

# The HISTORY of



1907

1997



Zebulon United Methodist Church

Grady L. E. Carroll, Sr.  
21711 Gordon Street  
Raleigh N. C.  
Lebanon Methodist Church N. C.

## History

1907 - 1997

December 20, 1997

by  
\$ 10.00 + 3.00.

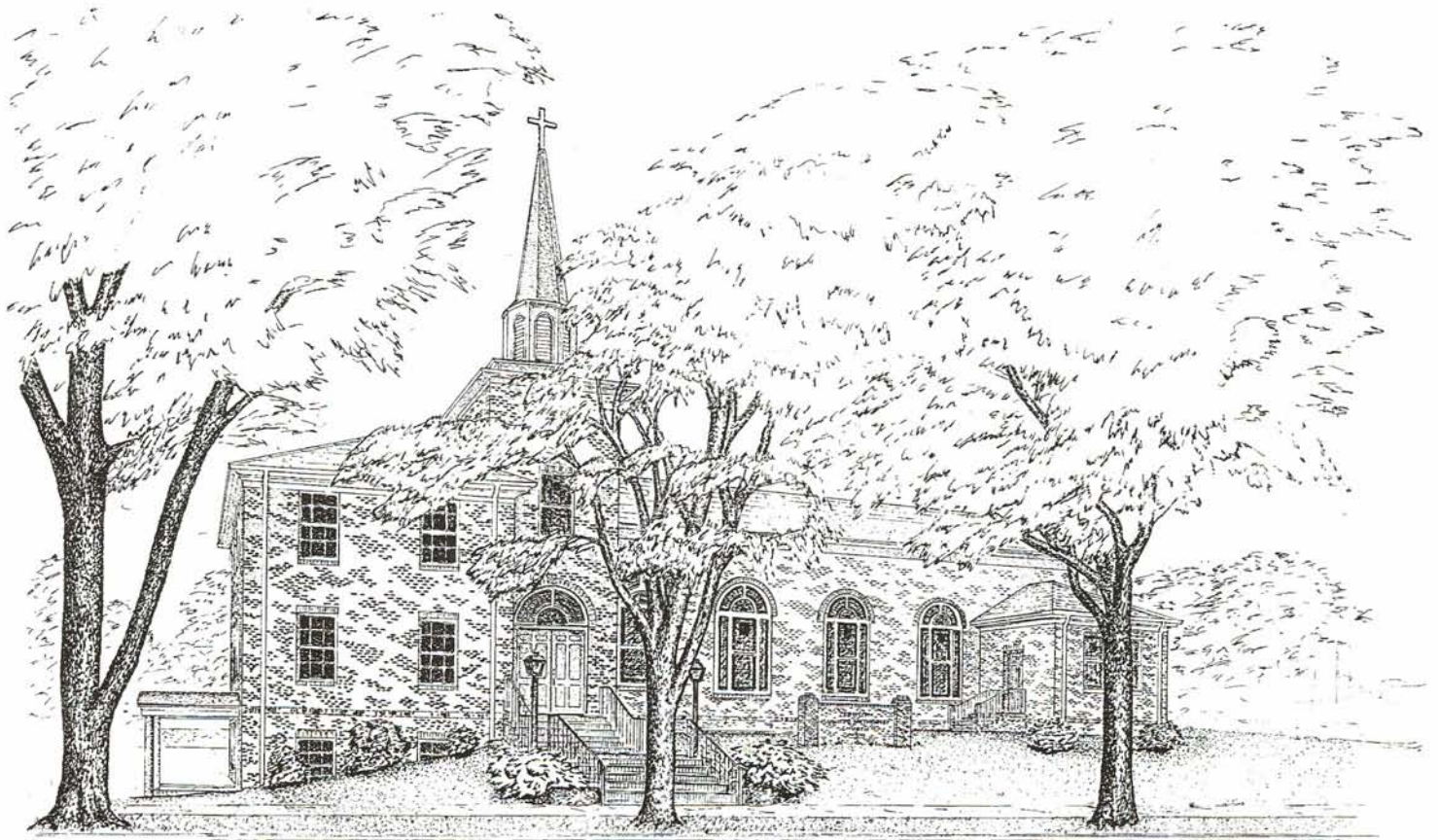
Ann Veazey Davis

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE.....	2
HISTORY OF METHODISM IN ZEBULON, NORTH CAROLINA.....	3
Early Roots of Methodism (3); Watkins Chapel Methodist Church (4); Earpsboro - Before Zebulon (4); Wakefield Community (6); The Town of Zebulon is Born (6); Wilcox's First Appointment (7)	
SECOND DECADE.....	9
First Church in New Town - First Decade (10); A New Year - 1908 (13); Years - 1909 - 1910 - 1911 (14)	
SECOND DECADE.....	15
THIRD DECADE.....	19
FOURTH DECADE.....	21
FIFTH DECADE.....	22
Local Methodist church to occupy wing of new building next Sunday morning (22); Zebulon Methodists will dedicate new church (25); Mercer deceased - Barrett Appointed (29); Bulletins and choir robes (30); Zebulon becomes Station (31); After six years service, Methodist head resigns (32); Methodist youths gather Sunday to plan Worship (32); Mercer Sexton Circle Bazaar (33)	
SIXTH DECADE.....	34
Methodists to launch celebration with Revival (34); Methodist Christmas concert Beautifully, Brilliantly done (34); Church party (35); Quick appointed to Zebulon (35); Methodist Minister Attends Conference in Baltimore (36); Methodist Church observe Covenant Service Sunday Night (37); First Parsonage for Zebulon Methodist Church (37); Methodist vote to buy Tom Monk lot on which to build Parsonage (38); Zebulon Methodist Church to Receive new Minister, Layfield to Benson (40)	
SEVENTH DECADE.....	40
Methodists Sponsor lay Witness Mission (41); Tommy Smith Appointed to Zebulon (42)	
EIGHTH DECADE.....	43
Young Disciples (44); Historic Church Conference (46); Local Representative Serves on Committee on District Superintendency (47); Moser Class Favors Registration for Military Draft (47); Lay Leader Report - 1980 (49); Educational Seminars (49); Piano Donated (50); Roofs Improved and Repaired (50); Lay Witness Mission (50); Cosmetic Improvements (50); How the Appointive System works in the United Methodist Church (51); \$150,000 Goal Reached (53); Groundbreaking and Homecoming (53); Candidate for Ministry Recommended (54); Lovelace Appointed (57); Henry B. Lovelace (57); Service of Consecration Held Sunday (58)	
NINTH DECADE.....	58
Hand Bell Choir Organized (59); Privette appointed (61); Church owned buildings and real estate renovation plan (61)	

MEMORIAL WINDOWS AND OTHER MEMORIALS.....	67
Other Gifts and Memorials (70); Rev. George W. Fisher and Ida Love Fisher (71); The Chalice and Loaf-John D. Finch and Sallie Strickland Finch (73); The Cross and Crown-Lucy Parrott Jones (74); O Little Town of Bethlehem - Phillip A. White and daughter, Katie Bet Liles (75); Lamb of God - Pearl Ferrell Saunders, wife of John Wesley Saunders (76); Alpha and Omega - Thyra Cahoon Noll (77); Dove and Olive Branch, God Fulfills His Promise of Peace - Elmer Dortch Finch (78); Jesus the Light of the World - Charles A. Flowers and DeElla Flowers (79); The Bible and Lamp - Frank G. Fuller (80); Christ, The Rock of Ages -John Daniel Davis and Mary Dexter Davis (81); Noah's Ark - George W. Temple and Henry R. Hoyle (82); Beehive - Beatrice Earle Weathesby (83); The Chalice and Loaf - Mrs. W. F. Winstead (84); Wheat and Sickle - Lucy Pearl Jones (85); The Ten Commandments - James P. Brown (86); A Mighty Fortress Is Our God - George W. Temple and Sallie L. Temple (87); An Act of Faith (88); Additional Memorials (89); Memorial Rooms (90); Cross in Chancel - Sarah Curtis Eaton (91); Fellowship Hall Plaques (92)	
EARLY FAMILIES IN THIS CHURCH.....	93
Brown Family (95); Clark Family (96); Coltrane Family (97); Horton Family (98); Foster D. Finch (99); Ed Hales (99); Patrick O. Farmer (100); Elmer D. Finch (101); Early H. and Myrtle F. Moser (102); Pulley Family (104); Sexton Family (105)	
MINISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED IN ZEBULON.....	107
List of Pastors who served (108); Frank Fletcher Eure (109); Armour David Wilcox (109); Preston Dewitt Woodall (113); Franklin Swindell Love (114); Thomas J. Dailey (115); George Bascom Perry (116); George Washington Starling (117); Rev. George Washington Fisher (118); Miss Alma's Legacy (120); Twenty-eight Years in a Parsonage (121); Willam Lawrence Loy (131); Mrs. Margaret Loy (132); Edgar Milton Hall (132); Edward Hill Davis (133); Neill Beckwith Johnson (135); Charles Lewis Read (136); Nan Goodson Read (137); James Willam Bradley (138); Benjamin Franklin Boone (139); Minister dies; Held pastorate here 1938-42 (139); Paul Carruth (139); Seymour Esmond Mercer (140); Saul Erastus Mercer (142); Troy James Barrett (143); The Leader of Our Clan (146); The Rev. William Quick Named Methodist Pastor (147); Pearce Hudson Layfield (150); Robert Stewart Brodie (151); John Thomas Smith (153); Noah B. Hill, Jr. (153); Lovell Roy Aills (153); Henry Neal Lovelace (154); Jack Monroe Benfield (154); Tommy Gordon Privette (154)	
INDEX . . . . .	156

# *Zelton Methodist Church*



*H. Davis '86*

*1907 - 1997*

## Preface

My family moved to Zebulon from Durham, North Carolina, in 1959 and almost immediately joined the Zebulon Methodist Church. (It was not "United" in those days.) We had been members of Bethany and Carr Methodist Churches in Durham. I remember that Bill Quick came visiting us while the movers were unloading the moving van and we were eating supper off the boxes. It was the week after he had moved his family to Zebulon from Bahama in Durham County. Wayne had worked in the area a few times and had met Ed Hales, who was then the Mayor of Zebulon. Ed informed Bill that there were newcomers in town. The first Sunday that we went to church, Mrs. Mike Sexton, came up to greet us in the parking lot and took our then three year-old son, Mark's, hand and led him to the appropriate Sunday School class. Mrs. Myrtle Tippet was the adult Sunday School teacher.

In only a few days, Becky Spivey came to visit, invited me to a circle meeting, and offered to pick me up and take me to the meeting. Miss Alma Finch came to visit, as did Frances Massey and Jean Wall. And my next door neighbor Ethel Brown came bringing vegetables from her garden. I am sure there were others, but these stick out in my mind now. We began to feel right at home in the Zebulon Methodist Church.

The leadership in those early years included Ed Hales, who was Mayor, and Pat Farmer, who served on the Town Board and later as Mayor, Robert Massey, officer of People's Bank (now Centura), Mike Sexton, the Post Master, and Frank Wall, who also served as Mayor at a later time. Foster Finch, town attorney, was a member and loved to have my daughter, MaryAnn sit with him in church. Since they both loved to draw pictures, they didn't listen to the sermon like they should, and Margaret and I had to separate them. There was Eva Page, first grade teacher, and Mrs. Estelle Terry, also a teacher, who taught in the Sunday School Department for many years and endeared herself to all of the youth.

There was Mr. and Mrs. Early Moser, who had served this community in the field of education since its beginning. After Mr. Moser's death, I picked Mrs. Moser up for U.M.W. meetings so that she could serve as our Spiritual Growth leader. Wayne and I attempted to serve when asked, and between us, I suppose we have held almost every office in the church at one time or the other.

My first thought about the history of the church came in the form of a suggestion from Helen Dabney, when she was volunteering as the church secretary. She found some of the old records and told me that I should write a history while some of the older folks were still living who could tell me about it. Of course with two children at home and in school, that did not seem like the thing I wanted to do right then.

It was a few years later, 1975 to be exact, that we did our first church pictorial directory, with black and white pictures. I was on the committee to meet with the photographer and one of the things he wanted to include was a history of the church. Mrs. Mary House had written a history when the new church building was dedicated about 1951 and it was everyone's assumption that she would write the history for this directory. But, she pointed her finger at me, and told me she was too old, and that I would have to help her. I began with the history that she had written about 25 years previously and began visiting older members and asking questions. The history printed in the first pictorial directory was my first attempt at research for, or writing a history of this church. I did an update about 1982 for the ground breaking service for our new educational building.

And now 15 years later, Jim Chamblee, has asked me to "update" my history, and my husband told me to get some information about the memorial windows while I might still find out who these persons were. I have used available records, news articles and information relayed to me in interviews, however no history is ever complete and I am sure there is much more to be told. The result is this publication, which has been a couple of years in the making. I trust current and former members will enjoy these efforts.

Ann Veazey Davis

# HISTORY OF METHODISM IN ZEBULON, NORTH CAROLINA

## Early Roots of Methodism

Methodism has made its presence felt in this part of North Carolina since its very beginnings - prior to the time that the Methodist Church was organized in America at Lovely Lane Church in Baltimore, Maryland, on December 25, 1784. The first missionary sent by John Wesley to Carolina was Joseph Pilmoor who preached at Currituck in 1772.

North Carolina went from reporting NO MEMBERS in 1773, to reporting 683 members in 1776. It was at this time that the Carolina Circuit was organized and three circuit riders were appointed. In 1778, the Carolina Circuit was divided into three circuits - the New Hope, the Tar River, and the Roanoke. The Tar River Circuit covered our part of North Carolina.

In 1771, Wake County was formed from the adjacent Johnston, Cumberland and Orange counties. It was named in honor of Margaret Wake, wife of the Royal Governor William Tryon. Bishop Francis Asbury brought Methodist teachings to this part of North Carolina. Jesse Lee, "number two man of early American Methodism," came to this area at about the same time. John King may enjoy the distinction of being the first Methodist preacher to reside in Wake County. King, a graduate of Oxford University and holder of a degree from a London medical college, was converted by John Wesley. In 1773, he was a member of the First Conference of Methodist preachers in America. Before the Revolution was over he was sent to North Carolina, following formation of a circuit in the northeastern section of the state. Assisted by other circuit riders, Methodism made impressive gains in membership.

King later purchased a home in Franklin County near Louisburg. A neighbor was the Rev. Major Green Hill, Revolutionary War veteran. Bishop Francis Asbury's Journal indicates that he traveled into North Carolina on June 16, 1780, and on Sunday, July 9, 1780, he preached to about 400 souls at Green Hill's. He recorded his text of I Thessalonians 2:4 and, "The subject was new, the people dead...the women appeared to be full of dress, the men full of news." The Green Hill House is located approximately 20 miles from Zebulon near Louisburg in Franklin County. Hill served as a member of the North Carolina Provincial Congress and as state treasurer.

When the first Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church was held in the large attic room of Hill's home on April 20, 1785, King was present and was requested by Bishop Thomas Coke to pray. The territory covered by this first conference was Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Methodism grew in those early days in North Carolina and elsewhere across America through the unsparing labors of the young, itinerant circuit riders, sometimes of rough exterior, often uneducated, but warm hearted messengers for their God. Stuffing their saddlebags with reading material, both secular and religious, they were the bookmobiles of their day. No trail was too long or too lonely, too tortuous or forbidding, if it led to a cabin. And of rainy days pioneers would say, "It's weather fitten only for crows and Methodist preachers." Few of these young circuit riders married because of prejudice against such, and the impossibility of maintaining a family on \$80 or less a year. These bearers of the Word lived with those they served, the hospitable Methodist layman and his wife.

In 1789 or 1790, Dr. King moved to a farm near what is now Raleigh where he secured a large amount of land. He died in 1794, while he was on a visit to New Bern, second oldest town in the State. Two of his sons were to become Methodist preachers. In later years, a grandson became a Methodist preacher, also. A Rev. King is recorded as having preached at Earpsborough. Could this have been a descendant of the first Dr. John King, who was influenced by John Wesley?

The Raleigh District was formed in 1810, and Bishop Francis Asbury presided at the first Annual Conference in 1811. Asbury made his final visit to North Carolina in late February of 1816, and spoke to a society of Methodists in the home of a Mr. King, perhaps a son of Dr. King.

## Watkins Chapel Methodist Church

The Methodist Church at Watkins Chapel dates prior to 1890. This church, located on Highway #231 at Emit, east of Highway #39, was disbanded and sold during 1924-5 to the Baptists. The original Methodist Church building is still standing, incorporated into the additions and renovations of the present Watkins Chapel Baptist Church. Quarterly Conference records show that \$86.00 from the sale of this property was turned over to the Trustees of the Zebulon Church. The location of the other Methodist Churches on this charge, Pleasant Grove and Bethlehem, have not been learned.

## Earpsboro - Before Zebulon

Perhaps the Earpsboro Methodist Church located in nearby Johnston County had as direct an influence on the founding of the Methodist Church in Zebulon than any other single group. An 1856 edition of "List of Post Offices in the United States" shows a post office in Earpsborough with Wiley Earp as the Post Master. This small village was located four miles south or southeast of present day Zebulon, approximately at the crossing of Highway #96 and SR #1723. (This was near the 1997 location of the home of Ed and Nancy Jo Jeffreys.) The population at its greatest could boast of about one hundred persons in 1860. At one time the town was surveyed and laid off in lots and streets. It was considered as a site for our state capitol. Unfortunately they did not desire the iron horse in their community and, like Wakefield, history passed them by.

In the early 1800's, John R. Brown and J. A. "Nade" Brown, young brothers in their 20's left the home of their prominent parents, William and Elizabeth Brown, in Raleigh and together with Wyatt Earp founded the village of Earpsboro. John Brown opened a mercantile business in this hamlet. The post office was located in a portion of the Brown store and mail arrived weekly from Wake Forest. John was the first Post Master. Mr. John Brown was a very religious man, having come from a family of devout Methodist faith. Upon coming to Earpsborough, he discovered that there was no house of worship for its people. He set out immediately to establish one for his family and friends. His home was the gathering place of the leading circuit preachers and lay preachers of that day. He was an impressive speaker, and supplied when the minister could not make the services because of illness or inclement weather.

Before there was a Methodist Church at Earpsboro, John Brown invited the minister of Edenton Street Methodist Church in Raleigh, Rev. L. S. Burkhead, to perform the wedding of his daughter Henrietta "Etta" Reid Brown to Dr. Miles Christopher Chamblee, son of William Bryant and Martha Hardy Chamblee, of the Wakefield community, on December 14, 1875. The bridal couple honeymooned at the Yarborough House in Raleigh and toured the Edenton Street Church where her father was a member, as they went sightseeing in the Capital City. Etta was a dyed-in-the-wool Methodist, becoming a member of the Earpsboro Methodist Church and later the Zebulon Methodist Church. In 1921, Etta and her two sisters, Eliza Brown and Pattie Brown Fuller gave the first silver plated communion service to the Zebulon Methodist Church. There are memorial windows in the church to remember "Miss Pattie's" brother, J. P. Brown, and her husband, Frank Fuller.

The Earpsboro Methodist Church was located at one time on one of the streets of the Brown property. This church had two pastors, the Rev. Mr. King and the Rev. Mr. Culbreth. (It is very probable that this Rev. King would have been a son of the Dr. King, who was the first Methodist preacher to reside permanently in Wake County.) The main officers were Mr. John Brown, Mr. Earp, Mrs. Jeffries and Mr. Rickers. Mrs. Pattie Brown Fuller was organist of this church. The pews in the church were made of pieces of board laying across sawed blocks of wood.

Later this church was moved to another more suitable and accessible location, on Main Street. An account of old Earpsborough in the Smithfield Herald, May 31, 1955, suggests that this second site was given by the Earp family. Following is a deed as recorded in the Register of Deeds office, Johnston County, Smithfield, NC. I do not believe this deed agrees with the oral tradition:



This deed made this 28th day of July, 1885, by W. H. Richardson and wife Emma Richardson, of Wake County and State of N. C., of the first part to J. R. Brown, Jos. Fuller, B. H. Richardson, W. T. Hales, A. W. Richardson, R. H. Brown and G. M. Lynch, Trustees of the M. E. Church South at Earpsboro, Johnston County and State of N. C. of the second part Witnesseth: That said W. H. Richardson and wife, Emma Richardson, in consideration of one dollar to them paid by parties of second part the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged have bargained and sold and by these presents do bargain sell and convey to said parties of the second part a certain tract or parcel of land in Johnston County, State of N. C., adjoining the lands of W. H. Richardson and wife, Emma Richardson, W. E. Richardson and wife, M. E. Richardson, and R. B. Richardson. Bounded as follows, viz: Beginning at a lightwood stake and running W 70 yards to a lightwood stake thence S 70 yards to a lightwood stake thence E 70 yards to a lightwood stake thence N 70 yards to the beginning containing one acre. In that said premises shall be used, kept maintained and disposed of as a place of divine worship for the use of the ministry and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South; subject to the discipline, wage and ministerial appointments of said church as from time to time authorized and declared by the general Conference of said church and the annual conference within whose bounds the said premises are situate.

To Have and to Hold the aforesaid tract or parcel of land and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging to the said parties of the second part their successors, trustees and assigns to them only use and behoof forever.

And the said W. H. Richardson and wife, Emma Richardson, covenant that they are seized of said premises in fee and have right to convey the same in fee simple; that the same are free and clear from all encumbrances, and that they will warrant and defend the said title to the same against the claims of all persons whatsoever.

In Testimony whereof the said W. H. Richardson and wife, Emma Richardson, have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year above written.

W. H. Richardson (Seal)  
Emma Richardson (Seal)

Attest: W. H. Hood

In the front of the original roll book of the Zebulon Methodist Church there is a list of 46 names with the following two notations: "The old church record has been lost for 10 years. The present roll was made out from memory at the church conference held June 9, 1907. A. D. Wilcox, P. C." and in a different pen obviously written at a different time, "The Earpsboro Church was abandoned at the beginning of 1908 and all its members were transferred to Zebulon, Watkins and Wendell, except J. C. Jeffreys and his wife whose membership was dropped by their refusal to go to any other church."

A list of 46 names of the members of the Earpsboro Church who could be remembered in 1907: L. P. Adams, Minnie Adams, J. P. Brown, Eliza Brown, Dicey Carol, Mrs. Etta Chamblee, Mrs. Pattie Fuller, Mrs. H. P. Gill, John Lee Hollen, Bettie Hollen, J. C. Jeffreys, Mrs. L. L. Jeffreys, Mrs. Lucy Liles, Hellen Mosley, Bryant Richardson, Nancy Richardson, Norris Richardson, Mary Richardson, Rufus Richardson, Florence Richardson, Lila Richardson, Hettie Richardson, Calvin Richardson, Hubert Richardson, Flora Richardson, Martha Richardson, George Temple, Mamie Temple, Dullin (Dullie) Temple, Sallie Tisdale, Cullin Wood, Milton Wood, Clauda Wood, George Wood, Willie Wood, May Wood, J. H. Wood, M. A. Wood, Fannie Wood, Samuel A. Wood, M. J. Wood, Alice Pearce, Mrs. Mabel White, Manoliu Richardson, G. A. Richardson, and Jennie Richardson.

Quarterly Conference held January 23, 1908: "There being no record of a full board of trustees of Earpsboro Church, and J. C. Jeffreys refusing to cooperate in plans for change from Earpsboro to Zebulon, all the trustees of Earpsboro church property were removed and the trustees of the Zebulon Church were appointed to act as trustees for the Earpsboro property."

## **Wakefield Community**

The thriving community of Wakefield dates from May 15, 1826, when a Post Office was established there. Eventually there was a school, a doctor, an undertaker, a hotel, a jail, two drug stores, and two general stores. There were two Baptist Churches, but we have no record of Methodists meeting in the community on a regular basis until 1903, when the North Carolina Conference formed the "Wakefield Mission" and appointed Frank Fletcher Eure, a lay preacher, to serve that appointment. The Eure family lived in Spring Hope while the Rev. Eure preached in a church near Sims in the edge of Nash County. Quarterly Conference records indicate those meetings at Earpsboro, Watkins, Pleasant Grove and Bethlehem, but no mention is made of meeting in Wakefield even though this was known as the Wakefield Charge. Conference records in 1901 and 1902 indicate that there were five churches on a Clayton circuit and seven churches on a Kenly circuit, either one of which could have included this area.

Rev. Eure also began to hold meetings on a monthly basis at the Midway School building which stood on the spot near the corner of Wakefield and Barbee Streets today, which was surrounded by farm lands and a pine forest. Rev. Eure recorded on April 1, 1905, that there was one Sunday School. There is no record of the location of that Sunday School. Records of the Sunday School at Midway School are from the memory of early members as related to the first Church Historian, Mrs. Mary House, and were included in her first history. She stated that Henry Hoyle organized the Sunday School at the Midway School.

Minutes from the fourth Quarterly Conference held at Earpsboro by F. F. Eure on Nov, 17, 1906, state, "The general condition of the church is not good. We have a lot of worldliness in the church. We have some good people in the church, while they are in the minority." At this time the churches on the charge included: Pleasant Grove (pd. \$79.80), Earpsboro (pd. \$50.00), Wendell (pd. \$25.00), Bethlehem (pd. \$38.00), and Watkins (pd. \$31.00).

## **The Town of Zebulon is Born**

The year, 1906, wrought many changes on the face of the land. Like a kaleidoscope, the scenes changed at almost dizzying speed. The forest disappeared and a town began to emerge. Given the name, Zebulon, its story began with the railroad. A real estate development company, the Zebulon Company, incorporated the town on lands which had been purchased from the Horton and Whitley families on February 16, 1907. Deeds show that John Wesley Horton and his wife, Martha L. Horton, acquired their property on January 8, 1869. The Horton homeplace was located on what would become West Horton Street and is standing in 1997 next door to the Zebulon Church of God. The Horton farm was joined on the east by lands owned by Michael Whitley.

The death of John Wesley Horton in 1885 had left Martha with several children to care for. In 1890, she moved to Durham, renting her farm. About 1903, her son, Williams S. Horton, brought his family back to the family farm and Martha lived with them until her death in 1926. In March of 1907, Thomas J. Horton, another son of John Wesley, and Martha Horton, moved his family from Durham to the newly constructed home at the north west corner of Church Street and Gannon Avenue, and was occupied for many years by the Dr. L. M. Massey family. Although the Horton family had been Baptist by tradition, Thomas J. had married a Methodist.

## Wilcox's First Appointment

Armour David Wilcox was admitted to the North Carolina Conference on trial in 1906, and appointed to the Wakefield Mission. The Rev. Mr. Wilcox was a native of Ohio and had previously served as Superintendent of Schools in Onago and Ottawa, Kansas. A very effective lecturer with a powerful personality, he was traveling with the Anti-Saloon League of America when he met Dr. Fred D. Swindell, then pastor of the Methodist Church in Wilson, who persuaded Mr. Wilcox to enter the Methodist ministry. For details of the remaining years of Dr. Wilcox's 24 years in the ministry, please refer to his obituary section in this publication.

Since there was no Methodist Church in Wakefield, there was most certainly no parsonage. The Wilcox family included the Rev. Wilcox, his attractive young wife, the former Adelaide Lorraine Simmons, and their three year old son, Armour David Wilcox, Jr. For the first 18 months the Wilcox family lived in the home of the Baptist minister, Rev. Alfred Alan Pippin, Sr. Rochelle Pippin Stroud, daughter of Rev. Pippin, returned to Zebulon in the 1970's after the death of her husband. She shared her memories of her association with the Wilcox family from its beginning in 1906, and also when Rev. Wilcox was President of Louisburg College and her husband was an educator in Louisburg. In 1906, Rochelle was the 14 year old daughter of Rev. A. A. Pippin and remembered Rev. Wilcox for his superior intelligence and eloquent delivery. During the time that the Wilcox family lived in the home of the Pippin family, Rev. Wilcox tutored Rochelle in her French, English and history lessons. Mrs. A. A. Pippin became a member of the Zebulon Methodist Church in 1908 with her name on line #28 of the first church roll.

The Pippin home, which is standing in 1997 in Wakefield, was built in 1882 by Rev. Oliver Larkin Springfield, founder of the Wakefield Classical and Mathematical Academy. The Springfield family lived in this home and parts of it were used from time to time to house operations of the Academy. In 1894 Rev. Springfield accepted a position with the Baptist Female University (later Meredith College) and the home was purchased by the Rev. A. A. Pippin family.

A number of years ago, Mrs. A. D. Wilcox wrote of their work in Wakefield and Zebulon, "That was the first appointment we ever had and was originally called the Wakefield Mission. There was no Zebulon there during our first year. No churches and no parsonage...there were two Baptist Churches there and they were very kind in offering the use of their buildings for our once a month service. Later we used the school building until the Town of Zebulon became a reality and the old Church was one of the first buildings in the new town. When my husband was out on the circuit I used to hold prayer meetings, open up the church, build the fire and sweep and dust the church for we had no janitor. I also sang in the choir and played the old reed organ when necessary. I organized our first missionary society there at Zebulon. We had a very happy time during those three years. My husband taught school to earn a living part of the time but most of the time we just did the best we could with what we had."

Mrs. Wilcox lived to an advanced age and died June 3, 1978, at her home at Lake Junaluska. During a retreat at Junaluska in 1978, this writer learned that Mrs. Wilcox might be still be living there and discovered that she had died only a short time before. I did go to her home and met her oldest son, Armour David Wilcox, Jr. He later sent a newspaper clipping which added some information about his father. Following are excerpts for a letter that Mrs. Wilcox wrote to Bishop Robert M. Blackburn on Dec. 5, 1977 (remainder of her letter appear with her husband's obituary in Part III of this book):

“Dear Bishop Blackburn, I received today the form letter bearing your signature enclosing the annual Duke Endowment check for the years pension to N. C. Methodist widows of pastors. I have been thinking of writing you for some time.

“At the time of my marriage to my husband he was a lecturer with Charles M. Sheldon, author of In His Steps and What Would Jesus Do?, a member of the Congregational Church as was my husband. I was an Episcopalian, brought up in that church by my father, and mother.

“On a lecture tour shortly after our marriage, my husband met a very fine Methodist minister at Wilson, North Carolina, and since he had always said his supreme desire was to become a minister and after forming a close friendship with this man, he decided to join the Methodist Church which he did during that year after completing his lecture trip.

“Now for our Methodist history: At our first Conference, and by that time I had a small son, I was forced to take a front seat as I had to be late caring for my son. I overheard this conversation between the Presiding Elder, now called District Superintendent, then serving the Raleigh District, and the man who followed him, ‘What shall we do with this Wilcox man?’ Reply, ‘He is your responsibility.’ ‘Well, let’s send him to the Wakefield Mission, he can’t hurt anything there.’

“That was where we were assigned. Salary was \$397.00 a year. No parsonage, no churches in Wakefield, except two Baptist churches. No Methodist preacher had ever tried to live there. No Methodists except a retired Baptist preacher’s wife and her brother. This charge included what is now Zebulon, Wendell, and Bailey, all three churches built while we were there.

“To serve this charge required a horse and buggy, their upkeep, as well as our own, and a place to live. Fortunately, we had some savings to move our furniture from Topeka, Kansas. There was one vacant house, widow lights out, in poor repair, no bathroom, kitchen and dining room separate from the four other rooms. We rented this for \$10 a month but received enough to pay this from renting to a farmer the three acres which was a part of it.

“Because of my background I had never learned to cook or do any menial work but I did have determination to help my blessed husband whom I dearly loved, still do after 30 years a widow. So, while I was waiting in the two rooms which the retired Baptist minister’s Methodist wife rented to us, doing my cooking on a fire place, I put the time to good use. My husband drove the horse and buggy to Raleigh, bought paint and glass for the windows and while my husband was busy starting his work, I put in the window lights, painted the whole interiors, scrubbed the floors and was ready to make a home when the Baptists, whom had never had a preacher living in Wakefield, took thirteen wagons, drove to Raleigh, the nearest railroad and brought our furniture out for us, refusing to accept pay.

“To prove that the good Lord looks after those who help themselves in difficulties, a situation developed in the school and the superintendent was dismissed and since my husband was the only man with an education for the job, he was given it. This took care of our living expenses as the presiding elder had told us to accept this by all means.

“After our first year our elder wanted to move us, saying we didn’t belong there but my husband had promised to stay there if the people would build the three churches. The railroad came through to the newly created town of Zebulon, named for former Governor Zebulon Vance, about two or three miles from Wakefield and there we built the church. In three years all three, Zebulon, Wendell and Bailey were completed and we had over a hundred members in each church, dedicated and happy at accomplishing so much themselves. (For the entire text of Mrs. Wilcox’s letter, please consult her husband’s obituary in that section of this book.)

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Armour D. Wilcox

Rev. Wilcox held his first Quarterly Conference on the Zebulon charge on a Wednesday, January 16, 1907, at the Earpsboro church. Rev. R. B. John was the presiding elder. Others present were: J. C. Jeffreys, G. W. Temple, W. D. Hales, Millard Hales, C. J. High, P. C. Eatmon, A. L. David, Bryant Richardson. Assessments for ministerial support for the year were: Pleasant Grove, \$90.00; Earpsboro, \$50.00; Watkins, \$35.00; and Wendell, \$50.00. J. C. Jeffreys, George Temple, and J. P. Brown were appointed to secure a lot for a church at Zebulon and act as trustees for same.

The Second Quarterly Conference for the year 1906-1907 was held in Wendell on April 27, 1907, with A. D. Wilcox as the Pastor In Charge. The pastor reported on Question #4: "The Church has made progress. There are no records reports of membership or collections in the Wakefield community until this April 1907, Conference. "An organization with 12 members has been formed at Wakefield. It is a promising field." "The new building at Wendell is getting under way, and a building is being planned for Wakefield or Zebulon. The pastor has made 66 pastoral visits and finds the people interested and hopeful."

The Third Quarterly Conference was held in Wakefield on Aug. 3, 1907, in which a committee was elected to build a church in Zebulon: J. C. Jeffreys, J. P. Brown, George Temple and A. D. Wilcox. The pastor's statement, "The Pastor has held three services in the school house at Zebulon and thinks that place should organize and begin a church building at once." A 1908 roll of church officers shows H. R. Hoyle as a steward for Wakefield. This might be an indication that there was a movement in the Wakefield community that aspired to have a Methodist church in that community.

The Fourth Quarterly Conference was held at Wakefield on Oct. 19, 1907, and the Pastor wrote the following report, "A Church Society was organized at Zebulon on Sept. 27, with 12 members. I recommend that the Earpsboro Church be abandoned and its members be transferred to Zebulon, Wendell and Watkins. The P. C. tendered the resignation of J. P. Brown as a member of the building committee at Zebulon which was accepted, and Thomas Horton was elected in his place. Guy Saunders and J. W. Saunders were elected to the same committee.....to select and secure a site, and proceed with the building of the church."



*Methodist Episcopal Church South  
Zebulon, North Carolina*

NOTE: I realize the number given above does not agree with the long held tradition of 14 "charter" members. I would suggest that the list of names as transcribed from the original roll book as reproduced in this history be consulted. The first twelve names have the year of 1907 written by them, with the next two having had 1908, with the 8 overwritten with a 7.

## First Church in New Town - First Decade



*Thomas J. Horton*

When Armour David Wilcox met Thomas J. Horton it was inevitable that the first church to be organized in the new town of Zebulon would be a Methodist Church. Quarterly Conference records from August 3, 1907, at Watkins Chapel Methodist Church, show that, "J. C. Jeffrys, J. P. Brown, George Temple, and A. D. Wilcox were appointed a committee to build a church at Zebulon." That same Quarterly Conference reports that a Sunday School with more than 200 members had been organized at Zebulon, with J. C. Jeffrys, as Superintendent, and J. W. Sanders, as Assistant Superintendent. The pastor had held three services in the school house at Zebulon and thought that place should organize and be in a church building at once. The ecclesiastical sermon had been preached at three points, Wakefield, Wendell, and Pleasant Grove. The printed matter concerning Trinity College had been distributed at those points. The following members were present for this Conference: George W. Temple, W. D. Hales, Millard Hales, Bernice Richardson, J. Broadwell, W. H. Hester, and H. R. Hoyle. W. H. Hester was elected secretary.

The October 19, 1907, Quarterly Conference report states: "I have held a protracted meeting at six points this quarter; 8 days at Pleasant Grove, 8 days at Watkins, 6 days at Earpsboro, Zebulon and Wendell respectively, and 5 days at Wakefield. Results as follows:

	Professions	Accessions
Pleasant Grove	17	15
Watkins Chapel	4	4
Earpsboro	6	1
Zebulon	7	12
Wendell	9	7
Wakefield	0	1
Previous gains this year	<u>2</u>	<u>24</u>
	45	64

"The meetings were splendidly attended and the churches were all benefitted. At Watkins a Ladies Aid Society has been formed to raise money to paint and beautify the church. A Church society was organized at Zebulon on September 27, with 12 members. I recommend that the Earpsboro church be abandoned and its members transferred to Zebulon, Wendell, and Watkins."

The Quarterly Conference record continues by listing names of those received at all points and the method whereby they joined the church. The following is a list of names received at Wakefield: H. R. Hoyle, Mrs. Lillian Pippin, Mrs. Etta Chamblee (Henrietta Brown Chamblee), H. P. Gill, Mrs. H. P. Gill, P. A. White, Mrs. P. A. White, L. L. Allen, Mrs. Ellen Mitchell, Oza Mitchell, Leree(?) Mitchell, Mrs. A. D. Wilcox, and Irby Hoyle. These names were received at Zebulon: T. J. Horton, Mrs. T. J. Horton, J. W. Sanders, Guy Sanders, Mrs. J. W. Sanders, Mrs. Guy Sanders, B. Arendell, Mrs. B. Arendell, Bertha Arendell, Cola Temple, Mr. (Desoto) Fordham, and Mrs. Fordham. H. R. Hoyle was listed as a Steward at Wakefield; J. W. Sanders was listed as Steward in Zebulon; and Guy Sanders and T. J. Horton were shown as Trustees for the Zebulon church.

Thomas J. Horton would become the first elected mayor of Zebulon and was instrumental in the organizing of the Zebulon Hosiery Mill and the Bank of Zebulon. The Horton family was still residing in the two story white house on the northwest corner of Gannon and Church streets when the family of Rev. G. W. Fisher arrived in 1917. Thomas J. Horton was actively involved in the Methodist Church. On November 5, 1907, a lot of 100 feet by 200 feet on the corner of Gannon Avenue and Church Street was deeded to the Trustees of the Methodist Church: T. J. Horton, J. Wesley Sanders and G. M. Sanders:

## DEED

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, Wake County, M. L. Horton, et als to Trustees M. E. Church Zebulon.

Know all men by these presents that we, Mrs. M. L. Horton (widow of the late John W. Horton) J. T. Horton and wife Alma Horton, M. G. Markham and wife Annie R. Markham, J. T. Robertson and wife Mary E. Robertson, W. S. Horton and wife Rebecca Horton, T. J. Horton and wife Alice Horton, E. J. Holloway and wife Bettie Holloway, D. W. Horton and wife Georgia Horton, and J. D. Horton (heirs-at-law of the said John W. Horton, deceased) for and in consideration of one dollar to them in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby fully acknowledged, do give grant, and by these presents convey unto T. J. Horton, Wesley Saunders and G. M. Saunders the Board of Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of Zebulon, N. C., the following lot or parcel of land lying in Little River Township, in said County and State, bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at the corner where Bell Street intersects Pine Street running thence along the east side of Pine Street southward 200 feet to a stake; thence eastward 100 feet to a stake; thence northward 200 ft to a stake in Pine Street; thence westward 100 feet to the beginning point being lot No. 6 in Block 22 as shown on map hereinafter referred to.

The above described real estate is a part of the land conveyed to John W. Horton deceased, by deed dated November 6, 1869, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Wake County in the Book of Deeds No. 28, page 556. Reference is hereby made to the map of the Town of Zebulon, drawn by John W. Hays, C. E., March 1906, and recorded in the Book of Maps in the office of the Register of Deeds of Wake County, page 68. On said map is shown the block of land above described and its subdivision lots.

And the said trustees are to have and to hold the property aforesaid 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 of the said Church, and by the Annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises are situate.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the said heirs of the late John W. Horton by M. G. Markham, their Attorney in fact (see Book 208, page 624 in the office of the Register of Deeds of Wake County, North Carolina,) have hereunto set their hands and seals. This November 5th, 1907.

NORTH CAROLINA, Durham County

The due execution of the foregoing instrument was this day acknowledged before me by M. G. Markham, Attorney in fact for Mrs. M. L. Horton, J. T. Horton, Alma Horton, M. G. Markham, Annie R. Markham, J. E. Robertson, Mary E. Roberson, W. S. Horton, Rebecca Horton, T. J. Horton, Alice Horton, E. J. Holloway, Bettie Holloway, D. W. Horton, Georgia Horton, and J. D. Horton; and the said M. G. Markham did acknowledge that he signed said deed as such Attorney in fact for each of said above named persons for the uses and purposes therein expressed. Witness my hand and notarial seal this the 21st day of November A. D. 1907. J. M. Umstead, Notary Public (Commission expires 3/8/08)

NORTH CAROLINA, Wake County

The foregoing certificate of J. M. Umstead, a Notary Public in and for the County of Durham, State of North Carolina, attested by his notarial seal is adjudged to be correct and in due form according to law. Let the instrument with all certificates be registered. Witness my hand this the 26th day of November 1907.

VITRUVIUS ROYSTER,  
Deputy Clerk Superior  
Court of Wake County

Filed for registration at 6 o'clock P.M. November 26th 1907 and registered in the office of the Register of Deeds for Wake County in Book 220 page 495, December 3rd 1907.

J. J. Bernard  
Register of Deeds

NOTE: Language in this deed makes it appear that the Horton family intended for their gift to be used by the Methodist Conference forever.

NOTE: Relatives of John Wesley Horton who are current (1997) members of the Zebulon United Methodist Church include Alice Blanche Horton Ray, who is a first cousin, twice removed to John Wesley Horton, and a second cousin, once removed to Thomas J. Horton. Martha Ann Horton Vinson is a first cousin, three times removed to John Wesley Horton and a second cousin, twice removed to Thomas J. Horton. Martha is also the great-great-niece of Julius C. Jeffreys of Earpsboro. Her grandmother, Verona H. Jeffreys Horton, gave me initial information on her Uncle Julius many years ago. Martha and Blanche are second cousins, once removed.



## A New Year - 1908

The first Quarterly Conference of 1908 was held in Zebulon on January 23, 1908, with A. D. Wilcox as the Pastor in Charge. R. B. John was the Presiding Elder. Attending were: J. W. Sanders, T. J. Horton, W. H. Hester, W. D. Hales, and Bernice Richardson. The Zebulon Trustees, T. J. Horton, J. W. Sanders, and G. M. Sanders were authorized and empowered to sell the Earpsboro property when they judged it advantageous to do so, and to hold in trust the proceeds until such time as it can be used in building a parsonage for the circuit." It was also noted in this report that there was only one Sunday School at the Pleasant Grove Church on the charge, however "we shall organize at Wendell and Zebulon on the completion of the churches." There was also a notation that Dr. Kilgo would dedicate the Wendell Church on the fourth Sunday in March. The Wendell Church was dedicated on March 22, 1908.

On May 23, 1908, a Quarterly Conference held in Wendell for the Zebulon charge, reported, "The church at Zebulon is under way, about half finished in fact. The work has stopped for lack of funds to complete it. I am very anxious to get that work completed so that we can organize a very much needed Sunday School at that place. I have done no special work among the children this quarter on account of my School work at Wakefield, which has taken all of my spare time. As principal of the Academy, however, I introduced a system of written reports on the daily Bible readings which greatly stimulated attention to the morning worship."

The third Quarterly Conference for the Zebulon Charge, held on August 8, 1908, at the Watkins Chapel Methodist Church recorded that H. R. Hoyle was elected Sunday School Superintendent for Zebulon. The Trustees of the Zebulon Church were authorized to use \$60.00 that was received from the sale of the Earpsboro Church, provided they agree to repay to Quarterly Conference nine months from this date..... "The Church at Zebulon is almost done. Will be in use in two or three weeks. It is a very pretty building. There was every reason for Thanksgiving and very little for complaint this quarter. Paid in this Quarter: Wakefield \$7.53; Wendell \$18.25; Pleasant Grove \$.40; Watkins Chapel \$3.00." There appears to be some indication that a group in Wakefield is still in existence in view of the fact that there was an offering reported. H. R. Hoyle was now affiliated with the Zebulon church. This meeting also recorded the organization of a new Methodist Church in Middlesex on the third Sunday in June, with seven members.

The fourth Quarterly Conference held at Pleasant Grove on November 18, 1908, records that, "The new church at Zebulon was formally opened on the second Sunday in September. The Rev. G. T. Adams preached the sermon and raised a subscription of \$500. Sixteen members have been added this quarter and there are 12 applications for membership. The meeting which closed last week was very profitable. There were more than 60 professions and reclamations. The Church is in good condition and much strengthened for the coming year. .... There have been two Sunday Schools organized this quarter .... the other at Zebulon with membership of 140, with Superintendent H. R. Hoyle. This school is doing excellent work.... there are now a total of 440 Sunday School members on the circuit." Tradition handed down to the first church historian, Mrs. Mary House, was that the picturesque white frame structure was erected on the corner of Church and Gannon at a cost of approximately \$1,500. Much material and labor was donated by church members and townspeople.

A statistical report of the Zebulon Charge (all churches):

Members, 273

Additions by profession of faith, 19

Removals by certificate or death, 7

Adults baptized, 9

Houses of Worship, 4

Value of Houses of Worship, \$4,500

Indebtedness on Houses of Worship, \$345.00

Value of other church property, \$460.00

Money expended on buildings, \$1,308.00

Insurance carried, \$2,050.00

Premiums paid, \$14.00

Subscribers to Advocate, 26.

## Years - 1909 - 1910 - 1911

The first Quarterly Conference that we have recorded in the new Zebulon Church was held on April 7, 1909, with A. D. Wilcox as the Pastor In Charge and R. B. John as the presiding Elder. The pastor's notes include: "The Pastor has given an illustrated lecture on the Missionary Work in China at Zebulon, Wendell, and Middlesex. These lectures were well attended and considerable interest was manifested in them. The total attendance upon the lectures at these places was about 900. In addition the Pastor gave this lecture at about 20 places in the Conference and has reached about 3,000 people with it. The mission assessments have been paid in full and several hundred dollars have been raised for church building purposes." In 1909, the Zebulon Charge included churches in Zebulon, Wendell, Pleasant Grove, Watkins Chapel and Middlesex.

The Wilcox family reportedly moved from Wakefield to Zebulon during 1907, to a house located next door to the one occupied by the Thomas J. Horton family. As yet the Zebulon church had not built a parsonage. Rev. Wilcox served the Zebulon Charge until Annual Conference in November of 1909, at which time the Rev. P. D. Woodall was appointed. It would be well to note here that Mr. Julius C. Jeffreys who did not want to leave Earpsboro in 1907, joined the Zebulon Methodist Church in 1910 with his name appearing on line 95 of the old roll book. His name is prominent in Quarterly Conference records from that time on. He moved to Zebulon and opened one of the first stores on Arendell Avenue to the right of the Moses Alford Store.

Pastoral notes written by Rev. Woodall at his first Quarterly Conference on January 22, 1910, include: "The Spiritual State of the Church seems to be Fair. There are good congregations at all points. New families moving into the work is a hopeful sign." His second Quarterly Conference in 1910, showed considerable improvement: "Our Sunday School at Zebulon has increased 100%. Our people are very enthusiastic in the work. The teachers show promptness. The Spiritual Condition of the Church is Good. Our people attend well upon the ordinances of the Church. The Sunday Evening Services are made Evangelistic. Already considerable interest has been shown in these services. A good many have announced their intention of living a better life...I have never had a more United and enthusiastic membership than in the Zebulon Charge." Philip White was elected a Steward.

Rev. Woodall only served this charge for one year, with Rev. F. S. Love being appointed at Conference in 1910. Rev. Love is shown as the Pastor in Charge at the Quarterly Conference held January 23, 1911, however he does not appear again in the records of the Zebulon Charge. The North Carolina Annual Conference shows him with a Kinston, N. C. address as of the 1911 Conference indicating that he did not serve out the year in Zebulon. Rev. T. J. Daily finished out the year of 1911, traveling by train from his home in Cary.

It is probable that Rev. F. S. Love never moved his family to Zebulon, especially in view of the fact that there was no parsonage into which they could move. His first and only Quarterly Conference in January of 1911 records: "On motion of Brother Hoyle and carried that we proceed at once to build a Parsonage at Zebulon." Rev. G. B. Perry was appointed to the Zebulon Charge in November, 1911, and his was the first family to occupy the old parsonage, however we do not know the date that it was ready for occupancy.

Zebulon's first dentist, Dr. Jesse Franklin Coltrane and Etha Kemp Coltrane, were married in 1913, and rented a room at the Whitley Hotel for the first year. They then moved into the new parsonage where they rented a room upstairs and boarded with Mrs. Perry. Since all of the Perry children were grown and not living at home, Mrs. Perry also rented a room to two teachers from Wakelon School. Dr. Coltrane would serve the Zebulon Methodist Church as Sunday School Superintendent for 31 years. He was the son of Rev. Nereus Eldridge Coltrane (February 24, 1850-June 2, 1930), a Methodist minister. His mother, Ida Mae Gannoway, was the daughter of the President of Trinity College, forerunner of Duke University, in Durham. Etha Kemp Coltrane was the oldest member of this church at the time of her death in 1986. Etha's cousin, May Ophelia Kemp, married John Duke Horton, another son of John Wesley Horton, and brother to Thomas J. Horton.

At a Quarterly Conference held in Wendell on July 16, 1913, a committee of R. B. Whitley, M. F. Hales and L. E. Hearnese was appointed to attend to the settlement of the church at Earpsboro. During these early years there were four churches on the Zebulon Charge: Middlesex, Wendell, Watkins Chapel, and Zebulon. The minister who was appointed to serve this charge lived in the parsonage in Zebulon. Rev. Perry reported at the second Quarterly Conference on May 25, 1914, that new members received during the previous quarter included: W. C. Wakefield and Seba High on profession; Charles A., DeElla and Lucia Flowers; Neva F. Barbee; Mr. and Mrs M. P. Roberts; Lillie Holman; Charles Stott; and Mrs. Reginal Knight by certificate. The Presiding Elder at the November, 1914, Quarterly Conference was John H. Hall.

Rev. Perry served the Zebulon Charge until 1915, when the Rev. G. W. Starling was appointed. Officers for the circuit for the year 1915 included: R. B. Whitley, E. W. Harris, W. T. Roberts, T. J. Horton, H. R. Hoyle, J. D. Finch, P. A. White, H. B. High, W. D. Hales, J. W. Bailey, G. M. Saunders, J. C. Jeffreys, J. Broadwell, J. D. Manning, E. M. Tilghman, David Daniel, Dr. J. L. Moore, J. A. Cawthorn, D. L. Rowland, and W. C. Wakefield. The Quarterly Conference pastor's report on July 3, 1915, states, "We have two students at Trinity College and one at Trinity Park. Have two at Louisburg College and one finished at Littleton College. All our young people have access to good High Schools. Others will go to College next fall."

Although Watkins Chapel was shown in the Quarterly Conference report of November 13, 1916, with W. D. Hales, S. G. High and F. F. Fuller as stewards, there is no Sunday School superintendent or Lay Leader listed. The Trustee's report for 1916 on the Zebulon Charge shows only three churches: Zebulon, Wendell and Middlesex. The title papers for the church property in Zebulon were kept in the safe of the Zebulon Hosiery Mill, business of T. J. Horton.

## SECOND DECADE

Stewards listed for Zebulon for the year 1917 were: T. J. Horton, J. D. Finch, P. A. White, C. A. Flowers, and H. R. Hoyle. E. H. Moser was shown as the Sunday School superintendent for the years 1916 and 1917, even though the church roll shows that he was received into membership of the Zebulon church in 1919. J. C. Jeffreys was Lay Leader for 1916. J. D. Finch was Lay Leader for 1917. The Pastor's Report dated February 2, 1917 listed the following members being added to the church by certificate: Carrie Gill Broughton, Bertha F. Bartlett, Mary F. Fowler, Estella J. Howell, Velma Howell Card, W. T. Overman, Rev. F. F. Eure, Dolly W. Eure, T. B. Kinlaw, Winnie Kinlaw, and Ruth O'Keel. Several of these names do not show on the official church roll, therefore I must assume they joined other churches on the charge. Rev. Starling served until 1917, when the Rev. George W. Fisher was appointed.

Rev. George Washington Fisher held his first Quarterly Conference on the Zebulon Charge on March 11, 1918, and recorded, "On motion of the pastor, the trustees of the Zebulon Church were authorized to make such repairs to church as they deem best." Rev. J. E. Underwood was the Presiding Elder. The pastor noted in his report that a Woman's Missionary Society had been organized at Middlesex. In his second report, dated May 27, 1918, he stated, "We have recently organized a Woman's Missionary Society at Zebulon. We now have two Societies on the charge. We have shingles on the ground to cover the church at Zebulon. We are praying for a revival of religion at each church on the circuit and trust that scores of sinners may be converted and brought into the church."

Watkins Chapel church shows up on the August 5, 1918, Quarterly Conference with contributions of \$8.90 and \$2.10 for missions. Rev. Fisher notes that, "Ralph and Henry Fisher have been students at Trinity College. Miss Geneva Batts has been attending the State Normal at Greensboro. Quite a number of our boys and girls have attended the Public Schools. We have a promise to raise \$25 to help pay expenses of Rev. Neal B. Johnson, a student at Trinity Park School." Stewards for 1919 were T. J. Horton, J. D. Finch, P. A. White, Dr. J. F. Coltrane, and G. M. Saunders. F. G. Fuller and W. D. Hales are shown as Stewards for Watkins Chapel and the collections from that point were \$54. Dr. J. F. Coltrane is shown as the Sunday School Superintendent for Zebulon. "Received by

baptism were Joseph C. Chamblee, in France; Nellie Christine Saunders and Mary Magdalene Saunders. Received by vows were A. Pulley and H. H. Knight. The influenza epidemic has interfered very much with our church work during the month of October, but we think the charge is in good shape. We have planned three Thanksgiving services. We have paid a special offering to the orphanage of \$179." The trustees report for 1918 show three churches and one parsonage, however there is a notation that the deed for the Watkins Chapel Church is kept by Millard Hales.

Included in the fourth Quarterly Conference report dated, November 22, 1918, is a report stating, "The woman's Missionary Society of the Zebulon Church, which was organized in June (of the current year) with 14 members. Dues collected, \$12.00, and amount collected on pledge \$25.75, for a total of \$37.75. Signed by Mrs. G. W. (Ida Love) Fisher, President." This confirms the information given to us verbally over the years that Miss Alma's mother began the women's missionary effort at the Zebulon Methodist Church.

On January 19, 1919, it was noted that all churches, except Watkins Chapel, had all committees elected. A committee was appointed to make repairs at the parsonage and to have the parsonage insured. "Our three Sunday Schools are in good working condition, and considering the influenza epidemic, I think they have done well." Mrs. Mary E. Davis, Robert V. Davis, Isla Davis, Gladys Davis, and Mrs. Pauline Cobb Griffin were received by certificate. There was a notation on May 5, 1919, that \$150.00 was raised for the lot joining the church in Zebulon. The pastor's report includes, "We have recently bought a piece of land forty feet by two hundred feet adjoining our church and parsonage lot in Zebulon for \$150.00. Two members of the Woman's Missionary society attended a meeting in Rockingham and brought back an excellent report."

The August 18, 1919, a report listed a building committee for a new church in Wendell. The pastor reported, "We have purchased a beautiful lot at Wendell on which to build our new church." He further stated, "We are expecting the following young ladies to go to Greensboro College for Women this fall: Mary Saunders, Beatrice Saunders, and Vera Richardson. Doan Stott is planning to go to Trinity College. Bettie High has been in the Training School at Greenville (present day East Carolina University). Hazel Lewis is arranging to go to Blackstone." It is very apparent that education was very important to the Methodists of that era. I. B. Richardson was elected Steward at Watkins Chapel to fill a vacancy caused by the death of F. G. Fuller. On November 14, 1919, Dr. J. F. Coltrane was elected Lay Leader for the Zebulon Church. E. H. Moser was Sunday School Superintendent. The Woman's Missionary Society reported fifteen members at the Zebulon Church, with gifts of \$78.

The March 1, 1920, report noted that a committee had been appointed to "put in water works at the parsonage." G. M. Saunders, Dr. J. F. Coltrane and I. B. Richardson were to serve on this committee. Although he had served in leadership capacities previously, this report shows that E. H. Moser and Myrtle F. Moser joined the Zebulon Church during the quarter. At the July 19, 1920, Quarterly Conference, T. J. Horton resigned his position as recording Steward. Dr. J. F. Coltrane was elected to fill this position. The October 26, 1920, report lists the following Stewards for the ensuing year: J. D. Finch, J. F. Coltrane, G. M. Saunders, A. Pulley, Raleigh Shearin, and P. A. White. Zebulon's Trustees were: T. J. Horton, J. C. Jeffreys, and G. M. Saunders. Dr. J. F. Coltrane was serving as both Sunday School Superintendent and Lay Leader.

The pastor's report at this October Quarterly Conference stated, "We have recently held a very successful meeting in Zebulon, in which a large number professed saving faith in Christ and right many renewed their covenant with their Heavenly Father. I think the charge as a whole is in a healthy condition." It was at this meeting that Bertha May Pulley (Alford) was received by baptism into the Zebulon Church. She has been faithful in her support of this church for 77 years, always here for every occasion. In 1997, "Aunt Bertha" is the oldest member of the church, who is still a faithful attender of worship services.

There is a notation in the June 20, 1921, report requesting that the Zebulon Church be granted permission to build a Sunday School room to the church. The P. E. (Presiding Elder, likened to our current District Superintendent) was instructed to take up the question of getting \$8,000 cash from the church extension board for securities donated by R. B. Whitley, with said fund to be used to build a church at Wendell. Dr. J. F. Coltrane was elected at the September 25, 1921, Quarterly Conference to serve as a Trustee of the Parsonage property, filling a vacancy left by T. J. Horton. The same report noted that the two deeds to the Zebulon Church property were then in the custody of Dr. Coltrane. For many years the notations had stated that they were in the vault of the Zebulon Hosiery Mill, Mr. Horton's business. The recording reference for both deeds for the Zebulon Church property were shown as Book 222, page 495; and Book 375, page 537.



*Mary Fisher Finch Monson  
Ruth Anne Fisher Veazey  
Pulpit from first building.  
(1996 Photo)*

Rev. Fisher had one daughter, Alma Love Fisher, and three sons, one of whom, Edgar B. Fisher, became a Methodist minister and served as a District Superintendent. Edgar Fisher's daughter, Ruth Anne Fisher, married Dr. Alexander Holloway Veazey, Jr., an obstetrician in Hendersonville, N. C. Dr. Holloway's mother, Mary Exum Burt Veazey, was a first cousin, once removed of Edward Hill Davis and his brother, M. Stuart Davis, of the famous Green Hill and Davis families. Edward Hill Davis served as minister to the Zebulon Church and Stuart Davis was the architect for the sanctuary building. The youngest of Ruth Anne and Alex's sons was named Lee Fisher Veazey, for both of his great-grandfathers, George Washington Fisher and William Alfred Lee Veazey.

Alma Love Fisher married a Zebulon resident, Waylon D. Finch, and made her home in Zebulon. When I moved to Zebulon, in 1959, and Miss Alma discovered that I was Alex, Jr.'s second cousin, I became a member of her family, too. The Finch family had moved to Zebulon from the community of Mount Pleasant, in 1910, with Waylon D. Finch appearing on line 113 in the old church roll book. Alma Fisher Finch wrote a series of articles entitled, "My Twenty Eight Years in a Parsonage," for The Zebulon Record, which are included in this publication with the biographical sketch of her father.

Rev. W. L. Loy served from 1921-1923. He is first shown as the Pastor In Charge at the Quarterly Conference held on January 10, 1922. In his pastor's report under this date he noted that, "Mrs. Wayland Finch has organized the department of the Young Peoples Missionary Society." He further noted that there were five car loads of bricks on the church lot in Wendell. "Our aspirations are running high at Wendell and we expect to have a brick church there this year." On March 21, 1922, it is recorded that plans were being made to paint and repair the parsonage. Another attempt at an Epworth League in Zebulon had been organized with 18 charter members, but with a total roll of 30 at present. There was a notation at this meeting that Foster D. Finch had joined the church by certificate. Also joining during this quarter by certificate were: W. A. Richardson, Ida E. Richardson, Jarvis H. Richardson, Calvin J. Richardson, Paul Richardson, and Lottie Richardson. The church at Zebulon had just purchased a \$725 piano.

The pastor's report dated July 23, 1922, recorded receiving the following persons by baptism: Justine Davis, Grace Coltrane (Kilkelly), Margaret Brown, Ida Cahoon, Syble Cahoon, Pauline Pearce, Ruby Denton, James P. Brown, Mrs. S. G. Flowers, Hazel Weathersby, Ruby Braswell, J. G. Pearce, Lena Richardson, Roberta Cox, and Jordan May. Received by vows were: Dr. G. S. (George Sprite) Barbee, W. H. Hocutt; and by certificate: Dr. Charles E. Flowers and Mrs. Charles E. (Carmen) Flowers. A report of the Woman's Missionary Society was included in the October 24, 1922, report and was

signed by Mrs. W. L. Loy, President. The ladies reported having funded \$236.58 for local church work. The December 29, 1922, report shows this as a three point charge with Knightdale, Wendell, and Zebulon. The pastor's report for this period stated, "We are looking forward for at least one hundred additions on the charge this year. .... There were only two other charges in the district which made a greater percentage increase on profession of faith during the last year."



*Methodist Church  
As it looked ca. 1920-30*

The Rev. E. M. Hall served from 1923-1927. He held his first Quarterly Conference February 2, 1924, at which time it was, "...ordered that property at Watkins Chapel be sold," with a committee of I. B. Richardson, J. P. Brown, and W. T. Hales, to oversee this transaction. Other items of interest reported during this quarter are: basement of new church at Wendell practically completed and services were being held there until all building is complete; a much needed improvement was started by the installation city water in the parsonage; during this quarter the pastor conducted one funeral, officiated at two weddings, preached seventeen times, led eight prayer meetings, held two church conferences, and made 98 pastoral calls. The Zebulon Woman's Missionary Society report was signed by Mrs. Kattie S. (J.J.) Whitlock, President.

The pastors report dated April 28, 1924, related, "The spiritual condition is encouraging, at Zebulon, in particular. There has been a great advance in things spiritual because of the unusually remarkable union revival under the direction of Rev. Mel F. Learman, who for the past four weeks has been used of God in the conversion and reclamation of a great number of souls. This has been one of the greatest revivals ever seen in this community. Many of our members reconsecrated themselves." Some much needed improvements were to be made on the Zebulon Church building in the near future. Water had been installed in the parsonage at a cost of \$375, most of which had been paid in and the balance fully subscribed. Among those listed as received by baptism was Fred Clark, father of Freddie Clark Dent, and Rebecca Clark Spivey, lifelong faithful members of this church. Becky has been especially faithful to the choir and Woman's Society (now United Methodist Women.) Fred was about 16 years of age when he joined the church.

At the fourth Quarterly Conference dated October 27, 1924, among the new members received were Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Page, Jr. Mrs. Eva Page taught first grade at Wakelon School for probably fifty years, retiring about 1974, and taught the Primary Sunday School at the Zebulon Methodist Church for almost as many years. Mrs. Page also served as secretary to the Board of Stewards for many years. The report of this date of the Woman's Missionary Society showed 22 members and \$225 raised and spent for local work.

The Quarterly Conference report dated April 19, 1925, showed that it was moved and ruled that money received for sale of the Watkins Chapel church on motion it be turned over to the Zebulon Church - \$86. Mrs. Foster D. Finch was recorded as a new member during the past Quarter. New members received by baptism, reported at the July 26, 1925, conference include Earl Moser and Romulus (Rom) Moser. The December 20, 1925, report lists the death of J. C. Jeffreys. The March 7, 1926, report shows the addition of Mrs. G. W. Fisher, Henry E. Fisher, and Edgar B. Fisher. Rev. George W. Fisher died in January and his widow came back to live out her life with her only daughter Alma Fisher Finch. More details on this event are covered in Rev. Fisher's obituary and in Miss Alma's "My 28 Years in a Parsonage."

Rev. E. M. Hall reported a successful revival in Zebulon with Brother J. A. Russell as the preacher and D. L. Maness as the song leader, at the Quarterly Conference dated October 31, 1926. There were six additions on profession of faith and one by certificate. In November 1927, a report revealed that the Men's and Women's Classes had expended \$468 to add a classroom for the Ladies.

## THIRD DECADE

The Rev. Edward Hill Davis was appointed to the Zebulon Charge at Conference in 1927, and served until 1931. His relationship to the renowned Green Hill of Louisburg has been mentioned before. Rev. Davis retired to live in that historic house until his death, in 1953. As noted previously he was a first cousin, once removed of Mary Exum Burt Veazey, whose son married the granddaughter of George W. Fisher. He was also a first cousin, once removed of Helen Hunter Brodie, whose husband, Robert Stewart Brodie, served the Zebulon Church from 1967-1971, as will be noted later.

The third Quarterly Conference report dated July 22, 1928, reported the excellent Sunday School program in Zebulon, where the average attendance had been 147. The previous Sunday the attendance was 173. On April 14, 1929, the pastor stated that he was holding prayer meetings in each church each week. The average attendance in the Sunday School was up to 154 by July 7, 1929. The following comment was in the pastor's report on October 13, 1929: "A young people's choir under the direction of Mrs. Elmer D. Finch (Miss Minnie) is another feature of our church work that is telling for good." The pastor's report dated February 8, 1931, lists one new member received during the previous quarter, Mrs. Rhoda Winstead Gill. This verifies the "Winstead" memorial window in the Moser Bible Classroom.

As a result of a ten day revival held in the Zebulon Church in June of 1931, the following new members were added to the roll: Lollis R. Richardson, Doris Richardson, Mary Lee Denton, Mabel Lee, Alene Lenyile, Hildred Parker, Hazel Parker, Geraldine Parker, Lucy Francis Massey, Frank Massey, Talmage Harper, Lollis Strickland, Rachael Winstead, Pattie Virginia Clark, Lorone (Lorraine) Bridges, Mary Francis White, Brand Whitlock, Mrs. J. G. Green, and Mrs. Lee Allmon.

Rev. N. B. Johnson was appointed at Conference in 1931, and served until 1933. He held his first Quarterly Conference in his new assignment on January 21, 1932. Financial report indicated that the church had budgeted a \$2,000 annual salary for the Pastor In Charge. Dr. Coltrane resigned as Sunday School Superintendent because of needed rest and E. H. Moser was elected to fill the vacancy. The pastor reported, "We arrived at the parsonage here December 2nd. We were cordially received. The people have been very kind since our arrival. The following members have been received by certificate: Mrs. N. B. Johnson, Miss Josephine Johnson, and Maynard Johnson." This was obviously the minister's family. Mrs. John (Estelle) Terry is recorded as having joined the church as the November 16, 1932, conference. Mrs. Terry is remembered by many Sunday School students for her many years of teaching in the children's department.

NOTE: Even though Mrs. Terry had retired from teaching when we came to this church, she still had a very positive affect on my children and others in their age group. She would call for them to come visit her grandchildren when they were visiting. And even when they left for college and went by to say "goodbye" to Mrs. Terry, she had a "goodie bag" all fixed with fruit, candy, and a pencil and note pad to write their thoughts. Once when she had been ill and they both went for a visit, she offered them pineapple upside down cake (not then one Mark's favorites). They politely declined because it was near dinner time and their mother would not approve. Not to be deterred, Mrs. Terry wrapped it up for them to bring home for their dessert after dinner. I inquired of Mark, what would he have done if he had not had the "out" of bringing that cake home. He thought for just a minute and said, "For a sweet little lady with pretty white hair like Mrs. Terry, I would eat a mud pie and tell her it was good." I think Mrs. Terry had that effect on all of the children that she came into contact with over her years of teaching school and Sunday School.

In the pastor's report dated January 11, 1933, Rev. Johnson writes, "Knowing as I do the sorrow and suffering among our own people caused by the scarcity of money, I asked the Board of Stewards to cut my salary to one thousand dollars this year. This being only one half of the amount of salary paid in 1931, I felt by doing this that they would not only have more interest in trying to meet the local demands, but would also take more interest in the other causes and be more willing and able to share with them, also." History reminds us that this was the era of the "Great Depression," and the local pastor was doing his part to help his members meet their overall obligations.

He wrote in his May 7, 1933, report, "Despite the unfavorableness of the times, we are making steady progress in the work of His Kingdom. The scarcity of money with which to secure but the necessities of life, has caused many of our people to absent themselves from the church services, but the pastor has tried to serve them as best he could in personal contacts and supplying good reading matter, in the form of tracts, leaflets, temperance and church school literature. During the last three months, more than 600 pieces have been placed in the homes or hands of our congregations. An average of 70 calls per month have also been made by the pastor." Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Bridgers are recorded as joining the church during this quarter. The August 13, 1933, account reported new members: Miss Lucia Flowers, Miss Doza Wilson Blackley, Miss Oza Webb Blackley, Mr. and Mrs. Roy R. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. N. T. Harris, Mrs. Logan Scarboro, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Stell, and J. W. and Elizabeth Tarpley. Dr. J. F. Coltrane had resumed his position as Sunday School Superintendent. Rev. C. L. Reade was appointed to the Zebulon Charge at Conference in 1933 and served through 1936.



#### Sunday School outing at Little River Park

Left to right: Foster Davis "Dave" Finch, Jr.; Margaret Harris Finch; Nan Goodson Read; Nancy Read (in front of her mother); Miss Howard, Mrs. Read's daughter from her first marriage; Charles Lewis Read, pastor of the Zebulon Methodist Church from 1933 to 1936.



## FOURTH DECADE

Quarterly Conference records from this point forward have not been found. Therefore this period will not be covered in as much detail and the first three decades. Rev. J. W. Bradley served the Zebulon Charge from 1936-1938, and the Rev. B. F. Boone from 1938-1942.

The first edition of The Pantry Shelf cookbook was published about 1940 by the Woman's Missionary Society. The committee included Mrs. Ben F. Boone, Mrs. Waylon D. Finch, and Mrs. Fred L. Page. It was "lovingly dedicated to our Mothers who first taught us to cook." There were advertisements in the book with four digit telephone numbers. Some of the very old and very good recipes have been carried forward to later editions of this publication.

Rev. Charles E. Vale wrote on July 2, 1947, in an application for authority to construct: "The old church is unsafe and impracticable to use. The bell tower is unsteady, the floor is giving way in some places. Bad leaks have developed in the shed construction used as a part of the Sunday School for the beginners class. The plastering is off and conditions are very crowded. Instead of nine classrooms there are only five small rooms which are unsightly and unsafe for the use of the children. It is impossible to heat the building properly under these conditions.



*Sunday School Class (1940's)  
Teachers: Maybelle Richardson and Estelle Terry*

"To remodel the old building would cost a great deal, even to repair it would be a gross mis-use of money and materials. Yet something must be done. Some of the church members feel it is unsafe to come to church during bad weather because it cannot be heated properly. For five years the church has been patching the old building and raising money for the new. Now it has 2/3 of the amount needed already in hand and more in sight, if construction is begun soon. It is felt by the members that construction should begin at once." The Sunday School class pictured above includes first row squatting: Unknown, Vaughn Wade, Robert Pulley, and Sidney Richardson; and second row: Z. W. Chamblee, Jr., Patricia Brantley (Roberson), Hortense Pulley, unknown, Andrea Temple and Larry Page; third row: Billy Chamblee, Linda Jones (granddaughter of Mamie Temple Strickland), Peggy Richardson, Betsy Brantley (Green), Joe Wayne Tippett and Joseph Temple.

A contract was let for \$38,500 to Home Builders, owned by R. H. Bridgers, to build the new church. Mr. Bridgers was the father of Virginia B. Armstrong, Loraine B. Jones, and Linda B. Johnson. The architect was M. Stuart Davis of Louisburg, brother of Edward Hill Davis, the former minister. Serving on the building committee were: R. H. Bridgers, R. Vance Brown, Dr. J. F. Coltrane, Dr. C. E. Flowers, A. R. House, and H. C. Wade. The old building was sold to M. J. Sexton who removed it from the lot. Excavations were begun July 30, 1948. By July of 1949 they were ready to occupy the educational part of the new building.

Mr. Albert "Dave" Privette and his sons, Curtis, Wayne and Frank did all of the wiring and plumbing on the sanctuary building. Curtis and Wayne Privette and their sister, Vivian P. Trevathan remain members of this church in 1997. Their mother, wife of Dave Privette, was the former Effie O'Neal. The stained glass windows were installed (see separate chapter on windows), the carpet laid and pews in place for the first worship service in the present sanctuary on January 22, 1950. As is recorded elsewhere, the first wedding to take place in this sanctuary before the carpet was laid was the House-Turrentine wedding. After the carpet was laid the next wedding was that of Loraine Bridgers and Monroe Jones.

## FIFTH DECADE

The actual construction was begun and almost completed during the pastorate of Rev. Paul Carruth, who served the Zebulon Charge from 1947-1949. There was some difference of opinion between Rev. Carruth and the building contractor about which direction the cross on top of the church should face. Shortly after the beginning of the pastorate of Rev. S. E. Mercer the finishing touches were put on the sanctuary for that January, 1950, first service.



### **LOCAL METHODIST CHURCH TO OCCUPY WING OF NEW BUILDING NEXT SUNDAY MORNING**

*(The Zebulon Record July 22, 1949)*

On July 30, 1948, almost one year ago, the excavation for the new building of the local Methodist Church was begun. In the days which followed, the people of the community watched as the building was demolished by M. J. Sexton, local postmaster, and his crew. Gradually the new building, described at first by one child as "the big hole," took shape. Its unusual design drawn by Architect M. S. Davis, of Louisburg, prompted many questions as to the location of the main entrance. As the building neared completion under the expert direction of R. H. Bridgers and J. H. Patton of Home Builders Corporation, the interest of the community was sharpened. Finally when the cross, the universal symbol of Christianity, was placed on the steeple, comments on the beauty of the church were heard throughout the community and from people traveling through Zebulon.

The building contains a sanctuary with a seating capacity of 200, a choir room, pastor's study, kitchen, and fourteen class and assembly rooms, two oil burning hot air furnaces furnish heat for the educational building and the sanctuary separately. The sanctuary is equipped with indirect lighting and all upstairs flooring is of hardwood. The social room and kitchen are covered with block asphalt tile.

When the Methodists begin their services next Sunday, they will use only the educational building for both the church school and Services of Worship. It is expected that the new pews, the chancel furniture, and the stained glass memorial windows will be installed by late fall. The sanctuary floors will be carpeted and an electric organ will be installed. When this work is completed the Worship Services will be held in the sanctuary.

The pastor of the church has words of praise for the work of the Building Committee under the leadership of R. H. Bridgers, chairman, in carrying out the building project. The committee, besides Mr. Bridgers, includes R. V. Brown, Dr. J. F. Coltrane, Dr. C. E. Flowers, Attorney A. R. House, and H. C. Wade. The pastor has also commended the ladies of the church for their enthusiastic and faithful work.

The Building Committee has projected a system of financing the remainder of the expense of the building which will enable the church to be completely paid for in less than two years. When the church is debt free it is expected that the bishop of the Richmond Area, of which the North Carolina conference is a part, will come to dedicate the building.

The Methodists have expressed their appreciation to the community at large for its help and encouragement in its building project. As one member expressed it, "This project of ours has not only brought us closer together, it has made us feel closer to the people of the other churches."



## BULLETIN - JANUARY 20, 1950

This was a special service celebrating the opening of the sanctuary of public worship. Mrs. Tom (Grace Coltrane) Kilkelly was the soloist for this occasion and Rev. S. E. Mercer brought a sermon entitled, "I Will Build My Church." The following acknowledgement also appeared in this bulletin:

We extend a most hearty welcome to all of you on this glorious occasion. We rejoice that a dream and a hope long cherished and worked for has come to pass before our eyes. Most sincere thanks are extended to all who have nobly assisted in making this happy hour possible. We now have opportunities for preaching, teaching, worshiping, and serving such as we have never known before. Let us thank God for the wonderful progress made and humbly implore his loving guidance that we many now use for His glory the beautiful Church which he has enabled us to build and furnish.

"Let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

### CONCERT IS SCHEDULED ON METHODIST CHIMES

(The Zebulon Record July 22, 1949)

A part of the special services to be held as the Methodist Church begins the use of its new building on Sunday, will be a thirty minute program of Chime music. Beginning at 5:00 o'clock, Miss Jocelyn House, talented musician of Zebulon, will play a number of the great hymns of the Church on the Martha Flowers Pippin Memorial Chimes, presented to the church by Mrs. S. G. Flowers. It is expected that the Chimes may be heard throughout the community. Plans are being made for these programs to become a regular feature.

Note: There is a picture in this same issue of The Zebulon Record, entitled, "SCENE FROM THE BABY PARADE," captioned : Shown on Zebulon's Arendell Avenue are participants in the Baby Parade and Popularity Contest held this spring by ladies of the Methodist Church to help raise funds for the local church building. Mrs. S. G. Flowers, who has given chimes for the church, was chairman of the baby event.

This edition of The Zebulon Record has the following interesting articles and advertisements that will give the reader some sense of the time in history that these events took place (please note things such as the four digit telephone numbers):

Miss Jocelyn House, bride elect (of Spencer Turrentine) of August 1949, was entertained at two bridal parties. One was a luncheon at the Colonial Pines. A second entertainment was a bridge party at the home of Mrs. Exum Chamblee. (Note: This wedding was held in the new sanctuary before the carpet had been installed.)

Battery A, Zebulon's unit of the North Carolina National Guard will stand Federal inspection by regular army personnel next week, Captain Barrie Davis, commanding, announced yesterday. After a delay of three weeks, while final work was done on the armory, the preliminary inspection was held this week and National Guard headquarters in Raleigh were notified.....

**CLASSIFIED:** **PIANOS EXPERTLY TUNED &** repaired by certified worker. Mack Hocutt, Zebulon, Phone 2521.

**MOVIE THEATERS:** **WAKELON Theater** in Zebulon showing "The Mutineers," "Jungle Goddess," and "Law Comes to Texas."

**WEN-LON Drive-In** between Wendell and Zebulon showing "Dakota," starring John Wayne; "Bachelor and the Bobby Soxer," starring Cary Grant, Myrna Loy and Shirley Temple; and Walt Disney's "Song of the South."

## ZEBULON METHODISTS WILL DEDICATE NEW CHURCH

(News & Observer, June 16, 1951)



Bishop Paul N. Garber of the Richmond and Geneva Areas will preach the dedicatory sermon at the new Zebulon Methodist Church Sunday, June 24, at 11 a.m. He will be assisted by the Rev. E. B. Fisher, superintendent of the Raleigh district, and the Rev. S. E. Mercer, pastor. The church will be presented for dedication by F. D. Finch, president of the board of trustees.

Dinner will be served on the grounds for all present. After dinner there will be special music, greetings from former pastors and their families and a brief history of the church. All former pastors and their families, former members and other friends of the church are invited to be present.

The new Zebulon church has a sanctuary with a seating capacity of 210, exclusive of choir and adjoining balcony and rooms. It is furnished with oak pews, divided chancel and altar in the center. A red carpet covers the entire floor. Appropriate memorial windows adorn the sanctuary. A new Hammond organ, Maas chimes, both for the sanctuary and for outside amplification, and a new spinet piano compose the musical equipment. The church has 12 Sunday school rooms, pastor's study, choir room and a well-equipped kitchen.

At the organization of the church in 1907 under the vigorous pastorate of the Rev. A. D. Wilcox, the first church was built at a cost of about \$1,500 and with 14 charter members. The present edifice with furnishings and equipment has an estimated value of \$60,000 and a membership of 285.

Efforts in the interest of the new church continued over many years, but the more intense efforts were made during the pastorates of the Rev. C. E. Vale, the Rev. Paul Carruth and the Rev. S. E. Mercer. During the Rev. Mr. Vales's pastorate plans were drawn, about half of the estimated building cost was raised and a grant of \$3,500 was secured from the Duke Endowment.

Actual construction began and was almost completed during the Rev. Mr. Carruth's pastorate. Most of the needed funds were raised or subscribed, and the first service was held in the assembly room of the new church on July 24, 1949. Shortly after the beginning of the Rev. Mr. Mercer's pastorate, the sanctuary was completed and fully furnished, and the first regular worship service was held in it on January 22, 1950. The final installment of the Duke Endowment aid was received on March 1, 1951, when with it all obligations against the church were paid, and it was declared free of debt and ready for dedication.

The building committee was composed of R. H. Bridgers, R. Vance Brown, Dr. J. F. Coltrane, Dr. C. E. Flowers, A. R. House, and H. C. Wade. The architect was M. Stuart Davis of Louisburg, brother of the Rev. E. H. Davis, a former pastor. No statement of the devoted efforts for the new church would be complete without a word about the vigorous labors of the faithful women of the church. By the labors of their hands as well as by personal contributions they raised many thousands of dollars for furnishing and equipping the sanctuary and other parts of the church.

The following men have served the Zebulon-Wendell Charge: The Rev. A. D. Wilcox, the Rev. P. D. Woodall, the Rev. T. J. Dailey, the Rev. G. B. Perry, the Rev. G. W. Starling, the Rev. G. W. Fisher (father of the Rev. E. B. Fisher, present superintendent of the Raleigh District), the Rev. W. L. Loy, the Rev. E. M. Hall, the Rev. E. H. Davis, the Rev. N. B. Johnson, the Rev. C. L. Read, the Rev. J. W. Bradley, the Rev. B. F. Boone, the Rev. C. E. Vale, the Rev. Paul Carruth, and the present pastor, the Rev. S. E. Mercer.

## **BULLETIN - JANUARY 20, 1950**

This was a special service celebrating the opening of the sanctuary of public worship. Mrs. Tom (Grace Coltrane) Kilkelly was the soloist for this occasion and Rev. S. E. Mercer brought a sermon entitled, "I Will Build My Church." The following acknowledgement also appeared in this bulletin:

We extend a most hearty welcome to all of you on this glorious occasion. We rejoice that a dream and a hope long cherished and worked for has come to pass before our eyes. Most sincere thanks are extended to all who have nobly assisted in making this happy hour possible. We now have opportunities for preaching, teaching, worshipping, and serving such as we have never known before. Let us thank God for the wonderful progress made and humbly implore his loving guidance that we many now use for His glory the beautiful Church which he has enabled us to build and furnish.

"Let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

## BOARD MINUTES 1951-1957

Minutes of the Official Board for the periods 1951 through May 1957, have been located and interesting extracts have been included here:

Minutes of the Official Board of the Zebulon Charge dating from November 1951 list the following Stewards: appointed prior to 1949, Fred Smith and Garland Richardson; in 1949, Mrs. J. E. Carter, W. D. Finch and M. J. Sexton; in 1950, Mrs. S. G. Flowers, Dr. J. F. Coltrane, F. D. Finch; in 1951, H. C. Wade, Albert Pulley, Mrs. Fred L. Page; in 1952, T. B. Hepler, Ed Hales, James Brown; in 1953, Dr. C. E. Flowers, Garland Richardson, Miss Sarah Eaton; in 1954, Dr. Zyba Massey, Frank Wall, Mrs. J. E. Carter, M. J. Sexton; in 1955, Andy Jenkins, Leaman Pearce, Jimmy Spivey, and A. R. House replacing James Brown; in 1956, John H. Ihrle, Mrs. R. E. Kitchings and James Wall. The church officers for the year 1952-1953 were H. V. Andrews, Church School Superintendent; Trustees, Dr. J. F. Coltrane, F. D. Finch and John Terry; Parsonage Trustees, R. Vance Brown, H. C. Wade, and E. D. Finch; Mrs. W. D. Finch was President of Woman's Society; and Ruth Temple (Joyner) was President of the M. Y. F.

The Stewards met in November 1951 at the parsonage and reported \$224 in hand with \$81 having been paid to the orphanage. The pastor's salary was raised \$200. Rev. S. E. Mercer was serving at this time. It was agreed to adopt 45 orphanage children for Christmas. There was informal discussion concerning the church music program and repair to the parsonage with no action taken. The December meeting was again held in the parsonage when Rev. Mercer shared that a group of children from the orphanage would be with them on the 5th Sunday in March and after their program a dinner would be served in the recreational room. Rev. Mercer announced that he wanted to sell his piano for \$100 and would give the church the first chance to purchase it.

Garland Richardson, Chairman of the Board of Stewards, presided at the January 1952 meeting in the parsonage. Mrs. Fred L. (Eva) Page was secretary of the board and took the minutes in her very precise and easily recognized printed handwriting. The Woman's Society of Christian Service had purchased the Mercer piano. The fact that the church roll needed to be revised was brought up at the March meeting. (Updated church rolls need to be recorded every few years omitting the names of deceased and relocated members. Although not dated a third roll book has been located that was transcribed in Mrs. Page's distinctive printing.) At the April 1952 meeting, the following resolution was presented to the Board and accepted by them:

We, the undersigned members of the Zebulon Methodist Church Parsonage Committee, with reluctance, recommend only the absolute necessary repairs to the parsonage, such as a new roof, painting and the necessary carpenter work in repairing the front porch, windows, and kitchen.

We further recommend that the Board of Stewards appoint a parsonage building committee to formulate plans for the building of a new parsonage. We suggest that this committee might start what we would call a "five year plan," to be started this fall and contact the members and obtain a pledge or promise from them to pay into the treasury of the building committee whatever they feel that they are able to donate over a period of five years, payable each fall. It is our suggestion that the committee be of an aggressive nature and proceed immediately, if appointed, with this undertaking.

Respectfully submitted,  
R. Vance Brown, Chairman  
H. C. Wade, Secretary  
E. D. Finch, Member of Committee

Rev. Mercer was confined to his home with illness at the May meeting of the Board of Stewards. Mr. Wade reported that the Wendell Methodist Church had agreed to match the Zebulon Church's

contribution for repair on the parsonage up to \$1,000. By the June meeting, Rev. Mercer was sufficiently recovered to attend the meeting and gave a favorable report on Vacation Church School and the Revival. Work on the parsonage was progressing. Mr. Wade reported that \$617.50 had been raised and Wendell had paid \$500 for this repair work. The meeting on July 16, 1952, was the first meeting since the name was changed from Board of Stewards to the Official Board. The four commissions on the new board are: education, missionary work and woman's society, finance, and evangelism and church membership.

Mr. Wade reported the work completed on the parsonage at the August meeting. Mr. Brown announced that the grounds had been landscaped at the September meeting, with expense of same being covered by the Woman's Society. Rev. Mercer reported two new members, Frank Wall and Mr. Poole. There was a called meeting of the Official Board on October 2, at which time Mr. Andrews reported a gain from 109 to 121 in Sunday School attendance during the past year. There was \$1,031 in the annual budget that needed to be covered before the Quarterly Conference in a little over a week. A second called meeting on October 9th revealed that only \$79 was lacking at that time. Rev. Mercer urged all present to attend the Quarterly Conference in Wendell on the following Sunday night. He reported 33 new members added to the charge, 20 in Zebulon and 13 in Wendell.

The first meeting of the new church year was held on November 11, 1952, with new members Ed Hales, Thurman Hepler and James Brown replacing Garland Richardson, H. V. Andrews, and Fred Smith who rotated off. Foster D. Finch was elected chairman; Cloid Wade, vice-chairman; Mrs. S. G. Flowers, treasurer; and Mrs. F. L. Page, secretary. Mr. Finch immediately took the chair. Rev. Mercer gave an interesting and inspiring report on the Annual Conference. Garland Richardson was designated chief usher at the December, 1952, meeting of the Board. James Brown reported at the March, 1953, meeting that gravel for the parking lot was now available free from the quarry at Rolesville. At the April meeting it was announced that one load of gravel had been put on the drive. The water heater at the parsonage needed replacing and at least one room upstairs at the parsonage needed to be repaired for guests. Advance plans for visitation and prayer meeting in preparation for the evangelistic mission which was to begin the next Sunday was discussed.

At the May 1953 meeting, Rev. Mercer spoke in appreciation of and the good accomplished by the Evangelistic Mission. He urged Board Members to help in the assimilation of the new members by visitation and encouragement. A committee of Jesse Pulley, H. C. Wade and R. Vance Brown was asked to investigate the cost of an air conditioning unit for the church. Mrs. Bruce Honeycutt was presented an appropriate gift in appreciation of her splendid and loyal work with the Junior Choir. The Wendell Church is willing to pay one half the cost of installing gutters to the front of the parsonage and installing a water heater there. The secretary was asked to write a letter of appreciation to Mr. Tom Bailey of the Bryan Gravel Company for the gravel that was donated to our church. The gravel had been spread in the needed places. Jesse Pulley reported that his investigation showed the cost of an air conditioning unit for the church to be \$2,900. He was asked to secure other estimates. Chairs and tables for the primary and kindergarten departments had arrived.

Rev. Mercer explained that one million dollars was to be raised over a ten year period by the conference for our church colleges. The Wendell-Zebulon charge was expected to raise \$1,800 over a three year period for this college effort. At the meeting on September 15, 1953, he announced a meeting of the United College Fund to be held at Edenton Street Methodist Church on September 25th. He also reported that 45 members had been added to the two churches this year. The secretary was asked to send condolences to Miss Alberta Davis in the recent death of her father, Rev. E. H. Davis, who formerly served this church. Rev. Mercer thanked the members for the kindnesses shown to him during a recent illness.

Aspirations for the coming year were discussed at the Board meeting on November 10, 1953: 1. air conditioning for the church; 2. movie projector; 3. minister of music. A committee composed of Mr. Hepler, Mr. Andrews, Mrs. Coltrane and Mrs. Sexton was appointed to investigate the possibility of securing a minister of music. The total budget for the year of \$6,000 was presented and approved at the



December 15th meeting. Rev. Mercer reported at this meeting that the music committee had met and were considering Wallace Sherron from Wake Forest and Mrs. Ben Finch Massey of Zebulon. The Board voted to ask Mrs. Massey to be the Minister Of Music for three months. A report at the January Board meeting indicated that Mrs. Massey had accepted the offer to help with the church music. She was to be paid \$40.00 per month which would be underwritten by private donations until it could be added to the budget.

At the Board meeting on March 16, 1954, Chairman F. D. Finch was instructed to let Mrs. Massey know that her service would be discontinued at the end of March. Plans for the coming revival and the purchase of hymn books were discussed at the April Board. Mr. Andrews reported that the Cokesbury Worship Hymnals had been chosen for our Sunday School. Additional hymnals are also needed for the church. Several problems with the church physical plant were discussed including the heating system.

On May 11, 1954, at the Official Board meeting, Rev. Mercer suggested fixing up a couple of upstairs rooms in the parsonage and the desirability of an upstairs bath. The parsonage committee would investigate. Mr. H. C. Wade reported at the June meeting that the work needed to be done on two of the rooms and the hall in the parsonage included new floors and painting throughout. Painters and carpenters estimated that new hardwood floors, painting and papering would cost around \$375. A new bathroom would be around \$1,200 or \$1,300. Since these funds were not currently available, the committee was not ready to make a recommendation.

Laura James Sexton was commended for her work with the choirs at the Board meeting on July 13, 1954. Nineteen new hymnals had been added to the church. The Board voted to borrow \$400 in order to paint the exterior of the church and to repair the gutters. A pianist for the coming winter was discussed at the August meeting in view of the fact that Laura James would be leaving for college. "We hope to retain her for the morning services for awhile at least."

At the September meeting Rev. Mercer announced that Laura James would hold choir practice and play for church twice a month at the Sunday morning service. At the last Board meeting for the fiscal year on October 12, 1954, Mrs. S. G. Flowers, treasurer, reported a deficit in the amount of \$223.26 in order to pay the pastor and conference obligations before annual conference met. At this meeting, Mr. Wade reported that all scrap wood had been removed from under the church. Rev. Mercer expressed his appreciation for the fine year's work. Mr. Wade expressed the Board's appreciation for Mr. Mercer's fine work and the pleasure it had been to serve with him.

Members of the Official Board for the 1954-1955 year were James Brown, Mrs. J. E. Carter, Miss Sarah Eaton, Mrs. S. G. Flowers, Ed Hales, T. B. Hepler, Dr. Zyba Massey, Mrs. F. L. Page, Albert Pulley, Garland Richardson, M. J. Sexton, H. C. Wade, Frank Wall, and Leaman Pearce. Mrs. Garland Richardson was President of the Woman's Society; Ruth Temple, President of the M. Y. F.; E. D. Finch was District Steward; H. V. Andrews was Sunday School Superintendent; Jesse Pulley and Frank Wall were Assistant Sunday School Superintendents; and E. H. Moser was Lay Leader.

Rev. E. C. Durham, substituting for Rev. Mercer who was ill, met with the Official Board on November 16, 1954. H. C. Wade was elected Chairman; Sarah Eaton, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. F. L. Page, Secretary; and Mrs. S. G. Flowers, Treasurer. The budget for 2/3 of the next year was \$4,430 which was adopted. Annual Conference had been moved to June, therefore this budget would not be for an entire year.

## **MERCER DECEASED - BARRETT APPOINTED**

Upon the death of Rev. Mercer on November 22, 1954, shortly after the close of Annual Conference that year, the Rev. Troy J. Barrett was appointed to the Zebulon Charge. The Official Board inserted a Resolution of Respect on behalf of Rev. Mercer in the Board Minutes:

Whereas God, in His infinite wisdom, has removed from us our dearly beloved pastor and friend, the Rev. S. E. Mercer, be it resolved

First - that we bow to God's will and know that our loss is His gain.

Second - That the Zebulon Methodist Church has lost a superb leader and great Christian brother.

Third - That civic organizations and the whole community have lost a much loved, capable, happy worker who found time to help in all worthy causes for all people of all races and color.

Fourth - That the wonderful, shining Christian spirit and influence of Mr. Mercer will continue to bless and inspire all who knew him.

Fifth - That a copy of these resolutions be sent to Mrs. Mercer, to the Christian Advocate, to The Zebulon Record and that a copy be spread in the minutes of the Official Board of The Zebulon Methodist Church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Foster D. Finch  
Mrs. S. G. Flowers  
Mrs. Fred L. Page

At the Official Board meeting on December 13, 1954, the following statement was inserted in the minutes, "Our hearts were, indeed, sad as this was our first meeting since our dearly beloved pastor, Mr. S. E. Mercer, died. Yet we are proud and happy that we were permitted to know and work with him for five years. His great Christian influence and spirit will linger long with us. We feel that we are truly blessed by having the Rev. Troy Barrett assigned to lead us in our work."

## **BULLETINS AND CHOIR ROBES**

Mr. Wade stated that Mr. Barrett would like to use the church study regularly and thought it wise to provide a more economical way of heating it. Mr. F. D. Finch graciously consented to let us use a gas heater that he had on hand and was not using. Mr. Thurman Hepler was to see about having it installed. Mr. Barrett brought up the question of church bulletins. The cost would be around \$4-\$5 per month. Mr. F. D. Finch again came to the rescue and agreed to let his duplicating machine be used. The Board liked this suggestion and agreed to have a bulletin.

At the January 11, 1955, Board meeting, Mr. Wade reported that the damage done to the church by the hurricane (Hazel in October 1954) had been repaired and would be paid for by insurance. Mr. Albert Pulley brought a request from the choir for robes. Each member offered to pay one half of the cost. Miss Laura James Sexton, Choir Director, would buy her own. After a thorough discussion, the Board voted to buy the robes.

Mr. Barrett discussed the possibility of organizing a Men's Fellowship Club, stating that he thought it would create greater fellowship and unity among the men and also help in the overall purpose of the church. The Board approved this idea and it was to be pursued further. There was a special called meeting of the Official Board on March 1, 1955. There were twenty-five members present, which was almost double the usual attendance at this time. Chairman H. C. Wade stated the purpose of this meeting was to consider separate charges for Wendell and Zebulon Methodist churches. Members of the Wendell Church had asked for a meeting with a few of the Zebulon members to discuss this matter.

On February 26, Mr. Wade, Mr. M. J. Sexton, Mr. F. D. Finch, and Mrs. S. G. Flowers met with the Wendell group, who had Mr. Tom Bailey as spokesman. Mr. Bailey stated that his group felt it was time to consider the two churches becoming separate charges and they would like to do so at the end of the current conference year in June. The committee from Zebulon made no commitment but suggested that June of 1955, would be rather early, perhaps June, 1956, would be better.

Mr. Wade presented the subject under consideration and gave each Board member an opportunity to express his or her ideas. Several problems including the parsonage were discussed but will be taken care of by the proper committees. Mr. R. Vance Brown made a motion that the Board recommend to our people that we accept Wendell's offer to separate in June of 1955 and leave the parsonage question for arbitration between the committees chosen from each church. Mr. T. B. Hepler seconded the motion. The motion carried. H. C. Wade, F. D. Finch, M. J. Sexton, R. V. Brown, and Mrs. S. G. Flowers were appointed a committee to represent Zebulon.

## ZEBULON BECOMES STATION

The Official Board met in regular session on March 15, 1955, with Rev. R. Grady Dawson, District Superintendent, and the Official Board of the Wendell Methodist Church. Rev. Dawson presided at this meeting. Mr. Tom Bailey, representing Wendell, and Mr. H. C. Wade, representing Zebulon, gave explanations of the aims and desires of each church. Rev. Dawson commended both churches for taking this forward step in ministry. He also urged that both churches not make this decision on the basis of having a particular pastor appointed, but rather leave this decision up to the bishop and the Cabinet. The vote of the combined Boards was unanimous in favor of each church becoming a station church. The committee to decide on the value of the parsonage was, representing Wendell, Tom Bailey, J. W. Dale, Walter Burgess, and Richard Brantley; and representing Zebulon, Mrs. S. G. Flowers, H. C. Wade, F. D. Finch, M. J. Sexton, and R. V. Brown. The amount decided was for Zebulon to pay \$1,000 equity to Wendell for their share of the value of the parsonage.

A notation in the April 12th Board meeting mentioned that thirty members of the M. Y. F. were planning to spend a week at Camp Don Lee. Rev. Barrett, Conrad Glass, Duke Divinity Student, and Mrs. Lawrence Liles would be in charge of this event. The Board also voted to borrow the \$1,000 to pay Wendell for the parsonage. At the May meeting, Rev. Barrett reported that 73 members were added to the two churches during Rev. Mercer's pastorate, which was more than any other two point charge in the conference. New members of the Official Board welcomed at the June 14, 1955, meeting included Andy Jenkins, Leaman Pearce, Jimmy Spivey and Mr. A. R. House, who is to fill out James Brown's unexpired term. M. J. Sexton was elected Chairman of the Board.



*MYF at Camp Don Lee  
Rev. Barrett at center*

## **AFTER SIX YEARS SERVICE, METHODIST HEAD RESIGNS**

(The Zebulon Record - July 6, 1956)

After six years as superintendent of the Methodist Church School, H. V. Andrews, Jr., has resigned that position. Before becoming superintendent, he served in the capacity of assistant superintendent. He succeeded Frank Massey. Garland Richardson is succeeding Andrews as superintendent.

### **Wendell Native**

Andrews is a native of Wendell, the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Andrews, Sr. He is married to the former Melba Parker, daughter of Mrs. Ethel Parker and the late Mr. Parker. He is the father of one child, a son, Henry, 11 years old. He is employed with the Bynum Printing Company as a linotype operator.

H. V., his wife, Melba, and their son, Henry, were very active members of the Methodist Church. Melba sang in the choir and was faithful in her circle membership and support of the Woman's Society of Christian Service. She was honored with a Life Membership in the W.S.C.S. in June of 1966. Melba was employed as Clerk by the town of Zebulon. She sent all tax notices and water bills from the small town office that she shared with other town employees, collected the payments manually and gave hand written receipts. When her health began to fail, she often times worked when she really was not well enough, but she was faithful to every obligation that she undertook.

## **METHODIST YOUTHS GATHER SUNDAY TO PLAN WORSHIP**

(The Zebulon Record - September 11, 1956)

The young people of the Zebulon Methodist Church and their friends will have a day-apart next Sunday, September 16, to work and play, worship and pray, and plan for the year ahead in youth work in the church. The group will gather for breakfast at 8:00. After that, they will have a period of orientation for the day. Jim Long, Conference MYF President, will have charge of the Church School class and will speak on "Drinking and Christian Living," the Fall Action Project of all Methodist Youth over the nation. He will help the group map plans for this project.

Possibly the highlight of the day will be the 11:00 o'clock worship service of which the young people will have charge. Betsy Brantley will be the Organist, E. B. Pulley will preside, Robert Pulley will have the Prayer of Confession, Patsy Brantley the Responsive Reading, Tony Wilson the Scripture, and five of the youths will make talks on "Jesus' Way - Our Way" - Joe Wayne Tippett, Hazel Tant, Joseph Temple, Peggy Richardson, Vaughn Wade. Rev. Conrad Glass, Senior in the Duke Divinity School, will climax the message. The new officers of the MYF will be installed by the Pastor, Rev. Troy J. Barrett and the Counselor, Mrs. Lawrence Liles. Jim Long will give the challenge to the officers.

After dining together at Hilliard's, the group will meet in the afternoon to look at their needs and determine ways and means of meeting these needs with programs, projects, and activities. Simple projects to help clean up, straighten up and beautify the church will be carried out just before supper. The evening program of the Methodist Youth Fellowship will be a pledge service for the Methodist Youth Fund, a fund which sends money all over the world to aid those in need.

The day will close with the 7:30 evening fellowship when all the parents and adults of the church will come together for fellowship and a sharing in what the youth have planned. All in all, it looks like a day to look forward to. All Methodist Youth, and others who would like, are invited to attend. The expense is \$1.00 for the three meals. If you can not attend the entire session, you are welcome for any part. The youth urge their parents to attend the 7:30 fellowship.

## **MERCER SEXTON CIRCLE BAZAAR**

(The Zebulon Record - November 9, 1956)

The women of the Mercer-Sexton Circle will hold their annual bazaar Monday, November 26, it has been announced by Mrs. Douglas Finch, publicity chairman. The affair will get well underway at 10 o'clock in the morning and continue until 10 o'clock that night. Mrs. Andrew Jenkins, chairman of the bazaar, said there will be children's and adult's clothing, household linens, stuffed toys, pantry shelf supplies, baby clothes, baked goods, candies and doll clothes.

Mrs. Jenkins said the doll clothes have been made for the dolls that will be furnished by the Salvation Army. Every Christmas the Salvation Army contributed dolls for the poor and needy of this area, and the clothing made by the Circle ladies last year did not properly fit the dolls. This year Mrs. Jenkins called Salvation Army Captain Fuller for the size of the dolls, and this year the doll clothing will fit.

Lunch will be served from 11:30 until 1:30, Mrs. Finch said. The lunches will consist of ham plates with all the trimmings. The price will be 75 cents. Persons who intend having lunch should contact Mrs. I. B. Richardson or Mrs. Thurman Hepler immediately for tickets. They will also serve coffee and cake for those that like to take a mid-morning or mid-afternoon break. This serving will cost 15 cents.

The ladies of the Circle will also have packages to sell. During September each of them received ten cards with name of prominent persons to ask for a donation of a gift, which will be sold unopened. Mrs. Jenkins reports that this project has gone over splendidly, and the response has been most generous.

## **BAZAAR**

(The Zebulon Record - November 30, 1956)

When they cleaned the last plate and swept the last particle of trash from the floor, the Methodist Women were tired Monday night. But they were happy and delight shone in their faces at the success of their bazaar. The receipts totaled \$355. Mrs. Andrew Jenkins said: "We never dreamed we would take in such an amount, but we were thrilled that our venture was so successful. We are grateful for the wonderful cooperation that we received."

"We are simply delighted that the bazaar went over so big and wonderfully," Mrs. Douglas Finch stated. The bazaar this year was the biggest undertaking the Methodist women have tried. It was their third venture. And from their reports they intend on having a bigger and better one next year. "We are sorry that we could not serve the many persons who wanted to have lunch with us," Mrs. Jenkins, chairman, said, "but due to the limited facilities it was impossible." Tickets were sold for fifty plates, but these had to be increased because of the demand. Approximately 70 plates were served. The Methodist women's first venture in 1954 netted them \$100, and last year's receipts totaled \$186. "This year's bazaar topped our wildest dreams," Mrs. Frank Wall said. This year's receipts will go into the general church fund.

## SIXTH DECADE

### METHODISTS TO LAUNCH CELEBRATION WITH REVIVAL

(The Zebulon Record - March 29, 1957)

The Zebulon Methodist Church will launch its 50th year celebration and preaching mission April 7-12. Sunday, April 7, there will be a dinner on the grounds of the church, according to the Official Board of the church. On Sunday night and the following nights through Friday, former pastors of the church will be present to deliver messages.

Sunday morning worship at 11:00, the Rev. B. F. Boone of Fairmont; Sunday evening worship at 7:30, the Rev. E. C. Durham of Raleigh; Monday, the Rev. W. L. Loy of Raleigh; Tuesday, the Rev. J. W. Bradley of Raleigh; Wednesday, the Rev. F. L. Love of Macon; Thursday, the Rev. C. E. Vale of Rose Hill; and Friday, the Rev. Paul Carruth of Tabor City. All services will begin at 7:30 o'clock, the Rev. Troy J. Barrett, pastor, has announced, and all friends, members and patrons of the church are invited to share in this week's fellowship.

### METHODIST CHRISTMAS CONCERT BEAUTIFULLY, BRILLIANTLY DONE

(The Zebulon Record, December 19, 1957)

Those persons who did not attend the Methodist Yule concert Sunday missed one of the most beautifully done and most inspirational programs heard in many a day. No choir in Zebulon can surpass now that of the Methodist Church, and it has promises of becoming one of the foremost church choirs in North Carolina. A major portion of the praise can be attributed to Mrs. Robert Daniel Massey, the choir's director. At all times she was in command of the group, quietly but firmly, executing the finer technicalities of conducting.

The program was varied enough to suit the most discriminating audience. And the audience, which should have been larger, was very much pleased. The choirs rendered the selections with excellent interpretation. They showed feeling, emotional qualities, clearness and smoothness of the phrases and passages. Possibly, "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming," "Gesu Bambino" and "The Sleep of the Child Jesus" were not up to the highest musical qualities. Passages in these selections seemed to drag and the choir seemed to be unsure of itself in some of the phrases.

The "Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light," "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," "O Holy Night," "Cherubim Song" and "Gloria in Excelsis" were the selections done most beautifully, creating in the audience's hearts a surging happiness and deep emotional experience. Mrs. Connie Bunn and Miss Betty Lou Carter took solo parts in "Gesu Bambino" and "O Holy Night." Mrs. Bunn's rich soprano and Miss Carter's throaty, mellow contralto in these numbers were flowing, with a delicate touch of the tonalities and true emphasis where needed.

The two-part cantata, "The Child Jesus," by the primary, junior and intermediate choirs, was done with unusual excellence. The material, somewhat a bit difficult for the newly organized choirs, was done by the children with a responsiveness to the subject and loving hearts and voices. Miss Nell Newby served as accompanist for this group. Her accompanying, too, was done with great feeling and treatment of the subject.

Miss Connie Hepler set the mood of the concert with a beautifully rendered organ selection entitled, "In Dulci Jubilo." Her delicate touch provided the sweetness necessary for the selection by Bach. The persons who heard the Yule concert by the Methodist choirs Sunday were indeed fortunate. The performance went without a hitch, was not too long, was done par excellence, and was a rewarding experience to all who sat in the candlelighted sanctuary. Congratulations to Mrs. Massey, to the choirs and to the church for providing Zebulon with seasonal music that was inspiring, imbues with reverence and left one with a lifted up soul and spirit.

NOTE: Although there is no byline on many of these articles, I feel I should note here for folks who were not living in Zebulon during this time frame that D. Scott Brown, benefactor of this church in more recent years, was a writer for The Zebulon Record for a number of years during this time and most probably was the author of this review.

## **CHURCH PARTY**

(The Zebulon Record - March 20, 1958)

Last Monday, the Primary and Junior departments of the Zebulon Methodist Church took on an oriental atmosphere. Some 25 children in these departments participated in a Doll Festival. On March 3, in Japan, the children of that country hold a Doll Festival. The children of the Methodist Church patterned their festival after this important oriental occasion.

The girls in each of the departments brought one or two dolls and put them on display. There were enough to cover a three-tiered shelf. Then the group sang simple Japanese songs and joined in a Japanese tea party with a tea base punch and real Japanese cookies. The Rev. Troy J. Barrett, minister of the church, Mrs. Robert D. Massey, Mrs. Douglas Finch, and Mrs. Andrew Jenkins were in charge of the festival.

## **QUICK APPOINTED TO ZEBULON**

Rev. William K. Quick was appointed to the Zebulon Church at Annual Conference which was now meeting in June 1959, having previously served the Bahama Charge in the Durham District. He moved his family into the old parsonage next door to the church. The membership soon decided that a new parsonage was needed for the minister's family, and a seven room brick structure was erected on Glenn Street. The Quick family moved into the new parsonage the last Saturday in November, 1960. Quick went on to serve churches in Greenville, N. C., Trinity in Durham, N. C. and Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Detroit, Michigan, where he is serving in 1997. (See section on pastors in this publication.)

## **UNIQUE NURSERY SET FOR METHODIST CHURCH**

(The Zebulon Record, August 20, 1959)

A unique nursery is in store for the mothers of the Zebulon Methodist Church, according to an announcement from the minister, the Rev. William K. Quick. The Rev. Mr. Quick revealed that the Official Board of the church has given the go-ahead on the conversion of the church balcony into a sound-proof nursery "cry-room." The ceiling of the balcony will be lowered twelve inches and a sound proof mineral tile will be installed. Sound-proof glass will be installed in the three removable panels at the top rear of the church sanctuary and carpet will be laid wall to wall on the floor.

The worship services of the church will be piped into the nursery and the mothers, with their infants and little tots, will be able to see the minister, choir and

congregation, and also hear the service and participate in the services. The congregation and minister will not be able to hear the cries of playful children in the sound-proof nursery. The minister exhibited delight of the proposed new addition to the church. No nursery during the church worship services is provided at this time, although the Church School has two nursery groups, the pastor said. The new nursery-cry-room will be ready by September 6 and will be in use thereafter. The Church School nurseries will also be moved to the balcony. A crib-nursery, a nursery for tots to two years of age, and a nursery for two and three year olds will result. This action was necessitated because of the rapid growth of the Church School at Zebulon Methodist Church.

Author's Note: When I attended my first worship service at the Zebulon Methodist Church in July of 1959, with a three month old MaryAnn in arms, there was NO nursery for church. Cathy Quick was 15 months old. I went to the old parsonage and warmed a bottle or sat with Bobbi Quick during church services until this new nursery was completed. I sat in this nursery with MaryAnn for two years. It did not prove to be as "sound-proof" as we had hoped and some of the older, more rowdy children did disturb some of the older members in the church. It was finally disbanded for another location in the church.

## **METHODIST MINISTER ATTENDS CONFERENCE IN BALTIMORE**

(The Zebulon Record - Decemer 31, 1959)

The Rev. William K. Quick, pastor of the Zebulon United Methodist Church and formerly pastor of the Bahama Methodist Church is one of three Methodist ministers from the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church to attend the 175th anniversary celebration of the organization of the Methodist Church in America. The Rev. Mr. Quick expressed that he was very happy to have been chosen a representative to attend this celebration.

The other two representatives were the Rev. Eugene Tisdale and Mrs. Tisdale of Spring Hope and the Rev. E. M. Thompson and Mrs. Thompson of Stantonsburg. The conference is being held at Lovely Lane Church in Baltimore Decemter 28-31. the famous Christmas Conference, December 24, 1784, was also held at the Lovely Lane Meeting house. When the original conference adjourned, the 63 attending ministers had organized the "Methodys" societies into a new Protestant denomination, the Methodist Episcopal Church; had elected Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke bishops to "superintend" the work of the Church; and had laid the foundation for the building of the first Methodist educational institution in the new world, Cokesbury College. Those 63 Methodist circuit-riders went forth "to reform the nation and to preach scriptural holiness."

They represented an insignificant religious body numbering 15,000, but because of their zeal and passion and willingness to go anywhere for the Lord's work, the foundation was laid for the largest Protestant denomination in America, the Methodist church. Today, there are 10 million Methodists, who worship in 40,000 churches and whose ministers number 27,500.

The 1959 Christmas Conference will commemorate the 1784 conference and will launch the Church's evangelistic program for the 1960's, "The Decade of Dynamic Discipleship." The Rev. Mr. Quick is a native of Gibson and was graduated from Pfeiffer College in 1952, Randolph-Macon College in 1954, and the Duke Divinity School in 1958. He was minister of the Mt. Bethel, Mt. Tabor and Ellis Chapel Methodist Churches in north Durham County from 1955-59. Mrs. Quick accompanied her husband to the Conference.



## **METHODIST CHURCH OBSERVE COVENANT SERVICE SUNDAY NIGHT**

Zebulon Methodist Church will observe a covenant service Sunday night at 7:30 o'clock. The Rev. W. K. Quick, minister, will bring a special message at that time. On Sunday morning at eleven o'clock worship hour, the congregation will participate in the 175th anniversary of Methodism in America. The minister, who was one of three North Carolinians to attend the conference in Baltimore, will present a report on his visit to the conference. Local Methodists will join a million Methodists in an anniversary observance. The public is invited to each of these services.

NOTE: The original chapel of Lovely Lane was replaced by a centennial building program in 1884 with a large edifice in Baltimore. At that time it was located on the outskirts of Baltimore, but today (1997) is in the inner city. Both the 175th and 200th anniversary programs were held in this newer structure. The 1884 building was a showplace for its time with a circular sanctuary with dome ceiling, painted with an evening sky design, and individual theater seats. Sadly this structure was in need of extensive repairs when visited by this author in the early 1980's.

### **FIRST PARSONAGE FOR ZEBULON METHODIST CHURCH**

(The Zebulon Record, Nov. 1959)

The first Methodist parsonage was built 1909-1910 and is to be replaced with a new \$20,000 structure. The first minister to occupy this parsonage was the Rev. G. B. Perry. The Rev. W. K. Quick, present minister, and his family now occupy it. It is on church property on Church Street.

Plans for a new Methodist parsonage for Zebulon are being formulated. M. J. Sexton, chairman of the Board of Trustees, reported that the Board approved the building of a new parsonage at a November 2nd meeting. When it was presented to the Quarterly Conference, it was given unanimous approval.

Sexton said it will be presented to the church for approval on November 29. It is expected to receive full approval at this meeting. The new structure will fall into the \$20,000 bracket, Sexton said. According to the chairman, a site selection committee has looked over a number of prospective sites but favors a site on Flowers Avenue, back of the Barrie Davis home. This property belongs to Mrs. Clara Flowers Daniels.

The rambling old two story parsonage on Church Street was built in 1909-1910, according to Mrs. A. R. House, church historian. The land was conveyed to the Methodist Church by T. J. Horton. George W. Ray was the contractor for the erection of the old parsonage. Horton and Wesley and Guy Sanders donated the majority of the lumber used in its construction. The Sanders brothers were saw mill men.

Mrs. House said the reason the parsonage was built in Zebulon was that Zebulon was the most centrally located church unit of the charge. The Rev. G. B. Perry was the first minister to occupy the parsonage, which cost approximately \$1,500. Its present valuation today is estimated at \$6,000.

NOTE: Family tradition in the White family holds that P. A. White hauled the lumber with his wagon and team from the saw mill to the church property to build the church. He contributed his efforts toward the building of the new church in Zebulon and his name is prominent in the conferences of those early years.

## METHODIST VOTE TO BUY TOM MONK LOT ON WHICH TO BUILD PARSONAGE

(The Zebulon Record, Dec. 3, 1959)

Zebulon Methodists voted on Sunday night in a Church Conference to build a new, modern brick Methodist parsonage. The new parsonage will replace the present residence of the minister located at the back of the Church. The old parsonage was built in 1909 at a cost of about \$1,500. The cost of the new parsonage and site will be in the \$20,000 bracket.

The decision to build came after four months of study and action on the part of a Parsonage Study Commission. The Commission had an architect-builder to investigate the possibility of remodeling the old parsonage, but the architect advised against it because of the largest amount of money that would have to be spent. It was then that the Commission began the investigation of a new parsonage.

Two weeks ago, the Quarterly Conference of the Church adopted, without a dissenting vote, a resolution to build a new parsonage. The Church Conference met Sunday night to vote on the site, plans, and financing.

The District Committee on Parsonage Locations came to Zebulon last week and looked over four sites: the present parsonage site, a site offered by R. H. Bridgers on Sycamore Street, the lot on Flowers Avenue back of Barrie Davis', called the Daniels lot, and a lot on Glenn Street owned by Tom Monk. The District Committee would place a recommendation first on the Tom Monk lot. The church Conference accepted this recommendation without dissent and voted to buy the Tom Monk lot as the site.

The Church also voted to use the basic plan of the Cary Methodist parsonage as the plans for the Zebulon parsonage. The new Methodist home will have four bedrooms, two baths, a living room, and a large combination, family, dining room and kitchen. It will also have a car port. The Building Committee will decide whether to have a basement or not.

The Church Conference also elected the Finance and Building Committees. The Finance Committee will be headed by T. E. Hales. Other members will be H. C. Wade, F. D. Finch, Elmer D. Finch, Robert D. Massey and the minister. The Building Committee will be headed by M. J. Sexton. Other members are T. B. Hepler, Albert Pulley, Milton Strickland, Millard Alford, and Foster Finch. The Parsonage Committee of Mrs. H. C. Wade, Mrs. Charles E. Flowers, and Mrs. Foster Lewis will be an advisory group. The Rev. and Mrs. William K. Quick will also be ex-officio members. The Quicks are present occupants of the parsonage and were appointed to Zebulon in July of this year replacing the Rev. and Mrs. Troy J. Barrett.

The Quick family moved into the new parsonage on Glenn Street in November, 1960. Mrs. Barbara "Bobbi" Quick had training as an interior decorator and was very helpful to the parsonage committee in making selections of furniture and appointments for the new minister's home. The old parsonage next door to the church was to be used as an annex for Sunday School classes.

During the Castro invasion of Cuba when many Cuban citizens fled that country for the United States, Rev. Quick was instrumental in relocating one of the families to Zebulon. Dr. Jose Rey-Barreau, his wife Georgina Hernandaz Rey-Barreau, and their son, Jose Antonio Rey-Barreau, moved to Zebulon where Dr. Rey-Barreau taught Spanish at Wakelon High School. Dr. Rey-Barreau had been educated in New Jersey, spoke English fluently, and held a position in Cuba related to exports. Neither his wife or son spoke English at that time. Of course their son, who quickly became Joe, also quickly picked up

the language and would interpret for his mother. Becky Spivey and I have many fond memories of our communication with Georgina, before she became fluent in our language. For a short time this family resided in what was then the Barbee home, which was completely furnished, on the corner of North and Wakefield streets. Mrs. Barbee had a grand piano in the living room and Georgina was a concert pianist, one of those unique coincidences. The family soon rented an upstairs apartment in the home of Mrs. Coressa Chamblee on North Street, where they lived for the remainder of their time in Zebulon.



*Rev. Layfield welcomes Circuit Rider*

Although he had a Ph.D. in Cuba, Dr. Rey-Barreau was forced to teach in Wake County on a "B" teaching certificate. Wanting desperately to regain his educational status, Dr. Rey-Barreau bought an auto, learned to drive it and was soon enrolled in courses at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. In a relatively short period of time, he again had a Ph.D. that was recognized in this country. After living in Zebulon and being a part of our church and community for about three years, the Rey-Barreaus moved to Mizenheimer, North Carolina, where Dr. Rey-Barreau took a position on the faculty of Pfeiffer College. From there they moved to Louisville, Kentucky, where he was a member of the faculty of the University of Louisville until his retirement. Dr. Rey-Barreau died in 1992 and in 1997, his widow, Georgina, is living near family members in Miami, Florida. Joseph Anthony Rey-Barreau is a member of the faculty of the School of Design at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky, where he lives with his wife Kathy. Joe and Kathy have two daughters who are now adults.



*Frances Layfield, Sue Layfield, Miss Alma Finch  
and Linda B. Johnson, W.S.C.S. president*

The Rev. Pierce H. Layfield served the Zebulon Church from 1963-1967. He is quoted in a 1978 edition of our newsletter as saying, "If all church members were on welfare and tithed, we would have more than enough to meet our budget and a lot left over." During their time here, their daughter Sue Layfield was to be married and the Woman's Society planned to have a shower honoring the bride-elect. "Miss Alma" Finch made the comment that when she was married while she was the daughter of the parsonage family, the church did not give her a shower. In order to make amends, with tongues planted firmly in cheeks, the ladies gave Miss Alma a belated bridal shower.

## ZEBULON METHODIST CHURCH TO RECEIVE NEW MINISTER, LAYFIELD TO BENSON

(The Zebulon Record, June 22, 1967)

After serving four years as minister of the Zebulon Methodist Church, Rev. Pierce Layfield moved on Tuesday, June 20th, with his family to Benson, North Carolina, to serve as minister of the church there. During the four years the Layfields have been a part of Zebulon, they have become endeared in the hearts of everyone in the community, regardless of denomination. Rev. Layfield is respected by everyone - old and young alike. Rev. Layfield said, "Zebulon, of course, means a lot to us and you always hate to go and leave old friends. But, we knew when we came here, that the day would come when we would have to move on if we were to stay in the field of ministry. We will miss Zebulon and the people here, but we are looking forward to our time in Benson, knowing that we will make many new friends. We hope that our friends will come to see us whenever they are in Benson."

The second edition of The Pantry Shelf was published in 1965, sponsored by the United Methodist Women, with Scott Brown and Jean Wall as co-editors. Linda Johnson served as President of the WSCS in 1966 and Ann Davis was elected President in 1967.

Rev. Layfield died December 20, 1976, while serving the West Nash United Methodist Church in Wilson, N. C. His wife, Frances Zimmerman Layfield was a renowned artist and retired to Waynesville, North Carolina after Rev. Layfield's death.

### SEVENTH DECADE

Rev. R. Stewart Brodie served in Zebulon from 1967-1971. Continuing to quote from the June 22, 1967, The Zebulon Record:

Arriving on Thursday, June 22, will be Rev. R. S. Brodie and his family. He will be the new minister of the Zebulon Methodist Church. The Brodies have two sons and one daughter. Rev. Brodie will be coming from the Grifton Methodist Church in Grifton, North Carolina. He is a graduate of Duke Divinity School and has served churches at Spring Hope, Scotland Neck, Tarboro, as well as others.



*Helen, Betsy and Stuart Brodie,  
Mrs. Grant and Rev. Nick Grant, DS,  
Bishop Paul Garber, and Ann V. Davis*

It was during Rev. Brodie's pastorate that the indebtedness on the parsonage was paid off and it was dedicated. Bishop Paul Garber was present for that occasion on November 19, 1967. Rev. Brodie was appointed to serve the Hope Mills United Methodist Church in 1971. As mentioned previously, his wife, Helen Hunter Brodie, was a first cousin, once removed of Edward Hill Davis who served the Zebulon Church from 1927-1931, and his brother M. Stuart Davis, the architect for the sanctuary building of the Zebulon church. Rev. Brodie died in 1983.

Helen Brodie was a native of Warren County and attended High Point College. Prior to her marriage she was employed as a photographer for Daniel and Smith Studio in Raleigh. Helen had a world renowned green thumb. She was particularly good at raising poinsettias and having the bracts

turn red at the appropriate time each year. I am sure members of the Zebulon church will have fond memories of that. They had three children, Bob, Eddie, and Betsy Brodie. The boys were in college while the family lived in Zebulon, however Betsy, or "Beaver," as she was known, entered seventh grade when they moved to Zebulon. She was better known to this congregation. Betsy married a Methodist preacher, who is currently serving a charge in Southport, North Carolina.

It was while Rev. Brodie was serving the Zebulon United Methodist Church that the Dabney family moved to town and joined the church. Up to this time there had never been a church secretary. The minister was responsible for typing correspondence, bulletins, etc. Helen Dabney volunteered to serve the church as secretary one half day per week, on Wednesdays, as I remember it. Later this position was turned into a three day per week position and she was paid a nominal sum for her services.

Wayne and I visited with the Brodies at Annual Conference in 1982 and told them of our daughter and son-in-law's plans to move to Cumberland County. They encouraged them to consider Hope Mills and introduced them to members of the church and community there. MaryAnn and Bill Powell bought a home in Hope Mills and became members of the Hope Mills United Methodist Church, where they both sang in the choir and MaryAnn directed the Hand Bell Choir.

## **METHODISTS SPONSOR LAY WITNESS MISSION**

(The Zebulon Record - September 25, 1969)

The Zebulon Methodist Church will sponsor a Lay Witness Mission Program this weekend, September 26-28, Rev. R. S. Brodie announced. Approximately twelve adults and fourteen teenage witnesses from Princeton, Nashville, Durham, Laurel Hills, Goldsboro, and Springfield, Virginia, will be present in Zebulon during the Mission to tell the local church members what it means to be a Christian and what Christ has meant in their lives. The witnesses will be guests in the homes of Methodist families during the weekend.

Dr. J. Ed Legates, William Neal Reynolds Professor of Animal Science, NCSU, is the coordinator of the mission program. Born in Milford, Delaware, he attended the University of Delaware where he earned his B.S. degree. He achieved his Ph.D. from Iowa State University and served in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, 1943-46. Dr. Legates is Raleigh District Lay Leader and Vice Chairman of the Board of Laity for the North Carolina Conference. His wife is the former Pearl "Betty" Derrickson of Delaware and they have three sons, and a daughter. The family are members of the Fairmont United Methodist Church in Raleigh. Wayne Davis is the local coordinator for this event.

"In the Lay Witness Program, visitors will be sharing with the local church the reality of Christ in their every day lives," Dr. Legates explained. "Christianity is relevant in today's world and many youth will be with us to witness to this truth."

This is the first time the Zebulon Methodist Church has sponsored such a Mission program. To prepare for the spiritual event, the church had teams of visitors going out into the community, beginning the first of September, explaining the Lay Witness Mission to the church members and asking that each one of them set aside 36 hours for Christ. To give the physical effort the spiritual backing it needs, prayer and discussion groups also met during the month.

"The Lay Witness Mission is an approved movement within the Board of Evangelism and Board of Lay Activities of the United Methodist Church," said Rev. Brodie. "We are anticipating a tremendous spiritual enlightenment during the week-end of the Mission. Many great things have already taken place in the church in the process of preparation for the mission."

"It is my personal appeal to each one of you that you will block out the dates of September 26 - 28 on your calendar and make plans to attend the Mission program, which reaches back to the days of John Wesley when the laymen of the church were more active and more vocal in saying what Christ meant to them," Rev. Brodie continued. "This can be a vital Christian experience for all of us and can bring about a renewed interest and renewal in the life of the church we love so much."

(In 1997, Dr. and Mrs. Legates have retired to a dairy farm in the edge of Granville County. They currently attend the historic Banks United Methodist Church on Highway #96, in Granville County.)

## **TOMMY SMITH APPOINTED TO ZEBULON**

Rev. J. Thomas Smith was appointed to serve this church at the Annual Conference in 1971, coming to Zebulon from a position as the Associate Minister at the First Methodist Church in Wilson, North Carolina. It was during his pastorate that the volunteer secretarial position evolved into a three day per week paid position. The Acolyte program was begun in 1972 under the supervision of Ruth Joyner and 122 young people have served their church in this program to the present time (1997).

In a letter to the congregation dated May 17, 1972, Rev. Smith recounted accomplishments for the previous year: roof on educational building repaired; educational building replastered, painted and carpeted throughout; educational building air conditioned; new curtains in Sunday School rooms; basement fellowship hall and kitchen painted and floors covered. A new clothes dryer, new lawn mower, new carpet had been secured for the parsonage and the house had been painted inside. New youth and children's choirs have been organized. A youth prayer group has begun meeting and forty-eight new members have joined the church during the previous year.

A newsletter dated December 5, 1973, reveals Jimmy Joyner was serving as Lay Leader; Jean Wall as Chairman of Worship Committee; Heber W. Windley as Chairman of the Finance Committee; Becky Spivey as Chairman of the Parsonage Committee; Bobby Turnage as Chairman of the Trustees; James Wall as Chairman of Education; Sarah T. Massey as Chancel Choir Director; and Ruth Temple Joyner as Director of the Junior Choir. The Dabney family moved to Asheville, North Carolina, and Kay Pulley was hired as the first full time church secretary.

A newspaper clipping that is undated discloses that Bishop William Ragsdale Cannon would be holding Revival services at the Zebulon United Methodist Church from March 4 - 7. I believe that the year was most likely 1974. "This is Bishop Cannon's first appearance in a Zebulon pulpit. He is an outstanding man ... one of the foremost preachers in America," declared Rev. Smith, "We are sure our congregation won't want to miss hearing him speak. In addition to his educational accomplishments, Bishop Cannon has served pastorates in Georgia and as Professor of Church History and Dean of the Candler School of Theology, Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He was elected bishop of the United Methodist Church in 1968 by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference and assigned to the Raleigh area. He has since served as bishop in the Richmond area and currently is bishop of the Atlanta area. Notes in the January 8, 1975, newsletter concern raising money for renovation of the sanctuary. The committee to oversee this redecorating project were: the Minister, Margaret Finch, Jean Wall, and Jan Windley. They were to be assisted by Stuart Walston, Designer from Wilson. Bishop Robert M. Blackburn was to preach, and Rev. John M. Cline, District Superintendent, would be present for our Sunday worship service on February 16, 1975. This was the first time in the memory of any member that both a Bishop and District Superintendent have attended a service in this church simultaneously.

The February 3, 1975, newsletter revealed that MaryAnn Davis would serve as a Delegate to the United Nations - Washington Study Tour conducted each year by the North Carolina Conference. It was also noted that in this year the Conference added a new District moving the Zebulon Church from the Raleigh District into the Rocky Mount District. This was not well received by local members who enjoy local telephone service to Raleigh, where many members work every day. A delegation from the Zebulon Church met with Bishop Blackburn to request a move back to the Raleigh District. Bishop

Blackburn told them that it was not so far to Rocky Mount and that they should approach this problem as good Christians. Wayne Davis, spokesman for the group, replied, "Rocky Mount is six months away from Zebulon. In other words, while many of us are in Raleigh every day, it has been at least six months since I have been to Rocky Mount." Without fanfare, the Zebulon church was quietly moved back into the Raleigh district. The May 1, 1975, newsletter shows that the sanctuary renovations were almost complete and ready for the pews to be reinstalled. Rev. Smith was appointed to serve the White Plains United Methodist Church in Cary, North Carolina, at the Annual Conference in 1975. Dr. Smith has served as Superintendent of the Raleigh District and is currently (1997) serving as District Superintendent for the Fayetteville District of the North Carolina Conference.

Rev. Noah B. Hill, Jr., came from the White Plains Church in 1975 to serve the Zebulon Church until 1977. A Charge Conference has been scheduled for September 23, 1975, with Rev. Warren B. Petteway, District Superintendent, presiding. The pastor's report dated September 23, 1975, records new members of Mr. and Mrs. J. Michael Weeks. The UMW luncheon and bazaar was scheduled for November 20th at the Lion's Club Building. A subsequent newsletter showed proceeds of \$1,183.56 on this project. Mr. and Mrs. Winton B. Rankin were welcomed as new members in the November, 1975, newsletter. Grace (Mrs. Rom) Moser was welcomed in the December newsletter.

The March 29, 1976, newsletter featured a program on the Bicentennial of the Carolina Circuit (1776-1976) at Cameron Indoor Stadium, Duke University, on April 3, 1976. Included would be recognition of some of the oldest churches in this Conference. Kay Pulley resigned the position of church secretary and Marie Finch accepted this position during this period.

The April 26, 1976, newsletter detailed plans for the Bicentennial Celebration to be held on May 2, 1976. There will be a picnic style family supper in the Fellowship Hall and program in the sanctuary featuring the Zebulon Bicentennial Singers and Combined Girl Scout chorus, sponsored by the United Methodist Women. This event marked the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the church sanctuary building. George, Susie, Michelle and Angela Roberson were welcomed as new members in the February, 1976, newsletter. There was also a notice that members who had not received their pictorial directories should stop by the office and receive theirs. This was the first pictorial directory that was put together for the Zebulon Church and all pictures were printed in black and white. The pastor's report dated September 20, 1976, records the loss by death of Dr. Jesse Franklin Coltrane.

## EIGHTH DECADE

Rev. Lovell Roy Aills was appointed to the Zebulon United Methodist Church in June 1977. An article in a June 1977 issue of The Zebulon Record introduced the new minister to the community:

"I think the slogan about the 'The town of Friendly People' certainly is true," said the Rev. Lovell Aills, the new minister at the Zebulon United Methodist Church. Aills and his family moved here two weeks ago, after he delivered his first sermon in town on June 12th. He replaces the Rev. N. B. Hill, Jr., who is now at Fairmont United Methodist Church near Lumberton. Although Aills, his wife, Barbara, daughters, Lisa, 13, and Lori, 16, have only been in Zebulon a short time, their impression of the community appears to be a favorable one. They commented on the convenience of schools and stores, the access to larger cities, helpful neighbors, and of course, the close-knit Methodist congregation.

The Aills moved here from Wilmington, where he was pastor at Pine Valley United Methodist Church for three years. He has previously held pastorships at Pikeville Jefferson United Methodist Church in Goldsboro for five years, the Hamlet United Methodist Church for five years, the Providence United Methodist Church in Goldsboro for four years, and while a seminary student, was at the Lucama United Methodist Church. He also helped organize the Breitz Memorial Church in Selma.

Aills says he is a sports enthusiast (particularly golf) and has formerly been active working with recreation programs for youth. Coming from the Wilmington church to Zebulon is not a great change as far as size is concerned. At Pine Valley, the congregation numbered 600.

An article in the October 27th issue of The Zebulon Record notes:

Zebulon United Methodist Church located on the corner of Church and Gannon Streets will observe its 70th year of Methodism at Homecoming Services Sunday, October 30, at 11 a.m. Guest preacher will be the Reverend Ron Paige, former Youth Director of the Zebulon United Methodist Church. Reverend Paige is presently serving the Franklin Charge of the United Methodist Church. Special music for the service will be presented by the Chancel Choir and the "Young Disciples." During the Homecoming Service, special recognition will be paid to the senior members. Also in the October 27th Record is the story of another performance that same day by the "Young Disciples:"

The Youth Music Group of Zebulon United Methodist Church known as "The Young Disciples" will present a program of music for the 5th Sunday Union Service of the Zebulon United Methodist Church and the Zebulon Baptist Church on Sunday, October 30, at 7:30 p.m. The Service will be held at the United Methodist Church on the corner of Gannon and Church Streets. The pastors, Rev. L. R. Aills and Rev. Charles Edwards invite all of the community and especially their members to attend this service of inspirational music.



The Young Disciples, left to right, front row: James Quinn, Candy Temple, Art Turbyfill, Jr., Lori Aills, Lynn Boykin, Mary Lib Joyner, Gina Pulley, Frankie Pulley, Tim Tippett on guitar, Stuart Bobbitt on drums, Wendy Murray, Greg Tant, Lisa Aills, and Ken Griswold. Second row: Michele Roberson, unknown, Cynthia Tant, Ross Turbyfill, Paula Green, Barbara Aills, the director, Sarah Tant, the accompanist, Anna Joyner, Chuck Griswold, Amy Green, and Gaye Corbett. Others who sang with this group at times, but were not present for this picture were: Hope Rodemaker, Lawre Liles, Mike Bunn, Faye Pearce, Joy Poole, Sherry O'Neal, MaryAnn Davis, Mary Lib Liggins, Robin Pulley, Nancy Joyner, Allison Harris, Stephanie Copley, Michael Wrenn and Christie Lee.



Ruth Joyner, children's choir director, noted in the February, 1978, newsletter that the Cherub and Children's Choir wore their new robes for the first time in the Christmas Program in December. The UMYF enjoyed a skiing trip to Sugar Mountain along with youth from the two Baptist Churches in the area. The Administrative Board minutes of February 19, 1978, showed during the "Pony Express" financial campaign, members had subscribed 115% of the proposed budget.

The March, 1978, newsletter announced the impending marriage of Betsy Jean Brodie, daughter of a former minister, to Rev. Frederick Eugene Roberts on March 25, 1978, at the Weldon United Methodist Church. Two births announced in that issue were Barrett Daniel Massey, January 18, in Pittsford, New York, son of R. D. Massey, Jr., and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Daniel Massey, Sr., of Zebulon, and Matthew Darrell Tant on February 25, son of Odell and Sarah Tant. Ed Hales would check on specific plans and sketches for a new educational building - fellowship hall. Albert Pulley made a mailbox for church officials to receive communiques from others. Attendance on March 26, 1978, was 229 for worship.

Frank Wall made a report for the Trustees at the Administrative Board meeting on April 9, 1978, describing preliminary building plans. They're thinking in terms of 6,000 square feet on two levels including a kitchen, fellowship hall and fireplace on the lower level, with classrooms upstairs, and possibly a breezeway between the buildings. The Wesley Fellowship Class counted 105 adults, children, friends and guests in the Whitley Park on May 21st for a cook-out with chefs, Jesse Pulley, George Roberson, and V. C. Powers. The outing included horse shoes, tennis, volley ball and a whole lot of good fellowship.

Minutes from an Administrative Board meeting of July 9, 1978, record the purchase of a church bus from Johnny Hendricks and the plans for the second "Pony Express" financial campaign. Charles Swindell donated a baby grand piano in memory of his wife, Ann Swindell, to the church which the Trustees agreed to accept. The Trustees were also authorized to transfer the Turnage property to the church. Plans for a "Bluegrass Festival" sponsored by the youth singing group, the Young Disciples, were approved.

The same issue of the newsletter mentioned the oldest member's 89th birthday on August 19, Mrs. Etha Kemp Coltrane. Robert Daniel Massey's retirement from People's Bank after 43 years was also recorded. Dr. and Mrs. Jerry L. Cross were entered as new members.



*Etha Kemp Coltrane  
and Rev. Aills*

Rev. William K. Quick, former minister of this church from 1959-1963, held evening Revival Services April 1-3, 1979. There was also a noon Revival service on April 2nd. The Young Disciples fulfilled singing engagements at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Franklin County and at Christ's United Methodist Church in Fayetteville.

The July 1979, newsletter stated that Jim Powers had been recommended by the Pastor Parish Relations committee as the new choir director. There had been an attendance of 98 at Vacation Bible School that year. A note from Grace Belcher was in this issue, thanking the minister and members for being attentive to her during her recent hospital stay. She and Jack were happy with their new home in the Zebulon United Methodist Church. The Wesley Fellowship Class had an ice cream social at the Whitley Park with 18 freezers of homemade ice cream.

Robert Pulley was Chairman of the Administrative Board in 1979 and Dr. Perry Grogan was the Chairman for 1980. Ann Davis was Chairman of the Council On Ministries. The church honored Nancy Etha Kemp Coltrane on the occasion of her 90th birthday on August 19th at the worship service. Rev. Aills read a sketch of Mrs. Coltrane's life, and her work in our church and community and presented a plaque depicting the appreciation of our congregation.

The tragic death of Ann Layfield, daughter of former Pastor Pierce Layfield and his wife, Frances, was recorded in the September, 1979, newsletter. She was the victim of an automobile accident in Atlanta, Georgia, where she was employed as a Registered Nurse.

Homecoming was held October 14th with Rev. Troy Barrett, former minister from 1954-59, preaching. The fellowship dinner at the Lion's Club followed the service. A report given on the progress of the Junior Church program for children through the fourth grade, in October of 1979 related that Michelle Roberson was a leader and that 44 children were attending this program.

At the Charge Conference on October 28, 1979, District Superintendent, Rev. Warren B. Petteway, told the members that he thought it would be "some time" before the actual sale and transfer of the Methodist Children's Home property. Ed Hales voiced his concern over the proposed sale of the property and other directions being taken at Annual Conference. Wayne Davis was a Delegate to Annual Conference in 1979 and was advised by local members to lobby against the motion to sell this property in Raleigh. In spite of diligent efforts on the part of the Lay Delegate and the Pastor, this motion carried at Annual Conference. The Pony Express financial campaign report in the December, 1979, newsletter showed the budget was oversubscribed by 10 per cent. Kent Copley served as General Manager for this campaign. Over 225 people attended the kick off Chuck Wagon Dinner.

Two deaths of local members bring to mind the part of your historian in a new custom for this church. Mr. Waylon Finch died in October, 1979. The service was held on a very dark and rainy day which seemed unusually sad to me. There were no flowers on the altar and candles were not lit. I started talking about my feelings to circle members and church members. It was only a matter of days until Proctor Alford died suddenly on November 5th. His widow, Nellie, and I were members of the same circle. I suggested that our circle place flowers on the altar for Proctor's funeral in lieu of sending a funeral arrangement to her home. This became a church custom from that point on. The church had traditionally sent a design, which was changed to an arrangement for the altar. And the funeral ushers began lighting the altar candles for funerals, which symbolizes a celebration of the life of the deceased person.

## Historic Church Conference

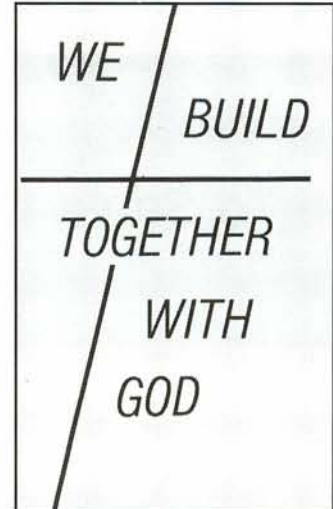
The Reverend Warren B. Petteway, Superintendent of the Raleigh District, presided at a Church Conference on December 9, 1979, at 11:29 a.m. Lay Leader, Michael Weeks, read the following resolution: "We, the Congregation of the Zebulon United Methodist Church assembled on December 9, 1979, at a Church Conference duly called after notice as required by the BOOK OF DISCIPLINE (Paragraph 245) of the United Methodist Church do hereby resolve that the Board of Trustees be and they are authorized and directed to expend a sum not exceeding Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) on the construction of an Educational Building and renovation of our existing church building in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by Michael Hager, P. A., dated November 15, 1979, and as recommended for our consideration by the Board of Trustees by action taken on September 25, 1979, and as further recommended for our consideration by the Administrative Board by action taken on October 21, 1979, and as submitted for our inspection and comment by letter dated and mailed all church members on November 27, 1979, construction to be commenced on this building project at such a time as the Treasurer of the church certifies to the Board of Trustees that One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) has been deposited in the Building fund account of the church depository in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Committee by action taken on October 2, 1979; PROVIDED, that if construction has not been commenced on or before July 1, 1980, this resolution be null and void and of no effect; AND FURTHER PROVIDED that the Administrative Board of the church may extend the deadline for the commencement of construction from time to time by action taken at a regular or a called meeting without the approval of the Church Conference."

Michael Weeks moved that the resolution be accepted by the church. The motion was seconded by Wayne Davis. During the discussion, a motion was made to amend the original resolution changing the figure of \$300,000 to \$310,000 to cover furnishings and provide for inflation. Motion

seconded. After discussion, a standing vote was taken. Motion carried. Ed Hales moved that at no time should we obligate ourselves for borrowed money to exceed one third (1/3) of the total cost. Seconded by Winton Rankin. Following additional discussion a standing vote was taken. Motion carried.

Horace Joyner called for the question. A standing vote was taken on the original resolution presented by motion and as amended. Motion carried. The Conference was adjourned with the benediction by the Reverend Warren B. Petteway.

"This historic occasion became a reality after more than two years of prayerful planning and study by our Administrative Board, Council On Ministries, Trustees and Architect, Mike Hager. As of September 20, 1977, when the Administrative Board voted for the construction of an Educational Building and to proceed according to recommendations of Trustees, Council on Ministries and Architect, more than 24 meetings have been held with reference to our proposed Building Program. We are indeed grateful to all the committees, Council On Ministries, and particularly Trustees for their leadership in establishing a good building program which we feel our whole congregation is capable of building to the Glory of God and which will be adequate for many years to come.



"YES, WE BUILD TOGETHER WITH GOD...with our continued interest, and particularly financial support, it shall be done for the Glory of God and for those who shall follow in our footsteps." (Quoted from Newsletter dated January, 1980.) The Steering Committee of the Building Program were: Winton Rankin, Chairman; Jimmy Spivey, Director of Advanced Giving; Kent Copley and Bill Reed, director of Congregational Canvass; Eloise Potter, Director of Memorials and Special Gifts; Ann Davis, Director of Education; Emma Bocock, Director of Special Projects; Mike Weeks, Legal Counsel; Lovell R. Aills, Minister. The brochure prepared for the fund raising campaign noted that \$55,000 was in the Building Fund as of July 1, 1980.

## Local Representative Serves on Committee on District Superintendency

Rev. Warren B. Petteway wrote on January 24, 1980, to me requesting that I serve on the committee to evaluate the work of the district superintendent and to be available for counsel with the presiding bishop to determine the kind of leadership needed within the district. The representative would keep the district superintendent advised concerning conditions within the district as they affect relations between the district superintendent, the people, and the district boards and agencies. This committee originated with the 1976 General Conference.



*Winton Rankin, H. C. Wade  
Grover Harrell*

## Moser Class Favors Registration for Military Draft

In 1980, there was a Resolution (#3) by the Conference Division of Church and Society to eliminate registration for the military draft:

WHEREAS the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church oppose peacetime conscription in this language "We ... reject national policies of enforced military service in peacetime as incompatible with the Gospel" and

WHEREAS our nation until after World War II had traditionally not practiced conscription and rejected it as a part of our national life; and

WHEREAS many of our forefathers came to this country to escape European militarism;



*Frank Wall, Foster Finch  
Ed Hales*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, stand opposed to the reinstatement of the draft and of draft registration, and call upon our Congressional delegation to oppose same and to support all peaceful means of working for a just and peaceful world.

Members of the Moser Bible Class, including several who were veterans of World War II, called a Church Conference on March 9, 1980, at which time an official directive was given to the Lay Delegate to Conference to either amend or defeat Resolution #3.

A substitute resolution, titled "Another View," was passed out on the floor of the Conference by the Delegate from the Zebulon United Methodist Church:

WHEREAS, we, as United Methodists oppose war and all things that lead to war and the taking of human life; and further we support the doctrine of the separation of church and state upon which our country was founded;

HOWEVER, we realize that in a secular world there are forces that are dedicated to the destruction of Christianity and its principles; and THEREFORE, when the time comes that we must "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, this can best be done by conscription and volunteers who are motivated by patriotism rather than by monetary gain.

AND WHEREAS the world today is much different than it was prior to World War II in that man has the ability now to deliver harm to one another within 30 minutes anywhere on this globe; AND WHEREAS, those who fail to recognize this fact are doomed to repeat the failures of the past .... World War II itself is evidence of the fact that a position of weakness with no conscription failed to prevent war and in fact encouraged adventurism.

CONSCRIPTION and patriotism DO NOT constitute European militarism. European militarism as exemplified under the communist states, still exists on that continent today and has the capability of reaching us with today's technology; THEREFORE, it is imperative that we maintain a strong defensive position and to do otherwise would invite and encourage expansionism as has been the case throughout history,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church opposes a mercenary armed force or the all volunteer army, which Resolution #3 endorses. The Volunteer Army as it now functions does not constitute a force sufficient to deter war. The Volunteer Army allows the elite of our society to buy off their responsibility to serve their country and thrusts the burden for defense upon the less fortunate.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we oppose the position of Resolution #3 on Registration and the Draft as submitted by the Division of Church and Society and solicit your support in defeating this resolution.

Minutes from the 1980 N. C. Conference Journal read: "Resolution #3 was presented by Mrs. Catherine Watson. Wayne Davis of Zebulon asked that a substitute Position Paper which was now to be handed out would be considered. The Conference gave approval and the Bishop so ordered." There were several amendments offered and either accepted or lost when, "Resolution #3 was moved, seconded and lost." For the first time in the memory of many pastors and delegates in attendance, a local delegation had successfully defeated a resolution by the Commission of Church and Society on the floor of the Annual Conference, which ascertains that when a solid approach is taken for a correct position, the average lay member of a Methodist congregation can be heard and its members' opinions valued.

Resolution #4 also put forth in 1980, addressed "Freedom of Choice," in regard to abortion. While this resolution carried, as amended, it was a close 294, for 275 against. Because of the opposition to this position, Virginia Carroll of the Hay Street Church in Fayetteville, made a motion to allow local congregations to express themselves on these controversial issues. Her motion carried. The June 6, 1980, News and Observer covered the Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and said in part, "...approved a position paper supporting an individual's right to abortion." And also, "The delegates voted down proposals opposing draft registration and the draft."

## **Lay Leader Report - 1980**

Excerpts from Lay Leader, J. Michael Weeks, report to the Administrative Board on April 13, 1980: average attendance at the worship service during January, February and March has been 188; children and youth have shown good participation in singing groups beyond the local church; over \$5,500.00 has been raised for the Building Fund and invested at 17.4%; and nineteen persons attended the Lay Rally. The May 1980 newsletter noted a special thanks to Methodist Men: Jimmy Harris, Ira Smith, K. C. Beavers, Robert Pulley, George Roberson, Chris Jennings and Rev. Aills for the colorful painting job done in the church basement.

Patricia Pearce, daughter of J. Leaman and Elizabeth Ihrle Pearce, and Timothy A. Pressley were united in Holy matrimony on May 24th in the sanctuary of our church. Zebulon High School graduates who are members of this church are: Chuck Griswold, Frankie Pulley, Lynn Boykin and Wendy Murray. The Steering Committee for the Building Fund campaign met on May 31, 1980, at the Kemp Heritage Farmhouse for a special workshop to formulate plans for financing the building program.

## **Educational Seminars**

Three Educational Seminars were held for the congregation to share the vision for the church with regard to the new building program. Members of the Steering Committee made presentations, but probably the most outstanding one was given by Mr. Clويد Wade. He appeared a little nervous as he began his talk and told everyone how he did not feel that he was a public speaker. He went on that he had tried everything to keep from being nervous when speaking to a group, but nothing seemed to help. But then he pulled out his handkerchief and mopped his brow and said he thought he would see if that would help! Well this brought the house down, for you see, the Rev. Aills, mopped his brow several times during the course of a Sunday morning sermon. He did this impersonation in such good taste that everyone there was captivated with laughter.

On another occasion, Mr. Wade stood up to make his presentation, and kept his hand over his mouth as he talked. He told how he had prepared to come to the meeting, collecting his material, his glasses, etc. It was only after he arrived at the church that he realized he had failed to insert his bottom teeth. He said Celia has threatened to make a check list of all his parts and post on the back door, so that he could be altogether when he went out.

## **Piano Donated**

A piano was donated to the building fund by Mrs. Fern Grantham, who was then employed as the church secretary. The piano was sold to raise funds for the new building. It was purchased for \$1,500 by Mrs. Etha Kemp Coltrane and her daughter, Mrs. Grace Coltrane Kilkelly. They then donated the instrument back to the church in memory of Dr. Jesse Franklin Coltrane for use in the new fellowship hall. It was stored in a member's home (this author's) for about two years, until the new building was able to accommodate it. It was later decided that this instrument was superior to the baby grand in the sanctuary and it was relocated to the chancel area where it is in use as of 1997.

## **Roofs Improved and Repaired**

There is an article in the July 1980 newsletter, "Our Church Takes On A New Look:" "Yes, the outward appearance of our church buildings has been changed by the new construction of A-hip roofs on the present educational facilities, pastor's study and choir room. New 290 pound asphalt shingles have been placed on all new construction as well as on both sides of the sanctuary roof. Special thanks to a member who paid for the south side of the new sanctuary roof. Floyd Edwards and his crew have done an outstanding job ... and just think, we can now have meetings and class sessions without the fear of 'getting wet' when it rains." Odell Tant was Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

## **Lay Witness Mission**

A second Lay Witness Mission is planned for September 12-14, 1980, with George Roberson as local chairperson. The leader for this Mission was J. D. Teachey, Jr., of Wallace United Methodist Church. Other team members include: Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Gregory of Raleigh; Jim and Sue Clark of Raleigh; Paul and Melanie Prichard of Chapel Hill; Gertrude Blake of Southport; Robert and Anne Meadows of Maysville; Robert and Claudia Mattocks of Maysville; Gladys Barton of Wilmington; Donna Applewhite of Raleigh; Debbie Fretwell of Raleigh; Patricia Hicks of Norlina; Jennie Goodman of Charleston; Eddie and Lee Bell Murray of Charleston, S. C.; and Ruby Wilson of Fayetteville. This Mission was a "Great Blessing to All."

Charles McCullars brought a layman's stewardship message on September 21st. A congregational dinner was held at the National Guard Armory immediately after this service and Mr. Jim Lanier of Louisburg College was the guest speaker. As of this date, \$72,304.80 is shown in the Building Fund. The canvass of members for the building fund campaign commenced after this meeting.

Homecoming was held on October 12, 1980, with Rev. Stewart Brodie, former minister, preaching and 301 persons attending. Rev. Brodie was serving the West Burlington United Methodist Church at this time. A covered dish luncheon was held at the Zebulon Lions' Club immediately after the service. The White Oak River Boys presented a musical program following the meal. Jean Liles served as Chairperson of the Hospitality Committee.

Winton Rankin reported \$84,901.15 in the Building Fund as of October 27th and in the December 1980, newsletter he reported a grand total of \$90,617.56. This included a \$ 5,000 anonymous contribution. The Methodist Men voted to take on a project of pew cushions for the sanctuary. Grace Belcher was elected President of the United Methodist Women. A pictorial church directory with color pictures was in the planning stages.

## **Cosmetic Improvements**

The April 1981, newsletter reveals that James Wall and Keith Temple had installed carpet on the steps leading to the third floor of the Educational Building. James was a Trustee and carpet mechanic extraordinaire and Keith donated the carpet. This reminded this author of that Spring of 1981, when I was planning my daughter, MaryAnn's wedding to Bill Powell on June 20th. Ground had not yet been broken for the new Fellowship Hall so we were planning with the existing facilities. When we looked at

broken for the new Fellowship Hall so we were planning with the existing facilities. When we looked at the curtains and walls with the critical eye of “company’s coming,” we realized that some deep cleaning was in order. Barbara Aills had some curtain material on hand and with both of our trusty sewing machines, we whipped up some “clean” new curtains for the Sunday School rooms directly behind the sanctuary. The Trustees agreed to furnish the paint if we would apply it to the walls. On practically the eve of the wedding, the bride and groom, the parents of the bride, the preacher and several men of the church worked together to spruce up the entry halls, the vestibule and Sunday School rooms of our church building, where our wedding reception would be held. On April 5th of that year, the Building Fund totaled \$94,505.34.

The Moser Bible Class sent a Resolution, which was adopted unanimously by all class members on May 10th, 1981, to the Administrative Board asking them to support capital punishment.

## **RESOLUTION**

Whereas:

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church opposes capital punishment and urges its elimination from all criminal codes.

An absolute ban on capital punishment is not in accord with the teachings of the Old Testament or the New Testament.

An absolute ban on capital punishment inhibits the effectiveness of society in dealing with certain heinous crimes and criminals.

Now therefore, be it resolved that:

The last sentence of subparagraph F, paragraph 74 V, Part III, of the Discipline should be deleted.

Winton Rankin made a motion at the Administrative Board meeting on July 12th that the entire congregation be given an opportunity to vote on this resolution, which was seconded by Jack Terry, and passed. They voted to forward this resolution to the North Carolina Conference, however there is no record of it being considered at the 1981 or 1982 Annual Conferences. Mr. Rankin checked his 1984 copy of the Discipline and discovered this reference is still in the Discipline. Apparently it did not survive the committee process.

The July newsletter contained the following statement from Dr. Reginald Ponder, District Superintendent:

### **“HOW THE APPOINTIVE SYSTEM WORKS IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH”**

Beginning in January, the District Superintendents make a careful assessment of each pastoral charge. We interview pastors and spouses; we interview most of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committees where a change in appointment is likely; we ask for written data from pastors and PPR Committees as required by the Discipline, and we do a lot of listening.

When all of this data has been assembled, the Cabinet goes through the Appointment List, and each D. S. states whether or not the pastors in his district should **Return** (R), **Move** (M), or whether the person might do **Either** (E). After this process has been repeated several times, a “Moving List” is compiled of those churches and pastors where there is either an **Move** or an **Either**. These persons, pastors and PPR Committees are given an opportunity to meet with the Bishop. The D. S. usually talks with the pastors and PPR Chairpersons several times during the process.

The second week in May, the Cabinet met for an entire week and fixed the tentative set of appointments for 1981-82. These were announced to the pastors and PPR Chairpersons on May 15 and 16. On May 26-28 the Cabinet met again to make certain changes (adjustments) in the tentative set of appointments. The pastors and churches involved in these changes were consulted again. On May 28, the pastoral appointments for the 1981-82 Conference year were fixed. It is the desire of the Bishop and the Cabinet to match the gifts and graces of the pastors to the needs of the churches. We are limited in our efforts to do this by personal needs and desires of the pastors and their families. Also, we are limited by certain expectations on the part of the churches and charges. Nevertheless, after all of the prayer, struggle, and listening, I feel that we have made a good set of appointments for 1981-82. The key, of course, is the willingness of pastors and churches to work together to glorify God and to lift up His Son, Jesus Christ.

May God bless each of you in this Holy task in 1981-82.

Reggie

Sometimes the Lord works in mysterious ways and sometimes those ways are not so mysterious, they are very clear. Even though the local PPR committee had requested that Rev. Aills return for another year, it appeared that the appointive process would decree that he be moved in 1981. In Wayne's position on PPR and this author's position on the Committee on the District Superintendency, we had worked through the appropriate protocol with a new minister, and MaryAnn's wedding, which was scheduled the week after "moving day," and all of us were accepting of what appeared to be God's will for our church. Somehow a move down the line backed up, for whatever reason, and put a halting stop to the move for Zebulon's minister, also. It has always appeared to me that it was the Lord's will that Rev. Aills stay in Zebulon for two more years to see that we built that Educational Building!

### Family Night Fellowship

Grace Belcher, Evangelism Chairperson, reported on the June 28th evening in which we welcomed new members and also welcomed the Aills family for another year. Wayne Davis gave the welcome and we all sang our favorite hymns. Eloise Potter arranged the flowers for the head table and Emma Boccock was chairman of the hospitality committee. Grace presented a gift of king-sized handkerchiefs to Rev. Aills saying, "since you have to put up with us for another year, you might need some mopping rags!"



*Jimmy Spivey, Ed Hales  
Earl Medlin, Jesse Pulley*

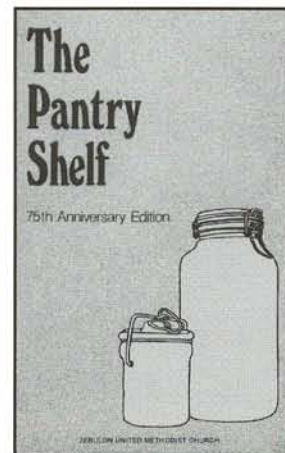
Vacation Bible School was held June 15-19, with the theme, "Jesus, Your Word Lives In Me." There was an average attendance of 97 for the week. Ruth Oliver was Director of the School. Winton Rankin reported a total of \$100,025 in the Building Fund as of July 6th. Dr. Ponder spoke to the Methodist Men on September 8th and held a Charge Conference in Zebulon on September 23rd. Dinner gatherings in members' homes on September 20th, kicked off the Iron Horse financial campaign to underwrite the 1982 budget. Harry Long served as Railroad Superintendent and Conductors were George Roberson, Kent Copley, Jack Belcher, and Wayne Davis.

Jane Jennings was installed as District Vice President for the U. M. W. in October 1981. The November 1981 newsletter shows \$111,100.28 in the Building Fund. Jimmy Joyner was Chairman of the Administrative Board at this time. Harry Long reported that the "Iron Horse Express" Financial Program has resulted in estimates of giving exceeding the 1982 budget by more than \$6,300. A motion was made and carried to accept the gift of a brass cross to be donated by William, Janet and Sarah Eaton. Homecoming was planned for November 15, 1981, with



Rev. J. Thomas Smith, former minister, preaching. Attendance figures show 252 persons present for the worship service. The December UMW report showed \$887.41 receipts from Fall Bazaar. Ann Davis and Eloise Potter have assumed responsibility for the final stages of the third edition of the cookbook. Winton Rankin reported a total in the Building Fund of \$131,699.46 as of December 31st of 1981.

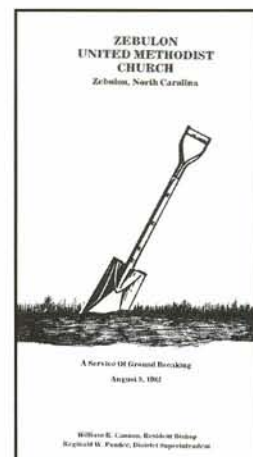
The January, 1982, newsletter recounted the success of the "Enchanted Tree" program held December 13, 1981. A bare, colorless tree was placed in the sanctuary and was transformed into an "enchanted tree" when members placed brightly colored "leaves" on its limbs during an inspirational worship service. The "leaves" were red, amber, and green cellophane bags containing gifts from each man, woman, and child in our congregation. The purpose of the program is to put Christ at the center of Christmas. A total of \$11,869.52 for the Building Fund brought us almost to our groundbreaking goal.



Rev. Eckie C. Lancaster, of Wesley's Chapel United Methodist Church in Elizabethtown, was the visiting minister for a Revival held March 14-17, 1982. Prayer meetings were held in four homes of members in the week leading up to the Revival. There are many notations of an active puppet ministry, children's program and choir ministry during these years, led by Ruth Oliver, Children's Coordinator, who was assisted by Barbara Aills. Dr. Reginald Ponder, Raleigh District Superintendent, was the speaker for the morning worship service on May 23, 1982. It was an honor for this author to serve on the District Committee on the District Superintendency under Dr. Ponder. The average worship attendance for April 1982, was 202 persons.

## \$150,000 Goal Reached

The May newsletter reported that the groundbreaking goal had been met and the total in the Building Fund was now \$151,088.48. Minutes of a Called Meeting of the Administrative Board held on May 5, 1982, revealed a proposal by American Funding, Inc., to finance the remaining half of the building project. Jimmy Spivey was Chairman of the Administrative Board, and Jack Terry was Chairman of the Trustees. The latest estimates by the architect on the building total \$258,151 with a 5% variation. The Board of Trustees voted to put the project out for bids on a selective basis to the following contractors: Jones and Jones; L. P. Cox of Sanford; R. N. Rouse of Goldsboro; and Clancey and Theys of Raleigh.



The big news from the United Methodist Women in the August 1982, newsletter was the publication of the 75th Anniversary Edition of The Pantry Shelf. The 2,000 copies printed were to be sold for \$5.00 each, with net proceeds going into the Building Fund. This UMW meeting also voted to sold for \$5.00 each, with net proceeds going into the Building Fund. This UMW meeting also voted to deposit \$2,000 of the monies raised to furnish the new kitchen into the church Building Fund account, thereby earning a higher rate of interest. There would be a remainder of \$2,968.07 in the UMW Kitchen Account after this transfer.

## Groundbreaking and Homecoming

Dr. Reginald Ponder, Superintendent of the Raleigh District, joined Rev. A. P. Hill, Jr., Conference Coordinator of Resources, and local church officers in groundbreaking services on August 8, 1982, at 10:30 a.m. Those who took part in "turning a spade" of ground were, Dr. Ponder, Rev. Hill, Rev. Aills, Jimmy Spivey, Ann Davis, Jack Terry, George Roberson, James Nixon, Grace Belcher, Jimmy Harris, Barry Stallings, Winton Rankin, Bill Branoff, Ruth Oliver, Billy Bunn, Emma Bocock (her husband Randy took her place), Sue Bunn, and Joy Reed. These persons represented the key officials in our church.



*Dr. Reginal Ponder  
Rev. A. P. Hill  
Rev. L. R. Aills*

Special music was given by the choir under the direction of Jim Powers; a brass quartet consisting of Karl Smith, first trumpet; Bill Branoff, second trumpet; Art Whiting, first trombone; and Jeff Sheldon, second trombone. The Vacation Bible School children also presented special music. The September, 1982, newsletter shows 265 persons attended that service. The service was followed by a homecoming meal served at the Lion's Club building on Lee Street, coordinated by our Hospitality Committee, Sarah Joyner, Chairman. This was indeed a "GREAT DAY" in the life of the Zebulon United Methodist Church. The September newsletter revealed a total of \$164,000.00 in the Building Fund, which included \$731.24 from the United Methodist Women's Spring Ham Luncheon.

## **Comments from Members and Former Member**

The October 1982 newsletter included comments from current and former members: "I am so glad that I lived to see the beginning of construction on our new building. It represents our community of believers growing together. I want to be among the first "sidewalk superintendents." My husband, Dr. J. F. Coltrane (who joined this church in 1909, and whose name is on line #72 of the original roll), would have been please to have seen the progress and growth of the church in which he gave 67 years of his life." — Mrs. Etha Kemp Coltrane (whose name appears on line #33 of the second church roll).

"Dear Friends: Congratulations on being able to begin the new building. How I would have loved being with you on August 8th. I enjoyed reading the bulletin and Ann Davis' history that Jean Wall sent me. Love to everyone of you from, Spencer and Jocelyn House Turrentine, Bell Buckle, Tennessee." Jocelyn was the daughter of Mrs. Mary (A. R. House), Zebulon Methodist's first church historian. She and Spencer were the first couple married in the new sanctuary in 1949, before the carpet was laid. Jocelyn is the author/composer of "Dedication," which was performed by Grace Coltrane Kilkelly at the dedication of the new brick building June 24, 1951

"Let's keep on doing a good job for everyone. Our new building will be an asset to everyone in many years to come. Let's keep up the good work," Estelle Terry.

"Progress is well underway for our new Educational Building. It is a much needed building for the growth of our community and church. With good weather, all brick work should be completed before cold weather sets in. The timing for our building is ideal especially with interest rates down," Ed Hales.

"I'm real happy that we are getting started on our building. I knew we could do it when we set our hearts and minds to it. I am looking forward to getting into our new building which we desperately need," Aldona Pate. Grand total in the Building Fund as of October 26th was \$170,446.03. The Circuit Ride financial campaign program will be used to solicit funds to underwrite the 1983 budget. James Chamblee served as General Superintendent.

## **Candidate for Ministry Recommended**

A special session of the Charge Conference met on Tuesday, December 7, 1982, and recommended Mrs. Carolyn Smith as a candidate for the United Methodist ministry. Wayne Davis, Chairman of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, made the motion and spoke in favor of this recommendation. Jimmy Harris seconded the nomination and the vote in favor of the recommendation was unanimous.

There was a called meeting of the Administrative Board on May 18th, at which time Jack Terry, a trustee, presented charts representing the four phases of the building program and the monies needed for completion. Terry noted that we cannot occupy the new building until parking facilities are also available. The Town of Zebulon requires that we have 78 parking spaces available. As of this time, Phases I and II should be finished by July 11th, with no date available for completion of Phases III and IV. On motion of Barry Stallings, seconded by George Roberson, it was agreed to raise the borrowing power of the Trustees to \$376,000.

A second Church Conference related to the impending building program was held on May 22, 1983, with Dr. Reginald Ponder, District Superintendent, presiding. As he had done for an Administrative Board called meeting on May 18th, Jack Terry presented charts depicting the growth of the building fund and expenses related to the new addition. Finance Chairman, Barry Stallings, made a motion, that was seconded by George Roberson, that the borrowing power of the trustees be increased from \$310,000 to \$376,000, and to empower the trustees to enter into contracts or loans in sufficient amounts to finish all phases of the building program. This motion was subsequently amended to permit the borrowing power to rise to the level of \$405,000, which would include furnishings for the new building. Rev. Aills served until Conference met in June of 1983, when he was appointed to the Bethany United Methodist Church in the Durham District. The Educational Building was nearing completion when he moved, but it would be several months before a Certificate of Occupancy would be issued. He has served in Clayton, Wendell and currently in 1997 serves the Methodist Church in Carthage, North Carolina.

## Lovelace Appointed

Rev. Henry B. Lovelace was appointed to serve the Zebulon Church at Conference in June of 1983 and served until 1988. He came to Zebulon from the United Methodist Church in Creedmoor, North Carolina. He was assigned to the Apex United Methodist Church in 1988 where he continues to serve in 1997. There was a special called meeting of the Administrative Board on July 31, 1983, to discuss our request of the Board of Missions for a loan of \$100,000, which was denied due to a lack of funds. Barry Stallings explained that the prudent way to approach this indebtedness was to float a revenue bond program. Mr. Leroy Roberts, a representative of American Funding, Inc., was present and answered questions about such a program. Barry Stallings then made a motion that we accept the proposal by American Funding, there was a second by Winton Rankin, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Minutes from the Administrative Board February 5, 1984, with Jimmy Spivey as Chairman, show that the minister and secretary have moved their offices into the new office space in the new building. The DeElla Flowers Sunday School Class has also moved into their classroom, but other classes will not occupy space in the new building until the parking lot can be paved. Inclement weather has prevented the paving project from moving forward in a timely manner. Barry Stallings reported that pledges for the 1984 budget had only subscribed 80 percent of the amount needed.



*Merle Sue Pulley, Estelle Terry  
Undine Wheless, Rochelle Stroud*

Two robes for the acolytes were acquired. Two additional robes in varying sizes were donated as recorded in the June 3rd minutes. President of the United Methodist Women at this time was Emma Bocock and Chairman of the Council On Ministries was Ann Davis. Trustees report in March stated that plans for heating and cooling system for church were in the works. Barry Stallings announced at a special called meeting of the Administrative Board on May 6th that the cost of \$16,486 for this needed improvement would be covered by a group of anonymous donors. The variance requested by Mike Weeks from the Town of Zebulon which will enable us to use the present parking for three years without having to pave the property across Gannon Avenue, has been approved.



*Lisa and Laurie Harper*

The Hunt High School Vocal Ensemble, under the direction of Mrs. Susie Powers, presented a concert on April 15th, Palm Sunday. A concert was given on May 7, 1984, by Lisa and Laurie Harper, six-year veterans of the Lake Junaluska Singers. They came to Zebulon directly from Baltimore, Maryland, where the Junaluska Singers performed for the General Conference, during the 200th anniversary of Methodism. They are the daughters of Rev. and Mrs. C. Fred Harper of Ashland City, Tennessee. Rev. Harper graduated from Duke Divinity School in 1956 and served as the Associate Pastor at Carr United Methodist Church in Durham while he was at Duke.

The June 1984 newsletter announced an early Sunday morning worship service for the summer months, in addition to the regular 11 o'clock service. Blinds over the windows, a hood over the stove, and new tables and chairs for the fellowship hall have arrived. The parking lot is finished, and the classes have moved to their new class rooms. The new heating and cooling system is almost completed for the sanctuary and old class rooms. The July

newsletter was full of good news. A reception was given to welcome the new Bishop C. P. Minnick to Raleigh. A delegation from Zebulon attended this event. Our Fall Revival was held October 7-11, 1984, with Rev. John E. Williams of Rocky Mount as the Evangelist.

## **Service of Consecration Held Sunday**

(The Zebulon Record, October 18, 1984)

Led by Resident Bishop Carlton P. Minnick, Jr., members of the Zebulon United Methodist Church celebrated a service of consecration this past Sunday, Oct. 14, at 3 p.m. Minnick was introduced to the local congregation by J. Thomas "Tommy" Smith, district superintendent and former pastor of this church, as a man who loves God and a person who loves people. The Rev. Henry N. Lovelace, local minister, presided over the service.

Minnick stressed disciple-making in his sermon of consecration for the new educational building and fellowship hall, saying that Christians could not separate evangelism from Christian education and that there is no more important business in this world. People first come to an educational building to build a faith, then to share their faith as they grow and nurture each other as children of God, gaining the assurance that they are never alone, Minnick said.

A special anthem titled, "God Is Here," was presented by the chancel choir under the direction of Jim Powers, accompanied by Mary Lib Privette at the organ and Karl Smith and Debbie Pitts on trumpets and David Arnold on trombone. Philip Spivey and Christopher Lovelace served as acolytes for the service.

After the recessional hymn, the congregation was invited to the new fellowship hall for a time of fellowship and refreshments. Chaired by Jean Wall, the hospitality committee of Nell Alford, Alice Farmer, Donna Branoff, and Martha and Scott Brown had prepared refreshments of miniature shortbread squares, orange-apricot punch, cheese wafers, mints and nuts. Crystal appointments were used on a lace-covered table that was decorated with a fall motif. Grace Belcher presided over the guest register. Mary Ann Minnick and Judy Smith accompanied their husbands to Zebulon for this service.

Homecoming was held October 21st with Rev. Lovell Aills preaching. Dr. Jerry Cross and his family came as visitors from the past. A new display case containing church artifacts was unveiled. A sumptuous covered dish meal was served in the new Fellowship Hall. The Annual Meeting of the Raleigh District United Methodist Women met in the Zebulon United Methodist Church on October 25, 1984. This was a perfect opportunity for the women of the district to see the new facilities in Zebulon.



*New Fellowship Hall  
And Educational Building*

Charge Conference was held on November 6, 1984, with Rev. Smith presiding. The first Fall Festival was held on November 10, 1984, with Pam Stallings as chairman, and a committee of Freddie Dent, Becky Spivey, and Barry Stallings. (The January 1985, newsletter reported proceeds from this Fall Festival at \$5,296.58.) A press release for this event read:

Members of the Zebulon United Methodist Church are busy these days putting the finishing touches on crafts and items to be offered for sale at their first annual "Fall Festival" which is to be held on November 10. Events will begin at 8:00 a.m. with the sale of ham and sausage biscuits, and coffee of course. Rooms filled with the many crafts, baked goods, plants and white elephants will open at 9:00 a.m.

Built around a "Country Fair" theme outside entertainment has been scheduled throughout the day and will include clogging, folk singing, banjo and guitar picking. Children will especially enjoy horse back rides on a very gentle mare, hot dogs, popcorn, candied and carmel apples. There were demonstrations on "how to" make lamp shades, tin punch, quilts, smocking, and calligraphy.

Young children can select a gift for their parents from a cross section of the merchandise available in their very own "Secret Shop" with assistance from a very special "Grandmother." Young and the young-at-heart will enjoy Disney movies in a special theater throughout the day. The tea room will be a quiet spot for rest and refreshments. Topping off a full and fun day will be a Bar-B-Que dinner with all the trimmings at the evening meal. Jack Belcher and Frank Wall are co-chairman of the ticket sales committee.

Attention has been given during this year to its being the Bicentennial Year of Methodism which will be celebrated in December at Lovely Lane Church in Baltimore. Dr. Jerry Cross reported on the Zebulon church's involvement in this program and that a display case for artifacts of the church history had been purchased. A new pictorial directory was completed during this year.

Jack Belcher served as Chairman of the Administrative Board in 1985, and George Carlisle was Chairman of the Council on ministries. Chris Jennings was President of the United Methodist Men and Debbie Beavers was President of the United Methodist Women. At a joint Finance Committee and Trustee meeting on April 21st, Mike Weeks related that the lot across Gannon Avenue had been appraised at \$10,500. It was discussed and agreed to net list this property with William Parrish at \$14,000. This group also voted to exercise their option to purchase the property of Bobby Turnage, located adjacent to the church property on Sycamore Street.

The Peace College Chamber Singers provided two anthems during the morning worship on May 5th. Two Sunday worship services were held during the months of July and August of 1985. The church secretary, Fern Grantham, retired at the end of August, 1985, with a reception in her honor on August 25th. Lynne Wiggs was hired as Youth Director to work during the month of August and part time after the first of September for a monthly salary of \$500. Miss Wiggs was a seminary student with

two more years of training before her graduation. A Council on Ministries report noted a cookout and Haunted House at the home of Jim and Linda Chamblee, and a trip the North Carolina State Fair for the youth under Miss Wiggs direction. At the February 2, 1986, meeting of the Administrative Board it was voted to give Miss Wiggs full time employment during the summer months at \$1,000 per month, only if the Finance Committee can fund this effort.

Rev. Bobby Tyson preached a Revival October 6 - 9, 1985. Fall Festival '85 was held October 12th, with Pam Stallings and Becky Spivey as co-chairmen. A final report included in the February 1986 newsletter showed net proceeds of \$7,108.51 from this Fall Festival. This money was applied to the debt on the Turnage property and reduced the indebtedness from 20 years to 10 years, 5 months. Debbie Beavers was elected President of the United Methodist Women for 1986. Charles Corbett was Chairman of the Administrative Board, and George Carlisle was Chairman of the Council on Ministries.

There was a record attendance of 121 in Sunday School on February 23rd. Holy Week services were held March 23-26, 1986, with Rev. Tommy Smith, Raleigh District Superintendent, preaching. The third annual Fall Festival was held October 11th with the following persons serving on the committee: Don and Gail Betts, Henry and Ann Lovelace, Robert and Kay Pulley, and Bill and Terryn Owens. The Southern Gospel Singers provided entertainment during the Fall Festival. Total receipts were reported at \$9,447.16 in the November newsletter. Gay Barnes appears in the October, 1986, newsletter with an appeal for choir members. The UMW realized over \$900.00 for the Fall Bazaar at North Hills Shopping Center. The UMW voted to sell limited edition pen and ink prints of the church, by Donald F. Davis, of Durham. The prints will sell for \$10.00, of which \$5.00 will go to reimburse the artist, as they are sold, for the expense of having them printed.

## NINTH DECADE

Oscar Tyson was Chairman of the Administrative Board in 1987 and Elwyn Wood was Chairman of the Council on Ministries. Robert Pulley was serving as Treasurer. The UMW purchased a new refrigerator for the kitchen as reported in the April 1987 newsletter. The women made \$1,002.50 on their spring luncheon in 1987, with Emma Bocock as Chairman.

Rev. Henry Lovelace was appointed to the Apex United Methodist Church and Rev. Jack Benfield was appointed to Zebulon at Conference in June of 1987. Shirley Benton, church secretary, entertained the new minister and her Circle #4 members with a covered dish supper at her home.

The September newsletter announced Melody M. Hocutt as the new church secretary. Charge Conference was held on October 14, 1987, with Dr. Joseph B. Bethea, District Superintendent. The annual Fall Festival was held October 10th. The April 1988 newsletter revealed earnings of \$8,550, which was used to recall or buy back that amount of the church bonds that have the longest time to maturity. (This enabled the church to save over \$13,000 in interest on these bonds.) The Benfields entertained the membership at an open house at the parsonage on December 12th. Jimmy Joyner was recorded as Chairman of the Administrative Board in 1988. Donald and Gail Betts were recognized for working with the youth of the church.

Susie Roberson, President of the UMW, reported a donation of \$1,328.69 from the chicken-pie spring luncheon toward debt retirement. Grace Belcher, chairperson of Evangelism, reported results of three years of an on-going prayer chain. Sixteen members of this chain have lifted up in prayer 243 persons during the three year period. Susie Powers brought the Hunt High School Chorus to sing on May 29th. Betsy Green was responsible for obtaining an acoustic cover for the piano soundboard. This cover was in hand by the June 5th Trustees meeting and was given in memory of Albert Pulley, a life long member of the choir, by the Billy Green family. Jack and Grace Belcher volunteered to chair the Fall Festival, which was held on October 8, 1988. Final figures for this event show a profit of \$9,819.37 realized for debt retirement. The first "Supper 8 Groups" were organized in August. Eight persons joined together and shared meals once a month, either in their homes or at a restaurant for a time of fellowship and getting to know one another.

## Hand Bell Choir Organized

Twenty-five handbells were donated by Grace Coltrane Kilkelly for a handbell choir, directed by Gay Barnes. The handbells were dedicated on December 11, 1988, to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Thomas Kilkelly. The choir raised additional funds needed to buy accessories needed for a handbell choir. Original choir members were Mary Lib Brannon, Mary Ann Eakes, Betsy Green, Lia Guthrie, Jane Jennings, Ruth Joyner, Harriet Mills, and Bonnie Temple. On April 1, 1990, Mrs. Kilkelly gave a third octave of bells for the choir. In March of 1993, after the death of Jane B. Jennings, an original and faithful member of the choir, it was renamed, "The Jane B. Jennings Hand Bell Choir," in her memory. On November 7, 1993, a fourth octave of bells and custom made table coverings were presented to the choir in loving memory of Jane by her family and friends.



*Jane B. Jennings  
(1981)*

Furniture for the pastor's study was also provided by an unnamed donor. Leaman and Lib Pearce donated additional sound system equipment for the sanctuary in memory of their son, James Leaman Pearce, Jr. Trustees minutes on September 25, 1988, revealed that Dr. and Mrs. Heber Windley gave \$1,300 for paving the driveway at the parsonage. Dr. Thomas A. Collins, District Superintendent, preached on November 6th and held Charge Conference immediately afterwards.

A "Family Gathering Day" (or Homecoming) was held on November 20, 1988, with Rev. Troy Barrett, former minister, as guest speaker. Charge Conference records indicate that Winton Rankin was Chairperson of the Administrative Board and Linda Chamblee was Chairperson of the Council On Ministries in 1989. Jean Wrage was President of the United Methodist Women and Jack Belcher was President of the United Methodist Men. Holy Week services were held March 19 - 26, 1989, with visiting speakers: Rev. Jack Glasgow, Rev. Jimmy Sutton, Rev. Paul Leeland, and Rev. Steve Compton.

The James B. Hunt High School Chorus under the direction of our own Susie Powers, presented a concert on April 2, 1989. The Methodist Men celebrated Ladies Night at Schooners Restaurant in Bailey. The April, 1989, newsletter also thanks Lee Adams, local member and Grounds Engineer for Meredith College, for directing the landscaping of our grounds, following a plan approved by the Trustees. A Superball Golf Tournament held on April 29th. Gay Barnes' employment as the Christian Education Coordinator as well as her position as Music Director was recorded in the August 1989 newsletter.

Leonard Plautz made a beautiful oak Communion Table that is being used in the sanctuary. Handbell Choir members attended the "Liturgical Arts in Worship Week" at Lake Junaluska, June 25-30, 1989. Habitat for Humanity was in the process of constructing its first house in Zebulon, involving some members of the Zebulon Church. The ZUMC softball team brought home two trophies that are displayed in display case donated by Wayne and Ann Davis. Chris and Sue Paulakuhn served as Chairpersons for the '89 Fall Festival, which was held on October 14th, and netted \$9,350. Church bonds with a market value of \$13,295 were recalled as of November 1, 1989. Winton Rankin noted that if successful Fall Festivals continued the indebtedness on the building could be paid off as early as 1992.

In 1990, Frank Wall was chairman of the Administrative Board and Linda Chamblee was chairman of the Council on Ministries. A new roof was installed on the parsonage and the new parking lot was paved with the entire lot resealed and restriped. The renovation of the front entrance area of the church was contributed by Lowell Ray and Barbara Pulley in memory of Lowell Ray Pulley, Jr., Barbara Kay, Joseph Alexander, Albert and Merle Sue Pulley and recorded in the September 1990 newsletter. District Superintendent, Dr. F. Belton Joyner, Jr., held Charge Conference on October 9th. Kenneth and Gay Barnes served as Chairpersons for the '90 Fall Festival, which was held on October 13, 1990. ZUMC was the host church for a Children's and Youth Rally on November 4th, which featured Rev. Scott T. Wilkinson. Louise Gibbons and Frank Wall represented ZUMC at Annual Conference in Fayetteville June 12 - 15, 1991.

In the spring of 1991, Patricia Griswold spearheaded a drive to complete the landscaping plan, adopting the area around the sign. Don Bumgarner donated all plants. Dave and Lia Guthrie did the landscaping in front of the Fellowship Hall, and Kenneth Barnes took care of the area around the front steps. Rev. Benfield reported at the April 7, 1991, Trustees meeting that the church now owns a ZUMC blue and white van, which has been appropriately painted. Allan Jennings undertook a project of refurbishing the Wesley Fellowship classroom, the Superintendent's office, and the foyer, under the direction of the Wesley Fellowship Class and the United Methodist Women, for his Eagle Scout requirement. This project included new paint, new carpet and window treatments.

Fall Festival '91 was held on October 12th, chaired by Dave and Lia Guthrie and Kenneth and Gay Barnes, and according to reports in the November newsletter, netted \$10,040.84. Of this amount, \$2,000.00 was a direct result of a new project of a "name quilt." Dr. Bill Simpson was the guest minister for the Spiritual Renewal Emphasis services on November 3 - 4, 1991. The 5th and 6th grade Sunday School class made Christmas mailboxes for our congregation to use to send holiday greetings to fellow church members and save the postage.

The Zebulon United Methodist Church received bequests from two estates during 1991. Scott Brown willed his home to the church and the proceeds in the amount of \$98,014.51 was disbursed in December of 1991. The estate of Mrs. Emma Cothran also disbursed \$6,455.00 as a bequest in Mrs. Cothran's will. The trustees voted at a meeting on December 1, 1991, to invest \$50,000 of the Brown estate monies into the Permanent Endowment for the Methodist Church, and they used the remainder of the funds from these bequests to refurbish the sanctuary with wainscotting, plastering, painting, covers for the stained glass windows, and to install vinyl siding on the parsonage. If there were any excess funds, they were to be used to purchase a new refrigerator for the parsonage. The estate of Nellie Alford also deeded a small strip of land to the church to rectify an encroachment of the parsonage onto the adjacent lot. The indebtedness was cleared on the fellowship hall bonds in December 1991 and the building was dedicated in early 1992. Bishop Minnick was again present for this service.

David Guthrie was Chairman of the Council on Ministries in 1992. Dr. Reginald Ponder was the guest preacher on February 16th. Susan Spivey arranged for the New Life Singers, a gospel quartet, to sing on March 1st. The C.O.M. voted to participate in a community sunrise Easter service at the Five County Stadium and held a planning retreat at the Ballentine cabin on May 16th. The Lay Shepherding program was explained to the C.O.M. on June 23rd by Fred and Kathy Watkins of the St. Mark's United Methodist Church. This program was instituted at the July 27th meeting. A committee was also appointed to make a presentation to the Pastor Parish Relations committee in regard to adding an Assistant Pastor-Program Director (Christian Education Coordinator) to the staff.

Paul Tew, P.P.R. chairperson met with the C.O.M. on September 28th and discussed a permanent position with a clearly defined job description and hours required. Jerry Lipscomb met with the C.O.M. on January 25, 1993, and asked for their support as he embarked on this new position. It was approved at the March 21st meeting of the C.O.M. that this position be made full time during the summer months, and later by the Administrative Board and the Pastor Parish Relations committee.

Jerry Lipscomb suggested a gathering at the church for persons who do not have a place to go, or local family to celebrate Thanksgiving at the September 1993 C.O.M. meeting. He also reported that Rev. Benfield's goal of 80 in attendance for the Wednesday night program had been accomplished. Dr. Belton Joyner, Jr., District Superintendent, held a Charge Conference on November 7, 1993. Rev. Benfield served until 1994 at which time Rev. Tommy Privette was appointed. Rev. Benfield currently serves Westminster United Methodist Church in Kinston, North Carolina.



## **PRIVETTE APPOINTED**

Rev. Privette came to the Zebulon Church from the Hope Mills United Methodist Church in Cumberland County, Fayetteville District. In the last summer of 1994, a Vision 2000 Committee was formed to study and make recommendations for ministry that would take the Zebulon United Methodist Church through the dawning of a new millenium. At an Administrative Board Retreat on November 19, 1994, the following goals were adopted:

- To have an early morning worship service, which was implemented in September of 1995.
- New member orientation classes which meets in the pastor's office as needed beginning in 1995.
- A faith sharing class which was implemented with programs on faith sharing during the Wednesday Night Live programs in the fall of 1996.
- Methodist "Welcome Wagon" Program.
- Preschool children's program which continues to be studies by the Council on Ministries in 1997.
- "Invite a Friend" to Church (F.R.A.N. plan): worship attendance crusades during the Lenten season of 1995 and 1996 have been very successful. Over 300 persons were in attendance on Easter Sunday 1996.
- Marriage renewal services.
- Health programs and counseling for addictions, obsessions and depression: a parish nurse, Sue Kirylyuk was added to the staff.

Funds from the 1994 Fall Festival, combined with fund raising efforts by Archie Ray culminated in the purchase of a 15 passenger Ford Clubwagon as our new church van. This has been a great addition for the U.M.Y.F., the Senior Citizens, the Hinton workteams, and other groups in their travels. The old Dodge van was donated to the Hinton rural Life Center in the summer of 1995, and at latest report was still up and running.

## **CHURCH OWNED BUILDINGS AND REAL ESTATE RENOVATION PLAN**

On September 1, 1995, the church began a three year fund raising program of \$90,000, with the funds to come from three Fall Festivals (\$24,000), work from our own membership groups saving (\$6,000) and individual pledges of contributions (\$60,000). As of September 1997, the fundraising is right on schedule and much of the work has been completed. Those projects completed thus far include:

- Parsonage: new den and living room furniture, interior painted, new clothes dryer, new window treatments, vents, medicine cabinets, light fixtures, switch and receptacle covers, and a ceiling fan in the study.
- Sanctuary: new front doors, repairs to the ceiling of the restrooms, parish nurse's office door repaired, patch and paint storage room and food pantry, exit and emergency lighting to fire code throughout the building, heating and air conditioning for the third floor and youth room, new carpet in youth room, water proofing of nursery and office area, and exterior painting of woodwork.
- Other Properties: parking lot resealed; removal of Mitchell house and seeding of lawn; and repairs to bathrooms, windows, deck, etc. of rental house.

More work is to be completed within the next year and with faithful giving to the building fund there should be adequate resources to cover these expenditures.

## **FULL TIME DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

In June 1997 the Zebulon United Methodist Church made a bold and faithful step forward by creating a full-time staff position of Music Director and Director of Christian Education. The specific responsibilities are: the general supervision of all music ministries, directing chancel choir and the handbell choirs, facilitating the ministries of children, youth and missions. The person hired for this position is our own Gay Barnes who has the musical, educational and spiritual background and the expertise that this job demands.

In addition to the pastor and the newly instituted Director of Music and Christian Education, our church-parish staff includes Susan Masters, organist-pianist; parish nurse, Sue Kiryluk; secretary, Donna Ipock, who came on board during the summer of 1997, replacing Tammy Singleton; and our custodian, Kenneth Barnes.

Under the capable leadership of this team the Zebulon United Methodist Church offers a wide variety of weekly programs to members and to the community. These programs will make the history of the Zebulon United Methodist Church in the future.

In addition to two worship services every Sunday, the church has an active Sunday School program for all ages, an annual Vacation Bible School for the youth of the community, and a weekly Wednesday Night Live program. U.M.Y.F. is active for youth and the children's choirs offer musical opportunities for children. Members can also participate in the Gleaners Network, the Food Pantry and a ministry to persons in local medical facilities. The church supports local mission ministries and domestic and international mission ministries. Community groups who use the facilities of the church are Alcoholics Anonymous, AL-ANON, Weight Watchers, and an Alzheimer's Support Group.

## FIRST ROLL OF THE ZEBULON METHODIST CHURCH 1907-1912

(Year of affiliation with Church)

1.	T. J. Horton	1907	53.	DeSoto Fordham	1908
2.	Mrs. T. J. Horton	1907	54.	Gross Finch	1908
3.	J. W. Sanders	1907	55.	Mrs. Paul Jones	1909
4.	Mrs. J. W. Sanders	1907	56.	Miss Pearl Jones	1909
5.	G. M. Sanders	1907	57.	Mrs. Mary Campion	1909
6.	Mrs. G. M. Sanders	1907	58.	W. M. Walker	1909
7.	B. Arendell	1907	59.	Mrs. W. M. Walker	1909
8.	Mrs. B. Arendell	1907	60.	J. W. Sheron	1909
9.	Bertha Arendell	1907	61.	Walter Sheron	1909
10.	Mr. J. W. Fordham	1907	62.	William Sheron	1909
11.	Mrs. J. W. Fordham	1907	63.	R. E. Tubbs	1909
12.	George Temple	1908/7	64.	Mrs. R. E. Tubbs	1909
13.	Colee (Cola) Temple	1907	65.	Mrs. William Tucker	1909
14.	Mamie Temple	1908/7	66.	Sarah Pierce	1909
15.	Dullin (Dullie) Temple	1908	67.	Mrs. S. V. Cone	1909
16.	Hettie Richardson	1908	68.	J. C. Cerre	1909
17.	Hubert Richardson	1908	69.	J. P. Brown	1909
18.	Flora Richardson	1908	70.	Dr. C. A. Flowers	1909
19.	Nolee Richardson	1908	71.	Mrs. Bertha Flowers	1909
20.	J. P. Brown	1908	72.	J. F. Coltrane	1909
21.	Eliza Brown	1908	73.	Phett Clark	1909
22.	Lucy Liles	1908	74.	Mrs. P. Clark	1909
23.	Helen Mosely	1908	75.	Leon Fordham	1909
24.	H. R. Hoyle	1908	76.	S. W. Harris	1909
25.	Irby Hoyle	1908	77.	Nellie Driver	1909
26.	H. P. Gill	1908	78.	Wade Walker	1909
27.	Mrs. H. P. Gill	1908	79.	Alphonso Mitchell	1910
28.	Mrs. A. A. Pippin	1908	80.	Mrs. Alphonso Mitchell	1910
29.	Mrs. M. C. Chamblee	1908	81.	Juliet N. Mitchell	1910
30.	L. L. Allen	1908	82.	Sarah B. Mitchell	1910
31.	Mrs. A. D. Wilson	1908	83.	Janie Mitchell	1910
32.	P. A. White	1908	84.	J. Thos. Mitchell	1910
33.	Mrs. P. A. White	1908	85.	Minnie A. Mitchell	1910
34.	Mrs. Thomas Mitchell	1908	86.	Kathleen Boin	1910
35.	Miss Oza Mitchell	1908	87.	Hannah Boin	1910
36.	Miss Doza Mitchell	1908	88.	Mrs. Ada Pitts	1910
37.	Miss Voleie Mitchell	1908	89.	Mrs. Flosena Beasley	1910
38.	B. B. Mitchell	1908	90.	J. C. Woodruff	1910
39.	Mrs. B. B. Mitchell	1908	91.	Ella Clark	1910
40.	H. C. Mitchell	1908	92.	Mrs. Missours Watson	1910
41.	W. M. Mitchell	1908	93.	Miss Annie Ross	1910
42.	Lolee Mitchell	1908	94.	Miss Roberta Ross	1910
43.	Mrs. Nina Eddins	1908	95.	Julius Jeffreys	1910
44.	Henry Gill	1908	96.	Laura Jeffreys	1910
45.	A. T. Finch	1908	97.	Virginia Jeffreys	1910
46.	Mrs. A. T. Finch	1908	98.	Iraderea Jeffreys	1910
47.	A. V. Bobbitt	1908	99.	C. V. Batts	1910
48.	Mrs. A. V. Bobbitt	1908	100.	Irene Clark	1910
49.	Willie Cone	1908	101.	Mrs. Luther Allen	1910
50.	L. E. Jones	1908	102.	Lucile Allen	1910
51.	Mrs. L. E. Jones	1908	103.	Katie B. White	1910
52.	Elijah Jones	1908	104.	Meta Shearn	1910

105.	Joseph W. Mitchell	1910
106.	Sarah Mitchell	1910
107.	Ezra Watkins	1910
108.	W. H. Passe	1910
109.	Ollie Chamblee	1910
110.	Loraine Gill	1910
111.	J. D. Finch	1911
112.	Sallie B. Finch	1911
113.	Waylon D. Finch	1912
114.	Bulor Finch	1912
115.	Sigma Finch	1912
116.	Mary E. Southhall	1912
117.	Mrs. J. V. Womble	1912
118.	Mrs. Martha Clarke	1912
119.	J. A. Clarke	1912
120.	Clara Clarke	1912
121.	Carl Harper	1912

## SECOND CHURCH ROLL

(Prepared August 12, 1919)

1. T. J. Horton		51. Mary E. Southall	1912
2. Mrs. T. J. Horton		52. J. A. Clarke	1912
3. G. M. Saunders		53. Clara Clarke	1912
4. Mrs. G. M. Saunders		54. C. M. Clarke	1912
5. George Temples		55. Henry Temples	1912
6. Mrs. Seba Hales		56. Sarah Temples	1912
7. Mrs. Mamie Strickland		57. Lela F. Strickland	1912
8. Dullen Temples		58. Mrs. Blanche Clarke	1912
9. Hettie Richardson		59. May White	1912
10. Hubert Richardson		60. Linwood Finch	1913
11. Flora Upchurch		61. Geneva Batts	1913
12. Nola Hupp		62. Virginia A. Davis	1913
13. J. P. Brown		63. Alma V. Honeycutt	1913
14. Lucy Liles		64. Marvin Davis	1913
15. Mrs. Helen Mosely		65. E. G. Richardson	1913
16. Irby Hoyle		66. Mrs. E. G. Richardson	1913
17. P. A. White		67. C. A. Flowers	1914
18. Mrs. P. A. White		68. DeElla Flowers	1914
19. Mrs. Thos. Mitchell		69. Lucia Flowers	1914
20. Oza Honeycutt		70. Neva F. Barbee	1914
21. Mrs. B. B. Mitchell		71. W. C. Wakefield	1914
22. H. C. Mitchell		72. Furnie Southall	1914
23. B. M. Mitchell		73. W. A. Honeycutt	1914
24. Lola Eddins		74. D. Y. McGee	1914
25. Henry Gill		75. C. I. Umstead	1-9-1915
26. Grover Finch		76. Minnie O. Clarke	1-9-1915
27. Mrs. Pearl Massey		77. Wm. A. Ingold	1-12-1915
28. Mrs. May Campen		78. P. V. Duke	1-18-1915
29. J. W. Shearin		79. Geneva Duke	1-18-1915
30. Mrs. Wm. Tucker		80. Willie M. Duke	1-18-1915
31. J. C. Cone		81. Ashley Duke	1-18-1915
32. J. F. Coltrane		82. Carrie Bell Campbell	1-18-1915
33. Mrs. J. F. Coltrane		83. Gertrude Roe	1-18-1915
34. I. W. Harris		84. Lucy A. Bobbitt	1-18-1915
35. Nellie Driver		85. Arie McGee	2-9-1915
36. Julius Jeffreys		86. Geo. A. Burke	2-10-1915
37. Virginia Jeffreys		87. Callie Burke	2-10-1915
38. Tradona Lynch		88. Lillie W. Ayscue	2-18-1915
39. C. V. Batts		89. Helen Horton	3-21-1915
40. Katie White		90. James G. Horton	3-21-1915
41. Meta Carter		91. Katherine E. Batts	3-21-1915
42. Joseph Mitchell		92. W. T. Shearin	3-21-1915
43. Sarah Rhodes		93. Graham Finch	3-21-1915
44. Ollie McGuire		94. Dobbins Liles	3-21-1915
45. Mrs. A. A. Pippin		95. Luther Richardson	3-21-1915
46. Mrs. M. C. Chamblee		96. James Pulley	3-21-1915
47. J. D. Finch	1912	97. Mamie Ingold	3-21-1915
48. Mrs. J. D. Finch	1912	98. Janola C. Brantley	3-28-1915
49. Wayland D. Finch	1912	99. Novie E. Brantley	3-28-1915
50. Beulah Harper	1912	100. Laura O. B. Curtis	3-28-1915

101. Grace E. Keith	4-12-1915	156. Mrs. W. F. Bullard	2-19-1919
102. Preston G. Curtis	4-30-1915	157. G. O. Pitts, Jr.	3-12-1919
103. Addie Rhodes	7-11-1915	158. N. G. Avent	4-20-1919
104. Carl T. Harper	8-21-1915	159. Mrs. N. G. Avent	4-20-1919
105. Ruby Daniel	9-4-1915	160. Elmer D. Finch	4-24-1919
106. Flonnie King	10-10-1915	161. Orion H. Richardson	4-26-1919
107. Mrs. Joe F. Finch	1-8-1916	162. Olivia B. Cheatham	9-12-1919
108. A. E. Carter	From Middlesex	163. Mrs. L. S. Hayes	10-11-1919
109. Elva Carter	From Middlesex	164. Mrs. Hubert Eddins	1908
110. Mozelle Richardson	3-26-1916	165. E. H. Moser	11-24-1919
111. W. Raleigh Shearin	3-26-1916	166. Myrtle F. Moser	11-24-1919
112. Walter B. Duke	3-26-1916	167. Paul D. Davis	12-26-1919
113. Sanford M. Finch	3-26-1916	168. Alice Y. Davis	12-26-1919
114. A. G. L. Stephenson	6-8-1916		
115. Mrs. A. G. L. Stephenson	6-8-1916		
116. Rebecca Williford	6-8-1916		
117. Arthur Stephenson	6-8-1916		
118. J. A. Cawthorne	From Middlesex		
119. Dr. J. M. Harper	10-20-1916		
120. Susie M. Harper	10-20-1916		
121. Ira C. Ellington	10-31-1916		
122. Cora a. Ellington	10-31-1916		
123. Starkey H. Hoyle	11-26-1916		
124. Eula Pearl Hoyle	11-26-1916		
125. Carrie Gill Broughton	1-3-1917		
126. Bertha F. Bartlett	1-8-1917		
127. Mary L. Fowler	1-12-1917		
128. Estella J. Howell	2-6-1917		
129. Vear C. Richardson	7-22-1917		
130. Hubert B. Clarke	9-9-1917		
131. Jas. W. Stephenson	9-9-1917		
132. Geo. Oliver Pitts	9-9-1917		
133. Mabel E. Clarke	9-9-1917		
134. Lolie Beatrice Temples	9-9-1917		
135. A. Mildred Clarke	9-9-1917		
136. S. Staley Denton	9-30-1917		
137. Raymond D. Denton	9-30-1917		
138. Garland Faulkner	9-30-1917		
139. Mrs. Snowden Watkins	10-3-1917		
140. Jack Pearce	10-14-1917		
141. Ida L. Fisher	12-17-1917		
142. Clyde O. Fisher	12-17-1917		
143. Alma L. Fisher	12-17-1917		
144. Ralph L. Fisher	12-17-1917		
145. Henry E. Fisher	12-17-1917		
146. Edgar B. Fisher	12-17-1917		
147. J. W. Saunders	3-11-1918		
148. Pearl Saunders	3-11-1918		
149. Nellie C. Saunders	9-15-1918		
150. Mary M. Saunders	9-15-1918		
151. A. Pulley	9-15-1918		
152. Mary E. Davis	1-17-1919		
153. Robt. V. Davis	1-17-1919		
154. Isla Davis	1-17-1919		
155. Gladys Davis	1-17-1919		

# *Memorial Windows*

*1949 - 1950*



## MEMORIAL WINDOWS OF THE ZEBULON METHODIST CHURCH

(From list of Mrs. Mary House in 1950 history)

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Flowers	By Family
Mrs. Thyra Cahoon Noll	Howard P. Noll
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip White Katie Bet Liles	Willard White
Mrs. Lucy Parrot Jones	Jones Children
Elmer D. Finch, Jr.	Elmer Finch, Sr. - Douglas Finch
Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Davis	Davis Sons and Daughters
Mrs. Wesley Sanders	Children
In Honor of: Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Finch	Dr. Sigma Finch
Mrs. Charles Weathersby	Husband
Mr. Frank Fuller	(Wife) Mrs. Pattie Fuller
Mrs. W. F. Winstead	Mrs. Rhoda Gill Mrs. Mildred Dawson
Mrs. Pearl Massey	Children
Mr. J. P. Brown	Family
Mr. and Mrs. George Temple	Maylon Temple
Mr. George Temple Mr. Henry Hoyle	Wallace Temple
Rev. & Mrs. G. W. Fisher	Mr. & Mrs. W. D. Finch & Mary Fisher Finch





*Rev. George W. Fisher - Fisher - Ida Love Fisher*

*John D. Finch  
Sallie Strickland Finch*

*In Memory Of  
Lucy Parrot Jones*

*P. A. White  
And Daughter  
Katie Bet Liles*

*Pearl Ferrell Saunders  
Wife Of  
John Wesley Saunders*

*In Loving Remembrance  
Thyra Cahoon Noll  
1911-1937*

*In Memory Of  
Elmer Dortch Finch*

*In Memory Of  
Father and Mother  
Charles and DeElla Flowers*

*In Memory Of  
John Daniel Davis  
Mary Dexter Davis*

## OTHER GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Pulpit in Memory of J. B. Cahoon	By Granddaughters
Altar in Memory of Rev. & Mrs. G. W. Fisher	By Sons
Chimes in Memory of Martha Flowers Pippin	Mrs. S. G. Flowers
Altar Bible	By A. R. House family, Mr. & Mrs. A. R. House, Jocelyn & Ralph
Wooden Collection Plates	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Jones
Outside Lights	Mrs. J. E. Carter
Piano in Junior Department	Mrs. C. E. Mitchell
Hammond Organ	Mrs. J. F. Coltrane and the Ladies of W.S.C.S.
Electric Stove	Mrs. Joe Tippett
Kitchen Cabinet	Mr. A. S. Hinton
Refrigerator	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Patton
Bronze Cross	Mrs. Jean Flowers Wall
Bulletin Board	Mr. & Mrs. Maylon Temple, Ruth & Joseph
Bronze Candle Sticks	Mrs. J. E. Carter

These memorials were listed by Mrs. A. R. (Mary) House for the dedication of the church sanctuary building in 1951. Later memorials that are recorded will be listed elsewhere.



## REV. GEORGE W. FISHER and IDA LOVE FISHER

George Washington Fisher served this church from 1917 until 1921. These memorial windows were given by Mr. & Mrs. W. D. Finch and Mary Fisher Finch. On December 17, 1917, in one of his first acts on his new charge, George W. Fisher added the names of his family to the Zebulon Church roll: Ida L. Fisher; Clyde O. Fisher; Alma L. Fisher; Ralph L. Fisher; Henry E. Fisher; and Edgar B. Fisher. Both George W. and Ida Love Fisher are buried in the Zebulon City Cemetery.

His only daughter, Alma Love Fisher, married Waylon D. Finch, who moved to Zebulon from the (Stanhope) Mt. Pleasant community in 1910. Waylon Finch's name is on line 113 of first church roll book. "Miss Alma" wrote a series of articles in 1956 for The Zebulon Record, which is included in the Pastors' section of this book. Alma and Wayland Finch had one daughter, Mary Fisher Finch, who married Homer Monson, is widowed and lives in Charlotte. They had four grandchildren: Marlo Love, Gene, Finch, and Johnny Monson.

Edgar B. Fisher was a minister in the NC Conference and served as a District Superintendent. His daughter, Ruth Anne Fisher, married Alexander Holloway Veazey, Jr., my second cousin. She is widowed and makes her home in Hendersonville, N. C. They had four children: Alexander Holloway Veazey, III; Daniel Burt Veazey; Anne Elizabeth Veazey; Lee Fisher Veazey. Edgar also had a son, Edgar B. Fisher, Jr.

When Ida Love Fisher died, the Rev. E. H. Davis wrote a beautiful obituary for the North Carolina Conference Journal:

A good woman, a leader among us in every good work, went out from us when Mrs. G. W. Fisher quietly breathed her last at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. D. Finch, in Zebulon at noon Friday, July 22. The shadows had been gathering about her for some months, ever since she left her home in April to visit relatives in Newton that is, shadows of a physical sort induced by disease. Spiritually there were none. The light in which she had been walking for years was with her during every conscious moment to the last. The last visit her pastor had with her will remain an enduring blessing to him by reason of her shining countenance, her confident testimony and her fervent amen in prayer.



*George Washington Fisher*

Her maiden name was Ida Love, being born in Caswell County, N. C. March 8, 1866, daughter of James and Ann Love. In 1889 she was married to Rev. George W. Fisher of the North Carolina Conference, who, dying in 1926 while pastor at Garner, preceded her to the glory world. For 37 years this godly pair walked side by side and worked together for the glory of God in the different charges they served from one side of this conference to the other, in most of them remaining for the full term of four years. She no less than he left each one with an enduring hold on the affections of the people. The great popularity he enjoyed wherever he labored was due in no small measure to the real help that this real helpmeet supplied.

That Scripture was fulfilled in her case which says, "The heart of her husband did safely trust in her. She did him good and not evil all the days of her life." As her Master, she went about doing good and her idea of doing good was not confined to the prayer meeting, the Sunday school, the missionary society, the church to each of which she gave regular attendance scarcely less regular than that of the pastor himself, and all of which she supported liberally with her purse. All of these she did, but they were no substitute with her for work of another sort, viz.: her personal presence in homes and at times when such presence meant

something and her personal word to those with whom such word was more effective than a sermon. It was true of her that her meat was ever to do the will of Him that sent her. Thus it comes about that in every charge where they labored together for these 37 years her tracks are no less discernible today than those of the godly man by whose side she walked. Bereft of his companionship and going no longer with him over the conference as she had done for so many years at the voice of the Bishop, Sister Fisher lost no whit of her interest in the work of the church. The new preacher was her pastor from the reading of the appointment. She lost no time in telling him so or in inviting him to her home.

She lived her life well and beautifully. In the church it was that way and in the community. More so if possible was it that way in the home — largely her making. Few preachers' homes among us with their breaking up have ever left better, more convincing evidence of the quality of the lives there spent than the one made and presided over by George W. Fisher and his wife, Ida Lee Fisher. Eight children were born to them. Five of them survive, all of them members of the church in which they spent their lives, viz.: Clyde Olin Fisher, professor of economics, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.; Dr. Ralph Lee Fisher, Standish, Mich.; Henry E. Fisher, attorney at law, Charlotte; Rev. Edgar B. Fisher, assistant pastor First M. E. Church, South, Rocky Mount; and Mrs. W. D. Finch, Zebulon.



*Ida Love Fisher*

## “The Chalice and Loaf”

“And when he had taken a cup and given thanks, he said, “Take this and share it among yourselves.” (Luke 22:14)

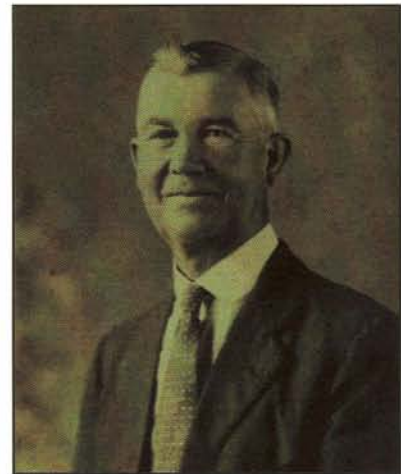
Jesus made it plain that His last meal was a symbol of sharing His life (body and blood) with His followers. He also made it plain that this sharing should continue from disciples to the whole world. As we have had the opportunity to receive the love and grace of Christ, may we zealously share Christ to the people of the earth.



John D. Finch joined the Zebulon Methodist Church in 1912, during the pastorate of Rev. G. B. Perry. His name appears on line #111 of the first roll book. This window given by Dr. Sigma Finch.

Other members of the Finch family whose names appeared with his in 1912 are, Sallie B., his wife; Waylon D., who married Alma Love Fisher; Beulah; and Sigma Finch. Carl Harper, who married Beulah Finch, also appears on the roll at this time.

A younger son, Elmer Davis Finch, joined the Zebulon church on April 24, 1919. His name appears on line #160 of the second roll. This family lived on the south-eastern corner of Sycamore Street, in the two story house that is still standing there in 1997.



*John D. Finch*



*Sallie Strickland Finch*

J. D. Finch was active in the mission of the early Methodist Church in Zebulon, and you will note that his name appears frequently in the records. Their son, Sigma Finch, became a dentist and located in Oxford, North Carolina. He chose to honor his parents with this stained glass window. John D. and Sallie Strickland Finch are buried in the City Cemetery in Zebulon.

Mary Fisher Finch Monson of Charlotte is a granddaughter of this couple and Faye Finch Perry of Zebulon is a great-granddaughter.

## “The Cross and Crown”



“O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Thy name in all the earth.” (Psalm 8:1)

Though Jesus came from humble beginning, born in a manger and not ever having his own home, a servant of all humankind; He is the son of God. The Bible hails Him as the King of kings and Lord of lords. If we fail to praise our Lord, scripture says that the “Very rocks shall cry out” in praise of His majesty.



Lucy Carolyn Parrott Jones (February 25, 1858-October 23, 1909) was the daughter of Henry Franklin and Mary Brummitt Parrott, natives of Granville County, and long time members of the Bullock Methodist Church. She married Robert “Paul” Jones (July 14, 1854-September 12, 1930) on January 28, 1875, in Granville County. Paul was the son of Littleton Young Jones and Edna Farabow Wheeler. Lucy’s children gave this window in her memory.

Paul and Lucy came to the Wakefield Community of Wake County. They raised their family of ten children in that community until Lucy’s death in 1909. Paul Jones then married Rebecca Allen Pearce on February 15, 1910, and they had five children. The youngest of these children is J. Monroe Jones who married Lorraine Bridgers in the sanctuary of the Zebulon Methodist Church soon after the carpet was installed in 1949.

Lucy Parrott Jones was an active member of the Methodist movement in Eastern Wake County. She was undoubtedly very involved in the Wakefield Mission when Rev. Eure served that place and when Rev. Armour David Wilcox was appointed in 1906. Her name appears on line #55 of the original roll book of the Zebulon Methodist Church. Her daughter, Miss Pearl Jones (Massey) appears next on line #56. She has a number of living descendants who are members of the Zebulon Church today, most of whom are Massey descendants and will be covered in conjunction with her daughter, Pearl Jones Massey’s window.

## “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

“And Joseph also went up to the City of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David.” (Luke 2:4)

In keeping with the prophecy of scripture, Jesus was born in the City of David, Bethlehem. This also is in keeping with the humble beginnings of his life, to be born in a small and somewhat insignificant town. Yet on His special and Holy Night, a star hailed the birth of our Savior and King.



Phillip Allen White married Kate Moss Blackley, daughter of William Alexander Blackley and Eugenia Eveline Minnis, all of Wilton, on December 25, 1892. P. A. White was born March 27, 1868, in Granville County, the first son and fifth child of William Philo White, Sr., and his wife, Nancy Mitchell. The White family had been members of Banks Methodist Church in Wilton since before the Revolution. In 1902 Phillip and Kate moved with their first five children to Wakefield and lived in that community, with the exception of one year when they moved to Wendell, for the remainder of his life. P. A. and Kate White are listed on lines #32 and #33 of the first roll book of the Zebulon Church in 1908. They eventually had seven sons and one daughter, Katie Bet White. Most of their children and grandchildren remained in the eastern Wake County area.



*Phillip A. White*



*Katie Bet Liles*

Their sons are Percy, Willard, Halbert, Waldo, Wallace, Ashley Glenn and Durward White. Durward donated the Baldwin organ in our present sanctuary, in memory of P. A. and Kate White. Willard White is shown as the donor of this memorial window in the church. Katie Bet, was born May 4, 1899, and as the only sister was considered “special” by her seven brothers. She attended the Methodist church in Zebulon from its beginning and joined the church in 1910, with her name appearing on line #103 of the first roll book. She taught school prior to her marriage to Louis Lambreth Liles on December 28, 1923. Katie Bet Liles died May 31, 1940, leaving one son, Jack White Liles, who married Eva Jane Frady. Although not a member of this church, Eva Liles lives about one block south on Church Street. Katie Bet’s grandchildren are Lewis Oliver Liles, principal of Zebulon Elementary School, and Cassandra Beth Liles Spivey of

Raleigh. Her great-grandchildren are Matthew Lewis and Logan Winder Liles, and Meredith Paige and Jillian Leigh Spivey. Durward and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Eakins, lived in Pender and New Hanover counties before retiring to Wendell. He always had a fondness for this, the church of his youth, and was generous in his support of it. We are grateful to Beth White May of Raleigh, daughter of Durward White, for this family history.

## “Lamb of God”



“...and I saw between the throne and the elders, a Lamb...”  
(Revelation 5:6)

One of the greatest affirmations of The Book of Revelation is the promise of the presence of the Lamb of God, Jesus, with us in Heaven. The Lamb of God, spotless, pure, unblemished, without sin is the One worthy of our praise and worship. This lamb carries upon himself the marks and signs of slaughter but behold, He is alive forever!



Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Saunders were listed on lines #3 and #4 of the first roll of the Zebulon Church. Tradition tells us that Wesley and his brother, Guy Saunders, had a saw mill and furnished much of the lumber to build the first church in Zebulon. J. W. “Wesley” Saunders held many offices in the early years of the Zebulon church and its organization. Their children were Nellie, Gus, Winnie, Mary, and Beatrice Saunders. Nellie married Luther Saunders. Gus married and had one child. Winnie married John Byrd, but had no children.

Mary Saunders never married. After a long career as a teacher, she returned to Zebulon in her retirement and was again active in the Zebulon United Methodist Church, serving as Sunday School Superintendent and as President of the United Methodist Women. Mary was awarded a Special Mission Recognition by the United Methodist Women in 1968. Beatrice “Bea” married Robert L. Corbett and lived in Macclesfield. She had a son and a daughter. Bea Saunders Corbett came back to Zebulon for several special occasions over the years. The Saunders children gave this window in memory of their mother.

The Saunders family lived in the homeplace on old Highway #64 east of Zebulon, which was a major traffic artery to Eastern North Carolina many years ago. This house is the present home of Elywn and Molly Wood, members of the Zebulon United Methodist Church.



## “Alpha and Omega”

“I am the Alpha and Omega, ...who was and is and is to come.”  
(Revelation 1:8)

When Moses met God at the burning bush, he learned God's name, “I AM.” This name exhibits God's eternal, everlasting presence of being. The proclamation of “alpha and omega” means literally the beginning and the end. What a magnificent thought: God through Christ is ever present; before, during and after the time of human history.



Thyra Cahoon (1903-1947) was the oldest of six children born to Delilah and John B. Cahoon at Columbia, North Carolina. She was enrolled at Wakelon High School in 1917, when it was a boarding school. The family moved to Zebulon in 1920 and became members of the Methodist Church.

After graduation from Wakelon High School, she taught school at Mitchell's Mill for two years. She married Howard V. Noll, of Teaneck, New Jersey, in 1925, who presented this memorial window to the Zebulon Methodist Church. They had two daughters, Edna Louise Noll, who died in 1994, and Hope Noll who now lives in London, England. John Cahoon lived in the home that was more recently owned by Sarah Eaton. He moved his family to Zebulon so that his three daughters could attend Wakelon High School. Thyra, Sybil and Lila were his three daughters by his first wife. Mr. Cahoon was employed by Page Brothers Supply, which was operated by Fred and Walter Page. Fred Page was the husband of Mrs. Eva Page the often mentioned teacher and active member of this church. Walter Page's widow, Ruth Page, lives on Glenn Street in 1997.

After the death of his first wife, Mr. Cahoon married again and had one son John Cahoon. Mr. Cahoon moved to Durham with his children after his wife's death. His home was sold at auction and purchased by Sarah Eaton. Thyra's sister, Sybil Cahoon Shaw, presently lives at Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, and very graciously furnished her sister's picture for this book of remembrance.



*Thyra Cahoon Noll*

## **“Dove and Olive Branch, God Fulfills His Promise of Peace”**



“... and behold, in her beak was a freshly picked olive leaf.”  
(Genesis 8:11)

God promised Noah and his family safety in the ark. The sight of the Dove with the olive branch gave the sign that God's promise had been fulfilled. That same promise is fulfilled in us as His grace and peace are extended to our hearts and souls.



Elmer Dortch Finch (1911-1937) joined the Zebulon Methodist Church on October 22, 1921, at the age of 10, and his name appears on line #207 of the second church roll. He was the son of Minnie and Elmer D. Finch, and brother of Douglas Finch (late husband of Marie Watson Finch and father of Faye Finch Perry). He was the grandson of John D. Finch and Sallie Strickland Finch. This window was presented in his memory, by his parents and brother.

Elmer Dortch and Vivian had one son, Charles Brooks Finch. Vivian, married his first cousin, George Winstead, after his death. Charles Brooks lived in Portland, Maine, and Franklinton, North Carolina, prior to his death in August of 1997. Charles Brooks had three children, Wanda Finch-Plowman, Marie Brooks Finch, and Charles Davis Finch, all of whom live in Maine. He was also survived by two brothers, Nicky Winstead and Tim Windstead of Apex.

## “Jesus the Light of the World”

“I am the Light of the World, he who follows me shall not walk in darkness.” (John 8:12)

As the Cross of Christ is raised in the world, God's light of hope shines through His Son, Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God for illumination so we can see clearly the path that leads from the evils and darkness that surround us. May we lift high the cross so that others may find His way also.

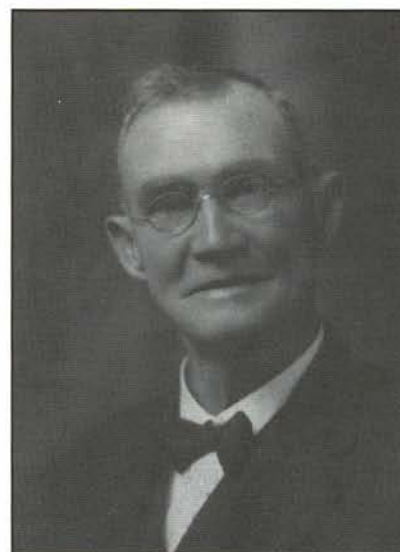


This family came to Zebulon about 1913 from the Pamlico County area of North Carolina, known as Cash Corners. Charles A. Flowers (1855-1935) served for a number of years on the Board of Stewards of the Zebulon Methodist Church. DeElla's (1861-1935) maiden name was Alfred and she taught the Sunday School Class that bears her name. This window was donated by members of their family.



*DeElla Alfred Flowers*

The second church roll records C. A. Flowers, line #67; DeElla Flowers, line #68; Lucia Flowers, line #69; and Neva Flowers Barbee, line #70; all of whom joined the Zebulon Methodist Church in 1914, when Rev. G. B. Perry was the Minister. Children of Charles A. and DeElla Alfred Flowers were: Sultan Grover “S. G.”; Clarence; Mary; Fred; Clara; Neva; Charles E.; Lucia; and Lela Flowers. S. G. Flowers married Marie Bailey, and they are the parents of Jean Flowers Wall, who continues to be an active member of this church, and S. G. Flowers, Jr.



*Charles A. Flowers*

Mrs. Mary Flowers Campion's (Campen is misspelled) name is listed on line #57 of the original church roll, having joined in 1909. She married Wilbur Campen, worked with Zebulon Supply. The Campen home is a large two story white house on Gannon Avenue, east of Wakefield Street. Dr. Clarence Flowers married Bertha Campen, Wilbur's sister, and practiced medicine in Wendell, North Carolina. His name is on line #70 of the first Zebulon Methodist Church roll, having joined in 1909; Mrs. Bertha Flowers is on Line #71. Evidently this brother and sister were pioneers to east Wake County and persuaded other family members to join them here.

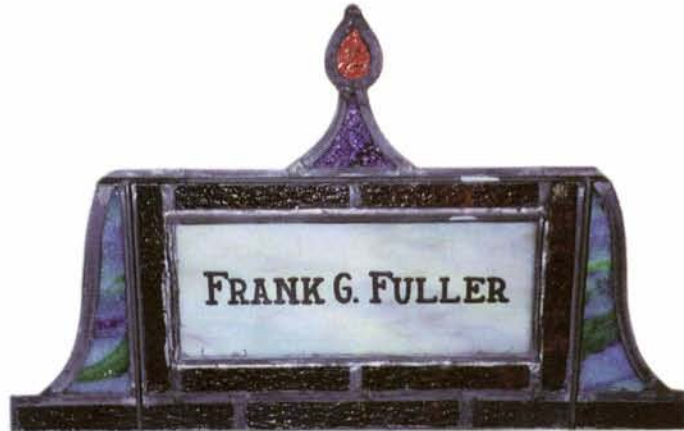
Neva Flowers married Dr. George Sprite Barbee before 1914, as her name is shown as Neva F. Barbee on line #70 of the second roll with the date of 1914. The original Barbee home was the two story brick, recently the home of the Robert Daniel Massey family. Mrs. Barbee retired to a ranch home on North Street, presently owned by Rena Narron. Dr. Charles E. Flowers, practiced medicine in Zebulon, and lived with his wife, Carmen Flowers, in a white bungalow on Wakefield Street.

## “The Bible and Lamp”



“Thy word is a lamp unto my path and a light unto my path.”  
(Psalm 119:105)

Where would we gain spiritual direction without the precious illumination of God’s Word. It lights our paths as we choose to follow God. Jesus, the Word of God made flesh, is the embodiment of the Psalmist’s hopeful affirmation. Let us pray for His presence forever.



Frank G. Fuller was born May 28, 1871, it is believed in Granville County. He was the son of Joseph and Isabella Fuller whose family first showed on the Johnston County census in 1880 when Frank was listed as Francis Fuller, age 10. In the 1900 census he was shown as Frank. Joseph Fuller bought a farm of several hundred acres in northern Johnston County, about three miles south of Earpsboro. Joseph Fuller was instrumental in the formation of the Earpsboro Methodist Church. It is believed that it was this church association that introduced Frank and Pattie Brown, the sixth child and third daughter of John R. and Martha W. Brown. She inherited strong Methodist roots from her family association with the Earpsboro Methodist Church.

Frank Fuller is said to have been a partner in a hardware business in downtown Zebulon on the corner of Arendell and Horton Streets. He later sold his interest to his partner, Herbert Hales, and went into the livery stable business with his wife’s nephew, Millard Chamblee. One old timer remembered a sign in this business that read, “Whip light and drive slow.” This business eventually branched out into a farm supply store.

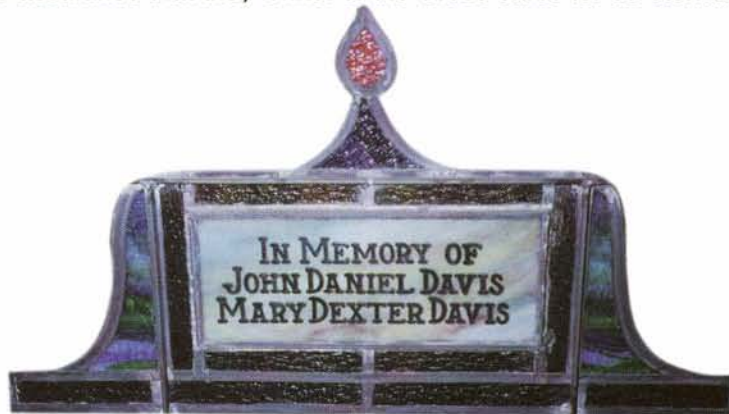
When Pattie and Frank were first married they lived on his family’s farm in Johnston County. They later bought their own farm nearer Zebulon and eventually moved into Zebulon where they lived on Sycamore Street. He was obviously not feeling well when he came home from work on Saturday, May 9, 1919. Later that evening when Dr. J. M. Harper was summoned, it was too late and Frank was deceased. His funeral was held at the Zebulon Methodist Church and he was buried in the Wakefield Cemetery.

After Frank’s death, Pattie moved from her Sycamore Street home to a two story frame house on the corner of Gannon Avenue and Church Street. This home was directly across the street from the Zebulon Methodist Church, a feature she liked. Miss Pattie gave this memorial window to honor her husband to the church she loved. She resided in this home until her death December 21, 1954. Her funeral was held in the Zebulon Methodist Church and she was also buried in the cemetery at Wakefield. The Fullers did not have children.

## “Christ, The Rock of Ages”

“O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer” (Psalm 19:14)

The picture portrayed in this window reminds us of the stormy waters that we all encounter on the “sea of life.” Christ is the rock of refuge that brings safety, redemption and consolation. The blessed rock of ages is always there and does not have to be our last resort. Yet we have the assurance that they Christ of the Cross cares for us eternally.



John Daniel Davis was born December 1, 1860, in Wayne County, North Carolina, the son of David Davis and Lucinda Howell Davis. He married Mary Elizabeth Dexter January 15, 1890, at Trappe, Talbot County, Maryland. John Daniel was from strong Quaker roots. Mary Elizabeth was from a Methodist background.

The Davis family lived in a two story house on Vance Street that was most recently owned by the McNabb family and torn down within the past couple of years. John Daniel worked first in a general store near Fremont. Mary Elizabeth was a milliner and came to work for him. This probably led to their romance and subsequent marriage on January 15, 1890. They returned to her home on the eastern shore of Maryland for their marriage. Mary Elizabeth was born September 5, 1868, in

Talbot County, Maryland, the daughter of George W. Dexter and Mary Elizabeth Bennett. John Daniel died February 22, 1931, in Wake County and Mary Elizabeth died July 15, 1934, in Wake County. They are both buried in Durham.



*Mary Dexter Davis*



*John Daniel Davis*

They had seven children: Paul, Robert, Isla, Mary, Gladys, Mildred, and Justine Davis. Gladys married Jack Hinton and made her home in Zebulon. She became a member of the Baptist church but always had a warm feeling for the Zebulon Methodist Church. Jack and Gladys Hinton had three sons, Allen S., who presently lives in Wake Forest; Charles who lives in Levittown, Pennsylvania; and Jack Hinton who lives in Greensboro. Jack has a daughter, Cathy Hinton Henry, who works for state government. Cathy, Grace Hawke and I worked in the same department for several years. Of course, Grace and I are both members of the Zebulon United Methodist Church that has the memorial window to Cathy's great-grandparents,

proving once again what a small world this really is.

## Noah's Ark



"Then the Lord said to Noah, 'enter the ark, you and your household.'  
(Genesis 7:1)

The ark is a vivid symbol to Judeo-Christians of the salvation God extends to all humankind. The church in these days is God's "ark" of transport and safety that nurtures, teaches and carries God's people to a place of greater relationship and understanding of God. As God told Noah to "enter the ark" so should we turn to God in the fellowship of other believers in the life of the church.



George W. Temple, Mamie Temple, and Dullin (Dullie) Temple were listed on the Earpsboro Methodist Church roll that was made from memory at the church conference held June 9, 1907. On the Zebulon church roll which was begun in 1907, George Temple is on line #12; Colee (Cola) Temple (Mrs. Seba Hales) is on line #13; Mamie Temple (Mrs. Milton Strickland) is on line #14, and Dullin (Dullie) Temple is on line #15, the first person with the date of 1908. H. R. Hoyle is on line #24 with the date of 1908. Irby Hoyle is on line #25. H. R. Hoyle was the father of Lonnie Hoyle who married Lorenza Temple, thus their posterity are descended from both of George Temple and Henry Hoyle.

George W. Temple (January 23, 1854-May 24, 1929) was the son of Alpheus Temple and Harriet O'Neal of Johnston County. He married Sallie H. Liles (May 23, 1854-January 23, 1942) on December 23, 1876. Their eight children were: Charlie T. Temple (1878-1940); Dullie Temple (1880-1959) who married W. T. Whitley; Mattie Temple (1882-1928) who married Ivey Bryant Richardson, and they were the parents of I. B. Richardson and the grandparents of Calvin Richardson; Alpheus Temple (1884-1884); Lorenza R. Temple (1886-1950) who married Lonnie Hoyle and was the father of Wallace, who gave this memorial window for his grandparents, and George Henry Temple, both of Zebulon; Mamie Temple (1889-1967) who married W. Milton Strickland; Cola Temple (1891-1939) who married Seba Hales; and Joseph Maylon Temple (1894-1990) who married Mary Eaton. Mary was the sister of Sarah and Janet Eaton, daughters of Wood Tucker Johnson Eaton and Sarah Curtis.

The 1929 obituary reads, "Mr. George Temple, esteemed citizen and farmer of the Zebulon community, succumbed to the attacks of death early last Friday morning. A general complication of disease set in to cause his death. For fifty-one years Mr. Temple was the faithful husband to the former Miss Sallie Liles who survives him at the age of seventy-five, his own age at the time of his death. He is also esteemed by local people of his acquaintance as one of the most righteous and best men ever to live in their midst. Although he was not a public character famed for his active service in the community, it is generally conceded that he was one of the most consistent and upright members of the Methodist Church with which he has been connected practically all his life. His neighbors give him credit for unimpeachable honest and generosity. Unlike so many others he was highly respected and loved by all his children."

Mrs. House recorded in the first history of this church that Henry Hoyle organized a Sunday School at the Midway School, likely as early as 1903. He was also recorded as being a Steward in the congregation that was meeting at Wakefield as of October 19, 1907. He was elected Sunday School Superintendent for the Zebulon church on August 8, 1908, and made the motion in 1911 to build a parsonage in Zebulon.

## “Beehive”

“... a land flowing in milk and honey.” (Exodus 3:8)

As Israel approached the promised land, they were assured that it was a land of plenty and a fulfillment of all their hopes and dreams. As children of God’s family, we have become recipients of the richness of His love and relationship. It is the fulfillment of the admonition of scripture to “taste and see that the Lord is good.”



Williams Beatrice Earle was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Earle of Nashville, North Carolina. She was called “Willie B.” when she was a young girl. She married Charles Grady Weathersby of Zebulon and they had one daughter, Hazel Earle Weathersby Gary, who was born August 11, 1909. Beatrice’s death was recorded in the November, 1927, Quarterly Conference report. She is buried in Nashville.

Hazel was about 16 years old when her mother died and she attended St. Mary’s School/College for some time after that. Hazel married John Hamilton Gary, Jr., of Richmond, Virginia. They had twins, Elizabeth Earle Gary and John Hamilton Gary, III. Hazel died September 28, 1994. Her daughter is Mrs. Joshua Tayloe (Betty) McKenzie, Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Mrs. McKenzie also has twin children and twin grandchildren. Hazel’s son is Brigadier General, USMC (Retired) John H. Gary, III. He has two children: Elizabeth Dabney Gary and John Hamilton Gary, IV.



*Beatrice Earle Weathersby*

Mrs. C. G. Weathersby joined the Zebulon Methodist Church on February 8, 1920, by certificate. Her name appears on Line #170 of the second roll, which was copied in the original roll book. We have not learned at this time which church she transferred from, however it may have been from a church in Nashville, North Carolina.

After her death, Mr. Weathersby married Irvine Williams and had one son, Charles Allen Weathersby, who lived in Zebulon before his death. Charles Allen Weathersby’s widow, Jean, is currently a neighbor of the church across Gannon Avenue.

## “The Chalice and Loaf”



“Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing of the blood of Christ? Is not the bread we break a sharing in the body of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 10:16)

When Christ instituted the sacrament of Holy Communion, He understood that it was only possible through his total sacrifice of his body and blood. While His sacrifice for us is sufficient for our salvation, we are also called to a life of selflessness and servant hood for His gospel's sake. he invites us to share in the sacrament and in the sharing with others, as often as we shall do it!



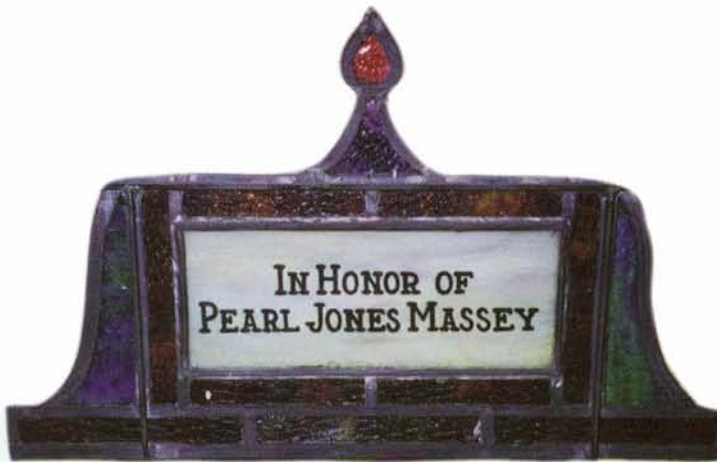
The list of memorial windows compiled by Mrs. Mary House for the dedication of the sanctuary building showed that this “Winstead” window was given in memory of Mrs. W. F. Winstead, by her daughters, Rhoda Gill and Mildred Dawson. The Winstead family came from an area in the eastern part of North Carolina known as Winsteadville. Their mother was of the Methodist faith, and the pastor's report dated February 8, 1931, lists one new member received during the previous quarter, Mrs. Rhoda Winstead Gill. Both of her daughters married Zebulon residents who were members of the Zebulon Baptist Church. I have been told by several of her friends here in Zebulon that Rhoda Gill loved the Methodist Church and showed her love for the church and respect for her mother in this way. There is no record that Rhoda Gill ever moved her membership from the Methodist Church.



## “Wheat and Sickle”

“But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” (Mark 4:29)

Jesus often used agricultural parables to paint vivid pictures of the Kingdom of God. In this case he is referring to the farmers work of harvesting or reaping the good harvest. He is symbolizing God's desire to bring in the sheaves of wheat, the bounty of souls of His Harvest in His Kingdom. He encourages us to be a part of this glorious ministry of bringing souls into God's care.



Lucy Pearl Jones was born March 27, 1891, in Wake County, the daughter of Robert Paul Jones and Lucy Caroline Parrott. Her name as Miss Pearl Jones is shown on line #56 of the first roll book. It is very probable that both she and her mother were active in the Wakefield Mission which was one of the forerunners of the Zebulon church. Lucy Pearl married Guy Cecil Massey on April 23, 1910 and they are the parents of Guy Cecil, Jr.; Robert Daniel; Melvin Joseph; Lucy Frances; Ben Frank; and Zyba Kathryn. Dr. Zyba Massey continues her family tradition of membership in the Zebulon United Methodist Church. Frank's widow, Alma Doris Massey also is a member of this church. Frank and Alma Doris' daughter, Debbie M. Driver and her husband, Eddie, represent the fourth generation of this family who are currently in this church family. Frank's son, Ben Massey, remains a member of this congregation and his children, Lara Massey and Benjamin James Massey are the fifth generation of this family in the Zebulon Methodist Church.



*Pearl Jones Massey*

An article in the December 19, 1957, Zebulon Record, records that Circle Three of the Methodist Women had been named the Pearl Massey Circle in her memory. Mrs. Massey was know far and wide and loved by all who knew her. She was an active and faithful worker in the Methodist church. Her church was her great love and she gave her all to it. For a number of years, she was secretary treasurer of the W.S.C.S. She was a wonderful neighbor, and loved

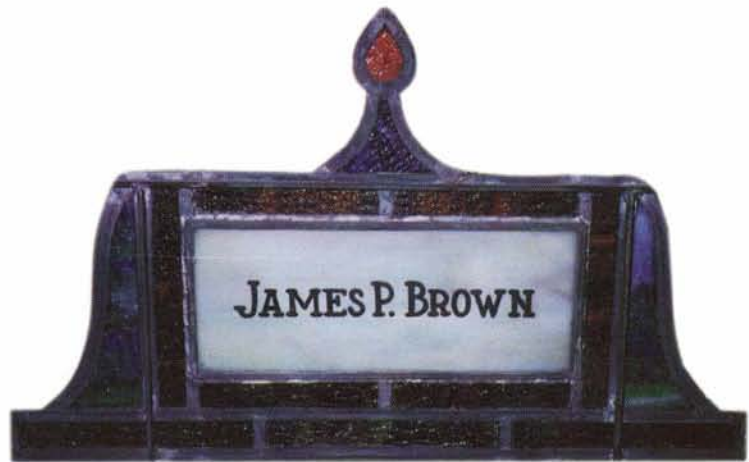
visiting and doing good deeds of kindness for those around her. Her qualities as a mother were unsurpassable. Above all, she loved her God and served Him faithfully and well.

## “The Ten Commandments”



“When the sound of the trumpet grew louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with thunder.” (Genesis 19:19)

Out of the thunder of God’s voice on Mt. Sinai, Ten laws to rule the life of the children of Israel were given to Moses, the prophet. These commandments have long stood as the standard of moral and holy living for Jews and Christians. Yet we find that we are often unable to stand true to these God given rules. Let us thank God for his forgiving grace that takes away the penalty of breaking His Law.



*James Pettigrew Brown*

James Pettigrew Brown (April 21, 1867-December 23, 1928) was the fifth son and next to the last of eight children of John R. and Martha W. Brown. This family was active in the Earpsboro Methodist Church and are covered more extensively with the early families. During his youth he helped in his father’s mercantile business in Earpsboro. He married Nancy C. Tisdale, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Kemp Tisdale, on December 21, 1890. Nancy was a cousin to Etha Kemp Coltrane who is mentioned throughout this history. Nancy died at childbirth about 1895.

After her death, Jim moved to the community of Wakefield where he worked with his sister, Henrietta B. Chamblee’s husband, Dr. M. C. Chamblee, who was a doctor and proprietor of a mercantile business. On December 31, 1909, Jim married Ethel Mae Leathers (November 22, 1892-March 13, 1976), who was the daughter of John D. and Nancy Hood Leathers and a first cousin to Dr. L. M. Massey and to Guy Cecil Massey. After the death of her mother, Ethel and her sister came to live with her aunt and uncle, Dora and Daniel Massey in Wakefield.

Jim was a member of the chancel choir, singing in the tenor section. Church members during that time said he had a beautiful tenor voice, clear and resonant. He and Ethel had two children: James P. Brown, Jr., and Margaret. James married Mary Wise of Barbour County, Alabama, and resides in Raleigh. They lived in Zebulon and were active in the Methodist Church a number of years ago. Margaret married Milton A. Barber, Jr., and resided in Lexington, North Carolina.

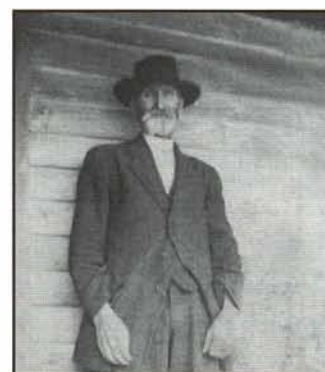
## “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

“I will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress, My God in whom, I trust.’” ((Psalm 91:2)

Martin Luther, the great reformer of the Church, wrote one of Christendom’s most moving and wonderful hymns, “A Mighty Fortress is Our God,” a reflection of the 91st Psalm. For those struggling with sinful temptations and powers of darkness, this affirmations gives hope that transcends that of the world. “Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill, God’s truth abideth still; His Kingdom is forever.”



This is the second memorial window to George W. Temple, but the first for his wife Sallie H. Liles Temple. George W. Temple (January 23, 1854-May 24, 1929) was the son of Alpheus Temple and Harriet O’Neal of Johnston County. He married Sallie H. Liles (May 23, 1854-January 23, 1940) on December 23, 1876. Their eight children were: Charlie Temple (1878-1940); Dullie Temple (1880-1959) who married W. T. Whitley; Mattie Temple (1882-1928) who married I. B. Richardson; Alpheus Temple (1884-1884); Lorenza Temple (1886-1950) who married Lonnie Hoyle and was the father of Wallace and George Henry Temple, of Zebulon; Mamie Temple (1889-1967) who married Milton Strickland; Cola Temple (1891-1939) who married Seba Hales; and Joseph Maylon Temple (1894-1990) who married Mary Eaton and gave this memorial to his parents.



*George W. Temple*



*Sallie Liles Temple*

Joseph Maylon and Mary Eaton Temple’s children are Ruth Temple and Joseph Temple. Ruth married Jimmy Y. Joyner and they are very active members of the Zebulon United Methodist Church in 1997. Ruth and Jimmy are the parents of three daughters, Mary Lib Joyner, Anna Joyner, and Nancy Jean Joyner. Mary Lib married Andy C. Brannan and they are the parents of Melissa and Milton Brannan, the fifth generation in their family to be active in this church. Anna Joyner married Mike Stott and lives in Raleigh.

Nancy Jean Joyner has been employed at the Hinton Rural Life Center from 1992 to the present time (1997). This is a Southeast Jurisdiction Mission Agency of the United Methodist Church that is located in Hayesville, North Carolina. Nancy graduated from the Wesley Theological Seminary in 1992 with a Master of Arts in Christian Discipleship and Mission degree. Nancy is a fourth generation member of this church and engaged in full time Christian service.

## AN ACT OF FAITH

(As told by Mr. H. Clويد Wade on several occasions - Details relayed to me by Sarah Eaton)

One morning, about 1950, some women of the church came to see Mr. Wade in his office and asked if he had time to talk to them. He responded in the affirmative, but said he did not have enough chairs for all of them to sit down. They said that was fine, they could stand. This delegation was comprised of Alma Finch, Marie Flowers, Mary House, and Etha Coltrane.

These ladies asked Mr. Wade if he would take them to High Point to buy stained glass windows for the sanctuary of the new church. Windows would be needed for the new building very soon. Mr. Wade asked the ladies how much money they had on hand for this purchase, and he knew he had not heard of any financial campaign to raise money for windows.

The ladies responded that they didn't have any money, but they would get the money, if he would just take them to High Point. Mr. Wade asked the ladies if they did not know that they could not go up there without any money and place an order for all of those windows? The ladies were insistent that they just had to have a way to go to High Point and pick out the windows and they would get the money to pay for the windows.

Finally, Mr. Wade agreed to take them to High Point and they even offered to pay for his gas. He said that when they got to High Point, he found the business where they wanted to go, and they went in and told the man they were there to place an order for stained glass windows for the new sanctuary. The man asked them how much money could they pay down for these windows?

Mr. Wade said he wanted to fall in a hole and disappear when one of the ladies told the man that they didn't have any money to pay down, but if he would take the order, they would get the money. He said the man evidently believed they would get the money, because he took their order.

The windows were made, delivered and installed. The ladies wrote to everybody who had ever had any connection with the Methodist church in Zebulon, requesting donations for these memorials.

And Mr. Wade said, "Look at these windows now, all the money was raised, and a check was mailed to the man in High Point in FULL payment. Now tell me if that is not FAITH that you can get a job done?" Mr. Wade enjoyed telling this story so much and it was so descriptive of the faith that is needed to move forward in our church life.

The same thing could be said today, even though Clويد Wade is no longer with us. What a difference it has made over the past 47 years, that those ladies had the FAITH that they could get the money to pay for these lovely windows. I hope members will think about their faith every now and then, while sitting in a lovely sanctuary, or Sunday School room, and looking at the lovely stained glass memorial windows.

## Memorials

The memorials recorded here include all that have been found in any record. In addition some are listed that were remembered by members who have responded to our inquiries. There may well be others that no record has been found. Those listed on Page 72 were found on a list compiled by Mrs. A. R. (Mary) House for the dedication service in 1952. We believe most of these memorials recorded here have been given since that time. Every effort has been given to record as many of the significant memorial gifts as possible.

*Additional  
Recorded Memorials*

*Presented*

*Since 1950*

## **MEMORIAL ROOMS**

Pastor's Study in Memory of Rev. Pierce H. Layfield  
(Given by Jimmy & Becky Spivey)

Office - Nursery in Memory of Coy Pate  
(Given by Aldona Pate)

Print Room in Memory of Eva Harris Page  
(Given by Eloise Potter)

Kitchen Presented by the United Methodist Women

Office in Honor of Foster Davis and Margaret Harris Finch

Moser Bible Class Room, in Memory of Early H. and Myrtle F. Moser

Doves of the Spirit Classroom,  
in Memory of Douglas Finch and Albert and Merle Sue Pulley

DeElla Flowers Sunday School Classroom  
Marie B. Flowers

## **“The Cross and the Chancel”**

“The Lord is in His Holy Temple” (Psalm 11:4)

The focal point of our worship is God. Physically within our sanctuary, we face the chancel area, altar and the large cross flanked by the Fisher windows on the chancel walls. As we see with our eyes the symbolic cross of sacrifice and present our lives upon the altar, we fulfill the words of Paul in Romans 12:1, “Present your bodies a living and hold sacrifice, acceptable to God, for this is your spiritual service of worship.”

### **Large Cross Above the Altar**

(Given in 1982 by Sarah, Janet and William Eaton in Memory of Sarah Curtis Eaton)



Sarah Curtis Eaton (July 5, 1875-February 17, 1943) was the widow of Wood Tucker Johnson Eaton and the mother of Sarah, Janet and William Eaton. She was a long time member of Ebenezer Methodist Church in Franklin County before moving to Zebulon in 1931. Her daughters, Sarah and Janet Eaton have been staunch members of the Methodist Church in Zebulon for many years, supporting programs of the church and the United Methodist Women. Sarah was honored with a Life Membership by the U.M.W. in June of 1966. Ruth Joyner is the granddaughter of Sarah Curtis Eaton.

## FELLOWSHIP HALL PLAQUES

J. Proctor Alford and Nellie Alford

Dr. Jesse F. and Etha K. Coltrane

Walter F. and Ann Dent

Patrick O. Farmer

Foster Davis Finch

Marie B. Flowers

Billy Grantham

Mabel Clark Ihrle

Pearl Jones Massey

Grace Moser

Keneth and Kevin Pearce

Merle Sue Pulley

J. Wesley and Pearl Saunders

Joe Tippett

Lovell and Barbara Aills

Millard H. and Bertha P. Alford

Henry and Ann Lovelace

Bill and Undine Wheless

Arnold and Leona Herzfeld

Mike and Laura Sexton

Jimmy and Barbara Pearce

Elmer Davis and Minnie F. Finch

J. Leaman and Elizabeth I. Pearce

Randolph and Rachael Privette

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Pulley

Joe and Jewel Vinson

John G. and Estelle C. Terry

A. J. Vinson

Mrs. C. P. Williams

R. H. Bridgers

Thurman Helper

Robin and Emily Pulley

Robin and Elmo Finch, Jr.

Dr. and Mrs. N. P. Grogan, Marcia and Carol

Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Beavers

Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Grogan

Foster Bryant Lewis

Jimmy J. Branoff

Dr. William K. Quick

Gina Pulley and Milton M. Bryant, Jr.

Crawford P. and Ercelle P. Mansker

Carol Gill

Mr. and Mrs. Max Leo Hawkes



*Some Early Families*

*in the records of the*

*Lebanon Methodist Church*

*1907 - 1997*

*(Where Information is Available)*

## OTHER MEMORIAL GIFTS

- Sanctuary Renovations and  
Stained Glass Window Protection  
In Memory of Martha and Scott Brown  
(Brown Legacy)
- Additions to the Sound System in  
Memory of James Leaman Pearce, Jr.  
(Given by Lib and Leaman Pearce)
- Steeple Chimes and Wainscoting in Memory of  
Emma B. Cothran (Cothran Legacy)
- Studio Piano in Memory of  
Dr. Jesse Franklin Coltrane  
(Given by Etha K. Coltrane and  
Grace Coltrane Kilkelly)
- Baldwin Organ  
Given in Memory of P. A. and Kate White
- Baptismal Font in Memory of Paul V. Brantley  
(Given by W. G. and Patricia B. Griswold)
- Table, lamp and mirror in Foyer  
In Memory of W. G. Griswold  
(Given by Patricia, Chuck and Ken Griswold)
- Library Bookcases in Memory of Nellie W. Alford  
(Given by Bobby and Hazel Lee)
- Entrance Renovation in Memory of  
Barbara Kay; Lowell Ray, Jr.; Joseph Alexander  
and Albert and Merle Sue Pulley;  
(Given by Lowell Ray and Barbara B. Pulley)
- Teacher's Desk in DeElla Flowers Class Room  
In Memory of Dr. J. F. Coltrane  
(Given by Etha K. Coltrane and  
Grace Coltrane Kilkelly)
- Organ Sound System and Public Address System  
In Memory of Brian Massey  
(Given by Odell and Sarah Tant)
- Paramounts for Altar in Memory of Joe Tippett  
(Given by Mrs. Myrtle Tippett)
- Pair of Altar Vases in Honor of  
Mike and Laura Sexton  
(Given by Sexton Daughters)
- Altar Vase in Memory of Millard H. Alford  
(Given by Bertha Pulley Alford)
- Brass Altar Bible Stand  
In Memory of Mrs. Mary Dunford House  
(Memorial Donations)
- Exterior Brick Sign To The Glory of God  
(Given by the Wesley Fellowship Class)
- Spotlights for Sign in Memory of Mary W. Brantley  
(Given by Patricia B. Roberson)
- Plants in Courtyard in Memory of  
Vernon Cornell (V.C.) Powers  
(Given by his brother, B. K. Powers)
- Bradford Pear Trees on Gannon - Church Corner  
In Memory Of  
Estelle Terry and Eleanor Massey  
(Given by Patricia B. Roberson)
- Glass windows in rear of Sanctuary  
In Honor of Philip and Susan Spivey  
(Given by Becky and Jimmy Spivey)
- Three Octaves of Handbells  
In Memory of Dr. Thomas Kilkelly  
(Given by Grace Coltrane Kilkelly)
- Accoustic Cover for Piano Soundboard  
In Memory of Albert Pulley  
(Given by Billy and Betsy Green)
- Secretary's Desk in Memory of Ray W. Grimm  
Given by Fern Grimm Grantham)
- Wireless Microphone  
In Honor of Thomas and Iris Pennington  
(Given by Robert and Kay Pulley)
- Overhead Projector in Memory of Emma B. Cothran  
(Given by Frank and Jean Wall)
- Pew Cushions in Honor of Revs. William Quick,  
Lovell Aills, and Henry Lovelace  
And in Honor of Ken and Kevin Pearce  
(Given by Jimmy Pearce)
- Church Telephone System in Memory of  
Randall Bocock (Memorial Gifts)
- Irrigation System for Lawn in Memory of Mabel Clark Ihrie  
(Given by Edward Ihrie and other memorials)
- Choir robes and Stoles in Memory of Joe Tippett and  
in Honor of Myrtle Tippett  
(Given by Joe Wayne Tippett)

## BROWN FAMILY FROM THE EARPSBORO CHURCH

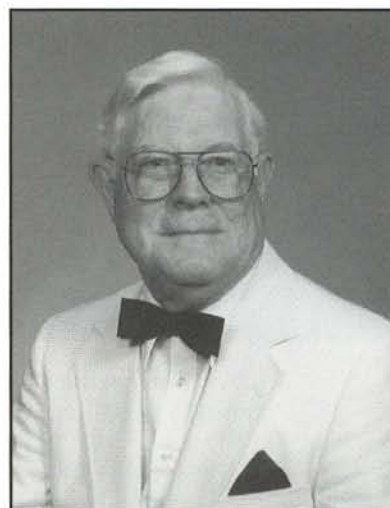
The early involvement of the Brown family of the Earpsboro community has been recorded in the early history of this church, when John Rupus Brown (January 4, 1827-November 3, 1891) and his brother J. A. "Nade" Brown came from Raleigh and founded the village of Earpsboro with Wiley Earp. Having been members of the Edenton Street Methodist Church, the Browns soon organized the Earpsboro Methodist Church. John R. Brown married Martha Winborne, daughter of Rev. David Winborne. Two of their children: James Pettigrew Brown and Eliza Brown (July 9, 1853-February 22, 1939) are shown on the first roll of the Zebulon Methodist Church on lines #20 and #21 in 1908.

A daughter, Mrs. M. C. (Henrietta Brown) Chamblee (September 29, 1855-February 25, 1928), is also recorded on line #29 of the first roll of the Zebulon Methodist Church. She was listed on the roll of the Earpsboro church as Mrs. Etta Chamblee. She and her sister, Pattie Brown Fuller (February 20, 1865-December 21, 1954), were said to have given the first silver-plated communion set to the Zebulon church in 1921. In Etta's 1928 obituary is recorded, "Mrs. Chamblee had the good fortune of being born the child of Christian parents. Their home was ever the one of preachers, several of whose names are perpetuated in her own - Henrietta Reid - and those of her brothers and sisters. When she came to preside over a home of her own, it partook of the same quality and like the great woman of Shunem there was ever a room for the prophet in her house and it was frequently occupied. After the death of her husband and the separation of family, it was still among her greatest pleasures that God's messengers should regularly visit her. She became a member of the Methodist Church at Earpsboro in early life where her membership remained so long as the church stood. On its disintegration and the organization of the church in Zebulon she joined it and remained a faithful and loyal member thereof to the day of her departure."

Their son, James Pettigrew Brown, is remembered with a memorial stained glass window in this church, as is their son-in-law, Frank Fuller, husband of Pattie Josephine Brown. Their other children were Heflin Rufus Brown (February 8, 1857-March 18, 1948) who married his brother's widow, Mollie Chamblee Brown; John Floyd (January 19, 1862-February 25, 1916); Percyville Winborne Brown (April 13, 1869-January 30, 1896), both of whom never married; and William David Brown (August 30, 1859-October 28, 1911). J. Floyd represented Johnston County in the North Carolina legislature in 1898. William David was the first husband of Mollie Chamblee, daughter of Augustus Chamblee.

William David and Mollie Chamblee Brown were the parents of Dwight Brown and the grandparents of David Scott Brown who, in 1991, left the largest legacy in the history of the church to the Zebulon Methodist Church. Scott felt a desire to remember his church in this very generous way specifically because of the ministry of Rev. Henry Lovelace to both he and his wife, Martha Flowers Brown, during her illness and death. Scott had been a member of the church choir and had taught a Sunday School class for a number of years in this church. He had also worked for The Zebulon Record and very likely was the author of many of the articles that are quoted from that publication, even though there was no byline to confirm this.

Members of the Zebulon United Methodist Church who share in the benefits of his bequest can thank Scott's great-grandparents, John Rupus and Martha Winborne Brown, for his deep and abiding love for his Methodist heritage.



*David Scott Brown*

## THE CLARK FAMILY

Mr. J. A. Clarke (Clark) joined the Zebulon Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1912, with his name appearing on line #119 of the first church roll book. His mother, Mrs. Martha (Hoyle) Clarke is on line #118 and his wife, Clara (Clair Marshall) Clarke, is on line #120. John was the son of George and Martha Hoyle Clark, who are buried in the cemetery at Wakefield. They came to Wake County from the Gold Sand community of Franklin County.

The family lived in the "country" in the vicinity of where Church Street is currently located. When I first moved to Wakefield Street in 1960, they lived on the corner of Judd and Wakefield Streets. Their daughter, Mabel Clark Ihrie and her youngest son, Pou Ihrie, were living with them. Elizabeth "Lib" Ihrie Pearce (Mrs. J. Leaman) Pearce is a grand-daughter of John A. Clark and a great-granddaughter of Martha Clark. She and Leaman are current active members of the Zebulon United Methodist Church. Their grandson is the sixth generation of the Clark family to have been associated with this church.

In addition to Mrs. Ihrie, they had a son, Fred Clark, who was the husband of Mrs. Lois Philips Clark, and the father of Rebecca "Becky" Clark (Mrs. Jimmy) Spivey and Freddie Clark (Mrs. Kenneth) Dent, active members of the Zebulon United Methodist Church in 1997. Fred joined the Methodist Church in 1924 and was baptized when he was 16 years of age. His children, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of those original members are life long members of this church and have expended untold energy in supporting the church over those years. Their children are the fifth generation of the Clark family to support this church.

Becky Clark Spivey has been a faithful member of the Chancel Choir and the United Methodist Women. Becky also served as the church treasurer for many years. She is a Life Member of the U.M.W.

John A. and Clair Marshall Clark are buried in the Zebulon City Cemetery.

## COLTRANE FAMILY

Many mentions have been made throughout this history of Dr. Jesse Franklin Coltrane and his wife Nancy Etha Kemp Coltrane. Dr. Coltrane was Zebulon's first dentist and his name appears on line #72 of the original church roll in 1909. He was born in 1882, the son of Nereus Eldridge Coltrane (February 24, 1850-June 2, 1930) and Ida Mae Gannoway, whose father was a Latin Professor, and for a number of years, the president of Trinity College in Trinity, North Carolina. His maternal great-grandfather, John Bethel, was also a Methodist preacher.

By the time that Dr. Coltrane attended college, Trinity had moved to Durham and later became Duke University. After receiving his B.A. Degree Cum Laude in 1903, Dr. Coltrane taught school in South Carolina, and also served as a school principal in Fayetteville, North Carolina. It was while he was serving in this latter position that he decided that he wanted to choose a profession in which he could settle somewhere, take root and stay the rest of his life. He had moved from parsonage to parsonage all of his childhood, and made several moves in the teaching profession.

He decided to attend the Medical College of Virginia for his dental degree. He located in Zebulon in 1909 as revealed by his name on the church roll. He met Etha Kemp after locating in Zebulon and they were married in 1913. Etha's mother had died when she was eight years old, so she spent her winters in Newport News, Virginia, with her older sister and her summers in Wakefield with her uncle John A. Kemp's family. Mr. Kemp was the owner of a general store that later relocated to Zebulon. Dr. and Mrs. Coltrane were married for 63 years before his death in 1976.

Through their years together, Dr. Coltrane was Sunday School superintendent for over thirty years and held many other positions in the church as recorded in this history. In the town of Zebulon, he served on the Town Board and on the School Advisory Board. Etha Kemp Coltrane sang in the choir for almost sixty years, was secretary-treasurer of the DeElla Flowers Sunday School Class, and was very active in the Ida Fisher Missionary Society. For years this organization catered meals for the Zebulon Rotary Club which enabled them to furnish the new church building and the new parsonage on Glenn Street. Besides a lot of cooking, Mrs. Coltrane was always responsible for making the coffee!



*50th Anniversary (1963)  
Etha and Jesse Coltrane*

From the time that the Fisher family came to serve the church in Zebulon, the Coltranes always had the new preacher and his family for dinner on their first night in Zebulon. Dr. and Mrs. Coltrane are the parents of one daughter, Grace Coltrane Kilkelly. Jesse Franklin Pulley, lifetime member of this church, was named for Dr. Coltrane. I believe there were other children born in Zebulon who may have also been named for him. Many old timers in Zebulon will remember Dr. Coltrane for his daily walks. During most of his life he took a several mile walk every day and too a swim in Little River almost every day as a younger man. I can remember almost setting my watch by Dr. Coltrane walking by our house in the afternoon. I have always felt that it was poetically beautiful that he took his morning walk and came home for breakfast on the day that he died.

Dr. and Mrs. Coltrane also enlightened our sister-in-law, Madora Coltrane Davises' family and myself as to why N. E. Coltrane only served Carr Church in Durham for one year, as shown on a plaque in that church. This was at a time when Carr Methodist Church was located in an East Durham mill village and was quite literally on the wrong side of the tracks. Mrs. Coltrane told me that Ida Gannoway Coltrane simply refused to move there. She said, "Papa did have a hard time with her sometimes."

## JOHN WESLEY HORTON - MARTHA STRICKLAND HERRING

The deed for the Methodist Church property shows that it was a gift from Martha Horton, widow of John Wesley Horton. John Wesley Horton was born in Wake County about 1846, son of Calvin Turner Horton (13 February 1819 - 26 February 1898) and Sarah Ellis (16 June 1819 - 22 November 1884), and died on the 29th of April 1885. He was married on the 14th of April 1867 to Martha Strickland Herring (12 January 1844 - 2 January 1927).

John Wesley and Martha Horton's children are listed with records on transfer of the property to the Zebulon Methodist Church. Their son, Thomas J. Horton, was the first member of the Methodist Church in Zebulon, and son, John Duke Horton (08 September 1884 - 16 July 1937) married on the 22 July 1909, May Ophelia Kemp (31 January 1888 - 8 April 1963), who was a relative of Etha Kemp Coltrane.

John Duke and May Horton were the parents of Doris Horton Privette, retired teacher who lived for many years on Arendell Avenue, across the street from the Baptist Church of which she was a member. Doris gave me the original information about her grandmother who gave the lot for the building of the Methodist Church in 1907.

The Horton family had been in Wake County since David Horton brought his family prior to 1784 when his will was filed in Wake County. Among the twelve children named in his will is his son, David Horton, who married Elizabeth Robertson, the daughter of Thomas Robertson and Lucretia Temple. The second David died in 1816, leaving his widow and four children, the oldest of which was Littleberry Horton, who married Penelope Pierce, first, and Rowena Bunn Chamblee, second. The Descendants of David Horton of North Carolina states, "Berry was one of the foremost religious leaders of this section of the south and was devoted to the Baptist church. He rode over the countryside, on horseback, teaching piety and preaching religion to the sparsely settled communities. He was pastor three times of the Hephzibah Baptist Church."

Littleberry and Penelope had seven children of record. We will mention only two of them, Calvin Turner, mentioned above as the father of John Wesley Horton, whose widow gave the lot on which the Methodist Church in Zebulon is located. The second son is Allison Robertson Horton who married Alice Rhodes, daughter of Harrison Rhodes, and had twelve children born in Wake County. One of their sons was Robert Blacknell Horton who married Mary Thomas Pierce, and they were the parents of Samuel Allison Horton (1857-1925) who married Vernona Hinnant Jeffreys, the niece of Julius C. Jeffreys of the Earpsboro Methodist Church. Vernona is affectionately remembered by many in this community as Mrs. Sam Horton and although a devout Baptist, was a great help to me in my initial inquiries about the history of the Earpsboro Methodist Church. Samuel and Vernona are the parents of Robert Edd Horton of Zebulon and the grandparents of Martha Ann Horton Vinson, who is a current member of the Zebulon United Methodist Church. Martha is a first cousin, three times removed of John Wesley Horton.

Allison and Alice Horton also had a daughter, Mary Jutson Horton (1850-1885) who married Charles Dennis Jones. They were the parents of Lillie Blanche Jones (1883-1966) who married Charles Hartford Horton, whose relationship to the descendants of David Horton is not described in this family history. Alice Blanche Horton is the daughter of Lillie Blanche and Charles Hartford Horton, and is the first cousin, twice removed to John Wesley Horton. She is the second cousin, once removed, to the first member of the Zebulon Methodist Church, Thomas J. Horton. Of course Alice "Blanche" Horton married Archibald Sereno "Archie" Ray, Jr., and has come home to the Zebulon United Methodist Church after residing for many years in the Charlotte, North Carolina, area.

I believe that it is significant that even those these current members of the Zebulon church are not direct descendants of John Wesley Horton, they are in the same family. Martha and Blanche are second cousins, once removed. Martha married Joseph Stephen Vinson and they are the parents of Thomas Edward Vinson, who is also a current member of the Zebulon Church.

## **NOTED ZEBULON ATTORNEY, FOSTER DAVIS FINCH DIES**

(The News & Observer - May 26, 1984)

Foster Davis Finch, 87, a prominent Zebulon attorney, died Thursday. He was past chairman of the Wakelon School Board, the advisory council of First Federal Savings and Loan Association, the board of the Zebulon United Methodist Church and a member of the Moser Bible Class.

Funeral 2 p.m. Saturday, Zebulon United Methodist Church. Burial Zebulon Town Cemetery. Surviving: wife, Mrs. Margaret Harris Finch; son, Foster Davis "Dave" Finch, Jr. of Portland, Ore.; brother, Herman Finch of Spring Hope; three grandchildren. Family at 212 W. Gannon Avenue. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Zebulon United Methodist Church Building Fund. Arrangements by Brown-Wynne Funeral Home. (We are fortunate to have a picture of Margaret Harris Finch and their son, Dave Finch, made in the 1930's at Little River Park on Page 22.)

## **Ed Hales, ex-mayor of Zebulon**

(Raleigh News and Observer, Thursday, October 8, 1992)

Thomas Edwin "Ed" Hales, a former Zebulon mayor who was one of the Carolina Mudcats' most ardent supporters, died Wednesday. He was 72. "Zebulon has lost a dear friend, and the stadium and the Mudcats have lost even a dearer friend," said Ronald W. Faison, chairman of Triangle East Regional Sports Authority, which oversees Five County Stadium, the home field of the minor league baseball team. "No one supported the stadium and the Mudcats more than he did," Mr. Faison said of Mr. Hales, who was also a former member of the Wake County School Board.

The idea of the town of Zebulon building a baseball stadium caused a lot of controversy, Mr. Faison said. "Some of his closest friends were against it," he said. But Mr. Hales attended all the town meetings on the issue and fought for the stadium from the beginning, said Ed Ellington, a longtime friend of Mr. Hales' and another big Mudcats booster. "He didn't mind standing up and telling it like he saw it." Mr. Hales and Mr. Ellington attended ground-breaking for the stadium and went to the construction site almost every day. "He and I watched the construction of Five County Stadium from the first shovelful of dirt," Mr. Ellington said.

In their first season, 1991, the Mudcats started playing their home games in Wilson before the stadium was ready, and Mr. Hales and Mr. Ellington went there in Mr. Hales Cadillac to every game. Once Five County Stadium opened, they didn't miss a game. "He was just as faithful as any fan could be," Mr. Ellington said. Mr. Hales was mayor of Zebulon from 1959 to 1965 and met with Harry Truman for several hours when the former president visited the town, Mr. Ellington said. Zebulon is the hometown of Mr. Truman's son-in-law, Clifton Daniel.

Mr. Hales served on the Wake School Board from 1968 to 1974. He was a member of the Zebulon United Methodist Church, American Legion Post 0033, the Zebulon Rotary Club and the Zebulon Chamber of Commerce. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Hill Hales; a daughter, Celia Hales-Mabry of St. Paul, Minnesota; a brother, Roscoe H. Hales, Jr., of Middlesex; and four nieces.

# MEMORIAL AND OBITUARY FOR PATRICK O'BRIEN FARMER

(The Zebulon Record - December 1981)

Patrick O'Brien Farmer, a former mayor and commissioner of the town of Zebulon and long time contributor to the community, died Monday, December 7th. He was 68. Born September 13, 1913, he served on the town board of commissioners for 10 years and served as mayor from 1970-1971. He opened Farmer's Department Store on Arendell Avenue in 1946 and served there as owner for 34 1/2 years until declining health forced him to retire.

He was president of the chamber of commerce in 1977; a veteran of the Navy in World War II; a member of the local masonic lodge, the Rotary Club, the board of directors of People's Bank and Trust Company, in Zebulon and an honorary member of the administrative board of the Zebulon United Methodist Church. He was named Man of the Year in 1980. A close friend said of him, "He was a good man, a dear friend of many, many people and gave an outstanding contribution to the town of Zebulon."

At its meeting Monday night, the Zebulon Board of Commissioners affirmed a resolution honoring Farmer for his contributions to the town. That resolution called for the flag at the town hall to be flown at half mast on Tuesday, December 8. Farmer is survived by his wife, Mrs. Alice Medlin Farmer. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday at the Zebulon United Methodist Church. Burial will be at 2 p.m. in the Mount Olive Town Cemetery. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Zebulon United Methodist Church Building Fund.

## RESOLUTION

Whereas, on the 7th of December, 1981, death brought to a close the active life of Patrick O. "Pat" Farmer, and  
Whereas, Patrick O. "Pat" Farmer, has, through his foresight and zeal for this community, earned the affection of the people in the Town of Zebulon, North Carolina,  
Whereas, the stature he obtained in this community by his exemplary life and monumental achievements during his lifetime is hereby recognized, and  
Whereas, Patrick O. "Pat" Farmer, gave generously of his time and efforts, unselfishly serving in many community activities including service in many community activities including service as Commissioner of the Town of Zebulon, Mayor of the Town of Zebulon, President of the Zebulon Chamber of Commerce, and as a member of the Zebulon United Methodist Church, and  
Whereas, his involvement brought many tangible and intangible benefits to the Town of Zebulon;  
Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Mayor and Town Board of the Town of Zebulon, North Carolina, do by this resolution and public record, recognize the profound influence and contribution of Patrick O. "Pat" Farmer upon the Community of Zebulon, North Carolina, recognizing further that his death is a distinct loss to the Zebulon Community in which he worked and won deep respect and affection.  
Be it further resolved, that the Flag in front of the Municipal Building fly at half mast on December 8, 1981, and that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Zebulon and a copy thereof be sent to his wife, Mrs. Alice M. Farmer, in recognition of Patrick O. "Pat" Farmer's respected place in this community.  
Adopted this 7th day of December, 1981.

Frank B. Wall, Mayor  
Town of Zebulon

Pat's widow, Alice Medlin Farmer, continued to live in their home on North Street until 1996. She had served as President of the W. S. C. S. and was presented with a Life Membership pin in that organization. She also served as church treasurer for a number of years.



## ELMER DAVIS FINCH

(The Zebulon Record August 13, 1964)

Reading the Bible is the favorite pastime of Elmer Davis Finch. "I've read the bible through three times," he said without a sanctimonious or holier than thou attitude. He enjoys the Scriptures and finds much solace and comfort in them. The Twenty-third Psalm is his favorite passage. "The Twenty-third Psalm is so reassuring and comforting," Finch said in his quiet voice. "I have relied on this passage since I was a youth, and when I was a youth I was somewhat fearful. This Psalm helped me overcome my fears." Finch, who celebrated his seventy-second birthday March 21 is the son of John Davis and Sallie Strickland Finch. (There are memorial windows in the sanctuary for his parents and for his son, Elmer D. Finch.) The family homestead was in the Mount Pleasant community of Nash County where his father was a substantial farmer and country merchant.

He is one of six children, and the second child of the couple. There were four boys and one girl. One child died in infancy. He has a brother, Waylon D. Finch, who resides in Zebulon. "All the schooling I had was in the Mt. Pleasant School," he said. "I guess you would say I was an average student, and I loved geography best of all my subjects." Finch gave up school when was 19 years old and got married. He married a childhood sweetheart, Minnie Finch. "I decided I didn't want to change my name," Mrs. Finch interspersed. "I didn't think I could better myself by changing my name." (She was the daughter of Dortch Finch.

They were married on November 2, 1910, by a justice of the peace in the community. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1960. "Be sure you are in love," Finch said when asked for a recipe for a happy married life. "And work and pull together, give and take." Rocking slowly back and forth in his comfortable rocking chair, Finch added with a loving glance at his wife, "She's a wonderful mate. I couldn't ask for a better one." Mrs. Minnie Finch is a resident of Guardian Care in Zebulon in 1997, our oldest member at the age of 105. The couple had two children, both sons. The older son, Elmer D. Jr., died May 24, 1937, and Douglas and his family reside in Zebulon. They also have two grandchildren. In 1919 Finch built a house on land he inherited from his father just a short distance east of the Zebulon city limits. He and his wife have lived here since. "I love farming, always have," he said. "I would love it now but it has changed so much and it has become so involved with governmental red tape." He still oversees his spacious farm lands, but he himself has left all the farm work to tenants. He was ineligible for World War I because he had two children.

"I love anything in the dessert line," he laughed jovially. "I guess I have a sweet tooth. Sweet potato custard is my favorite dessert though, and can my wife cook them!" Mrs. Finch interjected again that during sweet potato harvest she has plenty of custards always on hand for her husband, "and he never seems to tire of them." Laughingly he said his wife "couldn't do much cooking" when they were married and he taught her how. A quick learner, Mrs. Finch soon became mistress of her kitchen. However, her husband said all their married life he has helped her in the kitchen when she needed him. Becoming a preacher was a thought toward his vocation when he was a young man. This idea was relished by his Grandfather Strickland, but Finch decided against it. "I have always wanted to brighten the corners of the community," Finch said. "I have worked at this philosophy all my life." A deeply religious man without pomp and not for glory, Finch has been a member of the Methodist faith since childhood. His childhood home was adjacent to a Methodist church. He has been a member of Zebulon Methodist Church since he came to this community.

In his church he has filled church offices from secretary to superintendent. Several years ago he was made an honorary steward along with E. H. Moser and Dr. J. F. Coltrane. He belongs to the Junior Order of United American Mechanics at Wakefield, No. 197. Throughout the years he has enjoyed good health, but he doesn't necessarily attribute it to having never smoked, drank, chewed or dipped. "Like boys will when they are about 16, I tried smoking but after two or three times I quit and never

## EARLY H. AND MYRTLE FOLGER MOSER

Early Hampton Moser was born on a farm in Surry County in 1880, the son of Basel Moser and Therushphora Ziporrah Hauser. He attend private rural school for four month terms each year and was a member of the Protestant Methodist Church. He graduated in 1910 from the Western Maryland College, a private church related college, which was supported by the Protestant Methodist Church. He had been employed as both a teacher and principal when he came to Zebulon in 1911 to become the Principal of the new Wakelon School which had not yet graduated a senior class.

As has been recorded, he held many positions within the membership of the Zebulon Methodist Episcopal Church South over many years. The role that he is remembered most often for is that of teacher for over fifty years of the men's Bible class which bears his name today. He was a charter member of the Methodist Men and served as Sunday School Superintendent for Dr. Coltrane at times. In the very early years he and Dr. Coltrane traded that position a couple of times. He served as Lay Leader for a number of terms and conducted worship services when the minister was absent many times. He also was called on to conduct services for other Methodist churches in the district and served as the District Lay Leader in the 1950's and 1960's. Mr. Moser was known throughout the community if not the entire state as "Professor Moser," and I have heard leaders in this community state that he made men out of many unruly boys. There were a disproportionate number of young men who served in the United States Air Force during World War II as pilots or navigators. The main reason that is given for so many young men from this community graduating from flight school is the fact that they learned their mathematics from Professor Moser.

Early Hampton Moser married Myrtle Folger in 1913, at which time she came to Zebulon and taught fifth grade at Wakelon School. Myrtle Folger was born in Surrey County in 1888, the daughter of Romulus Foler and America Booker. She was raised in the Dobson Methodist Episcopal Church South. Mrs. Moser was an active member of the Zebulon Methodist Church for many years, teaching a Sunday School class, singing in the Chancel Choir, and being an early member of the Woman's Missionary Society.

After her retirement, Mrs. Moser organized a neighborhood interdenominational Bible study group that met once a week at her home. I remember her accepting the position of Spiritual Growth leader for the United Methodist Women after Mr. Moser's death in 1966. She agreed to provide this leadership after I promised to stop by and give her a ride to the church for the meetings. This gave me an opportunity to really get to know Mrs. Moser as we would check her house when she returned from those monthly meetings. We would have some long conversations about current events and church history during those visits. I am very grateful for having had this opportunity.

Wayne remembers with fondness the time when he had served a term as president of the Methodist Men. It was time for election of officers for the coming year, and in a very serious and stern tone of voice, Mr. Moser said, "Well, Wayne, you have made such a mess of things this year, that I think we should give you another year to straighten it out!" And what was he to say? But accept his reelection to another year as president of that group. Mr. and Mrs. Moser were the parents of two sons, Earl, who is deceased, and Rom F. Moser, who is a member of the Zebulon Methodist Church and the current (1997) teacher of the Moser Bible Class.

I found the following editorial in The Zebulon Record written November 6, 1975, by Barrie Davis, editor. It was titled, "Key to Learning," and I believe it sheds a great deal of light on Early Moser's calling and his personality:

Early H. Moser enjoyed his work as principal of Wakelon School. His office was plain - no carpets, no fancy sculpture or paintings, a plain wood desk, and a storage closet filled with school supplies. He knew every student in grades one through eleven. He generated such respect in us students that it took 14 years of association with Early Moser in the Zebulon Rotary Club for me to accept the Rotary custom of calling all members by first names. It seems almost impertinent for me to call Mr. Moser "Early."

The talk about comprehensive high schools and molding the school to fit the students' needs sometimes leave me cold, because I benefitted from four years of high school under Early Moser. He found ways to provide four years of English, four years of science, four years of language (both latin and French), four years of math, and four years of social studies. There was little spare time, and when Early Moser presented my diploma, it stated I had accumulated 20 units for college credit plus two years of glee club.

My group of 62 graduated in 1940. We had more than 30 students in some classes. With what assets he had, Early Moser did wonders in preparing Wakelon graduates for life after high school - whether it included college or vocational work. Today's (1975) disciplinary problems found a quick solution in Early Moser's big, wooden paddle. Boys who proved too rambunctious for teachers were sent to "the office" where they were counseled. If the first reasoning session failed to take effect, a second trip included a trip to the storage closet with Early Moser limping closely behind. The sound of paddle on rear could be heard through the closed door. There never were witnesses to the paddlings, but tear-streaked faces provided testimony that Early Moser's arguments were convincing.

Early Moser's intense interest in athletics kept otherwise poor students in school and brought many drop-outs back. Boys and girls who were not interested in academics pored over their books for the privilege of representing Wakelon in football, basketball, and baseball (and for one year, boxing). But it was in the classroom he was happiest. None of his pupils can forget his forceful way of making math easy to understand. maybe it was because we were afraid to let attention wander.

And his enthusiasm over Shakespeare's writings made classes come alive. He could recite Chaucer from memory, and he had students following his example. Quite candidly, none of us thought much of Mr. Shakespeare, but Early Moser's enthusiasm caused us to keep looking for what he saw in the man. My folks never knew it, but I had my turn in the closet with Early Moser and his paddle. I had ignored strict orders to stay off frozen water that lay in the pine grove in front of Wakelon School. The ice broke, I ended up wet and cold, and six whops with the paddle taught me to pay more attention to school rules.

After Early Moser retired from school work, he served for several years as secretary of the Wendell Chamber of Commerce and sales manager for the Wendell tobacco Board of Trade. When he needed some printing, he'd pick up the phone and call, "Barrie, I want you to come to my office immediately." My response was automatic. The reflex action after eleven years in school under Early Moser caused me to drop whatever I was doing and rush over to Wendell where, with great respect, I would enter his office and stand, not speaking until I was spoken to.

Times have changed, and parents and students have changed, too. Early Moser might not fit in the mold of today's educator, but, just for a short time, I'd like to see him in charge of some of our schools where teachers are striking and students are rioting. After the dust settled, we might have some learning taking place.

## PULLEY FAMILY HERE FROM THE EARLY DAYS

Alexander "Alex" and Ada Katherine Weathers Pulley built their homestead on a hill about a mile or so north west from what would someday be Zebulon, but what was known as "Pulley Hill" in those days. It was a custom then to "name the land for the family." A deed to Alexander Pulley, from Rebecca (Pulley) Pace for 30 acres was recorded in Wake County in 1896. A second deed for an additional 50 acres was recorded in 1903 to Alexander Pulley from Robert W. Pulley and Rosa E. (Pulley) Black, wife of R. L. Black. The Blacks were of the "Indian Territory" where Mrs. Black's deposition agreeing to this sale was certified. Alex and Robert W. Pulley were brothers, and Rosa and Rebecca were their sisters. This relationship was confirmed in May 1997 by Bertha Mae Pulley Alford. (Oklahoma was opened to several land runs from 1889 to 1906. It became a state in 1907, the year after the above deed transaction, and could well have been referred to as the "Indian Territory" in 1906.)

The Pulley homestead was located on the site of the Glaxo Wellcome Child Development Center on West Judd Street today. Alex (1865-1944) and Ada Katherine (1874-1946) had four children: James Addison Pulley (1900-1980), Alton Pulley (1904-1980), Bertha Mae Pulley (born in 1906 and the oldest member of the church who regularly attends services in 1997), and Albert Lee Pulley ((1910-1987). As the two older sons were married and began families of their own, homes were built for them on the Pulley farm in close proximity to the parents on "Pulley Hill." As was the custom, the youngest son, Albert, lived with his parents in the home place and raised his family in that location.

A. Pulley joined the Zebulon Methodist Church in 1918 and we believe this to be the patriarch, Alexander "Alex" Pulley. His name is recorded as holding positions on the Board of Stewards for a number of times, almost always as just A. Pulley, but in one instance his name is shown as Alex. Pulley (the period signifies an abbreviation). Both he and Ada Katherine are buried in the Pulley family cemetery on West Judd Street. Bertha and Alton joined the Methodist Church in 1920, and Albert joined with his wife, Merle Sue Boyette in 1935. For many years the Pulley family gathered together and walked the mile or more to attend services in the Zebulon Methodist Church. A 1954 Chevrolet was the first family automobile owned by any of the Pulley brothers. Albert got his first driver's license when he bought that auto.

James Addison Pulley, "Uncle Jim," assumed the responsibility for building the fires in the wood stoves to heat the old church building. There were three pot-bellied stoves in the sanctuary and smaller ones in the Sunday School class rooms. He would walk that mile early on Sunday mornings in all kinds of weather to see to it that his fellow Methodists could worship in the warmth of those old stoves. Members of this family have served in many capacities in the church through the years and furnished several members of the choir until the present day.

James Addison Pulley married Lala Williams (1897-1978) and they reared their family about one quarter of a mile west of his parents. Their children are: Wilbur Hartsel Pulley (1920-1984); James Irven Pulley; Bessie Mae Pulley (Speck); Jesse Franklin Pulley (1925-1993) who married Rochell Mitchell; Ada Katherine Pulley (Jones); Lounell Rose Pulley (Watkins); Eva Modell Pulley (Sam); Edgar Barbee Pulley; and Allen Flowers Pulley. Rochell M. Pulley and the descendants of Jesse F. Pulley are active members of the church: Angie Lorraine and her son, Christopher Brooks Pulley; Marty Tyson Pulley; and Jesse Franklin "Franky" and his wife, the former Teresa Mozingo. Franky and Teresa's children, Justin Bryant and Anna Marla Pulley are members of the fifth and youngest generation of Pulleys in the Zebulon Methodist Church.

Alton Pulley (1904-1980) married Hattie Lee Morgan and their children are: Alma Gray, who married Earl Medlin; Irma Nadine Pulley (Perry); Dorothy Ailene Pulley who married Wilbert Morgan; Carl Edward who married Brenda Gail Carter; Thomas Alton; and Linda Lee (Ray). Bertha Mae Pulley married Millard Alford (1903-1962), a merchant in Zebulon where they made their home. The Alford's did not have children but enjoyed their many nieces and nephews. Frederick Earl Medlin is the son of Earl and Alma Gray. Vicki Ailene Morgan (Puckett) and Deborah Kay Morgan (Simpson) are the daughters of Dorothy and Wilbert Morgan.

Albert Lee and Merle Sue Boyette Pulley (1911-1984) are the parents of Lowell Ray Pulley who married Barbara Ann Brantley; Robert Edmond, who married Brenda Kay Pennington; and Charles Albert who married Carmel Theresa "Tracy" Jones, all of whom still live on Pulley Hill and are active members of the church. Gina Leigh Pulley, daughter of Lowell and Barbara Pulley, married Milton M. Bryant, Jr. Robin Paige Pulley (Finch) and Emily Dawn Pulley (Carter) are the daughters of Robert and Kay Pulley. Erin Lee Pulley is the daughter of Charles and Tracy Pulley. Current members who attend the Methodist Church in Zebulon realize that Charles A. Pulley and Gina Leigh Pulley Bryant continue a 50 year family tradition of singing in the chancel choir. Alex and Ada Katherine's great-great-grandson, Justine Bryant Pulley, continues the fifth generation of his family heritage by participating in the children's choir, Christian Kids and hand bells.

## MILTON JAMES AND LAURA DOUB SEXTON

Milton James Sexton (August 9, 1891 - March 26, 1975) and Laura Doub (August 25, 1896 - August, 1982) were married January 1, 1918. They began married life in the community of Wakefield where Mr. Sexton worked for Millard Chamblee. Later on they moved to Zebulon where Mr. Sexton became the Postmaster in 1932. After his retirement from the Post Office he worked in insurance and real estate.

The Sextons raised a family of three daughters on Horton Street and were staunch members of the Zebulon Methodist Church. The oldest, Edna Earle Sexton, married Jake Hadley, both of whom are deceased. They made their home in Greenville, N. C. and had two children: Milton Hadley is a Methodist Minister who is currently serving as Chaplain at the Methodist Retirement Home in Durham, and Laura Bruce Hadley Nichols. The second daughter, Elizabeth Sexton Defoe is also deceased. Her children are: Faye Ellington Brady, Scott Swain, Debbie Guinan, Linda Diorio, and Michael Swain, who is deceased. The youngest daughter, Laura James Sexton married Charles Davenport and made her home in Wilson, N. C. Mr. Davenport is deceased. Their four children are: Charles Wilbert Davenport, Joseph Milton Davenport, Blake Spruill Davenport and Laura Ann Davenport. Laura James is a retired Diaconal Minister of the North Carolina Methodist Conference. The Sextons had a total of eleven grandchildren and now sixteen great-grandchildren.



*Mike Sexton*

Both Mr. and Mrs. Sexton were stalwart members of the Zebulon Methodist Church. Mr. Sexton served as Treasurer of many years. Mrs. Sexton was active with her Sunday School Class, the Woman's Society of Christian Service and it could be said they were there when the church doors were open.

### **(The Zebulon Record, November 9, 1956)**

Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Sexton were honored at the Zebulon Methodist Church last Sunday morning when Circle Three presented them a picture plate with their names in gold. Mrs. Sexton, president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, started this new circle one year ago. (It was later named the Mercer-Sexton Circle.) Mr. Sexton is Chairman of the Official Board of the church, which celebrates its Fiftieth Anniversary in 1957. One of these plates was also presented to the parsonage.

Mrs. Sexton was the second woman of the church to be honored with a Life Membership in the Woman's Society of Christian Service in May of 1957. The presentation was made by Mrs. Troy J. Barrett and Mrs. Waylon D. Finch. Mrs. Finch was the recipient of this honor in 1955. A gift by the local society is sent to the Conference Division for mission work and the member is presented a gold pin that signifies this honor.

(Following is excerpt from The Zebulon Record, May 30, 1957)

Mrs. Sexton is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Doub of Route 1, Wendell. She is one of four sisters and two brothers. One sister is deceased. After graduation from Wakelon High School, Mrs. Sexton attended Louisburg College for a year and later she enrolled in King's Business College in Raleigh. While she was in Raleigh she worked for a short time with the North Carolina State Board of Health.



*Laura Doub Sexton*

Mrs. Sexton has been an ardent church worker all her life. She said she was "bred and reared" in the church. She loves housekeeping, but the out of doors calls to her and she is very often outside gardening. She says she has "always loved the out of doors, even as a girl." She stands five feet, five inches tall, has sparkling blue eyes, brown salt and peppered hair, and an ever-ready tinkling laugh. She admits she loves people, likes to read and has been known to play the piano.

*Ministers Who Have*

*Served*

*Zebulon United Methodist Church*

*1907-1997*

# PASTORS

Frank F. Eure	1903-1906
Armour David Wilcox	1906-1910
Preston DeWitt Woodall	1909-1910
Franklin Swindell Love	1910-
Thomas J. Dailey	1910-1911
George Bascom Perry	1911-1915
George Washington Starling	1915-1917
George Washington Fisher	1917-1921
William Lawrence Loy	1921-1923
Edgar Milton Hall	1923-1927
Edward Hill Davis	1927-1931
Neill Beckwith Johnson	1931-1933
Charles Lewis Reade	1933-1936
James William Bradley	1936-1938
Benjamin Franklin Boone	1938-1942
Charles E. Vale	1942-1947
Paul Carruth	1947-1949
Seymour Esmond Mercer	1949-1954
Troy J. Barrett	1954-1959
William K. Quick	1959-1963
Pearce Hudson Layfield	1963-1967
Robert Stewart Brodie	1967-1971
J. Thomas Smith	1971-1975
Noah B. Hill, Jr.	1975-1977
Lovell Roy Aills	1977-1983
Henry Lovelace	1983-1988
Jack Monroe Benfield	1988-1994
Tommy Gordon Privette	1994-Present

Gifts, graces and personalities of ministers help shape the ministry of a church. Biographical data on our ministers may give us insight into the path of this church.



## FRANK FLETCHER EURE

Frank Fletcher Eure was born in Nash County, one of five sons of Alfred Brinkley Eure and Delilah Eure. He received his education in the Mount Pleasant Academy in Nash County. His son, J. Bruce Eure wrote several letters to me 1975-1977 and told me that his father began his ministry about 1890 and that his first church was Town Creek in Brunswick County. He was a Lay Preacher and therefore Conference records are not complete on his service. All of his service to the Methodist Conference was in eastern North Carolina with the exception of 1894 through 1899 when he served in the Missouri Conference.

Mr. Eure was appointed to serve the Grimesland - Vanceboro circuit from 1900 to 1903 when he was appointed to the Wakefield circuit. The churches on the circuit at that time were Wakefield, which met in the Wakefield School Building; Earpsboro; Watkins Chapel; and a church near Sims in the edge of Nash County. The family lived in Spring Hope during these years of service. In 1907 Mr. Eure supplied the East Roberson circuit, which was known as the Barker's Circuit to his son. He also served at Evergreen and Fair Bluff on the Columbus County circuit, the Hobgood - Palmyra circuit, the Ocracoke - Portsmouth circuit, the Columbia circuit in Terrell County, the Roper circuit, and the Robersonville charge.

J. Bruce Eure wrote that he remembered traveling with his father to Wakefield and Earpsboro, spending the night with the Chamblees in Wakefield and the Broadwells in Earpsboro. He also remembered visiting in the home of Mr. Johnny Finch in Spring Hope, the home of Waylon, Elmer and Sigmon Finch, before this family relocated to Zebulon. He also remembered that it was during this time that the Baptist Church in Wakefield split and that a second church was built nearer to where Zebulon would be built.

Frank F. Eure was the father of Mrs. L. B. Kinlaw of Ayden, North Carolina; S. A. Eure of Lake Waccamaw; Mrs. J. D. Johnson of Rocky Mount; and J. Bruce Eure, who had located in Whiteville, North Carolina. He was the brother of Hilliard Manly Eure, an ordained minister in the North Carolina conference. Three other brothers were Stephen E. Eure of Wilmington, North Carolina, who has devoted his life to educational work in the state; J. B. Eure who was a physician located at Poplar Bluff, Missouri; and N. L. Eure who was a lawyer at Greensboro, North Carolina. J. Bruce Eure also wrote me that Foster D. Finch in Zebulon was a kinsman of his.

## Armour David Wilcox

(by Walter Patten)

It is a rare soul that will not accept defeat when odds are seemingly insurmountable. The person of Armour David Wilcox knew no defeat. His soul in its passion for victory lashed a weary body to arduous tasks and to its grave.

He was born of rugged, intellectual parents, Loyal Manley Wilcox and Mary Belle Morrison, of Scioto County, Ohio, June 1, 1868. His father prepared for the Presbyterian ministry, but doctrinal and creedal questions thwarted the high aim. The son inherited an ambition for an education and a life of unstinted service. His education was attained at Ottawa High School, the Emporia Kansas Teachers' College, and Ottawa University, where he received his B. S. degree. Upon graduation, he accepted the work of superintendent of schools at Onaga and Ottawa, Kansas.

Having seen the evils of the liquor traffic, he soon devoted his powers to drive "demon rum" from its stronghold. He became secretary for the Kansas State Temperance Union, then lecturer for the same organization, being associated with the late Dr. Charles M. Sheldon in this work. The whole force of his powerful invective and personality was thrown so effectively against this evil that the Anti-Saloon

League of America retained him as a regular lecturer. From this advantageous position he wrought valiantly to free America from the curse of beverage liquor. It was while making a lecture tour through eastern North Carolina that he met Dr. Fred D. Swindell, then pastor of the Methodist Church at Wilson. Dr. Swindell was so attracted by the forceful personality and the effective addresses of the lecturer that, after many long and friendly talks together, Mr. Wilcox decided to enter the Methodist ministry. Consequently, at Rocky Mount in 1906, he entered the North Carolina Conference on trial. He was ordained Deacon by Bishop A. W. Wilson at the Annual Conference held in Durham in 1908, and ordained Elder by Bishop E. R. Hendricks at Elizabeth City, December, 1910.

His first appointment was Wakefield Mission, and thereafter he served the following charges: Raleigh, Central (1910-1912); Louisburg (1913-1916) and during this pastorate he was made financial agent for Louisburg College, and raised the money to build the Davis building; Goldsboro, St. Paul (1917-18). At the Annual Conference held in Goldsboro, December, 1918, the Board of Missions recommended that Bishop Darlington appoint him Conference Missionary Secretary of the Centenary Campaign, stating that he "is pre-eminently fitted for this task." After the Centenary, he served the following charges: Durham Trinity (1920-1923); Wilmington, Grace (1924-25). At the Annual Conference held in Fayetteville (1925), Bishop Collins Denny transferred him to the Western North Carolina Conference, giving him the appointment to Trinity Church, Charlotte (1926-27). During this pastorate Trinity and Tryon Street congregations were merged to form First Methodist Church, and the two ministers were appointed to serve a joint pastorate at the new church. At the succeeding Annual Conference he was sent to Monroe (1928), and the following year to Salisbury (1929). During this year his left eye became infected and his vision was greatly impaired. Thereupon Bishop Edwin D. Mouzon at the request of the Louisburg Church, returned him to Louisburg (1930-31). At the succeeding Annual Conference, held in Henderson, his sincere, pleading appeal in behalf of Louisburg College saved that institution from being forced to close its doors. From that hour he became its champion, and was so recognized by the people of Louisburg and the officials of the college that he was persuaded to accept the presidency of the financially distressed college. At the Annual Conference held in Greenville, November, 1931, Bishop Mouzon so appointed him.

Mr. Wilcox gave himself unreservedly in re-thinking the mission and the scope of the work of that institution. After careful study of other junior colleges, he adopted a self-help, co-educational system that made its appeal to the students who craved an education but could not pay the costs involved at other standard colleges. Under this new system, the enrollment of students greatly increased. But there was the threatening debt hanging over the college like a suspended dagger. To thwart this danger, he was working upon a plan of settlement with the creditors, and then to seize the opportunity of making a Conference-wide campaign, granted by the previous Annual Conference, to raise the funds to lift the debt. It was this arduous work that sapped his physical energies. No more heroic services have been rendered for the Church in the North Carolina Conference in recent years than by this devoted servant of God. He refused to let lameness and scanty vision be an impediment to diminish his services for his Lord and his God.

He was married to Miss Adelaide Lorraine Simons, June 10, 1902, at Chetopa, Kansas. Of this union three sons were born, Armour David, Jr., Ward Manley, and Robert Morrison Wilcox, who was accidentally killed by an automobile during the Goldsboro pastorate. His wife and two sons survive.

This faithful minister was a born advocate of education, justice and righteousness. He had the courage of a reformer, the vision of a builder, and the power of a commanding personality. He was named to represent the Board of Missions of the Joint Commission of the North Carolina and the Western North Carolina Conferences to plan and to build an adequate Methodist Church at Chapel Hill. His life has been filled with strenuous labor for a better world. He accepted with a will hard tasks that others shunned, and spent his all for their attainment. His body was growing weary of the unrelenting demands made upon it by a strong will and an alert mind. Consequently, after a few days of illness he quietly, on March 8, 1937, followed the sun westward at the bidding of his Father, "It is enough; come and be at rest."

As his body lay in peace in the small Methodist Church at Louisburg, loyal friends, college students, alumni and officials, townsmen, fellow ministers joined in a tribute of love and admiration for such a life of fidelity to his Lord and to his fellowmen, and of worthwhileness to his generation. At sunrise his body was placed at rest on a beautiful knoll at Lake Junaluska.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Wilcox wrote the following letter to Bishop Robert M. Blackburn on Dec. 5, 1977, the first part of which is shown in the early part of this history on Page 6. The remainder of the letter is shown here that covers other parts of their ministry after they left Zebulon.

“At the time my marriage to my husband he was a lecturer with Charles M. Sheldon, author of In His Steps and What Would Jesus Do?, a member of the Congregational Church as was my husband. I was an Episcopalian, brought up in that church by my father, and mother. My father was born in England, came to America to visit his sister who had been a mother to him since his mother died at his birth and who had married my grandfather Cass and reared his five daughters. At that time my father was only nineteen years old and fell in love with his sister's youngest step-daughter, Adelaide Cass, a niece of General Lewis Cass, who later ran for President. He had been Governor of Michigan when it was all the Northwest Territory, no Illinois, nor Indiana, which became states during his governorship. He was called The Great White Father by the Indians in Oklahoma and Indian Territory and is on the program which the University of North Carolina puts on at Cherokee each year and which you may have seen.



*Armour David Wilcox  
At Louisburg College*

“After my father had become a naturalized American and desiring to remain in America, he studied law in Baltimore and as my Uncle Lewis Cass advised him after his marriage he went west to Howard, Kansas, to practice law. You may have heard the slogan of those days, 'Go West Young Man, Go West.' My father lived in Kansas for many years and I was born there ninety four years ago next Saturday, December 10th. Before I had entered any school except kindergarten my father was offered a law partnership in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Leaving his practice in Kansas, where he had been elected Judge, the family moved to Philadelphia. Later his law firm established offices in Chicago, Illinois, and New York, where he was elected President of the Chemical National Bank.

“Now for (the remainder of) our Methodist history:

“We were sent to Louisburg, a double job, part time raising money for the College, as well as repairing and building for the church an addition. At this time the Southern Assembly was opened at Lake Junaluska. A good friend invited my husband to be her guest at her new cottage and when the assembly was selling lots, her brother, Mr. McKime of Louisburg, bought a good lot saying, 'I want my preacher to have a home here.' Later we traded this lot for a good sized one farther from the auditorium and containing an unfinished cottage, which was torn down and when we built our present

stone house with light rooms, a basement, and three baths on Lookout Mountain, now with several other homes, a retired South Carolina minister, a Bishop's son, and a very wonderful businessman from Dunn, North Carolina. Also the Patten's original home and the new house which Brooks Patten, a minister in your conference built. These are my present neighbors, for whom I am very grateful. I was present at the wedding of Brooks and Jinny Patton and have seen their family grow up as well as Brooks himself.

"We went from Louisburg to St. Paul, Goldsboro, where our son was killed in front of the church by a drunken driver and bootlegger running from the police in his car. The whole town was wonderful to us when my son died. Conference met there that year and it was the year of the inception of the drive to raise a large sum through the Southern Methodist Church for the Centenary Campaign. The Bishop asked Dr. Wilcox for a private interview and asked him to head this campaign saying that everyone with whom he had talked had said, 'Our best man is Wilcox.' Dr. Wilcox told him he had gone into the ministry to try and help people and not to raise money. However, after much persuasion he told the Bishop that it was only for the time it took to put the campaign over. The North Carolina Conference raised more in that campaign than any other Conference, except the much larger Virginia Conference, and when the job was finished we were sent to Trinity Church in Durham where we were glad to go because our son was ready for Trinity College, now Duke University, where my younger son graduated at 18, the youngest graduate they had every had at that time and perhaps now also.

"A pastor could stay only four years then in an appointment and we were sent to Grace Church in Wilmington, North Carolina. Bishop Denny stayed with us at Conference there and knew my health was bad in that climate and the next year sent us to Charlotte, then Salisbury, and then Monroe. It was while we were in Charlotte that old Trinity and older Edenton Street united to build First Church and Dr. Wilcox raised a large part of the money for that.

"At Salisbury, Dr. Wilcox had shaken hands with some one with streptococcus germs on his hands, rubbed his eyes and was stricken blind for a time. The Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital treated him but we decided to retire to the Lake at Conference. But the Louisburg Church heard of our trouble and asked Dr. Wilcox to come there and try and save the college which was deeply in debt and doomed to close at Conference time. He told them that he would not consider replacing the present minister, but the Chairman of the Board wrote that they had already told the minister that they were asking for his removal and that they would rather have him, stone blind, than any other minister they had had.

"After a great deal of persuasion we decided to try it and went back to Louisburg. The college teachers in a body came to the parsonage and begged Dr. Wilcox to take over the Presidency of the College and try and save it. Dr. Wilcox went to our first Conference since our return to Louisburg and raised enough money to carry the college through the remainder of the year. The former President who had asked for an appointment to a church, decided to remain at the college for the remainder of the year. In June he left for some place out of the state and Dr. Wilcox took over and spent the summer recouping the student body, down to nineteen, and revamping the whole set up of the college.

"His first move was to make it co-educational, replace some of the teachers, and then to raise money to keep the college open. He succeeded in this as he had in previous undertakings and was on a trip to raise the last debt on the college that he was stricken with a heart attack and had to leave his train and partially recuperate until he reached home where he was again stricken, just after reaching home and died at Duke Hospital two days later.

reached home where he was again stricken, just after reaching home and died at Duke Hospital two days later.

Please excuse this writing, I am writing on a book in my lap in my bedroom, where I have been confined for three months, not even able to go down stairs. However, I am still alright above my neck and attend to all my own business affairs, look after the care of the expense of a granddaughter who I have had since she was eleven months old. I even taught her, using regular school books and she finished school at fifteen years old. I even taught her piano which I have been able to do for I am a master graduate of Chicago University and the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago.

"I wish I knew you personally, since I read of the loss of your wife and am sure you have been deeply grieved by this loss. God keep and bless you is my prayer."

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Armour D. Wilcox

## **PRESTON DEWITT WOODALL**

1872-1957

Preston DeWitt Woodall was born to John Woodall and Emily Eldridge Woodall in Johnston County September 25, 1872. He attended the public schools of Johnston County and then went to Trinity College and was in the class of 1902. He later went to Boston University for a specialization course in public speaking. Brother Woodall was admitted into the North Carolina Conference at Washington, N. C. in the year 1899. He was received into full connection in 1903. He served the following appointments: Windsor, Edenton, Epworth-Raleigh, Zebulon, Jacksonville, Pittsboro, Whiteville, Rowland, Middleburg, Fayetteville Circuit, Stantonsburg. In 1939, he retired on account of failing health.

In April 1913, Preston Woodall and Miss Elizabeth Brinkley of Wilmington, N. C., were united in matrimony. The children from that union were John Burwell Woodall of New York City and Preston Woodall, Jr., of Wilmington, N. C. Woodall was regarded by all of us as a most excellent preacher. He really knew the meaning of "words fitly spoken". It did not take him long to preach a sermon but when he had finished, the people were unanimous in pronouncing it good. There was no possibility of any man questioning the absolute sincerity of the preaching of this man of God. All too often we talk about men suffering from overwork. In the case of Brother Woodall it was true. This applied especially in his pastoral work. He rejoiced with those who were happy, but he was nearly always bearing the burdens of the people who were in trouble. People in prison, sick, stricken with grief, burdened with sin, or lying hard by the gates of death, all of them in his reach felt the warmth of his bleeding heart.

The only criticism of the ministry of Preston Woodall was that he spent too little time in relaxation and rest and too much of his time with people who were sick. This was the thing that led to his breakdown and finally his retirement. He would have preached and lived longer had he given more thought to his own welfare, but there are many people in heaven now who would have missed the way had it not been for this pastor whose heart bled and broke over them. Following a prolonged illness, Preston Woodall died in a hospital in Durham, July 11, 1957. He was buried in Oakdale Cemetery at Wilmington, N. C. In heaven he found the relaxation and rest that so many people coveted for him.

D. E. Earnhardt

# FRANKLIN SWINDELL LOVE

1883-1965

H. E. SPENCE

Teacher, preacher, educator, executive -- Franklin Swindell Love filled many positions of importance and influence and filled them all with distinction. It has been said that life is not measured by our span of years but that it is the quality and not the quantity of life that really counts. Dr. Love ranked among the great and notable regardless of whether his life was viewed from a quantitative or qualitative point of view. Long since he passed his "threescore and ten" and the greater part of the long life which he lived was spent in significant service to his fellowmen and his church.

The salient yet simple facts of his life are easily recounted. He was born October 17, 1883, and reared in Union County, the son of Thomas Lee Love and Mary Williams Love. He was educated in the Union County schools and attended Trinity College (now Duke University) where he made a wonderful record as a student leader, debater, and a religious influence. He was the only man in that institution to be elected president of the Y.M.C.A. in his junior year and to be re-elected as a senior. He graduated in 1908. He later received the Master of Arts degree from Columbia University.

His activities in the church were varied and manifold. He served as a missionary in Brazil for two years. He served the following pastorates in the North Carolina Conference: Aberdeen, Kinston, Wilson, Elizabeth City, Edenton Street in Raleigh, and the Grace Methodist Church in Wilmington. In all of these pastorates he was a pronounced success.

Dr. Love was also superintendent of the Raleigh, Elizabeth City and Durham Districts. His work in the cabinet was of the same high quality that marked his pastoral and pulpit work elsewhere. As an educator, Dr. Love rendered distinctive service as president of Louisburg College, an office which he held for six years. He served as superintendent of the Lake Junaluska Assembly for six years.

Among the many places of honor which he held were secretaryship to the mission to set up Autonomous Methodist Churches in Brazil, member of the General Conference for Unification of Methodist Churches and membership in several jurisdictional conferences. He was listed in Who's Who in America and other lists of notable people. After a prolonged illness Dr. Love died on April 30, 1965.

He was first married to Miss Cornelia Clegg who died many years ago. Surviving this marriage are two daughters, Mrs. John O. Evans of Raleigh, and Mrs. William Belvin of Savannah, Georgia. He was next married to Miss Phala Hawkins of Missouri who survives with one son, Frank S. Love, Jr., of Nashville, Tennessee. Also surviving are one brother, J. W. Love of Cedartown, Georgia; one sister, Mrs. James Campbell of Smithfield, and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in Edenton Street Methodist Church, Raleigh. Officiating were the Reverend Joseph F. Coble, superintendent of the Methodist Retirement Home where Dr. Love spent his last years; the Reverend Cecil Robbins, president of Louisburg College of which Dr. Love was for years president; the Reverend Marvin Vick, pastor of the church; and Bishop Paul N. Garber. Pall bearers were six of his minister friends. Interment was in the Laurinburg City Cemetery where the Reverend D. J. Reid also took part in the burial ceremonies.

So runs the story of the life and death of a good and great man. But the story is not fully told. I knew Swindell Love for more than sixty years fairly intimately. We were in college together for four years. We joined the North Carolina Conference together in New Bern in 1907. We have worked together in scores and scores of institutes, conferences and other gatherings. As a college man he had the love and respect of faculty and student body alike. During the more than sixty years that I have known him I never knew him to shirk a task however hard; or to refuse to do a piece of work however little and unremunerative of praise or pay. I never saw him show an ugly spirit in his work. I have never

seen him do a piece of shoddy work. If he agreed to serve in any given capacity, he could be trusted to fulfill faithfully every promise. He spoke with enthusiasm and energy as if he believed every word he said and wanted the rest of the world to believe him also. He had a scorn of indifference and a devotion to his calling that amounted almost to an obsession. No finer spirit ever lived. No cleaner life was ever known among us. Surely no one could ever more deserve the plaudit: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Author's Note: F. S. Love's obituary does not list his appointment to the Zebulon Charge, however he did hold one Quarterly Conference in Zebulon. There was no parsonage here at that time and it can only be speculation that he found a more suitable situation in another location. Rev. Thomas J. Dailey, a retired minister, finished out that year 1912, riding the train from his home in Cary to hold services in Zebulon.

## THOMAS J. DAILEY

By B. P. Robinson

Thomas J. Dailey, son of James G. and Margaret Dailey, was born in Alamance County, N. C., May 7, 1849, and died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. G. V. Albertson, Deland, Florida, March 9, 1935. November 9, 1871, he was married to Miss Amanda B. Watlington, Rev. Jacob Doll officiating. In the year 1877, he was converted and joined the M. E. Church, South, at Reidsville, N. C., Rev. V. A. Sharpe, pastor. He was licensed to preach by the Quarterly Conference of the Wentworth Circuit in the year 1880, Dr. W. H. Bobbitt, presiding elder. During the year 1881, he labored zealously as a local preacher, assisting his pastor and other preachers in revival services.

He served Pitt Mission as a supply, 1882-1883; here he did faithful work and the Lord owned and blessed his labors. One church was built, another completed and over one hundred souls were converted and added to the church during the two years he served this mission. He was admitted on trial into the North Carolina Conference at Statesville, N. C., in the fall of 1883; he was ordained deacon by Bishop L. Parker, at Wilmington, N. C., in 1884, and was ordained an elder at Fayetteville, in 1887, by Bishop Joseph S. Key. After joining the Conference he served the following charges: Brunswick Circuit, 1884; Rutherfordton Circuit, 1885-86; Lenoir Circuit, 1887; Alexander Circuit, 1888-90; Bethel, 1891; Garysburg Circuit, 1892-93; Warren Circuit, 1894-96; Ridgeway Circuit, 1897-1900; Fremont Circuit, 1901-02; Gates Circuit, 1903-05; Hope Mills Circuit, 1906; Robeson Circuit, 1907-08; Troy, 1909; Buckhorn Circuit, 1910; Zebulon, 1911.

While at Zebulon his health failed and he asked for the superannuate relation in the fall of 1911, which was granted; but regaining health to a certain extent he was placed again on the active list at the Conference of 1912 and appointed to North and South Henderson where he served two years, 1913 and 1914. At the end of that year his health had again failed and he was superannuated never to take up the active work again. For twenty years he was a superannuate preacher, living a good many years at Cary, N. C. After the death of his faithful wife, and the marriage of his youngest daughter, he went to live with her in Deland, Florida, and remained in her home until the early morning of March the 9th, when he went away to live again with her who had been his faithful helpmate and had so faithfully shared his sorrows and his joys in the home and in his work as a Methodist preacher. While he had been in failing health for a long time he was confined to his bed only six days before he passed away. He gave to the Conference thirty years of devoted service. His work was thorough. He was a man of solid piety. There was something about him that suggested strength and stability. His record from the beginning to the end of his ministry was absolutely clean. He was as modest as he was brave. He cared nothing for show. He loved simplicity. High place and positions of prominence he never sought. He was satisfied to live the plain life of a Methodist preacher and he steadfastly believed that there is no position or calling that ranks any higher.

Having been his pastor for four years after his superannuation I can say that I have never been associated with a man who lived closer to God. He was steadfast, reliable, honest, brave, faithful as a pastor, strong and vigorous as a preacher of the Word; and the impressions he made upon the charges he served will abide. I shall never cease to thank God that I was honored with his intimate friendship and godly counsel in the early years of my ministry. As a young preacher I always found in him a good friend and wise counselor to whom I could go with every perplexing problem. He is survived by two daughters: Mrs. A. G. Egerton, of New York, and Mrs. G. V. Albertson, of Deland, Florida, and Thomas Dailey, of White Oak, N. C. May God bless the bereaved and preserve them to a happy reunion.

## GEORGE BASCOM PERRY

By M. Bradshaw

This faithful itinerant was born in Chatham County August 7, 1851, and laid down his armor in Princeton, North Carolina, August 7, 1928, his seventy-seventh birthday. Right vigorous he looked that morning and the smile was still on his face when he slipped away soon after the breakfast hour. He went as a good soldier would like to go. There were no weary days of suffering, no long waiting for the chariot. When he was full dressed and just starting the work of another day God called him home. Those who knew him needed no assurance of farewell words that it was well with him.

The funeral was held from the Methodist Church in Princeton, conducted by Revs. J. H. Shore, S. A. Cotton and the writer. Something like a score of Methodist preachers joined the membership of the Princeton charge and other friends to pay tribute to his memory. He was buried in the cemetery at Smithfield with Rev. D. E. Earnhardt and Rev. A. S. Barnes reading the church service. On August 13, 1873, Brother Perry was married to Miss Josephine Pugh, of Chatham County, who survives him. The living children are: Mrs. Mozelle Perry Allen, Durham, N. C.; G. Marvin Perry, Louisburg, N. C.; A. Olin Perry, Franklinton, N. C.; Mrs. Mamie Davis, Burlington, N. C.; Mrs. Jennie Moore, Bennettsville, S. C.; Mrs. Josie Highsmith, Dunn, N. C.; Mrs. Rena Blackburn, Selma, N. C.; and Mrs. Laura Mauney, Cherryville, N. C. The youngest son, Carl Pugh Perry, died in his twenty-first year.

Brother Perry's record as a Methodist itinerant reads as follows:

Joining the North Carolina Conference in 1885, he served that year at Smithfield; Uwharrie, 1886-87; Rutherfordton, 1888; Uwharrie, 1889-90; Mt. Gilead, 1891-93; Northampton, 1894; Oxford, 1895-97; Franklinton, 1898-1901; Burlington, 1902; Gibson, 1903-04; Littleton, 1905-08; Snow Hill, 1909-11; Zebulon, 1912-14; Roper, 1915; Bailey, 1916-18; Kittrell, 1919-20; Selma, 1921-23; Princeton, 1924-28. Thus from the Catawba to the Roanoke, at one time among the hills and mountains, and then on the plains of the east he went forth to preach the "glorious gospel of the blessed God."

He did not seek what men call the high places. He began his ministry in those days when it was considered a privilege to be an ambassador of Jesus Christ in any place. For the most part he preached to the country-side, whence comes the backbone of our Methodism and where the most of our preachers receive their call to the ministry.

Our friend delivered a simple gospel message in a plain, direct, practical way. He felt that it was his mission to tell the people of the Christ who had redeemed him from sin --- planted his feet on the rock and put a new song in his mouth. He left it to others to wander in the bypaths, to indulge the embellishments of speech, to proclaim earthly philosophies. That was not his task. This man stood under the cross and cried to the congregation, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ." What he accomplished during these forty-three years of his ministry only the records of Eternity can tell.

The Christian religion made George Bascom Perry every inch a man. His speech was clean, his life well ordered, his faith adamant. In the home he was all that could have been asked of a husband and father; in the church he was faithful to his trust and walked worthy of his high calling; in the



community he stood always for the best things. It was my privilege to enjoy his friendship for well nigh his entire ministerial life and I feel safe in saying that no unclean word ever passed his lips and that no questionable transaction ever marred his record. That commission entrusted to him forty-three years ago he handed back to the church unstained, and he left to his loved ones and friends a good name which is "rather to be chosen than great riches."

This was one man who will be missed at our conference. His manners were the manners of the Christian gentleman and there was something about him which he did not find in any school of this earth. A genial, attractive soul, it was a delight to meet with him at these annual gatherings and talk over the doings of the year. But he has left us to answer that other roll call. Thus runs the story of the itinerant preacher's life. He tarries here for a little while to "sing the great Redeemer's praise" and then goes on to take up the new task.

May Heaven shelter this home and keep us all until we reach that place "where beyond these voices there is peace."

## GEORGE WASHINGTON STARLING

By J. M. Ormond

George Washington Starling, the youngest son of William and Elizabeth Starling, was born in Wayne County, North Carolina, July 17, 1862. When he was three years of age his father died. This potential young itinerant Methodist preacher was thus left in the sole care of his widowed mother in Wayne County during the trying reconstruction days following the War Between the States. His opportunities at school were such as many thousands of children in the rural south of that period were given by the "old field school." Later he attended Nahunta Academy where he studied in preparation for college. In September, 1888, he entered Trinity College and remained in that institution two years. In 1890, at the age of twenty-eight years, he was admitted on trial into the North Carolina Conference in session at Wilson, North Carolina. Two years following his admission he was ordained deacon and received into full connection.

On December 7, 1892, soon after his admission into full connection, he was married to Maggie Lee Starling, who was his faithful companion for forty-three years and who survives him. The only surviving child is Miss Mary Lee Starling, a graduate of Duke University and at present a member of the Duke University library staff, who lives with Mrs. Starling in the city of Durham.

During the thirty-seven years of ministerial service Brother Starling received the following appointments: Straits, Carteret, Elizabeth, Onslow, Cokesbury, North Gates, Perquimans, Buckhorn, Jenkins Memorial at Raleigh, Tar River, Four Oaks, Zebulon, Biscoe, St. Pauls, Garner, and Graham and Haw River, at the Raleigh Conference, in 1927, he was assigned to Pantego-Belhaven, but because of declining health he was released from this appointment and established a home for the family in Durham, where he spent the remaining years of his earthly life.

With the exception of four years at Jenkins Memorial, Brother Starling spent his whole ministerial life in town and open-country churches, and thus had the high privilege of serving a larger number of congregations than has been the case in the ministry of most men in recent times. This quiet, unassuming Methodist preacher came into intimate, pastoral acquaintance with and unfolded Divine truth and light to some seventy-five congregations. What an opportunity did such an experience give him to mold the lives of thousands of people in the various walks of life and in all sorts of moral and mental states of existence! Were these beneficiaries of his consecrated ministry given an opportunity to say now how this man lived and labored among them, they would rise up to declare their faith in his integrity, their devoted love for him personally, and their gratitude for his abundant and constructive service to them and to the Christian Church.

He furnished inspiration and leadership in the building of eight new church houses and two parsonages, and in remodeling and enlarging a goodly number of inadequate churches. He enjoyed pastoral work and it was here as well as in the pulpit that he was able to make a strong and permanent contribution to the many people who were in need of spiritual guidance, consolation, and encouragement. It was his chief joy to lead persons into a profession of the Christian faith and into church membership. He also had the great satisfaction of seeing several of his spiritual children come into the active Christian ministry.

Brother Starling was a good man. His moral character was unquestioned by those who knew him. He was true to the high principles of the Christian religion and gave himself unreservedly to the work of the ministry. He was a spiritually-minded minister, spending much time in daily prayer and devotional reading, which empowered him for a wholesome spiritual guidance of others. During the several years of superannuation experience he made opportunity to render considerable service at the West Durham Methodist Church, where he was loved with a genuine devotion. He lived near the Woman's College campus of Duke University and he was alert to avail himself of multitudinous privileges offered by the university. The Pastors' School and other institutions special occasions when lecturers, preachers, or other speakers of prominence appeared contributed much to the happiness and edification of this godly man.

Whenever there were conferences and special meetings at neighboring churches, he was eager to attend and share in the benefits as well as contribute to their usefulness. When he was stricken October 17th, he was at Danville, Va., where he and Mrs. Starling had gone to attend the session of the Virginia Annual Conference. From this stroke he never recovered. He was brought to Duke Hospital where he lingered till November 7th. Rev. W. C. Ball, Dr. Frank S. Hickman, and Rev. L. S. Massey conducted the funeral services at the West Durham Methodist Church, November 8th, and he was buried in the cemetery at Zebulon, N. C.

## **REV. GEORGE WASHINGTON FISHER**

By M. T. Plyler

Rev. George Washington Fisher, pastor of the Garner Circuit, passed away Friday afternoon, January 15, 1926, in Garner, North Carolina. That morning he was in Raleigh in conference with his Presiding Elder, following which he made two pastoral calls. He reached home about twelve and ate a light lunch. A little later he went down to have some work done on his car. While this was being done, he suddenly fell over by the front wheel. When a physician who was not more than a block away reached him he was gone.

This faithful and devoted itinerant came to the end of his journey as he was making ready to take the road again. On horseback, in buggy and in automobile for more than forty years this devoted pastor had gone with the shepherd's heart and with the preacher's message. Oftentimes he grew weary on the way but he never faltered though the road was rough and the burden heavy. The imminent Burden-bearer was consciously with him and the sun was on the hills the afternoon he left us. G. W. Fisher was born in Catawba County, May 8, 1859. He was educated at Oak Institute, Mooresville, and at Rutherford College. He joined the North Carolina Conference in 1885. His entire ministerial life touched the country places of the state, though many of his churches were in villages and in towns. He was a notable success among the plain, substantial people of North Carolina. They knew his worth and trusted him without reserve. He served Wilkesboro one year, Rowan two, Salisbury one, Kittrell two, Yanceville two, Tarboro one, Battleboro two, Kennansville one, Williamston and Hamilton two, Garysburg two, Clayton four, Durham four (Duke's Chapel), Cary four, Gates four, Zebulon four, Elm City three, and he was beginning his second year on the Garner circuit.

Whether in the valley of the Yadkin, or of the Cape Fear, or of the Neuse, or of the Tar, or of the Roanoke, or in the Albemarle country, the same rare devotion and fine fidelity marked the labors of this Methodist circuit rider. He got a good start in the section rich with the traditions of "Prophet of the Long

Road" and that long line of heroic men who carried the banner of Methodism through all the hill country of the Carolinas. This is the section out of which the camp meeting came and where they linger still; through all the years much has been made of the songs and shouts of the redeemed. Among the notables, George Washington Ivey, a Sir Galahad of the saddlebags, proved to be the patron saint of George Washington Fisher. The memories of his childhood experiences followed our brother to the end and the fires in his heart never went out.

No man did a more faithful and successful year's work than did he on the Garner Circuit last year, and this year was starting most auspiciously. With what care he looked after every detail, and how he carried every member on his heart! One would never have suspected that the end was so near. His sudden going was a sore bereavement to a wide circle. George Washington Fisher, son of Stephen and Elmira Fisher, married Ida Lee Love, who was born in Leasburg, Caswell County, on May 29, 1889. This was a union on earth and in heaven.

Through all the years, this man and this woman were one in the work they did and rich in the life they lived. They knew their sorrows and carried their grief. One child left them at Battleboro, one at Clayton, and one at Durham; five children remain to bless the world and to cheer the heart of the dear, devoted mother. The daughter, Alma Love, is Mrs. Waylon Finch of Zebulon. Clyde Olin is professor in Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.; Ralph Lee is a doctor in Michigan; Henry Elbert has just finished law at Harvard; and Edgar Beauregard is doing graduate work at Columbia. All the boys graduated at Duke and are well started in life. They have a rich heritage in a father and mother that did so much for them in the long years given so largely to others. This is not the time to analyze the character of our brother or to sum up the activities of his life. However, one or two observances should be made:

First, this man was always more than his message. Not that he did not bring a good sermon; he did preach well. His sermons were well wrought out and sound to the core. They were vibrant with life and dealt with things essential. He never frittered away the hour on trifles; he never grew red in the face in the defense of imaginary ills. G. W. Fisher preached the gospel of the Son of God as he had tried it out in his own experience. But he was so genuine, so devoted to his work and so conscientious in every relationship that the preacher made the proclamation. All who really knew him saw only the man back of the message.

This man who went up and down the long weary roads and out through the narrow by-paths in search of the sheep of his flock; this man who was equally at home in a cabin in the backwoods and in the pretentious house on the high-way was the man every one saw in the pulpit on Sunday. Love filled his heart and a fire burned in his bones as he spake with the voice of a prophet.

Second, this man was preeminently a man of peace. The petty squabbles and silly contentions which he often proved a source of annoyance in the community and an element of hurt in the Church brought sorrow to his heart. This good man could never rest until he had done all possible to show the way of peace and good will. Men often marvelled as they watched him in his own earnest and conscientious efforts to unite the Church for the work ahead. He won by his honesty and genuineness.

Sunday afternoon, January 17, a great company of friends and parishioners gathered at Garner and a long funeral procession accompanied the family and friends to Zebulon, where the funeral was held and the burial took place. There old parishioners from Zebulon Circuit and ministers and friends from elsewhere were assembled.

Reverends D. N. Caviness, C. P. Jerome, J. G. Johnson, E. M. Hall and M. T. Plyler conducted the services. In the crowd that filled the Church and overflowed into the yard were citizens from every walk of life, fully agreed as to the unusual character of the man who this day was laid away among a people so dear to him; a people whom he cherished and for whom he had labored in other days.

Friends came with their flowers and tears to do honor to him they loved as the shadows lengthened that evening but beyond the sunset they saw a glorious sun-rise.

## **“Miss Alma’s Legacy”**

(Oct. 26, 1893 - Apr. 4, 1992)

Preface: The following series of articles appeared in the Zebulon Record, beginning January 10, 1956. “Miss Alma” was one of the stalwart members of this church and especially the Woman’s Society, later the United Methodist Women. These clippings were saved by Estelle Chamblee Terry and given to me some years ago to keep as the Church Historian. I feel that these articles place a historic significance on the itinerant Methodist ministry in eastern North Carolina at the time that the Zebulon Methodist Church was organized.

I also feel that it is significant because her “Papa” is the Rev. George Washington Fisher whose name appears on a memorial window in the chancel area of our church. This family occupied the old parsonage which was located on the site of our present day parking lot. Miss Alma was saddened when it was torn down in favor of the new parsonage on Glenn Street. George Washington Fisher and Alma Love Fisher are buried in Zebulon’s City Cemetery.

You will note in Chapter IX that “Miss Alma” married about 1921 and ended her years of living in a church parsonage. She married Zebulon resident, Waylon D. Finch, and made Zebulon her home. Mr. Waylon Finch’s parents, John D. and Sallie Strickland Finch, are memorialized in one of our stained glass windows.

When our first church directory was published in 1975, Miss Alma and Mr. Waylon refused to come to the church and have their pictures made. They did agree to let Wayne and I come with a Polaroid camera and take one of them that appears in that first directory. In view of the fact that they were such an integral part of the early history of this church and community, I am delighted that we have this memory of them included in this history. I pray that these articles will give current members some new insight into the forebears of this church and community when they see his name on Sunday mornings.

## Twenty-eight Years in a Parsonage

By Mrs. W. D. (Alma Love Fisher) Finch

Mrs. W. D. Finch, has recorded the fascinating and interesting facets of her childhood and girlhood in a Methodist parsonage into a highly readable story that will run in The Record in serialized form. Mrs. Finch is the daughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. G. W. Fisher, prominent leaders in Methodism. The Rev. Fisher was at one time pastor of the local Methodist Church. Mrs. Fisher was the founder of the WSCS. Mrs. Finch, the wife of Waylon D. Finch and the mother of Mrs. Homer (Mary Fisher) Monson of Charlotte. She is very active in the Methodist Church. - News Editor (of The Zebulon Record)



*Alma Love Fisher Finch*

### Chapter I

It was about the year 1890 that the Methodist Conference of North Carolina was divided into the Western North Carolina Conference and the North Carolina Conference. My Father and Mother, the Reverend and Mrs. George Washington Fisher, were at that time on the Tar River Circuit, living at Kittrell. During their sojourn here my two oldest brothers, Marvin and Clyde, made their appearance into the world. From here the family moved to Yanceyville, in Caswell County. It was here that I made my appearance. While I was quite small we moved to Battleboro where my father served the Battleboro-Whitakers charge. Here Lillian, a little curly head blonde was born. From here we went to Keanansville.

### Chapter II

We lived for two years in Keanansville. It was in Keanansville that I can carry my memory back to. It was here that Marvin and Clyde first showed that they were real boys by their desire to own a goat. The last year we lived here one of the stewards, a Mr. Farring, gave the boys a billy goat. Mr. Farring thought he was doing a great thing to give the preacher's boys a goat. But the parents of the boys had a different thought. The goat proved to be a real friend to the boys. How I don't know, but the goat learned that the boys' bed was by the window on the front porch. Every night the goat would go to the same place by the window on the porch and there go to sleep. During the day he was busy getting into many places he was not wanted. The wash woman did not dare let any clothes hang down in his reach. If the wooden doors were left open, and Mr. Billy Goat wanted to go inside the house, he just walked right through the screen door.

In Keanansville the first death came into our home. Lillian was taken seriously sick one day and died the next day. This was a great shock to the whole town. How well I remember, though I was very small, seeing the funeral procession leave the house, carrying the body to our former home, Battleboro, for burial. I have heard my parents say that Lillian was an unusually bright child. One of the many little things she did was to go down the lane to the gate to meet Papa when he would come home from visiting in the country.

Just a few months after this great sadness in the parsonage a little baby boy was born in the preacher's home. This brought much joy and happiness to the grief stricken parents. This was Ralph. That fall when the annual Conference met we were sent to Williamston. It was a sad day for Marvin and Clyde as they had to give their much loved goat back to the Farring's.

## Chapter III

In Williamston the parsonage was next door to the Church and the school was back of the parsonage. There was a wide board fence between the parsonage yard and the school yard. It was here Marvin and Clyde started to school. They tore one of the wide boards off the fence so they could have a short cut to school. I remember I would go sit on the fence where the board was off and watch and wait for the boys to come home. The parsonage was not any too large, so my Mother had Papa's overcoat on the back of a door that opened into the hall. One Wednesday night while Papa was holding prayer meeting Mama heard the front door open, thinking it was Papa she didn't go to the door. When Papa came in 30 minutes later he discovered that somebody had been in and borrowed his overcoat. The overcoat was never returned. When we lived in Williamston there was an invalid in town who had been in bed for 20 years. We used to enjoy going with Papa to see this man.

While here I had chicken-pox. During the time I was sick Papa went to Jamesville to marry a couple. This was a big occasion and I was terribly disappointed because I didn't get to go. I well remember one place we used to visit with Papa. In this particular family there was an old maid. After the supper dishes were washed this old maid got a wash bowl, fixed some warm soap suds and sat for an hour soaking her hands and nails. I remember the beautiful hands she had but still don't think it worth the price. I wonder what that sister does to her nails today during this modern age. (If she is still living).

One of the things I remember about this place was the good time we would have when the colored girls who helped Mama at that time would dress us up and take us out on the church steps to play. I know now why we were not allowed to go any farther. Here Mama could keep her eye on us, and at the same time carry on her work. We had big times playing on the steps and around the church. It was just six weeks before we moved that the next baby was born. This was Henry. That fall we were sent to Garysburg.

## Chapter IV

Not only did the preacher's family bring a new baby with them to Garysburg but the new baby had whooping cough. Many things happened during our stay at Garysburg. Tramps were constant callers. Most of them would offer to cut wood for something to eat. Most of the time Mama would give them food without any pay with work. I saw my first covered wagons here. These wagons were filled with gypsies and usually there would be 8 or 10 wagons in a line. Sometimes these gypsies would camp just outside of town for several days. This would be one time that we stayed close in the house.

There was a branch that ran just a few hundred yards from our house. This was a great place for us to play. I stayed in the branch so much that I had ground-itch on my toes. I couldn't walk for sometime. During this misfortune the Sunday School had a picnic. I was put into the baby carriage and carried to the picnic and what a good time I did have. The large boys and girls felt that they had to entertain me - so they would let the carriage go down a steep hill, at the bottom of the hill some of the boys and girls would stop the carriage and push me back up the hill. This was so much fun I was really glad I couldn't walk for the time being.

Marvin and Clyde were old enough now to have their first rabbit boxes. They would get up by daylight, both get on old Mag (the horse) and go see if they had caught any rabbits. We ate more rabbits those two years than we ever ate afterwards. The horse Papa had at that time was a little wild and Mama was always glad when the boys got back. I guess every girl remembers the first sleeping doll she ever possessed. Papa and Mama went to Weldon shopping and as a reward for being good and looking after the baby, Henry, they brought back this beautiful doll that would go to sleep. For safety she was put on the bed in the front bed room. But she did not prove to be very safe. Clyde watched his chance and slipped in to investigate how the eyes operated. The next day I went in to look at the doll, and at first sight saw the dolls eyes were pushed down inside the doll's stomach. A girl who hasn't had a brother who wanted to know the hows and whys has missed part of life.

Another time I was given a necklace with a little locket on it. One day when I went to dress up in the chain and locket I found the locket had been pounded to pieces. One fall all of us had terrible colds. Some body told Papa to get some ho-hound candy for us. The very word candy was wonderful to us. We could have eaten a whole box at the time. One Saturday night Papa had gone to the church to marry a couple. Mama gave us some candy to stop us from coughing. She noticed that Henry stopped coughing suddenly. She turned to see what he was doing. He was lying stretched out on the floor, choked nearly to death. She grabbed him by his heels and shook him. That didn't seem to do any good, then she ran her finger down his throat. When she looked her finger was very bloody. She didn't know whether he was dead or not as he was breathing so slowly. By this time neighbors had come in. Somebody went for the doctor to find that the one doctor of the village was out of town for the night. For some reason the only way that anybody could get from Weldon that night was to walk the railroad bridge across Roanoke river. But after hours of anxious waiting, the doctor came from Weldon. He said had Mama not pushed the candy down just at the minute she did Henry would have died. It seems bad luck and good luck were against Henry while in Garysburg. Another time he made a misstep from the hall door to back porch. He fell, had several spasms before the doctor could get there.

We looked forward to going to Newton each summer. This was Mama's old home. It took all day and part of the night to make the trip. One time when we were starting back, when we got to the station in Newton they told us the train was two hours late. Mama insisted that her brother and sister (who had brought us the six miles from out in the country) go back home. Finally they went. Henry was teething and was very fretful. During the meantime another train had come in and some people were waiting for still another train. A strange woman appeared to feel sorry for Mama, so she asked her to let her hold the baby. This she did. The strange woman walked around in the waiting room, finally slipped out. In about 10 minutes a man said "Lady you had better see about your baby. That woman is gypsy and will steal your baby." Everybody in the waiting room made a jump for the outside. The woman and the baby were just turning out of sight. But it didn't take but a minute for Mama to get the baby back. Later we found that this man and woman were gypsies and had been fussing. This was the reason he told on her. The woman was headed for the railroad junction and probably thought she would be able to get on the train there.

I think I had two, of the greatest frights I ever had in Garysburg. One Wednesday night Papa had gone to prayer meeting. There was an outside chimney to the room we sat in and right in the corner by the chimney and window was a big fig bush. On this Wednesday night all at once the limbs of this bush began to scrape down on the window. It would make about six strokes, then stop a few minutes, then start up again. After minutes that seemed hours passed Papa came home. He lighted the lantern, went out to see what he could find. Not a thing seemed to be upset. The next morning by day light the children were up ready to go out and see what they could find. And we found a string tied to the fig bush. Some mean boys (we learned later) were some distance away and would pull the string and make the bush rub on the window.

The next fright we had was when we went with the colored girl to pick blackberries. There was an old haunted house with a big orchard on each side and the back. We thought we would take a short cut so we went through this yard by the front door. Just as we got in front of the front porch a big white something and a big white dog came out on the porch. By the time we got to the side porch a big black something and a big black dog came out on this porch. We found out later that somebody had been stealing the fruit from the orchard so the owners had hired somebody to stay there and scare the people who came around.

If any girl ever enjoyed playing paper dolls I did. The girl who lived next door and I cut every woman's picture out that we came across in any paper or magazine. One of our neighbors had just married for the second time and of all the loving I have ever seen then or since that was the most loving. They would sit out in the swing and court just as if they were about sixteen. This playmate and I had lots of fun trying to imitate them with our paper dolls. From Garysburg we moved to Clayton.

## Chapter V

I was eight years old when we moved to Clayton. When we left Garysburg Mama, Marvin, Ralph, Henry and I went on the train. Papa and Clyde drove a horse. It took them several days to make the trip. It was at the old drug store building that I first went to school. What I had learned before had been from Marvin and Clyde, and what Mama had taught me. I well remember standing on one side of Miss Nannie Leach and Warren McCullers (her nephew) on the other side while we had our reading lesson, using Holmes' fourth reader. The new school building was soon completed and we moved into that.

The first winter we were in Clayton Mama and all five children were in bed at one time with measles. Papa finally found an old colored woman, Aunt Mary, who lived in the country. She came to stay with us. (She finally moved her family to Clayton.) Aunt Mary proved to be a real true friend to all of us children. She never seemed to tire when there was anything to do for us. She enjoyed making waffles for our breakfast, the waffle irons were heavy iron ones and you used them on a wood stove. She would bring them to the table to us just as fast as we could eat them. The more we ate the better she liked it. I remember how much Aunt Mary would enjoy coming into the dining room each morning when Papa would call her to come in for our family prayer. She was really one of us. The first girl friend I made was Mildred Barbour (now Mrs. Pape). We were really friends. Often I would go to spend the night with Mildred, I would have a big time until time to go to bed. Then I would tune up and cry. Mr. Barbour would have to take me home.

After we had been living here a few months, one Saturday afternoon Mama had just finished bathing the last of the five children. She laid the soap (which was on a saucer) on the mantle. One of the leading sisters of the church came in. She said, "Well, sister Fisher, I have never seen soap put on the mantle. I don't think that is the place for it." I don't know what Mama told her, but after I was older I always thought about this when I would see this person. There was an apple tree at the kitchen window. The apples were few that ever ripened on this tree. Because we would slip salt and eat them a long time before they were due to ripen.

Sunday afternoon the parsonage was the gathering place for children, as we were not allowed to run around 'specially on Sunday. I can see Mama now sitting on the front porch, children all around her and on the steps and she reading Bible story books to us. There was a back bed room that we were allowed to play in on bad days. We looked forward to these days. We would catch a cat, and dress him up in a paper bag, legs and all, then tie something to the cat's tail and let him go. This was real fun. Clayton was where Marvin and Clyde worked out their first money. They picked blackberries, selling them for two cents a quart. Later they worked at the cotton mill making 50 cents a day.

The second year we were in Clayton a little baby boy was born in the parsonage but he lived only about an hour. The last year we lived in Clayton, Marvin had fever, which left him in a very weakened condition. Whenever we had company and needed to borrow anything we always borrowed from our neighbor "Miss Kate." On one occasion Mama borrowed some water glasses. She told us children not to say anything about the glasses being borrowed. Mama always tried to make room for us to eat at the table when we had a visiting preacher for meals. That day during the meal Henry said "Mama are these Miss Kate's glasses"? Another time we had borrowed some cups - Mama put them on the table that had a drop leaf. Henry crawled under the table pulled the drop leaf to see how it worked and down came cups and all.

About a year before we moved from Clayton, Edgar, the last of the Fisher babies, was born. The first tooth I ever had pulled was pulled on a Sunday in Clayton. At that time there was no dentist in Clayton so the medical doctor pulled teeth in cases of emergency. Doctor Young came right after dinner to pull my tooth. Ralph was delighted, he said he was going to be a doctor like Dr. Young so he was going to see him pull my tooth. Of course, I didn't want him to watch the ordeal. Mama had him to go out of the room. Just as they had me stretched back in a chair, and Doctor Young ready to pull the tooth, Ralph slipped back in and took his seat right at my feet. I was so mad I almost forgot what was happening.



One of the red letter days for us in Clayton was when a photographer came to town. And we managed to have the five Fisher children's picture taken all together. During our stay in Clayton I was just at the first stage of loving. The Surles boys, Walter and Sexton, came to live at their grandmother's. They could stand on their back porch and we could stand on Mildred's back porch and wave at each other. We even had a whistle that we would whistle to call the other one out on the porch. I have often wondered what ever became of these boys.

I have heard that it was dangerous to eat too many bananas. But I can vouch for the untruthfulness of that statement. Ever time Papa went to annual Conference he would bring back a whole bunch of bananas. We were allowed to eat when, and as many as we wanted. I will never forget our neighbor "Miss Kate." Miss Kate's husband was a great lover of fish and so was I. So about once a week Miss Kate would call me to come eat supper. And were those fish good. I have never eaten any as good since. Another great time for us was every Saturday when we marched down to the store in the post office building with our one penny to buy candy. I will never forget that candy. They just don't make it any more. (A small portion of her story is missing at this point.)

## Chapter VI

We had just lived in Durham (serving Duke's Chapel) two weeks when Marvin was taken sick with pneumonia and in two weeks died. I don't think Papa and Mama ever quite got over this great bereavement. Marvin was not quite 14 and he seemed to have such a bright future ahead. Our first school experience in Durham was in Morehead School. I still don't know how but Ralph skipped the third grade and went to the fourth. I was determined not to be in his grade so I went in the fifth grade. Since I was not prepared, I had a hard time. The reading was the only thing I could do. We had not been to a graded school before and we were not prepared.

In the summer after going to Durham, Mildred came to visit us. As she had never traveled extensively Mr. Barbour came with her on the train and he was going back on the next train. He had time to eat dinner. We always had extra things to eat when we had company. That day at the dinner table Mama said "Mr. Barbour will you have bacon with your beans?" Immediately Henry said "Mildred, what do you call fat back at your house?" Mr. Barbour never forgot this incident. Every summer we looked forward to Mildred's visit. But about the most enjoyable visit was the first summer we had our piano. It seemed to me that Mildred had taken music all her life and I thought could play any music put before her. So she and I marched down to the Murray Music Store and bought sheet music as long as our money lasted. Some of the pieces were, Daisies Won't Tell, Let Me Call You Sweetheart, Oh, you Beautiful Doll, Red Wing, and Just For a Girl.

The fall after we bought the piano Ralph and I started our music career at the Durham Conservatory of Music. Ralph's musical career ended after he learned to play "Bringing In The Sheaves." With some extra notes in the chorus - Ralph felt that he was an accomplished musician. One good thing about being a member of a preacher's family, we always had good neighbors. Our next door neighbors in Durham were the Tingens. And good neighbors they were. Mr. Tingen worked in the city market. It didn't take very long for me to let them know I was a great fish lover. So every week they would call me over to eat fish. That was the best mackerel fish ever cooked. One Saturday night we had company and we had fried ham. Of course, all the ham was eaten. The next morning we were finishing up the gravy for breakfast when Mabel Tingen came in. She stood and watched us eat, finally she said, "How can you get ham gravy without any ham?"

The Fisher children always looked forward to August. For it was then that Mama would take all five of us and start on a day's journey to her old home, Newton, N. C. The train left Durham at nine o'clock a.m. and if we just happened to make train connections in Greensboro and Salisbury we were due to reach Newton about five o'clock. But more times than otherwise we would miss connection and have to wait some times for hours for another train. I remember one time in Greensboro we were going

to have to wait until two o'clock in the morning for a train. Such a thing as going to a hotel was not to be considered. For whoever heard of a Methodist preacher's folks having that much money. Since the waiting room was not crowded, I think each little Fisher had a long bench to sleep on, while Mama sat and kept vigil over her little flock.

I can see the Fisher tribe right now as they boarded the train on these occasions. If I weren't one of the first to be on, I was afraid I was going to be left, and I am still about that bad. There is still a great thrill when you ride a train. As we would enter that coach, I guess the conductor would feel sorry for us, so he would turn two seats together so we were placed, the three largest on one seat, and Mama and the other two on the seat with her. The news boy would come through the train with baskets of fruit to sell. All we could do was to look and wish. Sometimes there would be a good Samaritan on the train who would feel sorry for us, that he would buy some fruit for us. We would usually get back home easier than we made the trip as Papa would go up to Newton and spend the last of the three weeks and help Mama back with us.

If any group of children ever had a good time we did those weeks we spent on the red hills in Catawba County. Grandpa's house was a big eight room two story house. The yard or grove was filled with trees. These trees had large roots. It was around these roots that the children in the thickly settled neighborhood would gather daily for three weeks. Most of us were cousins and we had many fusses, but because the Fishers were visitors and from the city we usually had our way. My poor old Grandmother was an invalid for seven years. How she did enjoy sitting in her rolling chair watching us play. No matter how hard we played nor how tired we were at night there were two things we had to do. We had to wash our feet and then go in the bed room for family prayer. Mama would read a chapter from the Bible, and I mean Chapter, then we got on our knees and Grandpa would pray until sometimes it seemed the roof of the house was just opening up. Many times all of us children would be fast asleep when he finished.

When Edgar was just four years old he answered the call to preach. He would take a song book, a Bible and go around in the neighborhood preaching. His favorite speech was you ought to be good, you ought to go to church. One day he ventured a little bit too far and got into the home of some folks who were not church folks. He came home crying and heart broken. He said these folks told him to go home that he didn't know any more about preaching than a rat. This incident did not stop him, he just didn't go back to this home. We were told later that these folks thought Papa and Mama had sent him to their house as they were not church folks. It was in Durham that Henry had another accident. One Saturday afternoon he was two doors from our house swinging in a double wooden swing on the porch. Somebody pushed him out of the swing, hitting his head against the railing on the porch. He cut a gash about three inches in his head. You could see his skull, he was brought home, the blood streaming. The doctor got there in just a few minutes. I never did like that doctor because he sewed up Henry's head without deadening it. I went out in a corn field back of the house and cried while the doctor sewed up Henry's head.

It was in Durham that Edgar got his first and only whipping. He had been a little sick. We were on the front porch. Edgar wanted some water so Mama told one of the other children to go get him some water. When the water was brought Edgar would not drink it because Mama didn't go get it. But after Mama finished doctoring him he was glad to drink it. The fall I was in the 8th grad, I had malaria fever. I was out of school for nearly three months. But with good tutoring at home I made my work up and passed. The first automobile I saw was while we were living in Durham. I had gone with Papa, driving a horse and buggy out to Fletcher's Chapel Church to a big all day meeting. The Angiers and Miss Lily Duke were there in one of the first cars ever had in Durham. They asked me to ride back with them. I did and was so frightened I am surprised that I am here today to tell the story. The Toms family lived near us. On Sunday afternoon the younger Fisher children and the Toms children would go up on the Trinity Campus and walk around. There was a store just about half a block from us on Main Street. One day Henry had a penny to spend and wanted to go to the store. Mama told him he couldn't go so he watched his chance. He had a big hole in the seat of his pants. He was seen running to the store holding his hand over the hole in his pants.

One of the exciting times in Durham was when Mrs. McCullers came from Clayton to visit us. Her hands were loaded down with diamonds. When she left, Papa carried her down to the station. Soon after they reached the station, Mrs. Cullers missed her largest diamond. She phoned back to Mama that she knew it was either on the dresser in the room she had occupied or else she shook it off out doors when she shook the table cloth. All of us looked but no ring. We 'phoned to her at the station that we couldn't find it. Mama told her maybe it slipped off in her suit case as she was packing. She said, "No, she knew it was at the parsonage somewhere." The next day Mama had a letter saying it was found in the suit case. Mama wrote her at once that she was glad it was found, that she enjoyed her visit, but the next time she visited her to please leave her diamonds at home.

I guess you would say I had my first date in Durham. I went to a reception at Trinity Park School with Warren McCullers. At this reception it happened that the one I married many years later was present. He says he remembers seeing me and he asked Hugh Page next day who that ugly girl was he was talking to. (But I don't believe it.) When we left Durham Clyde was a Junior at Trinity College. Clyde had worked hard in high school and college making high grades. I remember on one occasion he was to represent the Hesperian Literary Society in an intercollegiate debate held at Trinity. The day before he was to debate he stuck a rusty nail nearly through his foot. Papa carried him down to a doctor's office and had it burned out with an electric needle. That night Clyde came out on the stage using crutches. When the decision was rendered by the judges Trinity had won.

All four of the Fisher boys were big debaters in college. I think one reason for this was that they could let loose and talk all they wanted to. For all our lives while we were children we were taught that children were to be seen and not heard. Too, we were taught that the preacher's children must set the example for other children. I remember slipping with some other girls and going to, I guess, the first vaudeville that ever came to Durham. My parents never did find out about this. Had they, I would have not only been disgraced but would have brought disgrace to the whole family.

The parsonage in Durham was a two story house. This was the first parsonage we had lived in that had electric lights. We felt like we were really getting into society. But we didn't feel quite so rich when we would have a hard rain. For we had to rush around, get all the pans to scatter over the house to catch the water. The kitchen was built on shed room and we would have to move out of this room for the time being. One day Henry and some boys went down about Dukes Pond and got some rabbit tobacco and smoked it. Then they told Henry the policeman was going to get him. He ran all the way home and hid somewhere. I don't think he ever told where. But we were beginning to think we were going to have to get the policeman to help find him.

## Chapter VII

From Durham we went to Cary. During our four years here many things happened, of great importance, such as when I graduated from high school and the next year Ralph graduated. It was here that Edgar began his intellectual quest. We had a high school teacher who was very small of statue but loud otherwise. One day during civil government class they were discussing the expenses of the President. Ralph said "Mr. Bivens, don't you think the time will come when the President will travel by airplane?" This question happened to strike Mr. Bivens wrong. He sent Ralph to Mr. Dry's office for disrespect. Ralph didn't stop at the office but passed by and went home. This was the only time I ever knew Mama to side against the teacher. That afternoon as Mr. Bivens passed the house Mama stopped him and they had a pleasant conference. In passing through Mr. Bivens' home town years ago I stopped and tried to locate him. I wanted to see if he remembered this incident. And if he still thought the question was foolish.

### No Horse Back Rider

I think Papa and Mama both were disappointed that I never would ride horse back. Papa had traveled for years from one church to the other on his horse with saddle bags to carry his sermons. (These saddle bags are now at Duke University). Mama had ridden horse back, when a young woman

to school and later when she was teaching school. So they thought it should have been born in me to want to ride. I remember a new horse we had in Cary. She was young and wild. One afternoon a girl friend, Fanny Bonner, got on the horse, named Mary, to ride around the block. In a few minutes the horse came back to the gate but no Fanny. She had been thrown off and in a few minutes she came walking in. After we moved to Cary I started to making an annual visit to see Mildred in Clayton. One time she wrote me to hurry and come on that a new druggist had moved to town who had a boy named Joe. When I finally got there all the girls were after him, but since I was a visitor, I got him for a while. After I got home and he wrote me and sent me a penny picture of himself, I knew I had him for good. But it wasn't long before he was a thing of the past.

It was during one of the summers in Cary that Henry, Edgar and I went to Newton. One of the boys and I were to remain for three weeks, the other boy coming home at the end of one week to help Mama with the work. Before we left Henry said he would be glad to come home, a week was enough for him in the country. But when the time came for him to come home, he went up stairs and hid under a bed. When we found him he said he wasn't coming home. So poor Edgar had to come. But during that week we had one big time. It happened to be revival week at Friendship Church. We went every night. It turned out that the three Fishers had charge of the music. I played, Henry and Edgar sang. At the end of the week, very much to my surprise, the Church presented me a gift of money in appreciation for my playing the organ. It was this same summer that Henry had his first pair of long trousers. One Saturday morning when we got back from town (we always went to town on Saturday morning) we found they were robbing the bee hives. The well on the porch had been cleaned out that week and there was plenty of red mud between the porch and the bee gums. I told Henry to go change his clothes before he watched them working with the bees, but no, he knew better than I, so out he went to the bee gums. No sooner had he gotten there than a bee popped him right in the face and a hundred more followed. He turned and ran for the house, striking the red mud. He slipped and fell his whole length right in that red mud. It was funny in a way, but made me mad too. I knew who had to clean those pants. But with the help of my Aunt we got them presentable after about a week's work.

### **Long Walk**

One Sunday night after church Ralph and some other boys decided they would go for a walk. They started toward Apex. After walking about half way there, Ralph realized it was getting late and tried to get the boys to turn back for home. They said, no they were going on to Apex and catch a two o'clock freight train home. Ralph knew this would never do. He turned to come back home all alone. I don't suppose he even thought God was with him that night. There were several haunted houses to pass and a dog at every farm house. And it eleven o'clock. But he knew it had to be done, so he turned back to begin walking almost in a trot whistling as loud as he could. He didn't realize the dogs would think he was whistling to them. So the dogs started to barking louder than he was whistling and Ralph's trot turned into a fast run. I have no idea he has ever been as frightened since. He reached home about twelve o'clock just as Papa was leaving the house, to go search for his lost son, but not his prodigal son. I don't think Ralph ever went for another walk after Church. But Henry had his first date one Sunday night after Church. He went home with Mabel Adams, who lived across the railroad. There was a carnival in town at this time and they were camped down by the railroad. Many gypsies were there. Ten o'clock came, ten thirty, then eleven and no Henry. Papa got out his lantern and started for the Adams house. He met Henry at the railroad. I think Henry was gladder to see Papa than he was embarrassed over the situation.

It was Henry's job to milk and look after the cow. So he was interested in any cow story. One night a preacher was spending the night with us. The preacher said he was going to tell a story about a cow that was the real truth. That if he didn't know it to be the truth he would not repeat it. Henry listened, taking in every word. When the preacher finished, before anybody could say a word, Henry said, "I don't believe a word of it." Were my parents embarrassed. But that was and is just true of human nature. Not only a child but an adult does not want their pets to be out done by others. It was not until after we moved from Cary that Mama got up courage enough to kill a chicken. She thought the boys were large enough to kill them. So one Saturday they took the old hen to the chopping block, one

boy held the chicken, the other chopped down just to strike the feathers on the old hen's neck. The hen jumped and ran for safety under the house and fell into an old open well. She was safe so far as the Fisher's Sunday dinner was concerned for we had to eat fat back instead of chicken.

On another Sunday night we had company. We had two chickens for supper. The backs were left. A preacher passing through town on Monday stopped for dinner. Mama hurriedly killed another chicken to add to the backs already cooked. At the dinner table Henry said, "Mama how many backs does one chicken have?" This was funny to that preacher. I don't think it is stylish now for a man to consult his wife about very many things. But it was the style with Papa. One day our old wash woman said, "Mrs. Fisher, you got the best husband I ever seed. He consoles you about everything."

It was a red letter day in 1911 that I graduated from Cary High School. The same year Clyde graduated at Trinity. But at that time I knew much more than Clyde. I was seventeen. I was too young to go off to college that fall, so for the next school year I went from home on the train once a week to the Durham Conservatory of Music. This was fun. The next year, fall of 1912, I went to what was then Greensboro Female College. Now G. C. W. (Greensboro College for Women, currently UNC at Greensboro). I was still taking music and here I had Mr. Claude Robertson as my teacher. The girls used to tease me and say they could tell when I was to have a music lesson, that I always put on a clean dress. He was a wonderful teacher. At G. F. C. I roomed with Mildred. She was senior that year in music. I studied hard that fall for I wanted to make a good impression. But I was so home sick it was hard to concentrate. Sometime in the fall I had yellow jaundice and had to go home for two weeks. I was willing to be sick to get to go home.

It was a great shock one day as I started in the dining room to dinner. I stopped to look at the list of the honor roll posted on the bulletin board and there I saw the name of Alma Love Fisher. At first I wondered if there was a day student by that name. I still don't know how it happened. During this time Ralph had finished High School at the age of 14. Because of his youth and lack of finances he went from home each day to Kings Business School in Raleigh and took typing and shorthand. Then he got a job for a while in Mebane. He soon found a better job and went to work for Mr. John Andrews in a railroad office in Raleigh. It wasn't long before he was transferred to Norfolk. Here he followed his life's training and went to Sunday School and Preaching the first Sunday he was in this big city. I don't know why but they gave him a Sunday School Class of boys. That fall he entered Trinity College. Here he worked day and night, always taking an active part in society work.

## Chapter VIII

From Cary we went to Gatesville. This was the county seat of Gates County. Since it was located on the Virginia line we had lots of marriages at the parsonage from Virginia. Some of them were runaways. One couple had just left the house when the father of the bride came to the house looking for her. But it was too late. I was at home most of the time we were in Gatesville as I had suffered a nervous attack and the doctor advised me to leave school. But I put in four good years courting the same man, then didn't get him. Right after I moved a Baptist preacher's daughter came along and got him. I have never had as much chocolate candy in all the rest of my life as this one person gave me. That was the only redeeming feature he had according to my brother's testimony.

Henry had gotten old enough now to play Santa Claus for Edgar. I remember just before Christmas one year he hid the things under the Church steps. Next day Edgar told him that some boys at school had told him all about Santa Claus. That took all the joy out of Christmas for Henry. He was one mad brother because somebody had made Edgar so wise. I really enjoyed living in Gatesville. Soon after going there I met Sallie Hudgins who lived out near Mt. Zion Church. I used to visit her a lot. Her father had a country store in the corner of the yard and this was a gathering place for the young men on Saturday night so we got all the country gossip. Henry graduated from the Gatesville High School.

## Chapter IX

From Gatesville we moved to Zebulon. I will never forget that move. It was in the winter of 1917. The snow was deep and it was a cold night. The train got there about seven o'clock. Dr. Coltrane met us and carried us to his house for supper. Papa and Edgar went to the parsonage that night and Mama and I spent the night at the Coltranes. Next day Ralph and Henry came home from Duke for Christmas holidays. Our freight didn't get there for two weeks. If it hadn't been for good neighbors we would have frozen.

Several interesting things happened in Zebulon. Early one spring some folks came around wanting to sell a wonderful, cheap pipe organ. Some of the ladies of the Aid Society bargained to buy it, but before they sent the organ the ladies wrote and canceled the order. But just the same one day Papa looked out toward the Church and there was a truck with the organ. Papa told them not to put it in the Church but they didn't pay him any mind. So Papa went across the street and got Mr. Tom Horton, one of the trustees of the church. Mr. Horton told them not to put it in the church so they stored it under the church. Years later it was used for kindling wood.

Another time Mama happened to be on the porch and saw a fire under the middle of the church. Papa hurried to put it out, finding two children under there with fire. One of the most exciting things happening in Zebulon was during the last night of a revival meeting. A member of the Klu Klux Klan marched down the aisle robed in his robe and handed the visiting preacher a purse. It was in Zebulon that Edgar graduated from high school. After moving to Zebulon I decided that I would teach for a while. So the summer of 1918 I went to Greenville to summer school. The fall of 1918 I began teaching at Wakelon School, Zebulon. In the summer of 1919 two other teachers and I went to Columbia University, New York, and did we have a big time. I taught for another year at Wakelon, then went to Carthage and taught one year. The next fall I married.

This closed the twenty-eight years of my life in a Methodist Parsonage.

## WILLIAM LAWRENCE LOY

1889 - 1961

William Lawrence Loy was born August 5, 1889, in Chatham County, Snow Camp, North Carolina. He was the son of William H. Loy and Sallie Jane Loy. He attended Whitsett Institute where he finished high school in 1912 and continued his education by entering Trinity College in the fall of that year where he graduated with an A.B. degree in 1916. Brother Loy joined the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church in 1916 at Durham, N. C., and was ordained deacon in 1918 and elder in 1920. Not being satisfied with his education he later entered Vanderbilt University where he received further training and his M.A. and B.D. degrees in 1925. Lawrence was twice married. First to Miss Margaret Long of Alamance County and second to Miss Anne Bullard of Rowland, North Carolina. To his first marriage two children were born: Vance Loy of Florence, S. C., and Lynn Loy of Laurinburg, N. C.

Brother Loy served the following charges in the North Carolina Conference: Periquimans circuit, Tar River, Zebulon, Brooksdale, West End, Creedmoor, Mount Olive-Calypto, Enfield-Whitakers, Bailey, Chadbourn, Rowland, Lillington, and Granville circuit, from which he retired 1956. After his retirement he served Macedonia, as retired supply, for two years, after which he moved to his new home in Rowland, N. C. My acquaintance with Lawrence Loy extends over a long period. We were together in Trinity College graduating in the same class. Then for over forty years we were associated together in the North Carolina Conference.

Lawrence Loy was a true friend and a good helper in the Lord's work. We were together in several revivals and I shall never forget some of the experiences we had in prayer. Lawrence firmly believed in prayer. He practiced it in public and in private. He testified to me that one morning while he was lying in bed praying that he felt as if an unseen hand was lifting him bodily from the bed towards heaven. The choir sang at his funeral "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," and no more appropriate hymn could have been sung, for all through his illness he kept faith with God that what ever was best for him would be done. The depth of his faith was expressed through the reality of his worship.

Brother Loy was a true minister of Jesus Christ. His sermons were full of love of God and for his fellow man. He preached Jesus as the only source to which a sinner can go for pardon from sin. He believed in the divinity of Christ as stated in the Creed. Many people were brought into the church by his ministry, for, like Andrew, he would seek them out and introduce them to Jesus. Brother Loy was a good pastor. He visited in the homes of the people and won many to Christ by coming in contact with them in their homes. He loved The Methodist Church and worked hard for her success, giving her forty-two years of his life. One outstanding thing comes with his closing ministry in that he was instrumental in purchasing a beautiful lot on which the new Macedonia Church is now being erected.

Lawrence and Anne moved to their home in Rowland in July 1958, where they lived happily until June 30, 1961, when the Lord reached down with a tender hand and lifted him to his new home. His funeral was conducted in the Rowland Methodist Church, Sunday, July 2, 11 a.m. The following ministers were in charge: Rev. J. H. Parrish, assisted by Dr. A. J. Hobbs and Rev. W. G. Farrar. Lawrence is survived by his widow, Mrs. Anne Loy, two sons, Vance Loy of Florence, S. C., and Lynn Loy of Laurinburg, N. C.; five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Brother Loy was buried in Alamance County where he will await the last trumpet. He now rests in peace for which he spent a lifetime in seeking. I think the writer of this hymn has summed up the life of Lawrence Loy:

My times are in Thy hand:  
My God, I wish them there-  
My life, my friends, my soul  
I leave entirely to Thy care.

My times are in Thy hand  
Whatever they may be;  
Pleasing or painful, dark or bright,  
As best may seem to Thee.

My times are in Thy hand;  
Why should I doubt or fear?  
My Father's hand will never cause  
His child a needless tear.

My times are in Thy hand;  
I'll always trust in Thee;  
And, after death, at Thy right hand  
I shall forever be. Amen.

W. G. FARRAR

### **MRS. MARGARET LOY**

(The Zebulon Record, April 13, 1953)

Mrs. Margaret Long Loy, wife of the Rev. William Lawrence Loy, pastor of the Lillington Methodist Church, died at her home in Lillington Wednesday afternoon. Funeral services will be held this morning at 10 o'clock from the Lillington Methodist Church, with Dr. A. J. Hobbs of Goldsboro and the Rev. H. B. Baum of Kipling officiating. Mrs. Loy is remembered well by Zebulon residents, for her husband was pastor of the Zebulon Methodist Church for some time.

### **EDGAR MILTON HALL**

1872 - 1961

Edgar Milton Hall was born May 20, 1872, in Fairmont, West Virginia. He was the son of Ashbel G. Hall and Mattie Williamson Hall. His mother died when he was quite young. His father remarried. His stepmother was a staunch Methodist and his father a devout Presbyterian. As a young man he was very active in the Epworth League in Fairmont Methodist Church. During revival services he did counseling work with those who came forward to make decisions for Christ.

He attended high school in Fairmont and was a student at West Virginia State Normal School. He graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College at Buchanan West Virginia, in 1899. He attended Allegheny College at Meadville, Pennsylvania, where he met Ella Belinda Lovell, whom he married on June 21, 1905. His father's serious illness required him to withdraw from Allegheny College to assume the responsibility of his father's business. Upon the death of his father, he enrolled in the International YMCA College at Springfield, Massachusetts. After graduation he was assigned as General Secretary of the YMCA in Newport News, Virginia. In 1911 he was transferred to Raleigh, North Carolina, as the first General Secretary of the newly organized Raleigh YMCA.

While serving the YMCA post he was teacher of the Norman Bible Class of Edenton Street Methodist Church. He joined the North Carolina Conference of The Methodist Church in November, 1918. Pastorates served included Benson, Zebulon, Raleigh (Epworth), Lillington, Southport, Kenly, Grifton, and Cary. He retired from the active work in 1944, and made his home at 415 Morrison Avenue, in Raleigh. Brother Hall continued to serve the church even in retirement. When Dr. Howard P. Powell was seriously hurt in an automobile accident shortly after coming as pastor of Edenton Street Methodist Church, Brother Hall assumed many of the pastoral duties, visiting the sick, filling the pulpit, and conducting the Wednesday evening prayer services. In 1947, Brother Hall was appointed Chaplain of the Senate of the General Assembly of North Carolina.



He was a Scottish Rite Mason, 32nd degree, and a member of Hiram Lodge Number 40, A.F. & A.M. In 1929 he was Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. In 1949 he suffered a stroke, from which he recovered quite well. He was somewhat a shut-in until he passed away on November 23, 1961. He bore his confinement with superb cheerfulness and good humor, always thanking God for the many blessings he enjoyed.

Brother Hall is survived by his wife, Ella L. Hall, and two sons, Dr. John L. Hall, a chemist at North Carolina State College, and Dr. Edgar M. Hall, Jr., a physician in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Funeral services were held on Saturday, November 25, 1961. The officiating ministers were Dr. Howard P. Powell, the Rev. Ernest C. Durham, and the Rev. Graham S. Eubank, district superintendent of the Raleigh District. Burial was in Montlawn, with Masonic Rites.

O may we, too, as cheerful be  
And calm and patient as was he!  
And if we suffer many years,  
O grant us, Lord, more smiles than tears!  
— E. C. DURHAM

## EDWARD HILL DAVIS

1860-1953

By Forrest D. Hedden

On the morning of September 11, 1953, Miss Alberta Davis entered the sickroom of her father, the Reverend Edward Hill Davis at the historic Green Hill place near Louisburg, North Carolina. Brother Davis, then in his ninety-third year, beckoned her to his bedside. With that irresistible twinkle in his eye, but with weakened voice, he said, "I almost crossed over last night." Three days later, on September 14, the crossing was made, and one of North Carolina conference's most unique ministers took his place in its ever enlarging heavenly investment of Christian leaders.

Louisburg was the place of his birth on July 3, 1860, as a member of the family of Matthew S. and Louisa Hill Davis. His father was a prominent educator operating his own school for a time, and later president of Louisburg College. His mother was a relative of the outstanding Green Hill family, well known Methodist pioneers. Mr. Davis' early education came under his father's efficient leadership. Following graduation at Trinity College in 1880, now Duke University, he returned to Louisburg to teach in his father's private school. After a couple of years he entered the University of North Carolina Law School, returning to Louisburg to read law with the late Judge Charles Cooke. His license for practicing law was granted by the State Supreme Court on February 5, 1884, and he was administered the oath as practicing attorney at a session of the Superior Court in Wake County February 29 of the same year.

Mr. Davis opened his law office in Wilson, North Carolina. Though his practice of law was limited in time, yet his stay there was the beginning of a life-long friendship with the late Honorable Josephus Daniels. In 1891 Mr. Davis married Miss Mattie Dodameade. To them were born three daughters and two sons: Miss Alberta Davis of Louisburg, Miss Laura Davis, of Frankfort, Kentucky, Mrs. V. D. Sale of High Point, Mr. George Davis of Louisburg and the late Dr. Charles Davis, M.D., superintendent of a tuberculosis sanatorium in New York State until incapacitated by ill health. Survivors include three sisters of Warrenton, Mrs. Ivey Allen, Mrs. R. Z. Egerton, Miss Mabel Davis, and one brother of Louisburg, Mr. Marion Stuart Davis. In addition there are four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

At the time of graduation from college, Dr. Braxton Craven, president of Trinity, confronted Edward Hill Davis with the assertion that in due time he would enter the ministry. Mr. Davis earnestly denied that such should ever take place, stating that his call was to the study and practice of law. But

Dr. Craven knew his young graduate. As a member of Prospect Methodist Church, near Louisburg, he was recommended for local preacher's license, which was granted at District Conference held at Leah's Chapel near by. He entered the North Carolina Conference (then practically state-wide) in session at Reidsville, and was appointed to Leasburg Charge in December, 1886. Other appointments, all totalling forty-five years of service, included the following: High Point, Chapel Hill, Enfield, Littleton, Roper, Warrenton, Kinston, Presiding Elder New Bern District, Goldsboro, Rockingham, Roberdel and Midway, Jackson, Laurinburg, Clinton, Franklinton and Zebulon.

Following his retirement in 1931, Mr. Davis returned to Louisburg where he purchased the Green Hill place, keeping it in the same family connection since its beginning. His deeply spiritual life and love for his Christ and The Methodist Church, has added a new hallowedness to the Green Hill home, already rich in Methodist tradition and history. Nor did retirement mean inactivity. Since that date he taught two years at Louisburg College, was the teacher of the Men's Bible Class in the Louisburg Methodist Church until prohibited by failing health, and carried on as in previous years as one deeply concerned about the transformation of men. On the highway between Louisburg and Bunn is a beautiful brick church, the Hill-King Memorial Church, formerly Prospect, the construction of which was largely due to the devotion and untiring efforts of this servant who must work until the last moments of a long life.

His ministry was marked by an unselfish giving of himself. One letter found in his files indicated his concern for a mother, Mrs. Mizanski, and her son in Chicago. He had discovered her need through some news magazine and had mailed her a check through the medium of Sears Roebuck and Company. The mother and representative of this company wrote letters of appreciation. An excerpt from the letter reads, "Your act is certainly a very kindly one, and we were most happy to be a party in passing your generous gift along to this unfortunate mother and boy."

Outstanding as an example of his sacrificial living was his decision to go from the First Methodist Church in Rockingham, December, 1913, after four successful years, to a mill community in the same city where a church did not exist. In doing this he left the best paying church in his district for a totally uncertain income which actually amounted to \$575, or \$1,425 less than he had received the previous year. A letter has been preserved which he received from Mrs. Davis while he was at conference. In it she expressed her support in whatever step he took. After serving one year he writes in his diary, "I could have preferred remaining at Rockingham and doing the work I had striven to do, but increasing weakness and nervousness compelled me on the insistent advice of Dr. Garrett and others, to ask for a change. I do not believe my brethren can ever accuse me of taking a high or easy place in my Master's service." He adds this poem which is descriptive of his dedication:

Have ye sought for sheep in the desert,  
For those who have lost their way,  
Have you gone in the wild waste places  
Where the lost and desolate stray,  
Have ye trodden the lonely highway -  
The dark and noisome street?  
It may be ye have seen in the gloaming  
The print of my wounded feet.

He was always in touch with both worlds. On July 2, the day before his ninety-third birthday, he mentioned with keen anticipation his readiness and willingness to go to his next and greatest appointment. But in a few moments he was back in the world of today where had met the challenges of life so nobly. One could say with unchallenged truth on the day of his departure, September 14, 1953, "truly God has walked into the world in the life of a great and good man."

(From obituary in The Zebulon Record Sept. 13, 1953)

The Rev. Edward Hill Davis, 93, died at Green Hill Place in Louisburg, his home for the last 20 years, Monday morning. He was a retired Methodist minister, and was the author of "historical sketches of Franklin County," published a few years ago. His father was a well-known North Carolina educator and was a president of Louisburg College. Rev. Mr. Davis graduated from Trinity College, now Duke University, in 1880. He studied law at the State University at Chapel Hill and for a time was associated with Judge Charles Cooke in Louisburg.

Mr. Davis entered the Methodist ministry in 1886. He held a number of prominent pastorates in the State, among them being High Point, Rockingham, Goldsboro, and a number of other churches. His last pastorate was the Wendell-Zebulon field. He was one of the best preachers ever to serve the local church. He was very popular with all classes of people. He was one of the best informed men in his church, not only on his own denominational affairs, but of other religious bodies and beliefs. His knowledge of public affairs was much above the average. He was a well-informed student of history. Funeral services were held at Louisburg Methodist Church on Tuesday at 3:30 p.m., with the Rev. Forrest Hedden, a former pastor, and the Rev. E. R. Clegg, pastor in charge. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery.

## **NEILL BECKWITH JOHNSON**

By A. J. Hobbs

"The contemplation of celestial things will make a man both speak and think more sublimely and magnificently when he descends to human affairs."

Here must have been some explanation for the thinking and the speaking of Neill Beckwith Johnson. His mind was pure. His heart was pure. His purposes were pure. Christ lived in him. And from the source that was so Christian came the words and the thoughts that made him a noble and effective pastor and friend. Brother Johnson was born at McCullers, Johnston County, North Carolina, April 26, 1887, the son of B. B. and Henrietta Jones Johnson. At the age of thirteen he became a member of the Church. He was loyal to his Master, and through the church he rendered a service which soon revealed an unusual concern for the souls of men. As Superintendent of his Sunday School, he was one of the mighty forces for righteousness in his home.

On May 8, 1909, he was married to Ritta Jane Blalock of Willow-Springs, North Carolina. A son and a daughter, Maynard and Josephine, came to bless this union. Although the foundation for Neill's ministry was laid in early life, he did not receive his call to preach until after the birth of his children. The call was gradual. When it came, there was no question about God's purpose for him. Prayer had done its work; the hand of God was upon him. Soon he became a student in Trinity College where he applied himself diligently in preparation for the ministry. At the Annual Conference in Goldsboro in 1918 Brother Johnson was admitted on trial. When the Conference met at Edenton Street Church, Raleigh, in 1922, he was ordained an elder. He served the following charges: Hatteras, Ellerbe, Fairmont, Biscoe, West End, Zebulon, Burgaw, Tabor City and Roseboro. He was a true pastor; his people trusted him and believed in him. He was always a bearer of the good news, and the warmth of his spirit and the fervency of his faith strengthened his parishioners. Injuries sustained in an automobile accident in February, 1939, weakened his body. For a time he continued his pastoral duties, but was forced to retire at the 1939 Conference. Immediately he moved to his little home at 1323 Courtland Drive, Raleigh, where he lived happily with his family. He slipped away on March 9, 1944. The funeral was conducted from the church of his boyhood, Mount Zion on the Garner Charge. There in the church cemetery he was laid to rest. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Ritta B. Johnson of Raleigh, a son, Maynard Johnson, of Sanford; a daughter, Lt. Josephine Johnson, now the Duke Hospital Unit in England; two brothers, D. C. and E. M. Johnson of Raleigh; and five sisters, Mrs. S. H. Blalock, of Varina, Mrs. V. H. Jordan of Smithfield, Mrs. Z. L. Coates of Willow Springs, and Mrs. F. E. Britt and Mrs. C. T. Hobby of Raleigh. Neill Johnson's religion was a challenge both to the members of his parish and to his friends in the ministerial ranks. We shall miss him!

"Death should come  
Gently to one of gentle mould, like thee,  
As light winds, wandering through groves of bloom,  
Detach the delicate blossoms from the tree,  
Close thy sweet eyes calmly, and without pain,  
And we will trust in God to see thee Yet again."

## CHARLES LEWIS READ

Rev. Charles Lewis Read was born November 15, 1869, at Palmer Springs, Virginia, and died on November 7, 1946, at Durham, North Carolina. He was the son of the late Lewis Henry Read and Sallie Wright Read, one of the old families of Virginia. Their home was near the North Carolina border. Union was the old home Church and its membership was composed of citizens of both states. Charles joined this church in his early teens and cherished strong attachments for it throughout his life. The lofty influences of his boyhood Church and home were ever interwoven in the delicate pattern of his life.

As a young minister he came into the North Carolina Conference where he rendered faithful service from December 1898 until his retirement in 1936. During his 37 years of active ministry he served the following charges: South Edgecombe Circuit 3 years; Edenton 2 years; Epworth, Raleigh, 2 years; Williamston-Hamilton 4 years; Murfreesboro-Winton 1 year; Aberdeen-Biscoe 2 years; First Church, Rocky Mount, 1 year; Washington District 4 years; Kinston 4 years; St. Paul's, Goldsboro 2 years; Rockingham District 4 years; Dunn 1 year; Tarboro, 1 year; Franklinton 3 years; and Zebulon - Wendell 3 years.

Reverend Charles Lewis Read and Mrs. Nan Goodson Howard were united in holy matrimony in 1922. To this union was born one daughter, Nancy. There were two step-daughters: Miss Mary Anna Howard of Memphis, Tennessee, and Mrs. W. M. Whitehurst of Wilson, N. C. Other than these surviving him are members of his family, three brothers, Mr. Horace P. Read, Mr. Fletcher Read, Mr. William. H. Read, and two sisters, Miss Helen Lewis Read of Palmer Springs, Virginia, and Mrs W. M. Kimball of Manson, North Carolina.

Brother Read was educated at Davis' Military Academy, LaGrange, North Carolina, and at Trinity College where he was a member of the class of 1901. Having joined the North Carolina Conference in 1898, and having concluded his education at Trinity College, he entered upon the duties of a devoted pastor in the several places mentioned above. His was a long period of service of thirty seven years with his retirement coming at the conference in New Bern, November 1936.

Brother Read was a man of quiet dignity, nobility of soul and purity of heart. He was a good shepherd of the flock as he went in and out among the homes of his people. He was an outstanding minister in the pulpit whose sermons were marked by an unusual insight into the Holy Scriptures. Out of the rich personal experience of the grace of God in his own heart he edified and strengthened all those who sat under his ministry. He now rests from his labors, but the good he accomplished, and the holy influences that he set in motion will go on until the end of time enriching and blessing humanity.

He was a devoted and affectionate husband, a wise and considerate father, a workman who need not be ashamed of his work. He was one of God's noblemen. His Godly life, unselfish service and rich Christian experience will be a constant benediction upon all of us who have known and loved him through the years. To his beloved widow and other loved ones, and to the North Carolina Conference, he has left a rich and noble legacy untarnished and inviolate.

## MRS. NAN GOODSON READ

1885 - 1965

"None knew thee but to love thee  
Nor named thee but to praise."

This beautiful and oft-quoted tribute from one poet to another was never more applicable than it would be to Mrs. Nan Goodson Read. In my more than sixty years of close acquaintance with her I have never heard anyone speak unkindly of her or criticize her unduly. She was a living example of what Wordsworth described as

"A perfect woman, nobly planned  
To warn, to comfort and command."

Mrs. Nan Goodson Read was born September 13, 1885, in Durham, North Carolina, the daughter of John William Goodson and Anna Walker Goodson. She graduated from Durham High School and Trinity College. She also received musical training at the Southern Conservatory of Music in Durham and Cornell University. She was first married to the Reverend Leslie Powell Howard of Mobile, Alabama, who served the church at Morehead City, Rocky Mount, and Duke Memorial, Durham. He died in 1914 while serving this last named charge. Surviving that union are two daughters, Miss Mary Ann Howard of Winston-Salem, and Mrs. Warren Whitehurst of Wilson.

On June 15, 1922, she was next married to the Reverend Charles Lewis Read who died on November 8, 1946. To this union was born one daughter, Mrs. W. V. Gupton of Rocky Mount, who survives. Mrs. Read is also survived by one brother, W. A. Goodson of Winston-Salem, and four grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Duke Memorial Church. The pastor, the Reverend R. W. Bradshaw, conducted the services, assisted by the Reverend Joseph F. Coble, superintendent of the Methodist Retirement Home, where Mrs. Read was living at the time of her death. Interment was in Maplewood Cemetery in Durham.

So runs the abbreviated story of the life of one of the most useful women ever to belong to the Methodist Church. Her ministry as mistress of the parsonage also included Queen Street, Kinston; St. Paul's, Goldsboro; Dunn; St. James, Tarboro; Franklinton; Zebulon, and four years in the district parsonage of the Rockingham District. In all of these positions she was immeasurably useful. She was organist, pianist, choir director, soloist, teacher, divisional superintendent in Sunday school work, official in the W.S.C.S., and held other positions also. In all these relationships she was unsurpassable in both the quality and quantity of service rendered.

In addition to her church work she taught in the public schools, served as civic and social leader, and held places of importance among the alumnae of her alma mater, Duke University. She served as both vice-president and president of the Alumnae Association. Mrs. Read was well read and widely travelled which made her an unusually charming and interesting conversationalist. She was so properly adjusted socially that she equally at home with the parents of the underprivileged children whom she taught the elite of prominent scholarly persons whom she helped entertain as hostess of University House at Duke. She reminds one of the statement concerning Kipling's "If:" "Walked with kings nor lost the common touch."

Of Mrs. Read, a close friend wrote: "She radiated joy and gladness and her spirit was ever shedding kindness - just as a flower is constantly bestowing fragrance on the air. Nan had depth of faith, breadth of experience, and height of accomplishment - the simplicity of her trust in God and her absolute faith in prayer was almost my Prayer was a natural part of her daily living." But the story is not yet told nor can it be adequately done. It is impossible to recapture her captivating smile, her encouraging tones, her optimistic outlook upon life, and persistent faith. It would be impossible to evaluate the quality of her life, to estimate her influence for good, to measure the help she furnished others, to state fully the force of her impact upon all who came in contact with her. Her's is the story of a devoted loved one, a happy homemaker, an exemplary mother, a faithful friend, a consecrated Christian, an example of goodness and godliness. We miss her but with James Whitcomb Riley:

"I cannot say and I will not say  
That she is dead - she is just away."

H. E. SPENCE

## JAMES WILLAM BRADLEY

1871 - 1961

James William Bradley, son of George Willis and Millie Ann Bradley, was born in McDowell County, North Carolina, November 24, 1871, and died March 28, 1961 after a long illness in the Glenwood Hills Nursing Home in Raleigh. Funeral services were conducted in the Hayes-Barton Methodist Church by Rev. Paul Carruth and Dr. W. L. Clegg. He was buried in Montlawn Memorial Park, Raleigh.

Brother Bradley grew up in the awareness that his mother gave him to the Lord before his birth, and during the eighteen years of his life before her death she instilled in her son the desire to become a minister of the gospel. To this high calling he devoted himself with complete dedication. His paternal home was rich in Christian ideals and character, but poor in material wealth. A boy giving his life to the Christian ministry must be educated. So without money he went away to Weaverville College from which he graduated; earning his way by working, mostly by teaching in small rural schools in the summer. His thoughts and interest went beyond himself to others. While at Weaverville he made it possible for a sister to attend one year. Later on in life he sent his own children through college: and during the years of his long and fruitful ministry he encouraged many worthy and promising young people of his churches to acquire an education. In 1899 Brother Bradley was admitted on trial into the Western North Carolina Conference where he served one charge, Bald Creek, before transferring to the North Carolina Conference. He was ordained Elder at Edenton Street Church, Raleigh, in 1904.

His ministry was characterized by the superb qualities of a good preacher of the gospel, a faithful and sympathetic pastor of his people, and careful attention to all the material obligations of his churches. He served the churches on the following pastoral charges in the North Carolina Conference: Troy, Rowland, Raeford, Lumberton, Hookerton, City Road in Elizabeth City, Asbury in Durham, Person Circuit, Siler City, Fairmont, Jonesboro, Zebulon, Princeton and Apex. Brother Bradley was married to Miss Betty Lentz September 1, 1909. To them were born two children: T. W. Bradley, Jr., Raleigh, N. C., and Mrs. Beulah Bradley Cameron, Falls Church, Virginia. There are five grandchildren who will cherish the memory of a wonderful grandfather. The ideals and quality of life that he set for himself, his children and the people he served are uniquely expressed in an essay he wrote April 12, 1900, entitled: "Traits of an Ideal Young Man," which follows:

"Man by nature and by God is king of the earth, created in His own likeness and commanded 'to multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it'. But how far short we fail to subdue the earth because of sinful and base men and, women, and more especially the young men on whom rest the hope and destiny of our country.

"There are certain traits essential for an ideal young man to possess. Among the many are the following, viz:

- "a. He should be chaste in his conversation - not too talkative at any time, especially among his superiors - given to the use of plain, correct and proper words well studied and arranged into clear, concise sentences.
- "b. Back of all this there should be pure and chaste thoughts - an effort to let his aims, his aspirations, his goal to be high above the common rabble and bestial inclinations of depraved human nature.
- "c. His manners and general deportment, which is an index to his character, should be simple and natural, according to the best laws and custom and etiquette, not to be affected. He should be able to adapt himself to any company - not to aid or join in anything that has the appearance of evil, contract no bad or dissipating habits, but remaining pure and undefiled. He should be industrious, energetic, economical, truthful, honest, upright, trustworthy and self-sacrificing.
- "d. And above all, he should be strictly pious, love his church, his people, his country and his God. Be true to himself, to all mankind, and to God."

W. A. CADE

## **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BOONE**

1889-1959

Benjamin Franklin Boone was born to James William and Rebecca Copeland Boone on March 2, 1889, at the homeplace in Northampton County, two miles from Jackson. He received his education in the public schools of that county and at Trinity College (now Duke University) in Durham. He joined the Reheboth Methodist Church at an early age and felt the call to the ministry while in his early teens. While a high school student at Rich Square, Ben was looked upon as the chaplain of the student body. In his senior year he was called on to preach the commencement sermon for his own graduating class.

Ben was married to Miss Laura Edwards of Roxboro, North Carolina, on November 30, 1916. For forty years they worked together, not only in the local church, but in the conference camps and assemblies. They were affectionately known as "Ma and Pa Boone" to thousands of young people throughout eastern North Carolina. Ben joined the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church in 1916 at the Durham session, presided over by Bishop John C. Kilgo. He was ordained a deacon in 1918, and in 1920 he was ordained an elder and received into full connection at the Rocky Mount Conference. He held his first pastorate in Mebane and finished his ministry forty years later in Pikeville. His appointments included Mebane, Windsor, Whitakers, Pinetops, Pasquotank, East Rockingham, Cary, Zebulon, Fairmont, Jonesboro Heights, St. Pauls, Hookerton, and Pikeville.

Ben possessed many of the finer qualities of the Quaker religion as exemplified in the life of his grandfather, Edwin Copeland, a Quaker minister of Northampton County. He was a man of exceptional disposition, and his consideration of the feelings of others was an outstanding quality of his life. Ben's ministry, although all-inclusive, was especially to the neglected and underprivileged, the sick and afflicted. His gentleness and tenderness won him a place in the hearts of his people. His genuine concern and deep love for all was the focal point of his preaching and his pastoral ministry.

After serving his Lord and the Church for many years, Ben and Laura returned to Fairmont where they had spent five years serving Trinity Church. They built a lovely home on Floyd Street and settled down to a well-earned and well-deserved rest. From this home, Ben went to his Father's Home, just as quietly and beautifully as he had lived, on March 5, 1959, three days after his seventieth birthday. Funeral services were held from Trinity Church in Fairmont on March 7, conducted by the pastor, The Reverend M. W. Maness, assisted by The Reverend D. D. Traynham of Jackson, and the writer. The body was laid to rest in Floyd Memorial Cemetery in Fairmont. Ben is survived by his wife; his four brothers, The Reverend J. J. Boone of Durham, William A., D. L., and John E. of Jackson; and two sisters, Mrs. Katherine B. Jones of Creeds, Virginia, and Mrs. C. G. Hall of Durham. D. E. EARNHARDT

### **MINISTER DIES; HELD PASTORATE HERE 1938-42**

(The Zebulon Record - March 12, 1959)

A funeral service for the Rev. Benjamin Boone, 70, was held Saturday at Trinity Methodist Church in Fairmont. The late Mr. Boone was pastor of the Zebulon Methodist Church from 1938-1942, and it was during his tenure here that the local church underwent a vast expansion program. He was a native of Northampton County. Surviving are his wife, the former Laura Edwards of Roxboro; four brothers, the Rev. J. J. Boone, Durham; W. A., D. L. and John E., Jackson; two sisters, Mrs. Katherine B. Jones, Creeds, VA; and Mrs. C. G. Hall, Durham. The service was held from a church he had pastored a number of years. The Rev. M. W. Maness officiated, assisted by the Rev. D. E. Earnhardt. Burial was in the Floyd Memorial Cemetery.

### **PAUL CARRUTH**

Paul Carruth was born in Tylertown, Mississippi, on March 25, 1918. Before he entered school, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Hoover Carruth, moved to McComb, Mississippi. After graduating from the public school in McComb, he attended Millsaps College, a Methodist school in Jackson, Mississippi, and received his B.S. degree. In 1939 he entered Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina, and remained in this State for the remainder of his life.

Paul joined the North Carolina Annual Conference in 1942 and served the following appointments: Caledonia, St. Paul at Carolina Beach, Granville Circuit, Zebulon - Wendell, Franklinton, Chaplain in the U.S. Air Force for 2 1/2 years during the Korean Conflict, Moncure, St. Paul in Tabor City, Director of the Commission on Higher Education, Hayes-Barton in Raleigh, Superintendent of the Rocky Mount District, Trinity in Durham, Superintendent of the Fayetteville District, the appointment he held at the time of his death.

Paul and Roberta Fields were married on March 8, 1944, in the St. Paul Methodist Church at Carolina Beach, North Carolina. He is survived by Roberta and their four children: Ellen, Paul, Jr., Robert (Robby), and Joy. All the children are now living in Raleigh where Roberta will also live. Robby is a United Methodist Minister and a member of the North Carolina Annual Conference. Paul died Saturday afternoon, April 10, 1982, after spending some time working in the parsonage yard, one of his more enjoyable hobbies. Roberta and their daughter Ellen were with him on the lawn and admiring with him the beauty of his labor when death came suddenly. The funeral service was held on April 14 at the Hayes-Barton United Methodist Church in Raleigh where Paul had served as Pastor for eight years and where two of his children were active members. Dr. Owen Fitzgerald, Pastor of the Church, led the service, and Bishop William R. Cannon gave the eulogy. Robby and his wife were in India and could not get home until after the funeral, therefore the burial was at Raleigh Memorial Park on the following day.

Paul was an able Preacher, an excellent administrator, and a scholar. In the eulogy, Bishop Cannon characterized him as one of the great scholars in the Conference. When Methodist College conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity, the citation included this statement: Your love of learning remains the hallmark of your service. Paul was genuinely interested in higher education. When the North Carolina Conference entered into a program to raise money to establish two new colleges, he was chosen to be the Executive Director for the campaign. For three years he provided with great effectiveness enthusiastic and able leadership to this effort. His interest in the Church's involvement in higher education never waned. He served as Chairman of the Conference Board of Higher Education and as Chairman of the Joint Committee on Higher Education for the two Annual Conferences in the State. He was a Trustee of Louisburg College, Methodist College, and a member of the North Carolina State Commission on Campus Ministry.

Paul was deeply interested in the quality of leadership provided by Ordained Ministers. He was a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and one of the aggressive spokesmen for Continuing Education for Pastors. The program of Seminary Visitation by our Conference was initiated by Paul and he guided the work until the time of his death. His efforts added greatly to a more effective ministry by the Clergy of the Conference. Paul was a delegate twice to Jurisdictional Conference and a Reserve Delegate to General Conference. He also served on several Jurisdictional Committees including the Committee on Nomination.

Paul was greatly involved in many facets of Conference life. His penetrating insights were always helpful. When there was a need for someone or a group to be called to task, Paul could do it forcefully and intelligently. He has indeed been a guiding light among us for many years. We will miss his voice, but because he has spoken we will always be richer and wiser.

Charles H. Mercer

## **SEYMOUR ESMOND MERCER**

**1906-1954**

The earthly pilgrimage of Seymour Esmond Mercer began in a parsonage in Red Springs, N. C., November 1, 1906, and ended in a parsonage at Zebulon, N. C., November 22, 1954. He filled to the full these forty-eight years with rich living, faithful preaching, loving service; and a shining example of unusual fortitude and sunniness in the midst of almost constant physical suffering. Never strong physically, being a victim of rheumatoid arthritis since five years of age, yet he toiled courageously and redemptively without murmur or complaint. Indeed, rarely, if ever, has it been given unto us to witness in a life more of consecration and determination to live and serve than that possessed by our friend and brother.



S. E., as he was known to his friends, received a good ministerial heritage at birth. His father, the Reverend Saul Erastus Mercer, a leading member of our Conference, who died in 1928, served as a pastor, college president, and presiding elder. His mother, Mrs. Ethel Waldo Thompson Mercer, who died in 1924, was a person of rare Christian graces and many labors of love though a total invalid for fourteen years before her death. His maternal grandfather, the Reverend J. E. Thompson, was an honored member of our Conference for a long number of years. Other kinsmen have been, or are now members of our Conference. In every manner, S. E. enhanced the splendid preaching heritage that was his!

He was licensed to preach on July 2, 1925, by the Durham District Conference held at Fletcher's Chapel. He was admitted on trial in Edenton Street Methodist Church, Raleigh, in 1927, where his father was admitted on trial thirty years before. He was ordained a deacon in 1929 and an elder in 1931. During the twenty-seven years of his ministry, he served four pastoral charges, as follows: Elm City, 1927-1931; Stantonsburg, 1931-1936; Franklinton, 1936-1949; Zebulon-Wendell, 1949-1954. He had just begun his sixth year on the Zebulon-Wendell charge when a heart attack closed his earthly labors.

He was a good gospel preacher. His messages were of high quality illustrated largely from the Bible, and Christ-centered. He did not waste time in the pulpit reviewing current events or in a running account of mundane chitchat. With clarity, forcefulness, and earnestness, he proclaimed the good news of God in Christ. His preaching was for a verdict - for all to accept Christ - and many there were who responded. He spoke truth in love. He denounced social evils. He was a positive foe to the degrading liquor traffic. With unusual winsomeness and attractiveness, he called sinners to repentance. His preparation was both of the heart and mind, and his hearers knew they were receiving fresh news from God.

He was an excellent pastor. His loving pastoral care greatly endeared him to his people. Though he experienced difficulty in getting in and out of his car, and up and down steps, he visited faithfully and consistently in every home of his congregations. By day and by night, he gave himself without reserve to the arduous but rewarding labors of pastoral visiting. He wanted to be with his people in all their experiences. He loved little children and neglected not the aged. Because he was a good shepherd to all, multitudes now call him blessed.

He was an efficient administrator of church affairs. Under his leadership, all Kingdom causes prospered. He gave personal and careful attention to the entire program of the church. Reports from his charges were uniformly good. He left every charge he served stronger in every way than when he went to the charge - new buildings were erected, physical properties were renovated, indebtedness was liquidated, memberships were increased, sinners were converted, and believers were strengthened in their faith and service. He labored faithfully in the fields white unto harvest; and, at the end, when he reported his stewardship to the Lord of the harvest, he went rejoicing with his arms filled with precious sheaves.

The close friendship that S. E. and the writer sustained for each other is well known in our Conference, a friendship that stemmed from college days at Duke University - from which institution he received an A.B. degree in 1928. We were roommates in college and many times at Annual Conference sessions. We preached for each other in revival meetings and shared in each other's joys and sorrows. For over thirty years we had delightful companionship in the ministry and understanding comradeship of the heart. There were very few times, if any, during all those years that he was free of physical pain, but I never heard him complain about his infirmity or question that life was good. He always met the world with a smile, though he wore a hair shirt of suffering next to his soul. When he would get up or down, or climb or descend steps, which required the bending of joints with accompanying pain, he would always hum or whistle a tune of some great hymn, rather than give vocal expression of suffering. Even the children noticed this fact; and when one asked him why he did thus, he replied, "Sonny, it is easier to whistle than it is to grunt." What a philosophy and stewardship of suffering!

He was numbered among those who allow God to use their sufferings to His glory, their enrichment, and the inspiration of others. Their soul temples daily rise to the music of eternity. Each one of these sings,

"I will hew great windows for my soul,  
 Channels of splendor, portals of release;  
 Out of earth's prison walls will I hew them  
 That my thundering soul may push through them;  
 Through strata of human strife and passion  
 I will tunnel a way, I will carve and fashion  
 With the might of my soul's intensity  
 Windows fronting immensity,  
 Towering out of Time.  
 I will breathe the' air of another clime,  
 That my spirit's pain my cease.  
 That the being of me have room to grow,  
 That my eyes may meet God's eyes and know,  
 I will hew great windows, wonderful windows,  
 measureless windows, for my soul."

On March 16, 1935, he married Miss Ruth Stanton of Stantonsburg, N. C., who survives him. She was a most capable and devoted companion in the work of the ministry, an unfailing source of inspiration, and a tower of strength to him as he worked under large physical handicaps.

In addition to his widow, he is survived by two brothers, Almon E., of West Jefferson, N. C., and Linwood E., of Washington, N. C.; a sister, Mrs. J. W. Applewhite, Jr., of Stantonsburg, N. C.; and his stepmother, Mrs. Grace Crouch Mercer, Johnson City, Tenn. Funeral services were held on November 24, 2:00 p.m., at the Zebulon Methodist Church by the writer and the Reverend E. C. Durham, with interment following at Stantonsburg, N. C. Hundreds of friends, including many of his brethren in the Conference, were present for the services. The fellowship of our Conference is better; and the lives of its members are richer because he lived, labored, and loved in our midst - and he did all of these things well. It is quite probable that we shall not know his like again. Doubtless, God could make a more heroic spirit; but it is doubtful that He ever has. My dear friend of the years, with whom I have shared many banquets of the soul, your choice spirit now having been released from the frail body that housed it, I bid you a Christian's good night in the faith and trust that we shall greet each other again in God's morning.

CHANCIE D. BARCLIFT

NOTE: Mr. Mercer had a reputation of being almost saintly in this church. After reading the obituary of his father, Saul Erastus Mercer, I felt that would add dimension to his calling. His father's obituary follows.

## SAUL ERASTUS MERCER

By S. A. Cotton

Saul Erastus Mercer, son of Miles V. and Elizabeth Russ Mercer, was born at Howardsville, N. C., April 2, 1867, and died in Lumberton Hospital July 25, 1928. He and members of his family had been to Beaufort for an outing and while on their way to the old home in Robeson County to a family reunion he was stricken ill and was hurried to the hospital, where, after a few days of suffering, he died.

Brother Mercer was converted in early life and united with the Methodist Episcopal Church South. He was educated at Trinity College. Soon after his graduation from that institution he entered the work of the ministry. He joined the North Carolina Conference at its session in Raleigh in 1897. He was ordained Deacon in 1899; he was ordained Elder in 1903. He served the following charges: Sneads Grove Circuit, 1897-1900; Richmond Circuit, 1901-02; Red Springs Circuit, 1903-05; Agent for Carolina Institute, 1906; Clinton Circuit, 1907; Weldon Station, 1908-10; Maxton, 1911-12; President Carolina College, 1913-15; Central Church, Raleigh, 1916; Burlington, 1917-18; Calvary, Durham, 1919-20; Presiding Elder Weldon District, 1921-24; Presiding Elder Washington District, 1925 to the time of his death.

A casual glance at these appointments will show that our brother touched the life of the church at many points. He knew by experience the hardships of the itinerant's life and he knew the responsibilities of the man in difficult situations. Whether as pastor, college president or presiding elder, S. E. Mercer gave to the work of the church an unfaltering allegiance and devoted service. Possessed of a strong mind, a commanding personality and an iron will, he ranked as one of the leaders of his conference as well as one of the substantial citizens of the state. As a preacher he was simple and direct. There was always the evidence of sincerity. He relied on the truth rather than on the arts of the speaker. His soul loathed affectation and cant. He believed the gospel was the power of God unto salvation and that it was the only remedy for the social and moral ills of man. As an executive he was strong. He had a genius for organization and the ability to secure the co-operation of others. Men loved to work with him because his hard sense and fine judgment inspired confidence in his leadership. He loved his brethren and demonstrated that love in all his relations with them. He was peculiarly thoughtful of the young men and they gave him their confidence and devotion in return.

Brother Mercer was chosen as a member of our last General Conference which met in Memphis, Tennessee. There, as elsewhere, he proved his worth by fidelity to the duties imposed on him by his conference. Brother Mercer was twice married. The first marriage was on September 25, 1900. His bride was Ethel Waldo Thompson, daughter of Rev. J. E. Thompson, for many years an honored member of this conference. Sister Mercer was a most capable and devoted wife and added much to the ministry of her husband until her health failed her. She was an invalid for fourteen years, much of the time helpless. She entered into rest December 5, 1924. No man, perhaps, ever displayed deeper devotion to an afflicted companion than that shown by S. E. Mercer. He left nothing undone to make her declining years as peaceful as possible. To this union were born four sons and two daughters as follows: Almon E., Linwood E., Seymour E., John, Jane and Ethel Mercer Poe.

Brother Mercer's second marriage was on December 12, 1925. The bride, who survives, was Miss Ethel Crouch, of Johnson City, Tennessee. Here again this itinerant found an ideal wife who brought to the altars of the parsonage a trained mind, a charming personality and a devoted heart. Our brother has gone on before us. We miss him today but hope to join him in that better brotherhood in Heaven. Many of his brethren followed his body to its last resting place in the beautiful cemetery at Durham. May the Lord bless and keep his sorrowing loved ones!

## **TROY JAMES BARRETT**

Troy J. Barrett has retired from the full time Methodist ministry and in 1997 is living in his retirement home in Cary, Wake County, North Carolina. One of our members, Dr. Zyba K. Massey, told me recently that he was still a "cheerleader for the Lord." The following biographical data comes from an article in The Zebulon Record of January 9, 1958, when he was named Zebulon's "Man of the Year" for 1957:

The affable 35-year-old minister of the Zebulon Methodist Church won the top choice because of his active participation during the past 12 months in the field of religion and civic endeavor in the community. The Rev. Mr. Barrett is the son of Ralph E. Barrett and Bessie Kinsey Barrett of Fayetteville. His father was a telegraph operator with the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad in that city. There were three children in his family, with Rev. Barrett having an older sister and a younger brother. During his youth, Rev. Barrett worked with the City News Company in the city of his birth. Even so, he was one of the outstanding students in his high school, both scholastically and in extra-curricular activities.

After his graduation from Fayetteville High School, he matriculated in Louisburg College, a junior Methodist school. From Louisburg he went to Wofford College, graduating in 1944 with a bachelor of arts degree. He has a double major in English and history. His mind was made up to enter the ministry during his early years in high school. He said it was "a combination of a call from God, plus inspirations from his Sunday School teachers and preachers." He recalled some of the men who gave him

the inspiration and help to become a minister of the gospel. They are D. U. Sandlin, a Sunday School teacher; the late R. E. Brown, minister of Hay Street Methodist Church in Fayetteville; and James Chandler, owner of the City News Company where he worked as a lad. After he received his degree from Wofford College, he enrolled in the Duke University Divinity School and was granted his bachelor of divinity degree in 1948.

Practically all of his college tuition and fees were acquired by means of self-help. While at Louisburg College, he served as head waiter of the dining hall and during his years at Wofford College and Duke University Divinity School he waited on tables and did other chores in the dining rooms. "It was very wonderful experience," he said. "There was great fellowship there, and I learned very much from these associations." While at Louisburg College, he was granted his local preacher's license. During his student days at Duke, he was appointed North Carolina Director of Youth Work and State Director of the Methodist Student Movement.

On October 22, 1949, he was married to the former Robbie Williams, a very lovely and charming Greensboro girl. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eli Williams. They met during a Youth Leadership Conference at Lake Junaluska one summer during their college years. Their marriage was performed at the West Market Street Methodist church in Greensboro. The Rev. Mr. Barrett said it was "love at first sight" for him for this Greensboro College graduate. Mrs. Barrett taught fourth grade in the High Point City School System for one year after her graduation, and held a position with the Long Methodist Church in Roxboro as director of Christian Education for a year.

The Barretts are the parents of two sons, Jimmy, 6, and Bobby, 3. They are expecting an addition to the family very soon, a girl, they hope. (The March 20th editions shows a picture of the Barrett family introducing William Ralph Barrett, who was born Feb. 28, 1958 at Rex Hospital in Raleigh.) The Rev. Mr. Barrett came from his honeymoon - "Sooner than I expected," he said - to his first pastorate. There was an opening in the Broadway Charge and he accepted the pastorate of the four churches of the charge. It kept the young minister on the move.

He had to relinquish this charge after the third year because his voice broke. Nodules had developed on his larynx and his doctor advised retirement from the pulpit. This retirement lasted one and one half years. After an operation and convalescence, his voice returned. But there was no opening available in the Conference and he went to work as proofreader for the North Carolina Christian Advocate, the Methodist Church organ. Then the Methodist Conference notified him there was an opening at the Methodist Home for Children in Raleigh and director of recreation and religious activities.

"I jumped at the opportunity," he said. "I had my fill of proofreading, and I felt that I could be more useful and worthwhile serving the younger folk." His duties at the Home were to plan the recreational and religious activities for the 275 students. He worked up youth activity weeks, Vacation Church Schools, held dormitory prayer meetings, planned and conducted seasonal parties and did counseling. "Oh, I enjoyed this type of work very much," he said. "It was most rewarding, but there was still that pull and urgency to get back into the duties of the pastorate."

His desire came sooner than he expected. Upon the death of the minister of the Zebulon-Wendell Charge, the late Rev. S. E. Mercer, the Rev. Mr. Barrett was asked to assume the pastoral duties of this Charge. He accepted these duties in December, 1954. The Rev. Mr. Barrett is quite proud of the fact that the Zebulon-Wendell Charge was voted the most outstanding Charge for the 1954-55 year by the annual Conference. In June of 1955 the Zebulon-Wendell charge was separated, and the Zebulon Methodist Church had its first full time minister.

"I have sought to help organize effective activities for our church, emphasize Bible study and the deepening of spiritual life through prayer, and promote the on-going

of the church," he said. The church has instituted a Sunday evening Bible study for the adults, Thursday prayer meetings, and with the help of the Woman's Society of Christian Service the church has organized additional sessions for the children. "With the help of a Duke Divinity School student, additional visitation and activities have been promoted during the summer months," he said. He is a firm believer that visitation is one of the greatest aids to effective pastoring. "I try to visit every day," he said. "I believe that visitation, personal contact and counseling is very necessary, not only for the parishioners but also for the pastor."

"Personal conversation," he added with feeling, "does a great deal more good than a sermon. The minister has a feeling that for the most part cooperation among the membership has been excellent, while some have been in more of a position to help than others, practically all of the membership has been encouraged to serve in some way. The needs of the church were viewed by its minister. He said the Official Board has discussed the needs for a new parsonage, air conditioning for the entire church, additional class rooms and other minor facilities.

Since the Rev. Mr. Barrett has been the pastor, a Methodist Men's Club has been organized which meets once a month for fellowship and inspiration and to carry out certain projects of the church. Projects completed by this organization have been the acquisition of a parking lot, the sponsoring of Zebulon's Cub Scouting program, and entertainment for some of Wakelon School's athletic teams.

In civic activity and improvement, he has served for three years on the Town Recreation Board, two years on the United Fund, two years on the Finer Carolina program, on the Boy Scout committee and was on the World Comes to Zebulon project both times, serving as chairman of the event the last time it was sponsored by the town. He has been active in helping organize and promote the Alcoholics Anonymous for Zebulon. He firmly believes that this organization is one of the most worthwhile groups in this community, and he has worked many hours in helping to rehabilitate alcoholics.

The two worst evils he has had to cope with since being in Zebulon are sex and alcohol. His favorite Biblical passage: John 3:16. He loves and enjoys expounding from the pulpit, but he feels that persons should come to worship God and not to hear a sermon. His offices beyond the local church include: Raleigh District Director of Youth Work; Vice Chairman of the Inter Conference Committee of Student Religious work, and Chairman of the Youth Committee of the N. C. Council of Churches. He spoke highly of the Baptist denomination in Zebulon, and said he feels that the cooperation between the two churches is outstanding.

Would he want his sons to enter the ministry? "It would be wonderful," he said, "but I would want them to select the vocation they prefer. I hope, though, that I may have an influence with them." Social recreation, he said, is his hobby. He loves working with the younger folk, teaching them party games, folk games, informal dramatics and fellowship singing.

His other hobby is reading Nero Wolfe mysteries. This affords him pleasant relaxation and moments of quietude from his exhausting pastoral duties. The handsome five feet ten and one-half, 165-pound minister with a kindly hazel eyes and wavy brown hair revealed his favorite dish is filet minion steak. "I never tire of it," he said.

He also enjoys puttering in the kitchen, especially preparing breakfasts. His winning personality is so aptly described in a poem by Rudyard Kipling: "E'en as he trod that day to God, so walked he from his birth, In simpleness and gentleness and honor and clean mirth."

\*\*\*\*\*

In 1997 Reverend Barrett confirmed my suspicion that the foregoing article had been written by the late Scott Brown. They sat in the living room of the old parsonage during the interview.

After leaving Zebulon, Troy Barrett served the Warrenton Methodist, 1959-1964; First Methodist Church in Cary, 1964-1969; Centenary Methodist in New Bern, 1969-1970; Jarvis Memorial in Greenville, 1970-1974; Epworth Methodist in Durham, 1974-1977; First Methodist in Laurinburg, 1977-1981; Centenary in Smithfield, 1981-1984; Lillington Methodist, 1984-1986. Troy and Robbie retired to their home in Cary in June of 1986. During his retirement he is constantly taking classes at Wake Tech, Meredith College and through NCSU's ENCORE program. He volunteers at the Museums of Art, History, and Natural Sciences. He can be found on Thursday afternoons in the Discovery Room at the Natural Science Museum.

Troy and Robbie's three sons are married and collectively have presented them eight grandchildren. Jim is a recreational therapist at Pitt Memorial Hospital in Greenville. His wife, Lois, teaches 6th grade at Bethel. Their three sons are Brad, Michael and Charles. Bob Barrett is the Chair of the Masters Degree Math Program at Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina. Bob and Marcia have a daughter, Elizabeth, and son, Robert. Bill is an electrical engineer with Georgia Power Company near Augusta, GA. His wife, Kathy, teaches computer courses. Their children are Rebecca, Mary Beth and Timothy.

The Barrett family enjoyed the Methodist Conference Camps and attended Family Camp at Don Lee for a number of years. This is the association that my family had with them over the years as we also attended Family Camp. The Barretts began their interest in the camps during their service in Zebulon. Troy Barrett officially began his career in the clerical ministry in 1946 and celebrated his 50th year on March 23rd and 24th, 1996 at the First United Methodist Church in Cary. They had an informal worship service Saturday evening and three services on Sunday. Robbie presided, Troy preached, and their three sons read scripture and led prayers. Their eight grandchildren and daughters-in-law served as ushers. Two of the grandchildren served as acolytes. It was a grand and glorious occasion for the entire Barrett family. There was a meal on Saturday evening and another after the worship service on Sunday. Jim and Bill Barrett related their memories of their years in Cary 1964-1969. Bob sang his original composition:

## THE LEADER OF OUR CLAN

(By Bob Barrett)

1. He grew up down in Fayetteville  
A railroad worker's son.  
Through Devilish works he became a preacher  
Duke's his Number 1.  
He earned his love through discipline  
A thundering velvet hand  
His gentle means of sculpting souls  
Took me years to understand.

CHORUS:

The leader of our clan is here  
With his friends all gathered 'round,  
A big part of his ministry  
Was right here in this town.  
My life has been a poor attempt  
To imitate that man.  
I'm just a living legacy  
To the leader of our clan.

2. He met her at a church event,  
     The cutest girl he'd see;  
 He was still the Devilish type,  
     She a D. C. E.  
 Their love grew stronger as they spread  
     Christ's Word from town to town.  
 No better pair could Christ have asked for  
     To pass that Word around.
  
3. His boys were very different  
     Each heard a separate call;  
 Engineer, Teacher, Therapist  
     And all loved basketball.  
 I went to Carolina;  
     They went to NC State.  
 Dad's love, support, and money  
     Helped make out times there great.
  
4. Elizabeth, Brad, Robert, and Michael  
     Are half his grandchild group.  
 Rebecca, Charles, Mary Beth, and Timothy —  
     Quite an alphabet soup.  
 He's loved us all in so many ways  
     With words and hugs and smiles;  
 This love he freely gives to us  
     Stays with us through the miles.

## **The Rev. William Quick Named Methodist Pastor**

(The Zebulon Record, July 9, 1959)

Zebulon Methodist Church is again fortunate in having assigned to its leadership one of the most qualified, intelligent, energetic and personable young pastors to be found in the Methodist Conference. This young man has been termed by some of the leaders in the Conference as one of the most outstanding young ministers and one definitely on his way to bigger and better things. He is the Rev. William Kellon (Bill) Quick. The Rev. Mr. Quick celebrated his 26th birthday May 20, and received his appointment as pastor of the local church July 2. The new Methodist pastor is a product of a South Carolina farm. He was born near Gibson in Marlboro County, South Carolina, approximately five miles from the North Carolina border. He is the elder of two sons of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Quick.

After graduating from Gibson High School in 1950 he attended Pfeiffer College for two years and was graduated from Randolph-Macon College in 1954 with a bachelor of arts degree with a major in English and a minor in history. He was associate pastor of Broad Street Methodist Church in Richmond and director of the Wesley Foundation at the Medical College of Virginia while a student at Randolph-Macon. In 1958 he was awarded a bachelor of divinity degree from Duke University Divinity School. He was admitted to the Virginia Conference in 1954, and transferred in June of 1955 to the N. C. Methodist Conference. In 1956 he was ordained a deacon at Greenville and he was made an elder in 1958, at Wilson. He was soon thereafter admitted into full connection. He served as the interim pastor of Camp Glenn Methodist Church in Morehead for one year, and then moved to the Bahama Charge, 12 miles north of Durham. He served the Bahama Charge from 1955 to 1959. The Rev. Mr. Quick accepted the Protestant faith in 1947 when he was 14 years old. Prior to that he had been brought up and confirmed in the Catholic church. His parents are not Catholic.

When his parents would not sign their consent for him to take the vows to study for the priesthood, the youngster decided to search for a faith for himself. He chose the Methodist denomination after an intense search and much consideration. And he has not been sorry. He loves

music, anything from the classics to hill billy. He loves to sing, although he has no formal training. In the Virginia college he was a member, business manager and president of the Choraliers, the college glee club, in which he sang second bass. At one of his churches, there was no pianist and he learned to pick out the melody of a few tunes with one finger. He amusingly recalled his very best one was, "Bringing In The Sheaves," which of course was most often sung by the congregation to his one finger accompaniment. He and his wife love hi-fi, but he doesn't want to be called an addict. The family owns a high fidelity instrument and often times find very much enjoyment listening to it.

While at Randolph-Macon he was a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa, a national honorary leadership fraternity; Pi Gamma Mu, a national honorary social science fraternity, Lambda Chi Alpha, a social fraternity; Delta Psi Omega, dramatic fraternity; Order of the Sun Dial, leadership fraternity; American College Student Leaders for 1952; Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities in 1954; president of the student government; recipient of the Frank S. Hickman Divinity Award at Duke in 1958; recipient of the National Methodist and Dupont Scholarships in 1953 and 1954, respectively; district director of evangelism of the Durham District in 1958-1959; member of the Conference Board of Evangelism for 1958-1959; member of the Conference Board of Social and Economic Relations, 1958-1960; and third vice president of the N. C. Historical Society. His strict schedule leaves him almost without time for a hobby, but he does enjoy fishing and working with anything of a historical nature. His historical interests stems possibly because of his minor in history and when he was living in Bahama he was seeped in history, that village being one of the most historic in Durham county.

He has the physique of an athlete, standing an even six feet tall, weighing between 216 and 220 pounds, with dark brown hair and brown eyes. He considers himself easily adaptable because he has lived in so many places. Already the family is beginning to love Zebulon. "After all, the best people in the world are where you live," he said. Zebulon Methodist is comparable to the church in Bahama, he said. Both in membership and plant facilities. At one time he was a member of the Ruritan Club. He does not belong to any other civic organization.

Mrs. Quick is the former Barbara Elizabeth Campbell of Bluefield, West Virginia. The couple was married July 15, 1955. They have two children, Stephen Kellon, 3 1/2, and Kathryn Elizabeth, 15 months. Mrs. Quick studied interior decorating at the National Art School in Washington, D. C. After her graduation from this school she was employed as a junior decorator at Miller and Rhodes in Richmond. The attractive minister's wife is not an extremist when it comes to decorating. She likes modern furniture if it is of good design. She also likes period pieces, but her preference is Early American. She paints, but not so much so any more with two growing and energetic youngsters to manage. She likes to work in all media, but prefers water colors. She has an exceptional knack with the needle and likes very much to sew. She makes the major part of hers and her family's clothing. Recently she completed a good looking father-son sports shirt ensemble for her husband and son. She also likes to make her own hats.

The family isn't complete without the mention of "Shep," the English sheep dog. This beautiful black haired creature is one of the adored members of the family and is considered by the Rev. and Mrs. Quick to be one of the best baby sitters. The Rev. Mr. Quick succeeds the Rev. Troy J. Barrett, who is now pastor of Wesley Memorial Methodist Church in Warrenton.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Rev. Quick served the Zebulon Methodist Church until 1963, when he was appointed to St. James Methodist church in Greenville, North Carolina. While there, the family increased by two more sons, Paul and David. He served the Greenville Church until 1969 when he was assigned to Trinity Church in Durham. He served there until about 1974 when he left the North Carolina Conference and accepted an appointment to the Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Detroit, Michigan. He continues to serve this congregation in 1997. He is scheduled to speak at the October 19, 1997, homecoming of the Zebulon United Methodist Church.

The following article, written by Ed Hodges, staff writer, appeared in the Durham Sun a few years after Quick left Trinity Methodist Church in that city and began serving Metropolitan. A mention of his stay in Zebulon leads to its inclusion here:



## Minister Senses Inner City 'Hopelessness'

Bill Quick has had his ups and downs. "In fact, no Methodist minister ever fell so fast," said Quick. "One week I was preaching to a packed house at Broad Street Methodist Church in Richmond and the next Sunday I was down in North Carolina preaching to nine people at Creek Methodist Church. Nine people!"

"It was November," said Quick, "and there was no heat in the church. There were no windows in the church and there were no heat. And when I arrived there were no people. There was not one soul there to meet me. The church was empty and I walked through, toward the front, and on the way a rope from the ceiling hit me in the face. I pulled it and the church bell rang. I kept pulling the rope and ringing the bell until finally the people came. Nine of them. It was cold in the church and I preached in an overcoat and gloves. My sermon topic was, 'What Think Ye Of Christ?'"

"Odd," said Quick. "Because right then I wasn't sure what of thought of Him myself." Twenty years later, in 1974, Quick was "up" again and found himself at Metropolitan Methodist Church in Detroit, at one time the largest Methodist church in the world. But the rush to the suburbs was on," said Quick. "And when I took over, the church was losing about a hundred members a year. The membership was down from 7,300 to little more than 2,000. I had to stop that .... plug the holes. Now we are gaining about 35 members a year."

The ups and downs are always there in Quick's life. He doesn't let it bother him. He noticed it way back when he was a student at Pfeiffer College. There just wasn't enough money and he took the only job he could find. "My job in college was to cook thirty dozen eggs every morning. Every day! It was a long time before I wanted to look at another egg." The eggs got Quick through college and eventually up to Richmond. He got down to Broad Creek pretty much on his own.

"It's close to Morehead City," he explained. "Closer to Salter Path and Camp Glenn. The church had 19 members and all of them were women. We finally got two men. One of them was deaf and the other was blind." By the time Quick "moved up" to the Bahama area he was ready for seminary. His years at Duke (1955-58) made him a full-fledged preacher and he was assigned to a church in Zebulon. The "ups and downs" were still working for Quick because pretty soon Harry Truman came to Zebulon to visit his in-laws. There was a big ceremony, the mayor made Truman an honorary citizen and asked Quick to pray before all those people who had come to see it.

"Oh, it made the Baptists mad," said Quick. "Me, a Methodist. And then after Mr. Truman got home he sent me a note and a picture of us together on the speaker's platform." Up again! Pretty soon, Quick was on his way to St. James Methodist church in Greenville. Another up! "That was one of the real challenges in my life," said Quick. "At East Carolina University there were 1,800 students merging together and it gave me a chance to have influence on their lives. "I received 900 members in the six years I was there!" A real up! There were reasons, of course, for Quick's success. He always looked like one of them even though today he often dresses in plain dark suits, white shirt and bright colored tie. His face is youthful, dark hair combed neatly. The smile breaks through when it's needed. Most of all, it's sincerity that sells him, sincerity without the deathly deacon look. That and his language. He knows all the words and is eloquent when he uses them.

It was right in the midst of all this that Durham's Trinity Methodist Church beckoned and Quick accepted the challenge. That's what he was doing when he got the call to Detroit. Quick thought a long time. Mainly because he didn't know if it was up or down. "The decay of the cities always bothered me," he said. "When people rush to the suburbs, flee the crime and poverty of the city, they create a vacuum. When a pocket of good leaves a community something else always comes in. Usually it's crime. Something always has to fill a vacuum." It was a challenge and Quick accepted.

"The mainline city church has been on the decline for two decades," he said. "What had been called 'Piety Road' in Detroit, where all the churches were located, became 'Pathetic Road.' Over 200 Detroit churches had closed since World War II. A possible up. "I chose to live in Detroit, not the suburbs," said Quick. "It's been very difficult on the children but I thought it was necessary." There are

now the faint beginnings of lines in Quick's face that were not there when he left Durham in 1974. The eyes seem deeper, darker, as if he might know more now than he did a few years ago. "Some of the members drive 50 miles to come to my church," he said.

"Forty-eight Sundays out of the year I preach, but the best examples of life are not spoken from the pulpit. They are from the way a person lives. The young people can detect a fake. They can spot a comedian in the pulpit or in the White House. And the cities... There's a sense of hopelessness there. The poor are locked in, the elderly are locked in, the blacks are locked in. Sometimes you wonder what in hell is going on! People will forget your sermons. They tend not to remember your administration but if you are there at the right times ... times of crisis ... the times when people open their hearts ... if you are there at those times ... those are the things they will remember. And if you are not there they will remember." Quick chose to be there. A definite up.

## **PEARCE HUDSON LAYFIELD**

**1916-1976**

Dr. Charles Allen, one of Methodism's most prominent ministers, once said of Pearce Hudson Layfield Jr., his childhood friend in Chipley, Georgia, "The dentist's sacrifice is a living sermon." Dr. Allen was right and wrong. Indeed, Pearce Layfield had left a lucrative dental practice to become a Methodist minister, a sermon in itself. Indeed, it was a financial sacrifice. But Pearce Layfield, in three years as a student in Duke Divinity School and 22 years as a Methodist minister in the North Carolina Conference, did not regard the change as a sacrifice. Rather, he felt that he had gained much.

He gave richly from that gain. Pearce Hudson Layfield was 60 when he died of a cerebral hemorrhage Dec. 20, 1976, in Wake Memorial Hospital in Raleigh. On Dec. 19, a Sunday, because of an intense headache, he had asked a layman to lead the service at his church, West Nash United Methodist in Wilson, and he sat that Sunday morning in a recliner, his favorite chair, until he went into a coma about noon. Early the next morning, quietly and suddenly, he slipped out of this world. It was not the end, for to his deepest fiber, Pearce Layfield believed that "to live is Christ; to die is gain." That was the message that he preached, that was the Good News that he lived.

He was born Dec. 4, 1916, in Pine Mountain, Georgia. He was graduated from the Emory University School of Dentistry in 1939 and practiced dentistry for 13 years, including three years in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He rarely preached about his personal experience, but he would share it privately with those who asked. Pearce Layfield was practicing dentistry in LaGrange, Ga. He was active in the Methodist church and prominent in his community. But, he would say, he felt as if something were missing from his life.

It was, for Pearce Layfield, a time of discontent, a time of searching, a time to get off by himself and to ask the inevitable questions that can only be answered by being still and listening. He would close his office early, sometimes a day at a time, and his wife, Frances Zimmerman Layfield, says she would wonder where he was and why, with all the paraphernalia of success, he was so distraught. On one of those days of searching, Pearce Layfield would say, he sat alone on the bank of a river, he bowed his head, he cried out and he felt the power of God come into his life. Almost immediately, he decided to leave his dental practice and go to divinity school, believing then that God would have him become a dental missionary or something of that sort.

A quiet, modest man who was reluctant to speak before crowds, Pearce Layfield could not envision himself as a preacher. Even in the latter years of his ministry, he would often remark that speaking from the pulpit was a miracle in itself. Divinity school, at first, was traumatic. Pearce Layfield's vocabulary was a glossary of technical, medical and dental terms. He struggled, dictionary at hand, to grasp the theological concepts. But as a 37-year-old seminarian, Pearce Layfield preached his first sermon. That convinced him, he would become a pulpit minister. "I knew when I delivered that sermon there was nothing else as important to me as becoming a preacher," he said. He graduated from Duke Divinity School in 1954 and was appointed pastor of West End Methodist Church in Moore County. He later served as pastor at Tabor City, 1958-63; Zebulon, 1963-67; Benson, 1967-72; and West Nash in Wilson, 1972-76.

Although he didn't preach about his experience, it was the basis for most of his sermons. Pearce Layfield believed deeply and preached fervently that people could experience the living Christ. Without compromise, he preached the simple truths of the Gospel: Jesus crucified, Jesus resurrected, the life of faith. He always gave an altar call. His sermons were well organized, powerful, filled with a furtive wit, and captivating. One writer observed: "He has no difficulty in holding the attentions of his congregation even when the temperature hovers in the high 90's."

Pearce Layfield was a man who had an enormous zeal for life - in and out of the pulpit. He loved to play golf, he loved to fish, he loved to talk to friends at his home, which was always open to unscheduled visitors. He rarely showed remorse - then because of the reluctance of someone to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. He loathed "busy work" - forms and papers and administrative chores. He was not a joiner. He was totally committed to serving the needs of his congregation. Pearce Hudson Layfield was a Methodist of the old school - an articulate preacher, an enthusiastic singer, a warm Christian. But he would not take credit for the way his life had been used to transform the lives of others. Give God the credit, he would say.

The sanctuary was filled for his funeral in West Nash United Methodist Church Dec. 22, 1976, just three days before Christmas. It was a simple service, led by the Rev. John Cline, Rocky Mount District superintendent. It concluded with Pearce Hudson Layfield's favorite hymn:

"To God be the Glory,  
Great things He hath done."

Pearce Hudson Layfield's life and death were a sermon. He was buried in Waynesville, N.C., near the retirement home he was building. It was the only home he would have owned, because even during his years as a dentist he rented a residence. Mrs. Layfield, an artist, will live in the retirement home. Besides Mrs. Layfield, Pearce Hudson Layfield is survived by three children, Laura Sue Layfield of Blakely, Georgia, Mary Ann Layfield of Atlanta, Georgia, and Pearce Hudson Layfield, III, of Wilmore, Ky.; his stepmother, Mrs. P. H. Layfield, Sr., of Pine Mountain, Georgia; a sister, Mrs. Frances Troutman of Virginia Beach, Virginia; and a brother, Charles A. Layfield of Cairo, Georgia.

## **ROBERT STEWART BRODIE**

1917 - 1983

Robert Stewart Brodie was born December 1, 1917 in Motherwell, Lanarkshire, Scotland. His father, a lay pastor in the Church of the Brethren, and mother brought seven children and two grandchildren to this country in the 1920's that they might have a better chance to choose their own way of life. He was educated in the school system of Detroit, Michigan, and finished high school in that city. After high school Stewart came to Raleigh to work with the Norfolk and Southern railroad as a freight agent. He worked with the railroad both before and after World War II. He served in the Navy during the war as a Yeoman first class at Bainbridge, Maryland, and Attu, Alaska. After 37 months of service, he was discharged at the end of the war.

He and some young adult friends cleaned out a basement room at Edenton Street Church for use as a classroom. In that group, known as the John H. Harris Class, he met Helen Hunter, a photographer for Daniel and Smith in Raleigh. They were married in 1944 while Stewart was serving in the U S Navy. After his discharge in 1945, he went back to work with the railroad and was sent to New Bern. It was at a young adult retreat at Louisburg College that he said "yes" to a call to the pastoral ministry. As this was also a call to prepare, it meant leaving New Bern and his job to attend Louisburg College. In 1948 he was licensed to preach and assigned to the West Halifax Charge, then a student appointment, in the Rocky Mount District. In 1950 Stewart and Helen moved to Florida where he entered the University of Florida and service at a student appointment at Micanopy. After graduation in 1952 he entered the Duke Divinity School during which time he was appointed to the Spring Hope Charge, serving for five years, the last year and a half as full time minister. His appointments after graduation were: Scotland Neck; St. James, Tarboro; Grifton; Zebulon; Hope Mills; Weldon; West Burlington; and the Gatesville Charge.

Helen Hunter Brodie is a native of Warren County, North Carolina, and attended High Point College. Her hobby is flowers, especially poinsettias, which she could coax into blooming just in time for Christmas each year. She is related to Edward Hill Davis who served the Zebulon Methodist Church from 1927-1931, and whose brother, M. Stuart Davis, of Louisburg, was the architect for the present building.

Stewart died November 20, 1983, in Moses Cone Hospital, Greensboro, where he was a patient. Funeral services were held at the Gatesville United Methodist Church on Wednesday, November 23, conducted by the Reverend Kermit Braswell, District Superintendent, and the Reverend Ray Sharp of Oconee, Florida. A second service was held that afternoon by the Reverends Braswell and Sharp, assisted by the Reverend Charles Cooper and the Reverend Dr. Joseph Bethea. Interment was in the Bethlehem Church cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Mrs Helen Hunter Brodie, one daughter, Mrs. Fred (Betsy) Roberts of Graham; two sons, Robert Stewart Brodie, Jr., of Summerfield, and Edward Hunter Brodie of West Germany; three sisters, Mrs. Jeanne Travis of Detroit, Michigan, Mrs. Bessie Ballantyne of Dearborn, Michigan, and Mrs. Helen Davis of Tonowanda, N.Y., one brother, George Brodie of Allen Park, Michigan, and four grandchildren.

Stewart Brodie loved life. One of his greatest joys came when he and Helen traveled to his native Scotland in 1974. He will be remembered for his humility and his warm smile. Ray Sharp spoke of Stu as being a friend counselor and Christian brother, one with a deep sense of commitment to and love of his church. He sought to be true to his ordination vows which included this question "Will you maintain and set forward, as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace and love among all Christian people, and especially among them that shall be committed to your charge?" Stewart Brodie gave answer, "I will so do, the Lord being my helper." For the next thirty-one years Stewart would do these things faithfully, joyfully, and humbly. These verses reflect well his positive outlook on life:

I do not ask that crowds may throng the temple,  
that standing room be at a price  
I only ask that as I voice the Gospel,  
They may see Christ.

I do not ask for churchly pomp or pageant,  
Or music such as wealth will buys  
I only ask that as I voice the Gospel,  
Christ will be nigh

I do not ask for earthly place or council,  
or of this world's praise any part,  
I only ask that I will voice the message,  
From Jesus' Heart

I do not ask that men say sound my praises,  
Or headlines spread my name abroad,  
I only pray that as I voice His message,  
That men find God

(Selected)

Robert L. Baldridge

## **JOHN THOMAS SMITH**

John Thomas "Tommy" Smith was born September 27, 1932, the son of Ralph L. and Gracie M. Smith. He was educated in the public schools of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He received a B. A. from Barton College in Wilson, North Carolina, and pursued further study at the Pastor's School at Duke Divinity School and Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. He was awarded an honorary D. D. from Methodist College in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He has served in the North Carolina Methodist Conference for forty years.

His pastorates include Temperance Hall, West Halifax, Marvin in Rocky Mount, Hawkins-Tabor, Associate at First Methodist in Wilson, Zebulon, White Plains in Cary, and Hayes Barton in Raleigh. He has also served as District Superintendent for the Sanford, Raleigh and currently the Fayetteville Districts. He has also served as President of the North Carolina Conference Cabinet and Cabinet representative to the Boards of Evangelism, Missions, and the Ordained Ministry. He has served as the District Youth Coordinator and District Representative to the Boards of Missions, Evangelism, and Social Concerns. He has served as a member of the Conference Episcopal Committee and on the local committees for the UMC Home for Children in Durham and the Methodist Home in Erwin. He has also been a Trustee for the Children's Home, Louisburg College and Methodist College.

While serving the Zebulon charge he was a member of the local Library Board and the local Lion's Club. He has written two books, Fires to Warm By, prayers and meditations for youth, and Love Drops Falling, which is a book of poetry. Mr. Smith is married to the former Judy Harrell of Rocky Mount and they are the parents of two sons, Thomas Smith, who is a reporter and feature writer for the Aiken Standard in Aiken, South Carolina, and Paul Smith, who is a magistrate in Raleigh, North Carolina.

### **NOAH B. HILL, JR.**

Noah B. Hill, Jr., was born January 23, 1922 in Lenoir County, North Carolina, the son of Noah B. Hill, Sr. and Josephine King Hill. He was educated in the Lenoir County schools, graduating from Kinston High School. He graduated from Phieffer College, Atlantic Christian College and Duke University Divinity School. He was married July 2, 1944, to Charlotte Garris at the Garris Chapel church in Goldsboro. They are the parents of four children, N. B. Hill, III, Trudy H. Hammond, Connie H. Martin, and Russell F. Hill.

Churches that he has served include Main Street in Burlington, Grimesland in Pitt County, Providence-Falling Creek in Wayne County, Robersonville, Grace in Burlington, Wesley Heights in Fayetteville, Salem, White Plains in Cary, Zebulon, Fairmont, and Snow Hill where he retired. Since his retirement he has served Linden and Wesley Heights in the Fayetteville District and is presently the visitation minister for Camp Ground United Methodist Church.

### **LOVELL ROY AILLS**

Lovell Roy Aills was born in Cabell County, Huntington, West Virginia, and received his education in the Huntington public schools. He received his B. A. degree in Religious Education from Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. He received his B. D. degree from the Duke University Divinity School, in Durham, North Carolina. He was licensed to preach in 1958, ordained a Deacon in the North Carolina Annual Conference in 1959 and ordained an Elder in the North Carolina Conference in 1963.

Reverend Aills was appointed to the Carthage United Methodist Church in 1996. He has also served in Wendell 1993-1996; Horne Memorial in Clayton 1988-1993; Bethany in Durham 1983-1988; Zebulon 1977-1983; Pine Valley in Wilmington 1974-1977; Pikeville-Jefferson in Goldsboro 1969-1974; Fellowship in Hamlet 1964-1969; Providence in Goldsboro 1960-1964; and Lucama-Brietz 1958-1960. He has served on the District Council on Ministries for the Raleigh, Wilmington and Goldsboro districts and on the Raleigh District Committee on Locations and Buildings. He served as Conference Chief Clerical Teller and on the Conference Board of Church and Society, and the Conference Television, Radio and Film Commission.

Reverend Aills is married to the former Barbara Mattox of Lancaster, Ohio. They have two daughters, Lori and Lisa Aills. Lori is married to Mark Wade and lives in Haviland, Kansas. They have four children, Britani, Audrey, Peyton and Kristen Wade. Lisa is married to Robert Beard, Jr., and lives in Lexington, Kentucky, where she is a cardiac unit nurse at Columbia Hospital.

## **HENRY NEAL LOVELACE**

Henry Neal Lovelace was born March 30, 1937, in Pemiscot County, Missouri, the son of Henry O. Lovelace and Ethel Woodard. He received his early education in the schools of Steele, Missouri, and graduated from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, and Duke University Divinity School. He received his License to Preach in May of 1964, was ordained a Deacon in 1969 and an Elder in 1971.

Reverend Lovelace has served appointments at Plummerville - Springfield in Arkansas; and Townsville, Creedmoor, Zebulon and Apex in North Carolina. He has served for eleven years in Townsville and eleven years in Apex. He married the former Ann Tidwell in Steele, Missouri, on October 31, 1959. She is a graduate of the University of Mississippi at Oxford and with a Masters Degree from the University of North Carolina. Mrs. Lovelace retired on July 1, 1997, after a 38 year career of teaching. Reverend and Mrs. Lovelace are the parents of three children, Mark, Kimberly and Christopher Lovelace. They have one grandchild but expect to have a second in November of 1997. All of their children are in North Carolina.

## **JACK MONROE BENFIELD**

Jack Monroe Benfield was born on January 8, 1937, in Statesville, North Carolina, the son of George and Mildred Benfield. The family moved to Newton, North Carolina, in 1941, where he received his education in the public schools, graduating from Newton-Conover High School in 1955. He graduated with a double major in Religion and Philosophy, and English from High Point college in 1959. While there he became a student pastor at the age of 19 to four churches in the Brushy Mountains near Lenoir, North Carolina.

He says, "Since the salary was \$100 a month and the churches were 120 miles from High Point, I found it necessary to move to a closer parish my last two years of college. Wesley Chapel near Troutman was my weekend pastorate from 1957-1959." He did graduate work at both Duke University Divinity School and the Virginia Commonwealth University. His appointments in the North Carolina Conference have been Trinity in Franklin County, Spring Hill in Harnett County, Spring Valley-Flat Rock in Vance County, North Carolina Commission for the Blind - a special appointment for six years, Associate at Garner, Kenansville Parish, Fremont, Apex, Zebulon, and presently at Westminster in Kinston.

Reverend Benfield married the former Jane Wrenn Coates on June 13, 1959. They have two daughters, Terri B. Philmon and Susan B. Feuerstein. Terri has three children, Shannon, Evan and Ryan. Susan has two children, Emily and Eric Feuerstein. They all live in Wake County. Jane Benfield retired in October of 1994, after teaching high school math for thirty years. Her retirement has allowed them to do some traveling, having taken a group of pilgrims to the Holy Land and Egypt in February, 1996, and a Wesley Heritage Tour to England in July of 1997.

## **TOMMY GORDON PRIVETTE**

Tommy Gordon Privette was born on October 6, 1954, in Bishopville, Lee County, South Carolina, the son of Junius Gordon Privette and Thelma Edward Slade. Tommy has two brothers, William Edward Privette and Bobby Lee Privette. On July 12, 1975, Tommy married the former Alma Lettie Hobby, daughter of Norman Donald Hobby and Janie Ann Berry Taylor, at Hebron United Methodist Church in Hebron. They are the proud parents of a son, Norman Daniel Privette, who was born March 27, 1977. Daniel is a student at Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky.

Reverend Privette received his initial education in the public schools, graduating from Bishopville High School in 1972. He attended Clemson University and earned his B. A. degree from Coker College in 1975. He completed License to Preach Studies at Duke University Divinity School in 1976 and his Masters of Divinity from Southeastern Theological Seminary in 1980.

He has served on the following charges: Mt. Olivet - Pleasant Grove in Cheraw, South Carolina; Longhurst in Roxboro, North Carolina; Littleton; Lovejoy - Macedonia charge in Troy; Pleasant Hill - Mt. Carmel charge in Robbins; Hope Mills; and currently serving the Zebulon United Methodist Church. His conference and district responsibilities include having been an official visitor to the World Methodist Council Conference in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, in 1996; serving in the Fayetteville district as the Missions chairperson and on the committee on the district superintendency. In the Sanford district he served as chairperson of worship, missions, and the district Council on Ministries. He also served on the conference Board of Worship and Board of Missions, and as chairman of the Church and Community committee of the North Carolina conference Board of Missions.

## CREDITS

It is always dangerous to begin thanking anyone, because you surely will not remember everyone, but there are some contributors to this effort that must be mentioned. I will begin by thanking my own family, Wayne for all the meals and dish washing, and marking this text for indexing, not to mention my bad temper, and MaryAnn for taking the time out of her busy schedule to proof most of this manuscript, parts of it more than once. If you find any errors or typos, please remember that I probably changed that after the last time she looked at it.

I think we all should thank our minister, Rev. Tommy Privette for his support and taking the time to research and give us the meaning of the symbols in our windows. He has been very supportive of this project from the beginning.

When I made my first attempt at writing the history of this church some twenty years or more ago, I had Mrs. House's first history and some of the "older folks" to talk to: Miss Alma and Mr. Waylon, Mr. and Mrs. Sexton, Dr. and Mrs. Coltrane, Mrs. Moser, and Mrs. Sam Horton, who was a member of the Baptist church but was related to J. C. Jeffreys of Earpsboro and gave me an education and a lesson in local geography.

Thank Goodness, I had kept some of those notes! This time around, I would never have found some of these folks if it had not been for Sarah Eaton. Her address book is a treasure and I don't know where she stores all of that information from times past. Among other things she wrote down the story about the trip for the windows as Mr. Cloid Wade used to tell it.

Of course when I looked around for the "older folks" here now, it is "US!" Some of our members who have lived here and been a member of this church all of their lives have been so very gracious about sharing their knowledge about the church and the families that have made up the church over the years: Zyba Massey, Jean Wall, Becky Spivey, Rom Moser, Grace Kilkelly, Ruth Joyner, and Lowell Ray and Barbara Pulley. The Hinton-Davis family in Wake Forest and the Fisher-Finch family have also shared of their knowledge and pictures for this history. None of it would have been possible without your input.

And last but certainly not least, I appreciate the generosity of Jim Chamblee and his nudging me on to complete this project. He has told me that he wanted me to complete it before he retired. So now that it is finished, he can retire!

Let's give God the Glory for any pleasure that is derived from this effort.

## INDEX

- Adams, G. T. 13  
Adams, Lee 59  
Adams, Mabel 128  
Aills, Barbara 43, 44, 51, 53  
Aills, L. R. 44  
Aills, Lisa 43, 44, 153  
Aills, Lori 43, 44, 153  
Aills, Lovell Roy 43, 47, 57, 108, 153  
Albertson, Mrs. G. V. 115, 116  
Alford, Millard 38  
Alford, Moses 14  
Alford, Nell 56  
Alford, Nellie 46, 60  
Alford, Proctor 46  
Alfred, DeElla 79  
Allen, Charles 150  
Allen, Ivey 133  
Allen, L. L. 10, 63  
Allen, Lucile 63  
Allen, Mozelle Perry 116  
Allen, Mrs. Luther 63  
Allmon, Lee 19  
Andrews, H. V. 27-29  
Andrews, H. V., Jr. 32  
Andrews, H. V., Sr. 32  
Andrews, Henry 32  
Andrews, John 129  
Andrews, Melba 32  
Applewhite, Donna 50  
Applewhite, Mrs. J. W., Jr. 142  
Arendell, B. 10, 63  
Arendell, Bertha 10, 63  
Arendell, Mrs. B. 63  
Arnold, David 56  
Asbury, Francis 3, 36  
Avent, Mrs. N. G. 66  
Avent, N. G. 66  
Ayscue, Lillie W. 65  
Bailey, J. W. 15  
Bailey, Marie 79  
Bailey, Tom 28, 31  
Baldrige, Robert L. 152  
Ball, W. C. 118  
Ballantyne, Bessie 152  
Barbee, G. S. 17  
Barbee, George Sprite 79  
Barbee, Neva F. 15, 65, 79  
Barbee, Neva Flowers 79  
Barbour, Mildred 124, 125  
Barclift, Chancie D. 142  
Barnes, A. S. 116  
Barnes, Gay 58-60, 62  
Barnes, Kenneth 60, 62  
Barret, Bob 146  
Barrett, Bill 146  
Barrett, Bob 146  
Barrett, Brad 146  
Barrett, Charles 146  
Barrett, Jim 146  
Barrett, Michael 146  
Barrett, Ralph E. 143  
Barrett, Troy 30, 46, 59, 146  
Barrett, Troy J. 29, 32, 34, 35, 38, 108, 143  
Barrett, William Ralph 144  
Bartlett, Bertha F. 15, 66  
Barton, Gladys 50  
Batts, C. V. 63, 65  
Batts, Geneva 16, 65  
Batts, Katherine E. 65  
Baum, H. B. 132  
Beard, Robert, Jr. 153  
Beasley, Flosena 63  
Beavers, Debbie 57  
Beavers, K. C. 49  
Belcher, Grace 45, 50, 52, 53, 56, 58  
Belcher, Jack 52, 57, 59  
Belvin, Mrs. William 114  
Benfield, George 154  
Benfield, Jack Monroe 108, 154  
Benfield, Mildred 154  
Bennett, Mary Elizabeth 81  
Bernard, J. J. 12  
Bethea, Joseph 152  
Bethea, Joseph B. 58  
Betts, Don 58  
Betts, Donald 58  
Betts, Gail 58  
Bivens, Mr. 127  
Blackburn, Rena 116  
Blackburn, Robert M. 7, 42, 111  
Blackley, Doza Wilson 20  
Blackley, Kate Moss 75  
Blackley, Oza Webb 20  
Blackley, William Alexander 75  
Blakem Gertrude 50  
Blalock, Josephine 135  
Blalock, Maynard 135  
Blalock, Ritta Jane 135  
Blalock, S. H. 135  
Bobbitt, A. V. 63  
Bobbitt, Lucy A. 65  
Bobbitt, Mrs. A. V. 63  
Bobbitt, Stuart 44  
Bobbitt, W. H. 115



Bocock, Emma 52, 53, 55, 58  
 Boin, Hannah 63  
 Boin, Kathleen 63  
 Bonner, Fanny 128  
 Boone, B. F. 21, 26, 34  
 Boone, Benjamin Franklin 108, 139  
 Boone, D. L. 139  
 Boone, J. J. 139  
 Boone, James William 139  
 Boone, John E. 139  
 Boone, Rebecca Copeland 139  
 Boone, William A. 139  
 Boykin, Lynn 44, 49  
 Bradley, George Willis 138  
 Bradley, J. W. 21, 26, 34  
 Bradley, James William 108, 138  
 Bradley, Millie Ann 138  
 Bradley, T. W., Jr. 138  
 Bradshaw, M. 116  
 Bradshaw, R. W. 137  
 Brannon, Mary Lib 59  
 Branoff, Bill 53, 54  
 Branoff, Donna 56  
 Brantley, Betsy 32  
 Brantley, Janola C. 65  
 Brantley, Novie E. 65  
 Brantley, Patsy 32  
 Brantley, Richard 31  
 Braswell, Kermit 152  
 Braswell, Ruby 17  
 Bridgers, Lorraine 74  
 Bridgers, R. H. 20-23, 26, 38  
 Bridges, Lorone 19  
 Brinkley, Elizabeth 113  
 Britt, F. E. 135  
 Broadwell, J. 10, 15  
 Brodie, Betsy 41  
 Brodie, Bob 41  
 Brodie, Eddie 41  
 Brodie, Edward Hunter 152  
 Brodie, George 152  
 Brodie, Helen 40  
 Brodie, Helen Hunter 19, 40, 152  
 Brodie, R. S. 40, 41  
 Brodie, R. Stewart 40  
 Brodie, Robert Stewart 19, 108, 151  
 Brodie, Robert Stewart, Jr. 152  
 Brodie, Stewart 50, 152  
 Broughton, Carrie Gill 15, 66  
 Brown, Eliza 4, 63  
 Brown, Elizabeth 4  
 Brown, Henrietta "Etta" Reid 4  
 Brown, J. A. "Nade" 4  
 Brown, J. P. 9, 10, 18, 63, 65, 68

Brown, J. R. 5  
 Brown, James 27-29, 31  
 Brown, James P. 17  
 Brown, John 4  
 Brown, John R. 4  
 Brown, Margaret 17  
 Brown, Martha 56  
 Brown, R. E. 144  
 Brown, R. H. 5  
 Brown, R. V. 23, 31  
 Brown, R. Vance 21, 26-28  
 Brown, Scott 35, 40, 56, 60, 146  
 Brown, William 4  
 Brummitt, Mary 74  
 Bullard, Anne 131  
 Bullard, Mrs. W. F. 66  
 Bumgarner, Don 60  
 Bunn, Billy 53  
 Bunn, Mike 44  
 Bunn, Mrs. Connie 34  
 Bunn, Sue 53  
 Burgess, Walter 31  
 Burke, Callie 65  
 Burke, Geo. A. 65  
 Burkhead, L. S. 4  
 Cade, W. A. 138  
 Cahoon, Ida 17  
 Cahoon, J. B. 70  
 Cahoon, John 77  
 Cahoon, Lila 77  
 Cahoon, Sybil 77  
 Cahoon, Syble 17  
 Cahoon, Thyra 77  
 Cameron, Beulah Bradley 138  
 Campbell, Barbara Elizabeth 148  
 Campbell, Carrie Bell 65  
 Campbell, Mrs. James 114  
 Campen, Bertha 79  
 Campen, Mary Flowers 79  
 Campen, Mrs. May 65  
 Campen, Wilbur 79  
 Campion, Mary 63  
 Cannon, William R. 140  
 Cannon, William Ragsdale 42  
 Card, Velma Howell 15  
 Carlisle, George 57, 58  
 Carroll, Virginia 49  
 Carruth, Christian Hoover 139  
 Carruth, Ellen 140  
 Carruth, Joy 140  
 Carruth, Paul, Jr. 140  
 Carruth, Robert 140  
 Carter, A. E. 66  
 Carter, Betty Lou 34

Davis, M. Stuart 17, 21, 26, 40, 152  
 Davis, Mabel 133  
 Davis, Mamie 116  
 Davis, Marvin 65  
 Davis, Mary 81  
 Davis, Mary Dexter 69  
 Davis, Mary E. 17, 66  
 Davis, MaryAnn 42, 44  
 Davis, Mildred 81  
 Davis, Paul 81  
 Davis, Paul D. 66  
 Davis, Robert 81  
 Davis, Robert V. 16  
 Davis, Robt. V. 66  
 Davis, Stuart 133  
 Davis, Virginia A. 65  
 Davis, Wayne 43, 46, 49, 52  
 Dawson, Mildred 68  
 Dawson, R. Grady 31  
 Denny, Collins 110  
 Dent, Freddie 57  
 Dent, Freddie Clark 18  
 Denton, Mary Lee 19  
 Denton, Raymond D. 66  
 Denton, Ruby 17  
 Denton, S. Staley 66  
 Derrickson, Pearl "Betty" 41  
 Dexter, George W. 81  
 Dexter, Mary Elizabeth 81  
 Dodameade, Mattie 133  
 Doll, Jacob 115  
 Driver, Nellie 63, 65  
 Duke, Ashley 65  
 Duke, Geneva 65  
 Duke, P. V. 65  
 Duke, Walter B. 66  
 Duke, Willie M. 65  
 Durham, E. C. 29, 34, 133, 142  
 Durham, Ernest C. 133  
 Eakes, Mary Ann 59  
 Eakins, Mary Elizabeth 75  
 Earnhardt, D. E. 113, 116  
 Earp, Wiley 4  
 Earp, Wyatt 4  
 Eatmon, P. C. 9  
 Eaton, Janet 52, 82  
 Eaton, Mary 82  
 Eaton, Sarah 27, 29, 52, 77, 82, 88  
 Eaton, William 52  
 Eaton, Wood Tucker Johnson 82  
 Eddins, Lola 65  
 Eddins, Mrs. Hubert 66  
 Eddins, Nina 63  
 Edwards, Charles 44  
 Edwards, Floyd 50  
 Edwards, Laura 139  
 Egerton, Mrs. A. G. 116  
 Egerton, R. Z. 133  
 Eldridge, Emily 113  
 Ellington, Cora A. 66  
 Ellington, Ira C. 66  
 Eubank, Graham S. 133  
 Eure, Alfred Brinkley 109  
 Eure, Delilah 109  
 Eure, Dolly W. 15  
 Eure, F. F. 7, 15  
 Eure, Frank F. 108, 109  
 Eure, Frank Fletcher 6, 109  
 Eure, Hilliard Manly 109  
 Eure, J. B. 109  
 Eure, J. Bruce 109  
 Eure, N. L. 109  
 Eure, S. A. 109  
 Eure, Stephen E. 109  
 Evans, Mrs. John O. 114  
 Farmer, Alice 56  
 Farrar, W. G. 131, 132  
 Farrior, Mr. 121  
 Faulkner, Garland 66  
 Feuerstein, Emily 154  
 Feuerstein, Eric 154  
 Feuerstein, Susan B. 154  
 Fields, Roberta 140  
 Finch, A. T. 63  
 Finch, Alma 39, 88  
 Finch, Alma Fisher 18  
 Finch, Beulah 73  
 Finch, Bulor 64  
 Finch, Charles Brooks 78  
 Finch, Charles Davis 78  
 Finch, Douglas 68, 78  
 Finch, E. D. 27, 29  
 Finch, Elmer 109  
 Finch, Elmer D. 19, 38, 66, 78  
 Finch, Elmer D., Jr. 68  
 Finch, Elmer Davis 73  
 Finch, Elmer Dortch 69, 78  
 Finch, Elmer, Sr. 68  
 Finch, F. D. 25, 27, 29-31, 38  
 Finch, Foster 38  
 Finch, Foster D. 17, 18, 28, 30, 109  
 Finch, Graham 65  
 Finch, Gross 63  
 Finch, Grover 65  
 Finch, J. D. 15, 16, 64, 65, 68, 73  
 Finch, John D. 69, 73, 78, 120  
 Finch, Johnny 109  
 Finch, Linwood 65

Finch, Margaret 42  
 Finch, Marie 43  
 Finch, Marie Brooks 78  
 Finch, Marie Watson 78  
 Finch, Mary Fisher 68, 71  
 Finch, Minnie 19  
 Finch, Mrs. A. T. 63  
 Finch, Mrs. Douglas 33, 35  
 Finch, Mrs. J. D. 65  
 Finch, Mrs. Joe F. 66  
 Finch, Mrs. W. D. 27, 71, 72, 121  
 Finch, Mrs. Wayland 119  
 Finch, Sallie B. 64, 73  
 Finch, Sallie Strickland 69, 120  
 Finch, Sanford M. 66  
 Finch, Sigma 64, 68, 73  
 Finch, Sigmon 109  
 Finch, W. D. 27, 68, 71  
 Finch, Wayland 17  
 Finch, Wayland D. 65  
 Finch, Waylon D. 17, 46, 64, 71, 73, 109, 120, 121  
 Finch-Plowman, Wanda 78  
 Fisher, Alma L. 66, 71  
 Fisher, Alma Love 17, 71, 73, 119, 121, 129  
 Fisher, Clyde 121, 122, 124, 127, 129  
 Fisher, Clyde O. 66, 71  
 Fisher, Clyde Olin 72  
 Fisher, E. B. 25, 26  
 Fisher, Edgar 124, 126, 128-130  
 Fisher, Edgar B. 17, 18, 66, 71, 72  
 Fisher, Edgar B., Jr. 71  
 Fisher, Edgar Beauregard 119  
 Fisher, Elmira 119  
 Fisher, G. W. 18, 26, 68, 70, 118, 119, 121  
 Fisher, George W. 15, 17-19, 69, 71, 72  
 Fisher, George Washington 15, 71, 108, 118-121  
 Fisher, Henry 15, 122, 126, 128-130  
 Fisher, Henry E. 18, 66, 71, 72  
 Fisher, Henry Elbert 119  
 Fisher, Ida L. 66, 71  
 Fisher, Ida Lee 72  
 Fisher, Ida Love 16, 69, 71  
 Fisher, Lillian 121  
 Fisher, Marvin 121, 122, 124, 125  
 Fisher, Mrs. G. W. 71  
 Fisher, Ralph 15, 121, 124, 125, 127-130  
 Fisher, Ralph L. 66, 71  
 Fisher, Ralph Lee 72, 119  
 Fisher, Ruth Anne 17, 71  
 Fisher, Stephen 119  
 Fitzgerald, Owen 140  
 Flowers, Bertha 63  
 Flowers, Bertha 79  
 Flowers, C. A. 15, 65, 68, 79  
 Flowers, C. A. Dr. 63  
 Flowers, C. E. 21, 23, 26, 27  
 Flowers, Carmen 17, 79  
 Flowers, Charles 69  
 Flowers, Charles A. 15, 79  
 Flowers, Charles E. 17, 79  
 Flowers, Clara 79  
 Flowers, Clarence 79  
 Flowers, DeElla 65, 69, 79  
 Flowers, DeElla Alfred 79  
 Flowers, Della 15  
 Flowers, Fred 79  
 Flowers, Lela 79  
 Flowers, Lucia 15, 20, 65, 79  
 Flowers, Marie 88  
 Flowers, Mary 79  
 Flowers, Mrs. Charles E. 38  
 Flowers, Mrs. S. G. 24, 27-31  
 Flowers, Neva 79  
 Flowers, S. G. 17, 79  
 Flowers, S. G., Jr. 79  
 Flowers, Sultan Grover 79  
 Fordham, Desoto 10  
 Fordham, DeSoto 63  
 Fordham, Leon 63  
 Fordham, Mr. J. W. 63  
 Fordham, Mrs. J. W. 63  
 Fowler, Mary F. 15  
 Fowler, Mary L. 66  
 Frady, Eva Jane 75  
 Fretwell, Debbie 50  
 Fuller, F. F. 15  
 Fuller, F. G. 15, 16  
 Fuller, Frank 4, 68  
 Fuller, Jos. 5  
 Fuller, Pattie 68  
 Fuller, Pattie Brown 4  
 Gannoway, Ida Mae 14  
 Garber, Paul 40  
 Garber, Paul N. 25, 114  
 Garris, Charlotte 153  
 Gibbons, Louise 59  
 Gill, H. P. 10, 63  
 Gill, Henry 63, 65  
 Gill, Loraine 64  
 Gill, Mrs. H. P. 63  
 Gill, Rhoda Winstead 19, 68, 84  
 Glasgow, Jack 59  
 Glass, Conrad 31, 32  
 Goodman, Jennie 50  
 Goodson, Anna Walker 137  
 Goodson, John William 137  
 Goodson, W. A. 137  
 Grant, Cary 24

Grantham, Fern 50, 57  
 Green, Amy 44  
 Green, Betsy 58, 59  
 Green, Billy 58  
 Green, J. G. 19  
 Green, Paula 44  
 Gregory, Ellis 50  
 Griffin, Pauline Cobb 16  
 Griswold, Chuck 44, 49  
 Griswold, Ken 44  
 Griswold, Patricia 60  
 Grogan, Perry 45  
 Gupton, W. V. 137  
 Guthrie, Dave 60  
 Guthrie, David 60  
 Guthrie, Lia 59, 60  
 Hager, Michael 46  
 Hager, Mike 47  
 Hales, Ed 27-29, 45-47, 54  
 Hales, M. F. 15  
 Hales, Millard 9, 10, 16  
 Hales, Mrs. Seba 65, 82  
 Hales, Seba 82  
 Hales, T. E. 38  
 Hales, W. D. 9, 10, 13, 15  
 Hales, W. D. 15  
 Hales, W. T. 5, 18  
 Hall, Ashbel G. 132  
 Hall, C. G. 139  
 Hall, E. M. 18, 19, 26, 119  
 Hall, Edgar M., Jr. 133  
 Hall, Edgar Milton 108, 132  
 Hall, Ella L. 133  
 Hall, John H. 15  
 Hall, John L. 133  
 Hall, Mattie Williamson 132  
 Hammond, Trudy H. 153  
 Harper, Beulah 65  
 Harper, C. Fred 56  
 Harper, Carl 64, 73  
 Harper, Carl T. 66  
 Harper, J. M. Dr. 66  
 Harper, Laurie 56  
 Harper, Lisa 56  
 Harper, Susie M. 66  
 Harper, Talmage 19  
 Harrell, Judy 153  
 Harris, Allison 44  
 Harris, E. W. 15  
 Harris, I. W. 65  
 Harris, Jimmy 49, 53, 54  
 Harris, John H. 151  
 Harris, N. T. 20  
 Harris, S. W. 63  
 Hawke, Grace 81  
 Hawkins, Phala 114  
 Hayes, Mrs. L. S. 66  
 Hays, John W. 11  
 Hearnese, L. E. 15  
 Hedden, Forrest 135  
 Hedden, Forrest D. 133  
 Hendricks, E. R. 110  
 Hendricks, Johnny 45  
 Henry, Cathy Hinton 81  
 Hepler, Connie 35  
 Hepler, Mrs. Thurman 33  
 Hepler, T. B. 27, 29, 38  
 Hepler, Thurman 28, 30  
 Hester, W. H. 10, 13  
 Hickman, Frank S. 118  
 Hicks, Patricia 50  
 High, Bettie 16  
 High, C. J. 9  
 High, H. B. 14  
 High, S. G. 15  
 High, Seba 15  
 Highsmith, Josie 116  
 Hill, A. P., Jr. 53  
 Hill, Green 3, 17, 19  
 Hill, N. B. III 153  
 Hill, N. B., Jr. 43  
 Hill, Noah B., Jr. 43, 108, 153  
 Hill, Noah B., Sr. 153  
 Hill, Russell F. 153  
 Hinton, A. S. 70  
 Hinton, Allen S. 81  
 Hinton, Charles 81  
 Hinton, Jack 81  
 Hobbs, A. J. 131, 132, 135  
 Hobby, C. T. 135  
 Hocutt, Mack 24  
 Hocutt, Melody M. 58  
 Hocutt, W. H. 17  
 Hodges, Ed 148  
 Holloway, Bettie 11, 12  
 Holloway, E. J. 11, 12  
 Holman, Lillie 15  
 Honeycutt, Alma V. 65  
 Honeycutt, Mrs. Bruce 28  
 Honeycutt, Oza 65  
 Honeycutt, W. A. 65  
 Hood, W. H. 5  
 Horton, Alice 11, 12  
 Horton, Alma 11, 12  
 Horton, D. W. 11, 12  
 Horton, Georgia 11, 12  
 Horton, Helen 65  
 Horton, J. D. 11, 12

Horton, J. T. 11, 12  
 Horton, James G. 65  
 Horton, John Duke 14  
 Horton, John W. 11  
 Horton, John Wesley 6, 12, 14  
 Horton, M. L. 11  
 Horton, Martha L. 6  
 Horton, Mrs. M. L. 12  
 Horton, Mrs. T. J. 63, 65  
 Horton, Rebecca 11, 12  
 Horton, T. J. 10-13, 15-17, 37, 63, 65  
 Horton, Thomas 9  
 Horton, Thomas J. 6, 10, 14  
 Horton, Tom 130  
 Horton, W. S. 11, 12  
 Horton, Williams S. 6  
 House, A. R. 21, 23, 26, 27, 31, 54, 70  
 House, Jocelyn 24, 70  
 House, Mary 6, 13, 68, 88  
 House, Mrs. A. R. 37  
 House, Ralph 70  
 Howard, Leslie Powell 137  
 Howard, Mary Ann 137  
 Howard, Mary Anna 136  
 Howard, Nan Goodson 136  
 Howell, Estella J. 15, 66  
 Hoyle, Eula Pearl 66  
 Hoyle, H. R. 10, 13, 15, 63, 82  
 Hoyle, Henry 6, 68, 82  
 Hoyle, Irby 10, 63, 65, 82  
 Hoyle, Lonnie 82  
 Hoyle, Starkey H. 66  
 Hudgins, Sallie 129  
 Hunter, Helen 151  
 Hupp, Nola 65  
 Ihrie, John H. 27  
 Ingold, Mamie 65  
 Ipock, Donna 62  
 Ivey, George Washington 119  
 Jeffreys, Iraderea 63  
 Jeffreys, J. C. 5, 9, 15, 16, 18  
 Jeffreys, Julius 63, 65  
 Jeffreys, Julius C. 14  
 Jeffreys, Laura 63  
 Jeffreys, Virginia 63, 65  
 Jeffrys, J. C. 5, 10  
 Jenkins, Andy 27, 31  
 Jenkins, Mrs. Andrew 33, 35  
 Jennings, Allan 60  
 Jennings, Chris 49, 57  
 Jennings, Jane 52, 59  
 Jennings, Jane B. 59  
 Jerome, C. P. 119  
 John, R. B. 9, 13, 14  
 Johnson, B. B. 135  
 Johnson, D. C. 135  
 Johnson, E. M. 135  
 Johnson, Henrietta Jones 135  
 Johnson, J. G. 119  
 Johnson, Josephine 19, 135  
 Johnson, Linda 40  
 Johnson, Maynard 19, 135  
 Johnson, Mrs. J. D. 109  
 Johnson, N. B. 19, 26  
 Johnson, Neal B. 15  
 Johnson, Neill 135  
 Johnson, Neill Beckwith 108, 135  
 Johnson, Ritta B. 135  
 Jones, Charles 70  
 Jones, Elijah 63  
 Jones, J. Monroe 74  
 Jones, Katherine B. 139  
 Jones, L. E. 63  
 Jones, Littleton Young 74  
 Jones, Lucy Carolyn Parrott 74  
 Jones, Lucy Parrot 68, 69  
 Jones, Lucy Parrott 74  
 Jones, Mrs. L. E. 63  
 Jones, Mrs. Paul 63  
 Jones, Paul 74  
 Jones, Pearl 63  
 Jones, Robert "Paul" 74  
 Jordan, V. H. 135  
 Joyner, Anna 44  
 Joyner, Belton, Jr 60  
 Joyner, F. Belton, Jr. 59  
 Joyner, Horace 47  
 Joyner, Jimmy 42, 52, 58  
 Joyner, Mary Lib 44  
 Joyner, Nancy 44  
 Joyner, Ruth 42, 45, 59  
 Joyner, Ruth Temple 42  
 Joyner, Sarah 54  
 Keith, Grace E. 66  
 Kemp, May Ophelia 14  
 Key, Joseph S. 115  
 Kilgo, John C. 139  
 Kilkelly, Grace Coltrane 24, 26, 50, 54, 59  
 Kilkelly, Thomas 59  
 Kimball, W. M. 136  
 King, Flonnie 66  
 King, John 3  
 King, Josephine 153  
 Kinlaw, Mrs. L. B. 109  
 Kinlaw, T. B. 15  
 Kinlaw, Winnie 15  
 Kinsey, Bessie 143  
 Kiryluk, Sue 61, 62

Kitchings, Mrs. R. E. 27  
 Knight, H. H. 16  
 Knight, Reginal 15  
 Lancaster, Eckie C. 53  
 Lanier, Jim 50  
 Layfield, Ann 46  
 Layfield, Charles A. 151  
 Layfield, Frances Zimmerman 40  
 Layfield, Laura Sue 151  
 Layfield, Mary Ann 151  
 Layfield, Mrs. P. H., Sr. 151  
 Layfield, Pearce Hudson 108, 150  
 Layfield, Pearce Hudson, III, 151  
 Layfield, Pearce Hudson, Jr. 150  
 Layfield, Pierce H. 39, 40, 46  
 Layfield, Sue 39  
 Leach, Nannie 124  
 Learman Mel F. 18  
 Lee, Christie 44  
 Lee, Jesse 3  
 Lee, Mabel 19  
 Leeland, Paul 59  
 Legates, J. Ed 41  
 Lentz, Betty 138  
 Lewis, Hazel 16  
 Lewis, Mrs. Foster 38  
 Lewis, Roy R. 20  
 Liggins, Mary Lib 44  
 Liles, Cassandra Beth 75  
 Liles, Dobbins 65  
 Liles, Eva 75  
 Liles, Jack White 75  
 Liles, Jean 50  
 Liles, Katie Bet 69, 75  
 Liles, Lawre 44  
 Liles, Lewis Oliver 75  
 Liles, Logan Winder 75  
 Liles, Louis Lambreth 75  
 Liles, Lucy 63, 65  
 Liles, Matthew Lewis 75  
 Liles, Mrs. Lawrence 31, 32  
 Liles, Sallie 82  
 Liles, Sallie H. 82  
 Lipscomb, Jerry 60  
 Long, Harry 52  
 Long, Jim 32  
 Long, Margaret 131  
 Love, Ann 72  
 Love, F. L. 34  
 Love, F. S. 14, 115  
 Love, Frank S., Jr 114  
 Love, Franklin Swindell 108, 114  
 Love, Ida 72  
 Love, Ida Lee 119  
 Love, J. W. 114  
 Love, James 72  
 Love, Mary Williams 114  
 Love, Swindell 114  
 Love, Thomas Lee 114  
 Lovelace, Ann 58  
 Lovelace, Christopher 56, 154  
 Lovelace, Henry 58, 108  
 Lovelace, Henry N. 56  
 Lovelace, Henry Neal 154  
 Lovelace, Henry O. 154  
 Lovelace, Kimberly 154  
 Lovelace, Mark 154  
 Lovell, Ella Belinda 132  
 Loy, Anne 131  
 Loy, Lawrence 131  
 Loy, Lynn 131  
 Loy, Margaret Long 132  
 Loy, Mrs. W. L. 18  
 Loy, Myrna 24  
 Loy, Sallie Jane 131  
 Loy, Vance 131  
 Loy, W. L. 17, 26, 34  
 Loy, William H. 131  
 Loy, William Lawrence 108, 131, 132  
 Lynch, G. M. 5  
 Lynch, Tradona 65  
 Maness, D. L. 19  
 Maness, M. W. 139  
 Manning, J. D. 15  
 Markham, Annie R. 11, 12  
 Markham, M. G. 11, 12  
 Martin, Connie H. 153  
 Massey, Barrett Daniel 45  
 Massey, Frank 19, 32  
 Massey, L. M. 6  
 Massey, L. S. 118  
 Massey, Lucy Francis 19  
 Massey, Mrs. Ben Finch 29  
 Massey, Mrs. Pearl 65  
 Massey, Mrs. Robert D. 35  
 Massey, Mrs. Robert Daniel 34  
 Massey, Pearl 68  
 Massey, Pearl Jones 74  
 Massey, R. D. Jr. 45  
 Massey, Robert D. 38  
 Massey, Robert Daniel 45  
 Massey, Robert Daniel, Sr. 45  
 Massey, Sarah T. 42  
 Massey, Zyba 27, 29  
 Massey, Zyba K. 143  
 Masters, Susan 62  
 Mattocks, Claudia 50  
 Mattocks, Robert 50

Mattox, Barbara 153  
 Mauney, Laura 116  
 May, Beth White 75  
 May, Jordan 17  
 McCullars, Charles 50  
 McCullars, Mrs. 127  
 McCullars, Warren 124  
   McGee, Arie 65  
 McGee, D. Y. 65  
 McGuire, Ollie 65  
 Meadows, Anne 50  
 Meadows, Robert 50  
 Mercer, Almon E. 142, 143  
 Mercer, Charles H. 140  
 Mercer, Grace Crouch 142  
 Mercer, Jane 143  
 Mercer, John 143  
 Mercer, Linwood E. 142, 143  
 Mercer, Miles V. 142  
 Mercer, S. E. 144  
 Mercer, S. E. 22, 24-27, 30, 143  
 Mercer, Saul Erastus 141, 142  
 Mercer, Seymour E. 143  
 Mercer, Seymour Esmond 108, 140  
 Mills, Harriet 59  
 Minnick, C. P. 56  
 Minnick, Carlton P., Jr. 56  
 Minnick, Mary Ann 56  
 Minnis, Eugenia Eveline 75  
 Mitchell, Alphonso 63  
 Mitchell, B. B. 63  
 Mitchell, B. M. 65  
 Mitchell, Doza 63  
 Mitchell, Ellen 10  
 Mitchell, H. C. 63, 65  
 Mitchell, J. Thos. 63  
 Mitchell, Janie 63  
 Mitchell, Joseph 65  
 Mitchell, Joseph W. 64  
 Mitchell, Juliet N. 63  
 Mitchell, Leree 10  
 Mitchell, Lolee 63  
 Mitchell, Minnie A. 63  
 Mitchell, Mrs. Alphonso 63  
 Mitchell, Mrs. B. B. 63, 65  
 Mitchell, Mrs. C. E. 70  
 Mitchell, Mrs. Thomas 63  
 Mitchell, Mrs. Thos. 65  
 Mitchell, Nancy 75  
 Mitchell, Oza 10  
 Mitchell, Oza 63  
 Mitchell, Sarah 64  
 Mitchell, Sarah B. 63  
 Mitchell, Voleie 63  
 Mitchell, W. M. 63  
 Mizanski, Mrs. 134  
 Monk, Tom 38  
 Monson, Finch 71  
 Monson, Gene 71  
 Monson, Homer 71  
 Monson, Johnny 71  
 Monson, Marlo Love 71  
 Monson, Mary Fisher 121  
 Moore, Jennie 116  
 Moore, J. L. Dr. 15  
 Morrison, Mary Belle 109  
 Mosely, Helen 63  
 Mosely, Mrs. Helen 65  
 Moser, E. H. 15, 16, 19, 29, 66  
 Moser, Earl 18  
 Moser, Grace (Mrs. Rom) 43  
 Moser, Myrtle F. 16, 66  
 Moser, Romulus 18  
 Mouzon, Edwin D. 110  
 Murray, Eddie 50  
 Murray, Lee Bell 50  
 Murray, Wendy 44, 49  
 Narron, Rena 79  
 Newby, Nell 34  
 Nixon, James 53  
   Noll, Edna Louise 77  
 Noll, Hope 77  
 Noll, Howard P. 68  
 Noll, Howard V. 77  
 Noll, Thyra Cahoon 68, 69  
 O'Keel, Ruth 15  
 Olin, Clyde 119  
 Oliver, Ruth 52, 53  
 O'Neal, Sherry 44  
 Ormond, J. M. 117  
 Overman, W. T. 15  
 Owens, Bill 58  
 Owens, Terryn 58  
 Page, Eva 18, 29, 77  
 Page, Fred 77  
 Page, Fred L., Jr. 18  
 Page, Mrs. F. L. 28, 29  
 Page, Mrs. Fred L. 27, 30  
 Page, Ruth 77  
 Page, Walter 77  
 Paige, Ron 44  
 Parker, Ethel 32  
 Parker, Geraldine 19  
 Parker, Hazel 19  
 Parker, Hildred 19  
 Parker, L. 115  
 Parker, Melba 32  
 Parrish, J. H. 131

Parrott, Henry Franklin 74  
 Parrott, Lucy Carolyn 74  
 Passe, W. H. 64  
 Pate, Aldona 54  
 Patten, Brooks 112  
 Patten, Walter 109  
 Patton, Harry 70  
 Patton, Jinny 112  
 Patton,, J. H. 22  
 Paul Carruth 22, 25, 26, 34, 108, 138, 139  
 Paulakuhn, Chris 59  
 Paulakuhn, Sue 59  
 Pearce, Elizabeth Ihrle 49  
 Pearce, Faye 44  
 Pearce, J. G. 17  
 Pearce, J. Leaman 49  
 Pearce, Jack 66  
 Pearce, James Leaman, Jr. 59  
 Pearce, Leaman 27, 29, 31, 59  
 Pearce, Lib 59  
 Pearce, Patricia 49  
 Pearce, Pauline 17  
 Perry, A. Olin 116  
 Perry, Carl Pugh 116  
 Perry, Faye Finch 78  
 Perry, G. B. 14, 26, 37, 73, 79  
 Perry, G. Marvin 116  
 Perry, George Bascom 108, 116  
 Petteway, Warren B. 43, 46, 47  
 Philmon, Evan 154  
 Philmon, Ryan 154  
 Philmon, Shannon 154  
 Philmon, Terri B. 154  
 Pierce, Sarah 63  
 Pilmoor, Joseph 3  
 Pippin, A. A. 7  
 Pippin, Lillian 10  
 Pippin, Martha Flowers 24, 70  
 Pippin, Mrs. A. A. 63, 65  
 Pitts, Ada 63  
 Pitts, Debbie 56  
 Pitts, G. O., Jr. 66  
 Pitts, Geo. Oliver 66  
 Plautz, Leonard 59  
 Plyler, M. T. 118, 119  
 Poe, Ethel Mercer 143  
 Ponder, Reginald 51, 53, 55, 60  
 Poole, Joy 44  
 Potter, Eloise 47, 52, 53  
 Powell, Bill 41, 50  
 Powell, Howard P. 132, 133  
 Powell, MaryAnn Davis 41  
 Powers, Jim 45, 56  
 Powers, Susie 56, 58, 59  
 Powers, V. C. 45  
 Pressley, Timothy A. 49  
 Prichard, Melanie 50  
 Prichard, Paul 50  
 Privette, Albert "Dave" 21  
 Privette, Curtis 21  
 Privette, Frank 21  
 Privette, Mary Lib 56  
 Privette, Tommy 60, 108  
 Privette, Wayne 21  
 Pugh, Josephine 116  
 Pulley, A. 16, 66  
 Pulley, Albert 27, 29, 30, 38, 45, 59  
 Pulley, Barbara 59  
 Pulley, Barbara Kay 59  
 Pulley, Bertha May 16  
 Pulley, E. B. 32  
 Pulley, Frankie 44, 49  
 Pulley, Gina 44  
 Pulley, James 65  
 Pulley, Jesse 28, 29, 45  
 Pulley, Joseph Alexander 59  
 Pulley, Kay 42, 43, 58  
 Pulley, Lowell Ray 59  
 Pulley, Lowell Ray, Jr. 59  
 Pulley, Merle Sue 59  
 Pulley, Robert 32, 49, 58  
 Pulley, Robin 44  
 Quick, Barbara "Bobbi" 38  
 Quick, David 148  
 Quick, Douglas 147  
 Quick, Kathryn Elizabeth 148  
 Quick, Paul 148  
 Quick, Stephen Kellon 148  
 Quick, William Kellon 35, 36, 37, 38, 45, 108, 147  
 Quinn, James 44  
 Rankin, Winton 47, 50, 51, 53, 55, 59  
 Rankin, Winton B. 43  
 Ray, George W. 37  
 Read, C. L. 26  
 Read, Charles Lewis 136, 137  
 Read, Fletcher 136  
 Read, Helen Lewis 136  
 Read, Horace P. 136  
 Read, Lewis Henry 136  
 Read, Nan Goodson 137  
 Read, Nancy 136  
 Read, Sallie Wright 136  
 Read, William H. 136  
 Reade, C. L. 20  
 Reade, Charles Lewis 108  
 Reed, Bill 47  
 Reed, Joy 53  
 Reid, D. J. 114



Rey-Barreau, Georgina Hernandez 38  
 Rey-Barreau, Jose 38  
 Rey-Barreau, Jose Antonio 38  
 Rey-Barreau, Joseph Anthony 39  
 Rhodes, Addie 66  
 Rhodes, Sarah 65  
 Richardson, A. W. 5  
 Richardson, B. H. 5  
 Richardson, Bernice 10, 13  
 Richardson, Bryant 9  
 Richardson, Calvin J. 17  
 Richardson, Doris 19  
 Richardson, E. G. 65  
 Richardson, Emma 5  
 Richardson, Flora 63  
 Richardson, Garland 27-29, 32  
 Richardson, Hettie 63, 65  
 Richardson, Hubert 63, 65  
 Richardson, I. B. 16, 18, 82  
 Richardson, Ida E. 17  
 Richardson, Jarvis H. 17  
 Richardson, Lena 17  
 Richardson, Lollis R. 19  
 Richardson, Lottie 17  
 Richardson, Luther 65  
 Richardson, M. E. 5  
 Richardson, Mozelle 66  
 Richardson, Mrs. E. G. 65  
 Richardson, Mrs. Garland 29  
 Richardson, Mrs. I. B. 33  
 Richardson, Nolee 63  
 Richardson, Orion H. 66  
 Richardson, Paul 17  
 Richardson, Peggy 32  
 Richardson, R. B. 5  
 Richardson, Vear C. 66  
 Richardson, Vera 16  
 Richardson, W. A. 17  
 Richardson, W. E. 5  
 Richardson, W. H. 5  
 Riley, James Whitcomb 137  
 Robbins, Cecil 114  
 Roberson, Angela 43  
 Roberson, George 43, 45, 49, 50, 52, 53, 55  
 Roberson, Mary E. 12  
 Roberson, Michele 44  
 Roberson, Michelle 43, 46  
 Roberson, Susie 43, 58  
 Roberts, Fred (Betsy) 152  
 Roberts, Frederick Eugene 45  
 Roberts, Leroy 55  
 Roberts, M. P. 15  
 Roberts, W. T. 15  
 Robertson, Claude 129  
 Robertson, J. E. 12  
 Robertson, J. T. 11  
 Robertson, Mary E. 11  
 Robinson, B. P. 115  
 Rodemaker, Hope 44  
 Roe, Gertrude 65  
 Ross, Annie 63  
 Ross, Roberta 63  
 Rowland, D. L. 15  
 Royster, Vitruvius 12  
 Russ, Elizabeth 142  
 Russell, J. A. 19  
 Sale, Mrs. V. D. 133  
 Sanders, G. M. 10, 13, 63  
 Sanders, Guy 10, 37  
 Sanders, J. W. 10, 13, 63  
 Sanders, J. Wesley 10  
 Sanders, Mrs. G. M. 63  
 Sanders, Mrs. J. W. 63  
 Sanders, Mrs. Wesley 68  
 Sandlin, D. U. 144  
 Saunders, Beatrice 16, 76  
 Saunders, G. M. 11, 15, 16, 65  
 Saunders, Gus 76  
 Saunders, Guy 9, 76  
 Saunders, J. W. 9, 66, 76  
 Saunders, J. W. "Wesley" 76  
 Saunders, John Wesley 69  
 Saunders, Mary 16, 76  
 Saunders, Mary M. 66  
 Saunders, Mary Magdalene 16  
 Saunders, Mrs. G. M. 65  
 Saunders, Nellie 76  
 Saunders, Nellie C. 66  
 Saunders, Nellie Christine 16  
 Saunders, Pearl 66  
 Saunders, Pearl Ferrell 69  
 Saunders, Wesley 11, 37  
 Saunders, Winnie 76  
 Scarboro, Logan 20  
 Sexton, Laura James 29, 30  
 Sexton, M. J. 21, 22, 27, 29, 31, 37, 38  
 Sharp, Ray 152  
 Sharpe, V. A. 115  
 Shaw, Sybil Cahoon 77  
 Shearin, J. W. 65  
 Shearin, Raleigh 16  
 Shearin, W. Raleigh 66  
 Shearin, W. T. 65  
 Shearn, Meta 63  
 Sheldon, Charles M. 8, 109, 111  
 Sheldon, Jeff 54  
 Sheron, J. W. 63  
 Sheron, Walter 63

Sheron, William 63  
 Sherron, Wallace 29  
 Shore, J. H. 116  
 Simmons, Adelaide Lorraine 7, 110  
 Simpson, Bill 60  
 Singleton, Tammy 62  
 Smith, Carolyn 54  
 Smith, Fred 27, 28  
 Smith, Gracie M. 152  
 Smith, Ira 49  
 Smith, J. Thomas 42, 53, 108  
 Smith, J. Thomas "Tommy" 56  
 Smith, John Thomas "Tommy" 152  
 Smith, Judy 56  
 Smith, Karl 54, 56  
 Smith, Paul 153  
 Smith, Ralph L. 152  
 Smith, Thomas 153  
 Smith, Tommy 58  
 Southall, Furnie 65  
 Southall, Mary E. 65  
 Southhall, Mary E. 64  
 Spencer, H. E. 114, 137  
 Spivey, Becky 39, 42, 57, 58  
 Spivey, Beth Liles 75  
 Spivey, Jillian Leigh 75  
 Spivey, Jimmy 27, 31, 47, 53, 55  
 Spivey, Meredith Paige 75  
 Spivey, Philip 56  
 Spivey, Rebecca Clark 18  
 Spivey, Susan 60  
 Stallings, Barry 53, 55, 57  
 Stallings, Pam 57, 58  
 Stanton, Ruth 142  
 Starling, Elizabeth 117  
 Starling, G. W. 15, 26  
 Starling, George Washington 108, 117  
 Starling, Maggie Lee 117  
 Starling, Mary Lee 117  
 Starling, William 117  
 Stell, J. L. 20  
 Stephenson, A. G. L. 66  
 Stephenson, Arthur 66  
 Stephenson, Jas. W. 66  
 Stephenson, Mrs. A. G. L. 66  
 Stott, Charles 15  
 Stott, Doan 16  
 Strickland, Lela F. 65  
 Strickland, Lollis 19  
 Strickland, Mamie 65, 82  
 Strickland, Milton 38  
 Strickland, Sallie 73  
 Strickland, W. Milton 82  
 Stroud, Rochelle Pippin 7  
 Surles, Sexton 125  
 Surles, Walter 125  
 Sutton, Jimmy 59  
 Swindell, Ann 45  
 Swindell, Charles 45  
 Swindell, Fred D. 7, 110  
 Tant, Cynthia 44  
 Tant, Greg 44  
 Tant, Hazel 32  
 Tant, Odell 45  
 Tant, Sarah 44, 45  
 Tant, Matthew Darrell 45  
 Tarpley, Elizabeth 20  
 Tarpley, J. W. 20  
 Teachey, J. D., Jr. 50  
 Temple, Alpheus 82  
 Temple, Bonnie 59  
 Temple, Candy 44  
 Temple, Charlie T. 82  
 Temple, Cola 10, 82  
 Temple, Colee (Cola) 63, 82  
 Temple, Dullie 82  
 Temple, Dullin (Dullie) 63, 82  
 Temple, G. W. 9  
 Temple, George 9, 10, 63, 68, 82  
 Temple, George Henry 82  
 Temple, George W. 82  
 Temple, Joseph 32, 70  
 Temple, Joseph Maylon 82  
 Temple, Keith 50  
 Temple, Lorenza 82  
 Temple, Lorenza R. 82  
 Temple, Mamie 63, 82  
 Temple, Mattie 82  
 Temple, Maylon 68, 70  
 Temple, Ruth 29, 29, 70  
 Temple, Shirley 24  
 Temple, Wallace 68, 82  
 Temples, Dullen 65  
 Temples, George 65  
 Temples, Henry 65  
 Temples, Lolie Beatrice 66  
 Temples, Sarah 65  
 Terry, Estelle 19, 54  
 Terry, Estelle Chamblee 120  
 Terry, Jack 51, 53, 55  
 Terry, John 19, 27  
 Tew, Paul 60  
 Thompson, E. M. 36  
 Thompson, Ethel Waldo 141, 143  
 Thompson, J. E. 141, 143  
 Tidwell, Ann 154  
 Tilghman, E. M. 15  
 Tingen, Mr. 125

Tippet, Joe Wayne 32  
 Tippet, Mrs. Joe 70  
 Tippet, Tim 44  
 Tisdale, Eugene 36  
 Travis, Jeanne 152  
 Traynham, D. D. 139  
 Trevathan, Vivian P. 21  
 Troutman, Frances 151  
 Truman, Harry 149  
 Tryon, William 3  
 Tubbs, Mrs. R. E. 63  
 Tubbs, R. E. 63  
 Tucker, Mrs. William 63  
 Tucker, Mrs. Wm. 65  
 Turbyfill, Art, Jr. 44  
 Turbyfill, Ross 44  
 Turnage, Bobby 42  
 Turrentine, Jocelyn House 54  
 Turrentine, Spencer 24  
 Tyson, Bobby 58  
 Tyson, Oscar 58  
 Umstead, C. I. 65  
 Umstead, J. M. 12  
 Underwood, J. E. 15  
 Upchurch, Flora 65  
 Vale, C. E. 25, 26, 34  
 Vale, Charles E. 21, 108  
 Veazey, Alexander Holloway, III 71  
 Veazey, Alexander Holloway, Jr. 17, 71  
 Veazey, Anne Elizabeth 71  
 Veazey, Daniel Burt 71  
 Veazey, Lee Fisher 17, 71  
 Veazey, Mary Exum Burt 17, 19  
 Veazey, William Alfred Lee 17  
 Vick, Marvin 114  
 Wade, Audrey 153  
 Wade, Britani 153  
 Wade, Celia 49  
 Wade, Clويد 29, 49  
 Wade, H. C. 21, 23, 26-31, 38  
 Wade, H. Clويد 88  
 Wade, Kristen 153  
 Wade, Mark 153  
 Wade, Mrs. H. C. 38  
 Wade, Peyton 153  
 Wade, Vaughn 32  
 Wake, Margaret 3  
 Wakefield, W. C. 15, 65  
 Walker, Mrs. W. M. 63  
 Walker, W. M. 63  
 Walker, Wade 63  
 Wall, Frank 27-29, 45, 59  
 Wall, James 27, 42, 50  
 Wall, Jean 40, 42, 56  
 Wall, Jean Flowers 70, 79  
 Wall, Mrs. Frank 33  
 Walston, Stuart 42  
 Watkins, Ezra 64  
 Watkins, Fred 60  
 Watkins, Kathy 60  
 Watkins, Mrs. Snowden 66  
 Watlington, Amanda B. 115  
 Watson, Catherine 49  
 Watson, Mrs. Missours 63  
 Wayne, John 24  
 Weathersby, Hazel 17  
 Weathersby, Mrs. Charles 68  
 Weeks, J. Michael 43, 49  
 Weeks, Michael 46  
 Weeks, Mike 47, 55, 57  
 Wesley, John 3, 42  
 Wheeler, Edna Farabow 74  
 White, Ashley Glenn 75  
 White, Durward 75  
 White, Halbert 75  
 White, Kate 75  
 White, Katie 65  
 White, Katie B. 63  
 White, Katie Bet 75  
 White, Mary Francis 19  
 White, May 65  
 White, Mrs. P. A. 63, 65  
 White, P. A. 10, 15, 16, 37, 63, 65, 69  
 White, Percy 75  
 White, Philip 14  
 White, Phillip 68  
 White, Phillip Allen 75  
 White, Waldo 75  
 White, Wallace 75  
 White, Willard 68, 75  
 White, William Philo, Sr. 75  
 Whitehurst, Mrs. Warren 137  
 Whitehurst, W. M. 136  
 Whiting, Art 54  
 Whitley, Michael 6  
 Whitley, R. B. 15, 17  
 Whitley, W. T. 82  
 Whitlock, Brand 19  
 Whitlock, Kattie S. 18  
 Wiggs, Lynne 57  
 Wilcox, A. D. 5, 9, 10, 13, 14, 25, 26  
 Wilcox, Armour David 7, 10, 74, 108, 109  
 Wilcox, Armour David, Jr. 7, 110  
 Wilcox, Loyal Manley 109  
 Wilcox, Mrs. A. D. 10  
 Wilcox, Mrs. Armour D. 113  
 Wilcox, Robert Morrison 110  
 Wilcox, Ward Manley 110

Wilkinson, Scott T. 59  
Williams, Eli 144  
Williams, John E. 56  
Williams, Robbie 144  
Williford, Rebecca 66  
Wilson, A. W. 110  
Wilson, Mrs. A. D. 63  
Wilson, Ruby 50  
Wilson, Tony 32  
Windley, Heber 59  
Windley, Heber W. 42  
Windley, Jan 42  
Winstead, George 78  
Winstead, Mrs. W. F. 68  
Winstead, Rachael 19  
Wm. A. Ingold 65  
Womble, Mrs. J. V. 64  
Wood, Elwyn 58  
Wood, Elywn 76  
Wood, Molly 76  
Woodall, Emily Eldridge 113  
Woodall, John 113  
Woodall, John Burwell 113  
Woodall, P. D. 14, 26  
Woodall, Preston DeWitt 108, 113  
Woodall, Preston, Jr. 113  
Woodard, Ethel 154  
Woodruff, J. C. 63  
Wrage, Jean 59  
Wrenn, Michael 44  
Zimmerman, Frances 150