage	6-9-1959	6-20-1975
Ada R. Sawyer	5-11-1923	2-18-1988
Robert Lee Sawyer, Sr.	1-12-1922	10-5-1970
Nancy Slade	9-25-1832	1-29-1903
Paul Smith (Army WWII)	1-11-1922	8-25-2006
Herman Frank Spain (Army)	3-7-1941	2-3-2001
James Surles	10-24-1856	8-4-1904
Albert T. Sutton	6-7-1908	9-9-1988
Annie S. Sutton	9-30-1901	2-26-1984
Goldie W. Tuton	4-20-1904	6-24-1950
Irene S. Tuton	4-10-1882	2-4-1935
Lee Roy Tuton (Navy)	11-1-1926	2-18-1979
Sam A. Tuton	11-27-1904	11-17-1965
William A. Tuton	10-17-1877	7-28-1931
Jasper Voliva (Navy WWII)	1-16-1916	6-6-1959
John Wesley Voliva	1-18-1950	4-9-2006
Kathleen Voliva	12-23-1916	5-19-1996
Katie Voliva	7-6-1898	10-16-1989
Mary P. Voliva	5-12-1927	1-1-1998
Mitchell Elsworth Voliva	12-25-1923	1-9-1964
Richard W. Voliva	4-7-1921	10-13-1983
Odell Walker	4-10-1918	8-9-1988
Florence Walmsley	1902	1986
Richard Walmsley (Army)	6-24-1904	1-12-1975
Avis R. Whealton	1-17-1913	12-13-1979
Demos T. Whealton (Navy WWII)	1924	1978
Fannie Whealton	6-1-1912	1-23-1984
Gerald D. Whealton (Navy)	4-17-1939	9-2-2002
Ira O. Whealton (Navy WWII)	11-13-1907	9-2-1988
Christina Willis		Age 89
Nina Willis	1907	1910
Garland Woodard (Navy)	9-30-1909	2-11-1961
Robert Leslie Woodard	6-5-1904	12-7-1965

Several illegible stones.

McCotter- Fentress/Hickman-Riggs Cemetery

by Annette Jones

*“Reflect O Youth while passing by
As you are now, so once was I
As I am now, so you must be
Prepare for death and follow me”*

(From the headstone of Mary H. Beasley Riggs)

The Fentress/McCotter Cemetery, also known as the Hickman/Riggs Cemetery, is located near the Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist Church in Cash Corner. Mrs. Kine McCotter Robbins and many other benefactors of Vandemere Methodist and Mt. Zion Baptist are laid to rest there.

At the onset of research, during the readings of old deeds, the historical committee learned that the McCotters were among the early benefactors and founders of the Methodist and Baptist churches in the area. After finding documentation that the McCotters gave land to construct the church houses, the next question was, of course, where are they buried? It was soon realized that John Richard McCotter and wife, Sarah Jones, and many others who had settled the Maribel-Cash Corner-Vandemere communities were laid to rest in the old McCotter-Fentress Cemetery. *Pamlico County, North Carolina Cemeteries*, compiled in 1983 by Dixie Willis with the assistance of Mildred Buck, was a valuable source. The Cemetery Book listed the names of all the marked graves. Also listed are the names of others known to be buried there. These names were obtained from the records and personal knowledge of local genealogist Lois Mayo Fentress Jones (1928 – 1999). Hezekiah McCotter and wife, Dorcas Riggs McCotter, the parents of the large family including John R. McCotter, are among those with no markers.

The realization that those (progenitors of many) who had settled this land and worked so hard to establish houses of worship were now laid to rest in an unkempt, almost forgotten cemetery was most unacceptable. Annette Jones had known about the cemetery for years but did not connect it with local church history. She was aware that Lois considered

it a “family cemetery.” She remembered that Billy Fentress, Lois’ son, spent days working there in the early 1980s when he was a college student. So far as anyone knew, that was all that had been done for a long, long period of time. The matter was brought to the attention of the Administrative Board of Vandemere United Methodist Church. The group was eager to clean up the cemetery and see that it was maintained in future years.

McCotter-Fentress Cemetery is located on the banks of Smith Creek, probably 400 yards or so from Highway 304 between Maribel and Cash Corner. It sits in a wooded area behind a field on Lynches Beach Road and is divided into two parts by the original Bay River Road. Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist Church is nearby. The easiest way to get to the cemetery is to go through the yard of an old farmhouse now owned by Bobby McCotter then cross the field into the woods. Rev. Michael Roach and Bennie and Annette Jones visited the old cemetery in January of 2005. Bennie had been there a few days earlier and cut down the briars and small trees, providing a pathway to the cemetery. Still, there was a wide ditch to cross.

As the small group entered the old graveyard, there was a definite feeling of awe and peacefulness. Although the area was grown up and unkempt, they were standing on hallowed ground. Looking beyond the briars and underbrush, the weathered old headstones stood out as each claimed its spot for eternity in this final resting place. Ballast stones almost hidden in the soft earth were covered by soil, moss and straw. Broken headstones were soon spotted, but one of the most heartbreaking discoveries was above-the-ground vaults with collapsed sides, exposing the inside of the caskets. Large trees, blown down during hard winds and hurricanes, were scattered throughout the graveyard. In addition to larger trees, smaller ones were springing up. Even though underbrush was thick in some areas, there were spaces where the pine straw carpeted the ground and prevented growth. What an awesome experience!

Within days, Mike went to work on the construction of a very large, sturdy bridge to span the ditch. There was talk of hiring someone to clean up the cemetery, but somehow that didn’t work out. Bennie and Mike went back a time or two and did some work, but saw they needed help. Then, before we knew it, it was spring and the snakes and redbugs were claiming their territory.

The following year our church was ready to get back to work in the cemetery. Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist Church was called and asked if they could join Vandemere UMC in the cleanup project. In February of 2006, a group gathered ready for work. Michael Roach, Bennie Jones, Mitchell Sadler, Jerry Morris, Buddy Rice, Johnny Swindell and Dale Jones were joined by James Newton and another member of the Baptist church. They did a great job cleaning up the underbrush and cutting down small trees, etc. They did a fine job of cleaning up "half" of the cemetery. It was later discovered that there was another section on a nearby knoll! Members of the Baptist Church cleaned up that section a couple of weeks later. McCotter Farms donated weed killer and the ground was sprayed.

Although it appeared that the little cemetery by the creek had long been forgotten by many, it was brought to light that it had not been forgotten by McCotter descendant, Charles K. McCotter, a grandson of John Richard and Susan Jones McCotter. In 1994 and 2002, Charles "C. K." deeded land to Mt. Zion Baptist Church; and, at some point during these transactions, he asked that the Baptist Church be responsible for the upkeep of the McCotter-Fentress Cemetery and the church had agreed. Among property donated was a 15 foot wide strip of land along the edge of his property which provides a way to the cemetery. Somehow, as things often happen, the matter was put off and apparently almost forgotten. However, the call from Vandemere Methodist jogged a few memories! So far as we know, Mt. Zion FWB Church is planning to maintain the cemetery from now on. A member of the church told Bennie Jones that they are planning to resume cleanup there soon. That was back in 2007. It was reported by a visitor to the cemetery in the winter of 2009 that the cemetery was in fair shape.

Although dates to determine the establishment of the McCotter-Fentress Cemetery are not available, we can assume that it was prior to 1858, the death date on the oldest headstone. Rows of sunken-in graves, some with ballast stones, tell us that the graves have been there many, many years. Some historians believe this is one of the very oldest cemeteries in Pamlico County. Headstone dates do tell us that McCotter-Fentress remained in use even after Celestial Memorial Gardens Cemetery was established. William S. Riggs, who dies in 1916, and his wife, Sarah C. Riggs, who died in 1923, appear to be the last ones buried there.

The cemetery is now known by two different names, but it seems logical that it was originally called the McCotter-Fentress Cemetery. This theory can be supported by the fact that the land was owned by the McCotter family. Secondly, Emma McCotter married John Fentress, son of Moses Fentress, a trustee at Barnes Chapel. Four of their young children are buried there. Also, the earliest graves without markers were probably those of Hezikiah and Dorcas McCotter. Hence, the McCotter-Fentress Cemetery.

In later years, when members of the Hickman and Riggs family were buried there, some began to refer to the cemetery as the Hickman-Riggs Cemetery. And, let us remember, there were intermarriages and family connections in all of these lineages. It really doesn't matter about the name. The important point is that this is where our ancestors are laid to rest and that we honor and respect these hallowed grounds.

Whenever you pass by the field
Where you have laid your ancestors
Look well thereupon,
And you shall see yourselves
And your children
Dancing hand in hand.

from *The Prophet*
by Kahlil Gibran

During a 2008 interview with Charles Kennedy "Ken" McCotter concerning the McCotter-Fentress Cemetery, we spoke of the need for additional clean-up and future maintenance. Ken has contacted James Woods, N. C. Department of Archives and History, Greenville Branch. Mr. Woods has agreed to draw up a "Restoration and Preservation Plan" for the old cemetery.

With viable plans for a course of action in hand, Ken intends to establish a fund to finance the restoration and preservation process. He plans to call on our church and Mt. Zion FWB Church for support and financial help. He also plans to contact descendants of those buried in the cemetery and other interested parties.

Ken McCotter is a member of Christ Episcopal Church in New Bern, President of the New Bern Historical Society and a descendant of John

Richard and Sarah Jones McCotter. He shared an interesting story about his father, Mr. C. K. McCotter, who married Lucy Dunn from New Bern. The couple lived in New Bern and eventually Mr. McCotter became a member of his wife's church. However, he could not bear to "ask for his name from Mt. Zion FW Baptist Church. He wanted to keep ties with the little church which his family helped build. So, instead of a transfer of membership, Mr. C. K.'s name remained on two church rolls, Mt. Zion Baptist and Christ Episcopal.

Those buried at the McCotter – Fentress/Hickman Riggs Cemetery are:

John R. McCotter b. Oct 4, 1825 – d. Nov 19, 1910

Sarah Ann Jones, wife of J. R. McCotter
b. Mar 10, 1835 – d. Sep 22, 1909

(Note: It is believed that John R. McCotter's first two wives, Susan Jones McCotter and Maples Jones McCotter, are buried here in unmarked graves. Info by Lois M. Jones)

4 baby graves side by side thought to be the children of John and Emma McCotter Fentress

Charles R. Riggs b. Aug 14, 1890 – d. Oct 19, 1891

Handy P. Hickman (dates questionable) b. Mar 1822 – d. Mar 1902

Martha Hickman, wife of H. P. Hickman b. Aug 28, 1855 – d. 1882

Husband and wife in an above ground vault

Jesse Riggs b. 1829 – d. 1914

Patsy Riggs, daughter of Smith Jones b. Jun 17, 1829 – d. 1885

Joshua B. Flowers b. 1825 – d. 1871

Drucilla Ann Riggs (Barnes), wife of Joshua B. Flowers -- No dates

William H. Riggs, son of W. S. and Sarah

b. Dec 14, 1879 – d. Sept 2, 1885

Sophia Flowers Alexander, wife of Morris Alexander

b. Mar 1, 1851 – d. July 1878

(Note: These dates may be those of Morris Alexander)

The following are people known to be buried there; but, as of this date, no markers have been found. (Info by Lois Jones)

Hezekiah McCotter and wife, Dorcas Riggs McCotter, parents of John R. McCotter

Salina Jane Riggs Mayo, wife of Eli Mayo
B April 9, 1825 – d. July 30, 1892

Moses Fentress, born in Princess Ann county, Virginia d. 1904
Sarah Cason Fentress, wife of Moses Fentress
b. Oct 18, 1834 – d. circa 1884
also born in Princess Ann county, Virginia

Laura Fentress Hooker b. Norfolk Co. VA 1865 – d. 1914

There are two above ground vaults with no markings. Beside them is a flat cemented grave with faint initials WH scratched in. These are believed to be Moses and Sarah Fentress, also their son, William.

Mollie Hickman b. May 18, 1874 – d. Oct 24, 1894

James Hickman, son of Handy and Martha
b. Sept 28, 1855 – d. Oct 20, 1882

Riggs (Headstone broken) b. Feb 20, 1830 – d. 1905

Barney Rose b. Feb 20, 1830 – d. 1911

Elizabeth Rose b. Jul 6, 1847 – d. 1928
Mary H. Beasley Riggs b. May 23, 1788 – d. Feb 21, 1858
Aged 69 yrs., 10 months 28 days

Caroline McCotter, wife of Andrews J. Robbins
b. Oct 13, 1856 – d. Mar 28, 1943

Andrew J. Robbins b. Jun 2, 1833 – d. Oct 8, 1904
Children of Andrew and Carolina R.
Sudie V. Robbins b. Jan 7, 1880 – d. Jan 22, 1885

Sudie E. Robbins b. Jan 22, 1885 – d. Nov 9, 1889
(Note that one child died the same day the other one was born)

William S. Riggs b. Sep 26, 1852 – d. Nov 7, 1916

Sarah C. Riggs, wife of William b. May 12, 1854 – d. Nov 13, 1923

Hudnell Place Cemetery

Located on Bay River at the end of State Road 1218, it is grown over and abandoned. Stones still legible include:

In memory of Fred T. Miller b. Nov 5, 1888 – d. Sep 6, 1898

Julia B., wife of Leroy Harper b. Feb 17, 1841 – Apr 10, 1917

Confederate States of America (marker – no names) 1861 – 1865
These are dates of service.

In memory of Freemon M., son of Eliakin and Mary Patrick
b. Mar 22, 1813 – d. Oct 13, 1823

Footstone with initials MASP, no headstone

Bricked over grave, no marker.

Jones Cemetery – Big Vandemere Creek

Woodsman extraordinaire Billy Seawell, III, re-discovered unattended gravesites of Samuel and Johanna Jones, the great grandparents of O'Conner Jones. This 55-acre tract, part dense forest, part marsh, lies south of Mesic on Highway 304 along the enchanting Vandemere Creek. Originally, it is thought to be the home site to of a 16,000-acre plantation owned by Samuel and Johanna. Eddie Tate is exploring the possibility of purchasing this historic land.

Samuel Jones d. 8 Sept 1856 age 54 years

Johanna Jones d. 9 June 1841 age 38 years

Sunken areas show evidence of other graves, but there are no markers.

McCotter Cemetery

The McCotter Cemetery is located off Highway 304 near Cash Corner. It is well kept.

Dewitt C. McCotter b. 9 Feb 1874 – d. 10 Dec 1959

Leona Muse McCotter b. 9 Sept 1879 – d. 24 Oct 1971

John C. Muse b. 28 Apr 1850 – d. 24 Mar 1936

Susan McCotter Muse b. 27 Apr 1832 – d. 25 Dec 1880

Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery

Violene McCotter b. 14 Sept 1858 – d. 23 Dec 1930

U. G. Holton b. 25 Jul 1921 – d. 8 Apr 1929

Harold T. Newton b. 29 Jul 1921 – d. 27 Nov 1946

William Newton b. 13 May 1879 – d. 29 Dec 1949

Burial Sites of Other Members and Friends

Robert Martin	Plymouth, NC
Minnie Fentress	Greenleaf, New Bern, NC
Clyde Fentress	Greenleaf, New Bern, NC
Ronnie Pipkin	Greenleaf, New Bern
Jessie Flowers	
Walter Lindsey Sadler	Bay Creek Christian Church Cemetery

Beulah Moore Sadler		Lowland Community Cemetery
Dick Dixon	9/1979	Kenley, NC
Sadie Lupton	3/28/1998	Washington, NC
John Sodoma	6/09/2000	Elba, NY
Rosa Flowers	1/14/2003	Greenleaf, New Bern
Richard Flowers	1/14/2003	Greenleaf, New Bern
Frank Knopf	7/13/2003	Robbinsville, NY
Mary Martin	7/19/2003	Goldsboro, NC
Jeanie Dixon Roach	10/6/2003	Sandhill Cemetery
John McCotter		
Delia Armstrong		
Violene McCotter		Baptist Cemetery
Ulysses Holton		Baptist Cemetery
Radford McCotter and Son, William		Sandhill Cemetery Sandhill Cemetery
Birma Alcock	12/4/2004	Barnett Cemetery
Polly Cross	1/04/2005	Greenleaf, New Bern
Kitty Carawan Cribb	7/05/2005	Ashes—Dawson Creek
Richard Cribb	7/08/2005	Ashes—Dawson Creek
Hal Preston Potter, Jr.	1/19/2007	Greenleaf, New Bern
Jean McCotter Dixon Ruth	1/21/2007	Arlington National
Alice M. Crosby Harrison	2/16/2007	Ashes—Atlantic Beach
Willis Gallop McCotter	9/23/2007	Morehead City
Rufus Edwin Brinson, Jr.	6/09/2008	Sandhill Cemetery
Vera Barnes Jones	2/22/2009	Sandhill Cemetery
Lendon Earl Barnes	5/28/2009	Mt. View Cemetery, Shrewsbury, Mass.

EPILOGUE

The Vandemere United Methodist Church has a rich history as witnessed by the main text of this book, but there is another side to this wonderful story. Throughout history man has faced many diverse situations that at times have seemed impossible to overcome. We are reminded of the wonderful stories surrounding the lighthouses that have brought many endangered souls through the storms to the safety of a friendly harbor.

There are unnumbered accounts of loved ones and friends hearing voices in distress and contacting authorities to help rescue a missing child or a dear friend. For these things there are no simple answers; but, lest we forget our loving Savior Jesus Christ, let's be reminded of that stormy night and the terrified disciples who were calmed by the wave of a mighty hand across the angry seas. How can we forget the Shepherd who left his entire herd to rescue the single lost lamb? Acts like these demonstrate to the world that loving kindness is the true mark of a person and his self worth.

Vandemere United Methodist Church has been the lighthouse many lost travelers have been drawn to by a light much brighter than any candle or electric bulb. This church has a calming effect over the stormy seas of life with the help of that same Savior's gesture of faith. There have been many lost sheep that have been rescued by a caring shepherd so powerful that none need to continue on a dismal path.

I believe that most of our members today "found" Vandemere UMC while seeking a deeper truth to life and a safe harbor. I see the loving kindness in this church and believe that our legacy will continue to grow in the future as we continue to grow in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Buddy Rice, June 14, 2005



The door is open for you at
Vandemere United Methodist Church.
WELCOME!

Photos from the 1990s



Christmas 1991
Rev. Mike Roach & Rev Joe Parker



Christmas 1993
Patsy Cross
&
Letha Forrest



Christmas 1993
(L to R) Polly Cross, Sharon Harris, Sally
McCotter, Letha Forrest, Marena Potter &
Sandy McCotter



Christmas 1993
Dee Gillikin &
Joyce Forrest



Palm Sunday 1994
Sally McCotter & granddaughter,
Jennifer McCotter



Easter Breakfast 1994
Mike Roach & Jerry Morris
Tyler, Kay & Zachary Cross



July 1994
Flower lady Amy Carlton was
honored before moving to
Minnesott



1994 Christmas Candlelight
Ceremony



1995 Christmas Choir

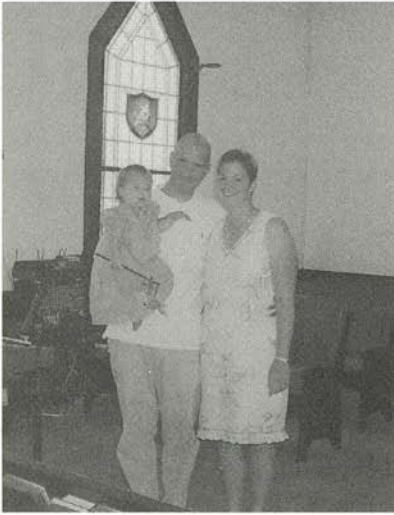


Easter bunny Wendy Potter visits in 1995



May 21, 1995—VUMC congregation on the morning following Vandemere's Centennial. Front L to R: Joy McCotter, Sadie Lupton, Nancy Lupton, Vickie Sevenski. Row 2: Dee Gillikin, Polly Cross, Letha Forrest, Amy Carlton, Berry Jean Morris, Amy McCotter, Joyce Forrest. Back: Ken Gilliken, Marena Potter, Mary Martin, Mike Roach, Bill Potter, Ralph Forrest & Jerry Morris.

Photos from the 2000s



Eric, Mary Margaret & Cecelia
Marshall in 2005



Jonah Marshall



Operation Christmas Child



The adults converge on the “hunting grounds” at the 2008 Easter egg hunt as the children watch.



In 2009, the little folks are ready to fill their Easter baskets.



Adults were off and running to retrieve their Easter eggs in 2009!



2010 Easter sunrise service draws largest crowd ever



Easter Sunday 2009



Memorial Day 2010—John Krauss (center)
plays Taps after 21-gun salute



Rev. Stan Brown's
first Sunday as
pastor of VUMC
June 27, 2010



Stanley Stephenson leads children's
church each Sunday



Retirement celebration for
Pastor Mike Roach
Oriental, June 20, 2010

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