

CHURCH HISTORY

In the spring of 1875 a Sunday School was organized in a schoolhouse by Henry Throckmorton. In August of that same year a bush arbor was built with split logs for seats by the families of Nathaniel, Presley T., Eaton, Robert D. and Andrew J. Wilson, Thomas Morris, Thomas Pulley and Durell B. Gholson. Gholson, who was originally from Virginia helped them obtain Rev. John Weaver as their preacher.

In the spring of 1876 a chapel was built by the same families above and were joined by others. The log framing was given by Nathaniel Wilson, cut and hewn by hand by Presley Wilson, John Harper and Jesse Jenkins.

Boards and other needed materials were given by many others. The glass windows were given by Sterling Johnston. John Harper was head carpenter and John Northington was head painter.

The first chapel was named Weavers in honor of its first pastor, Rev. John T. Weaver and his wife, Elizabeth (Delbridge) Weaver of Brunswick County, Va.

In 1950 the 75-year-old, one-room frame chapel was replaced at the same crossroads site by a brick building with a larger chapel and adjoining Sunday School rooms. In 1977 an additional Sunday School room, kitchen and two bathrooms were added.

In 1984, the 34-year-old interior of the building was completely renovated.

OUR CHURCH RECORD

September 29, 1898.

Weaver Chapel.

In 1885 I moved to a neighborhood about five miles north of Littleton, finding it in a very bad condition morally. The men and boys were spending the Sabbath playing base-ball, cards, chicken fighting and in many evil ways. This I determined to break up if possible. I could think of no better way than to start a Sunday school; accordingly, I began to talk about the school which the people opposed, saying that there was no house to meet in, etc. Now there was an old dilapidated school house near by, so I made an appointment to meet there on second Sunday in May, which we did, organizing a good Sunday school. The people changed their course, and came to the school, then to the prayer meetings which followed as a consequence.

Brother John Harper came and preached for us sometimes.

Soon I saw an opening for a good revival, and applied to the pastor of the M. P. church to come and hold a meeting for us. He declined. I then applied to the pastor of the M. E. church. He declined also. I then wrote to Brother Weaver to come and hold the meeting for us; he sent me word to make an appointment for him for the second Sabbath in Sept. Brother Weaver came in the spirit, preached eight days and we had fifty converts.

I then belonged to the M. E. church. I said we must form a class, which we did, with fifty members. They chose me for their class leader. I told them we must have a church, and took the vote on what denomination we should build a church for. The M. P. Church received the majority.

We went to work, Brothers Harper, Gholston, J. M. Pulley, Nathaniel Wilson, Prastly Wilson and I, and had the church up directly, plastered, painted and paid for, so we now have a nice church where we can meet and worship God, none daring to molest or make us afraid.

So much for the Sunday school.

This is the way that Weaver Chapel came up out in a community where only vice and ruin reigned. There is a very marked change in the people for the better, mentally, morally and socially.

H. THROCKMORTON.

Our Thanks to Dr. Ralph Hardee Rives of East Carolina University, and of the historic Whitaker's Chapel M.P. (Methodist Protestant) Church, who furnished this from the publication "Our Church Record," (later, The Methodist Protestant Herald) periodical of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the former Methodist Protestant Church. Dr. Rives is here with us today.

100 years later, WEAVER'S CHAPEL continues -- It was rebuilt in the early 1950's and renovated in 1984 -- " . . . where we can meet and worship God . . . " -- we trust it will continue for this purpose forever.