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Main Street McColl History

Main Street United Methodist Church, McColl

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History of Methodist Church McCull, South Carolina

The first Methodist church in Marlboro County was located at Beauty Spot. This church was organized in 1783. When Bishop Asbury, the first Methodist bishop, made a tour from New York down through the south, he held the first quarterly conference that was ever held by the Methodist in Marlboro County. This conference was held in 1788 at Beauty Spot. Not long after this, Methodist organized at Roykin and Pine Grove.

In 1886 just after the town of McCull was formed (1884), one of the first institutions to be established was a Methodist church. Before this the Methodist of McCull had gone to Pine Grove. Messrs. Nelson M. Gibson, F.P. Tatum, T.B. Gibson, W.R. Fletcher and others were the moving spirits in the Methodist development at McCull.

In 1887 a white frame church was built. This building was used until the present brick church was erected in 1910. Until 1908 McCull was part of the Bennettsville Circuit, but in 1907 a parsonage was built to the rear and side of the church building. In 1908 McCull became a station with Rev. George C. Leonard the pastor.

In 1917 a Mohler pipe organ was installed in the church. Mrs. Frank P. Tatum, organist, raised much of the necessary money by contacting the church members and asking them if they wanted to have a part in providing the new organ.

The present parsonage was given by Mrs. John E. Willis in 1931. Work was done on the building at this time. When the pastor started living in this house, the old parsonage back of the church was used for additional Sunday School space, bazaars, etc. In 1972 with O.J. Fletcher as chairman, the present parsonage was renovated. One bedroom, bathroom, and den were added. The kitchen and former bathrooms were modernized and central air-conditioning was installed. Recently aluminum siding has been added and Ernest Vereen replaced the planting around the parsonage. Our present minister and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. Ashley Brunson, have planted beautiful iris and daylilies on each side of the front walk.

For many years the need for better and more adequate educational facilities had been felt. In 1959 a building committee was set up with Dr. J.C. Moore as chairman. The entire membership gave generously and a group of men within the church did the plumbing and electrical wiring. The kitchen was furnished by the family of M.E.

Brigman, Jr. as a memorial to him. The building was dedicated on Sunday, Feb. 18, 1962 by Bishop Paul Hardin with the entire cost of \$35,000.00 having been paid in the fall of 1961.

In 1978 a sound system was installed in memory of B.G. Woodham and his wife Margaret by their children.

The Geddies have kept us warm by giving two heating systems; one in 1981 and another in 1993 in memory of J.D. Geddie.

In 1984, to protect our stain glass windows, Lexan windows were placed on the outside. Three of these were given by the O.J. Fletcher Family, W.G. Tatum Family and Frank Tatum Fletcher Family as memorials to members of their families.

In 1979 Col. and Mrs. LeRoy Stanton established a scholarship fund in memory of their Children Bruce and Mary LeRoy. Each year the interest from the fund is used as a scholarship for a boy and girl of the community to aid in their college education. The fund now is around \$18,000.00.

In 1984 Ben Moore Tatum Jr., Dr. Thomas H. Tatum and William Gray Tatum established a benevolent fund to honor their parents, Ben Moore and Kate H. Tatum, 50th wedding anniversary. The interest from this fund is used to help the citizens of the community. At present is about \$16,000.00. Mr. and Mrs. Ben Moore Tatum had a ramp built to the sanctuary and one to the Sunday School building. Dr. Thomas H. Tatum had security lamps installed to illuminate ramps.

In 1990 Main St. and Pine Grove United Methodist Men's Club was formed. This group has been very active meeting the first Monday of each month. Each September with the help of the ladies, the men have put on a Barbecue featuring Jess Adams' barbecued chicken and Stanton's pork barbecue. With the money raised the men give a party each Christmas for needy children with gifts and food for the families. In February they give a party for the ladies of the church. The men also adopted Highway 15-401 from the N.C. line through McColl almost to Jim's Drive Jn. For two years the club has been presented an award for picking up the most trash.

John Roller served as President the first two years, Billy Vereen, Robbie Mangum, Tate Fletcher, and now Bill Bethea have lead the club.

This Easter (1995) the men's club provided a breakfast following the Sunrise service held at Geddie Park. Bill Vereen, Jean Vereen, Ernest Vereen and Jesse Adams prepared and served the breakfast for approximately 60 people.

In 1990 we decided that we needed to either rework the old Mohler organ or replace it with a new one. One of the first donations came from Frank P. Tatum (son of Mrs. Jess Bolt Tatum who was organist when the Mohler was installed in 1917) and his wife Sarah Gibson Tatum. The organ fund gradually climbed to about 30,000.00

where it stalled. In 1992 Charles Parker (son of Mrs. Josephine Dunbar Parker who was our organist for over fifty years) made the church a challenge: he would give \$15,000.00. At this time Mrs. Virginia Fletcher McGraw volunteered to donate her church organ salary for two years. Having met the challenge it was decided in March of 1993 to completely rebuild the old Mohler and a contract was signed with John Gass of Southeastern Pipe Organ Services of Charlotte, N.C. Of the 12 original ranks of pipes, 5 ranks were retained, 10 ranks of new pipes were procured from Organ Supply Industries of Erie, Pa. and 2 ranks, the Trumpet 8' and the Clarinet 8', from Trinity United Methodist Church of Olio, S.C. This gave us a total of 17 ranks of pipes plus the chimes which were given by Mrs. J.C. Moore in memory of her husband Dr. J.C. Moore in 1949. The chimes had been inside the swell organ but are now hanging on the wall to the right of the organ. They had to be adapted to the new organ console and this was paid for by Mrs. G.G. Moore. The old metal pipes on the front and sides of the organ were sanded and refinished in a brighter gold by Colman and Jackie Jones. A new free standing console was built by R.A. Colby Inc. of Johnson City, Tenn. as were the new chests for the Great and Swell divisions. The switching and coupling system is of the latest technology in solid-state circuitry. The console is also equipped with a solid-state memory system for the combination action. Eight levels of memory make the console very flexible, and increase the capacity of the system by eight-fold over that of a standard mechanical system. Both the switching and combination systems were provided by Solid State Logic, Inc. of England with American offices in Livonia, Mich. Since the old console was built into the front of the organ case work, it was necessary to fill the gap left by the console's removal. R.A. Colby was able to utilize some preexisting panels and did a fine job of matching to fill in the gap. The total cost of this project was \$75,000.00. The Dedicatory Recital was given by James D. Kimball, organist at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Sanford, N.C. on Nov. 6, 1994. (William Tatum presenter) "We present this organ to be consecrated to the glory of almighty God and for service in this congregation in loving memory of Mrs. Josephine D. Parker, church organist for over 50 years, and in honor of Charles F. Parker, whose challenge and leadership have led us to this day."

In 1994 Mrs. Margaret Geddie gave a new Yamaha Studio Piano for the Sanctuary in memory of her husband J.D. Geddie.

Ernest and Patricia Vereen gave inside lights to illuminate the memorial windows at night.

After Mrs. Parker's death in 1970, Erlene Bethea and Bill Tatum became organist for the church. When Virginia Fletcher McGraw returned to McColl to live, the three rotated as organist. Soon Erlene, who was spending the summers at the beach, resigned.

Bill had by-pass heart surgery in 1983 and Virginia had it alone until he recuperated. Then Virginia decided to do further study to be librarian in the school so Bill had it alone from 1985 through 1988. He retired as organist Jan. 31, 1989. The church gave a dinner honoring the choir and Bill on April 19. A banner which hangs in the educational building was created by Carolyn (Buck) Bethea, Jeannette Fletcher, Marvel Stanton, Margaret Williams, Ann Benton and Dot Love. On it are pictured: Top Row - Bill Tatum, Charlie Parker, Coleman Jones, William Tatum, Tommy Fletcher, David Caughman, Virginia Fletcher McGraw. Bottom Row - Margaret Joe Spivey Haymond, Lana Spivey Johnson, Jackie Jones, Nettie Sligh, Mary Tatum, Patrice Caughman, Chandler Johnson. We have always had a fine choir and our members certainly appreciate their services. Virginia McGraw is now our church organist with Erlene and Bill filling in when necessary.

Our educational building has been of service to the community. In 1984 after the tornado struck McColl and surrounding areas, it was a receiving station for clothing and supplies sent in from many parts of the U.S. At present an elder care group meets once a month for a sandwich lunch, bingo, crafts, music, etc. We have a prayer group which meets every Tuesday. It has been said that if you didn't want something to happen that you had better not ask this group to pray for it. Many of us who have benefited from their prayers appreciate their prayers very much.

Our present minister, Rev. Ashley Brunson, holds a Bible Study twice a week: one in the morning and one in the evening.

In the fall of 1994 Larry Geddie started a Time of Music and Reflection on Tuesday evenings at 7:30. At present about thirty attend each Tuesday. Once in the Fall he had choirs from five churches to sing and the church was filled. Normally taped music is played with only the altar candles lighted. The lights on the outside of the stain glass windows are on and the windows are beautiful. These lights were given by David and Lana Johnson and they make the large stain glass windows show up at night. Usually after the taped music the group moves over in front of the piano and the group sings with a few solos, duets, and trios. The setting is beautiful and everyone enjoys the music. Ritchie and Gail Bullard are sponsoring the U.M.W.F. which meets on Sunday at 5:30. They have taken several nice trips, held bake sales, helped serve at church dinners, etc. and are very active.

Jeannette Fletcher is superintendent of the Sunday School and has done an excellent job beginning in 1973. At present Rhonda Odom assists Jeannette in the nursery. Other Sunday School teachers include: Forest Hunsucker and Wendy Parker-Primary, Mary Tatum and Judy Geddie-Early Elementary, Buck Bethea-Older Elementary, Lana Johnson-Youth, William Tatum, Daisy Brunson, and John Roller-Fellowship Class,

Nettie Sligh, Mary Lillian Shuler, and Kate Tatum. Mollie Willis Bible Class. When we had a men's class several excellent teachers that I recall were Frank Tatum, George Shuford, Herbert Gasque, and Ed Tatum. Former teachers of The Mollie Willis Bible Class were Mrs. John W. Fletcher, Mrs. J.D. Spencer, Kate Tatum, Mrs. J.S. Edwards. The Fellowship Class: Henry Miller, Col. Stanton, Dr. Joe Atkinson, Mackie Norton. Superintendents of the Sunday School: A.K. Odom, W.G. Tatum Sr., W.G. (Bill) Tatum Jr. Some of our teachers in the Sunday School: Miss Atlanta Fletcher, Kate Fletcher, Margaret Williams, Bonner Moore, Mrs. Kirk (Hazel) Gibson, Caroline (Dink) Gibson, Margaret Cysinger, Erlene Betha.

Each summer a Vacation Bible School is held. In recent years it has grown to be practically a community school with around 100 students and workers each day. The school usually last from Monday through Friday, 9:00 until 1:30. Around 10:00 the ladies of the church serve drinks and cookies. Lana Johnson and Jackie Jones handle the music. On Friday a program is given in the Church Sanctuary and hot dogs and drinks are served.

Other groups and programs established for outreach in the community include: an annual revival, annual Easter Egg hunt, Vision 2000 team, Emmaus, Chrysalis, and Kairos (prison ministry) involvement.

The United Methodist Women of the church have always done excellent work in the church. They decorate and maintain the parsonage. They have two circles, The Afternoon Circle and The Ellen Gleaton Circle. Circle members provide flowers for the church each Sunday. At Christmas time they put poinsettias in the sanctuary and give them to the shut-ins after the service. On Easter Sunday, they place Easter Lilies and send them to the elderly and shut-ins. They carry on the mission work of the church and help the needy of the community. Mary Bullard is now president. Others who have served are Erlene Betha, Nettie Sligh, Joyce Ingles, Mary Tatum, Carolyn Wagnon, Buck Betha, Kate Tatum, Virginia Fletcher, Margaret Cysinger, Kate Fletcher, Birch Keels, Miss Caroline Gibson, and Ola Moore Tatum.

This year the Geddies gave new carpeting for the entire front of the church, sanctuary, parlor, vestibule, and ladies class room. Tommy Lewellen paid for the installation.

Our present pastor and his wife, Ashley and Daisey Brunson have put new life and spirit into our church. Attendance on Sundays has practically doubled and on this Easter Sunday we had eight to join our church and five to be baptized. They have been here five years and we appreciate all that they have done.

We are fortunate to have had fine leaders in our membership. E.J. Betha served as treasurer for 26 years and now Carry Geddie has taken over the treasurer's job. Betty

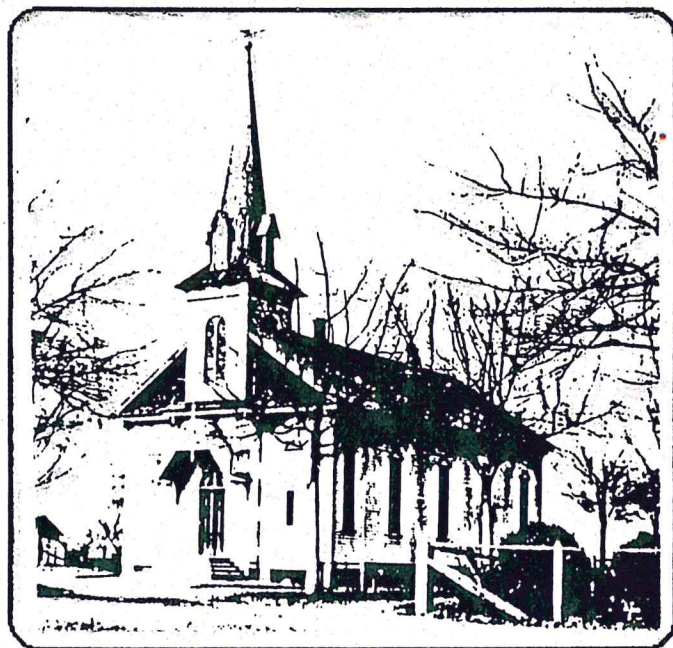
Lewellen has served as financial secretary for 22 years. Gordon and Jeannette Fletcher have been our delegates to annual conference many years. Jesse Adams is now chairman of board of trustees. Others who have served; Forrest Hunsucker, David Johnson, Larry Geddie, Dick Tatum.

Bobby Mangum is now Chairman of the Administrative Board. Others before him were Ipe Atkinson, William Tatum, Col. LeRoy Stanton.

With our dedicated members, our church has been a positive force for good in our community all these years.

W. G. Tatum Jr.

Spring 1995



*The Old Church
An Interview with Miss Dink Gibson*

There was no church in this area until the railroad came through in 1884. This is when the small town began, first with wooden stores and houses, then shortly after with wooden structured churches.

Before 1886 the Methodists and Baptists shared a church at Pine Grove. The Baptists bought the church there which had been built by the Quakers. One week the Methodists had morning service and Baptists had afternoon service. The next week the Baptists had morning service and the Methodists had afternoon service.

In 1889 a handsome wooden church was built where the present church stands. It was a part of the Bennettsville Circuit. The pastor for Bennettsville Circuit lived in McColl in the two story house to the left of the present church.

In 1908 McColl was made a station and given a pastor of its own. Rev. George C. Leonard was the first pastor. Then a parsonage was built to the right rear, described in the church history as a "handsome and commodious parsonage".

Miss Dink Gibson remembers that she and her brother, Henry, joined the church

while Rev. Leonard was pastor. "Henry was older and larger than the rest of us that joined at that time, so the preacher came to our house and took him into the church there.

"The old church did not have a center aisle. The pews extended from one side to the other with a partition in the middle. The men sat on one side and the women on the other. The men went around the right side and the women on the left. Husbands and wives did not sit together. Boys sat with their fathers and girls with their mothers.

"There was a pump organ. That was the kind that had two pedals and both feet were in constant motion to keep air moving to make the sounds. The organ was near the front and to the left of the congregation.

"We all met together and someone read from the Bible, someone prayed, we sang about two songs and divided up into Sunday School classes. We did not have classrooms. We separated into smaller groups in different parts of the sanctuary.

"Mr. A.K. Odom was the Sunday School Superintendent. (The same Mr. Odom whose name is on one of the windows.) He was a banker in town.

"Mrs. Butler was my Sunday School teacher. She taught at the mill school and it was called Butler School. I learned the catechism. My dad went to Sunday School and preaching every Sunday and carried all the children. There was no nursery. We would fall asleep on those hard benches during preaching. I remember being given a Bible before I started to school for not missing a Sunday for one whole year.

"Other teachers I remember were Mrs. Mary Mangum who taught me music and Sunday School. I remember George Shuford's aunt.

"Methodists knelt on the floor facing the back of the bench to pray. The preacher prayed, (our elbows were resting on the seat) and we all prayed the Lord's Prayer together.

"This church was moved back a little to make room for the new brick church which was built in 1910. It was bought by Mr. T.B. Gibson and moved back on Church Street and used to store hay and feed for horses. It later burned."

Remember When . . . ?



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH,
MCCOLL, S. C.

Printed for
McColl Press Co.

1912-13

Remember When . . . ?



Old post card shows Main Street in McColl earlier this century.





Bottom row:

Ben Moore Iatum, Ellis Pearce, Jim Jones, ? Barber, Edgar Fletcher, Jasper Fletcher, Gordon Fletcher, Wade Fletcher, Herbert Macgrew
Henry Gibson, Gordon Fletcher, Jr., Daniel Jones, Dr. Charles Love, Cleve Smith
? Hamilton, Bill Iatum, Uelvin Shuler, Bill Williams, Edgar Fletcher
Silbert Hubbard, David Ray Hubbard,
Revd. Dan Montgomery, Jim Spence, Dick Iatum, Ed Iatum

* Rev. Dan Montgomery served Main St. from 1944-1948

PROPOSED PLAN
FOR
THE APPROVAL OF THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE
IN REGARD TO
THE OLD PARSONAGE BUILDING

1. The purchase of a lot for the relocation of the old parsonage building is approved. (The Town Council has offered a lot with 85 foot front in the rear of the church lot for \$ 475.00 to the church only).
2. Permission is granted to move the old parsonage building to a new lot.
3. The Finance Committee is given power to use the new lot and the old parsonage building as security to obtain funds for moving it to a new location, repairing the roof, and painting the outside.
4. The Finance Committee is given permission to sell the house and lot to the highest bidder at the earliest possible date, preferably at public auction.
5. The proceeds of the sale are to be held in trust by the treasurer of the building fund to be used in the construction of a new educational building.

Explanation: No church property can be moved or sold by the trustees of the church property without permission of the quarterly Conference after a ten day notice has been given from the pulpit of the church. The next Regular quarterly Conference will meet on the night of March 30. Any member of the church has the privilege of speaking on the permission of the presiding officer. Only members of the Quarterly Conference have a vote.

If you have any suggestions or objections, you may give them to your pastor or any member of the Finance Committee composed of Mr. O. J. Fletcher, Mr. E. H. Tatum, Mr. Tatum Fletcher, Mr. J. W. Keels, Mr. G. W. Johnson, and Dr. George Moore.

Methodists set dedication of new education building

The educational building for Main Street Methodist Church, McColl, will be dedicated by Bishop Paul Hardin, Jr. at the morning worship hour on February 18, bringing to completion the plans and work of church members and ministers over many years. At least fifteen years ago some of the leaders of the church saw the need for such an addition to the church plant and began making plans for its realization.

A building fund was started during the ministry of the Rev. D. H. Montgomery (1945-1948), but pressing needs for renovation of the sanctuary caused these funds to be diverted while the church was redecorated and air conditioned during the pastorate of the Rev. N. K. Polk (1951-54).

THE NEED for more adequate educational facilities was again recognized and under the leadership of the Rev. J. S. Edwards (1955-56) the building fund for an educational building was again brought to the fore and something over \$5,000 raised.

During the pastorate of the present minister, the Rev. E. L. Davidson (1957-) a planning committee headed by Mr. G. W. Johnson confirmed the need for such

a building and with the assistance of the draftsmen of H. J. Munnerlyn, Inc., drew up plans and specifications. These were adopted by the church and a building committee set up. Dr. J. G. Moore headed this committee and gave much time and energy in working faithfully to see that all details were of the highest quality.

THE SUCCESSFUL completion of this building is testimony to the cooperation of the whole church. This congregation of only 226 members working together were able to erect a facility that adequately meets the present or foreseeable needs of the community. Many gave generously and even sacrificially. A group of men within the church did the plumbing and electrical wiring at a saving of \$1000 under contract cost. The ladies of the WCSC worked faithfully and raised substantial sums to contribute to this enterprise.

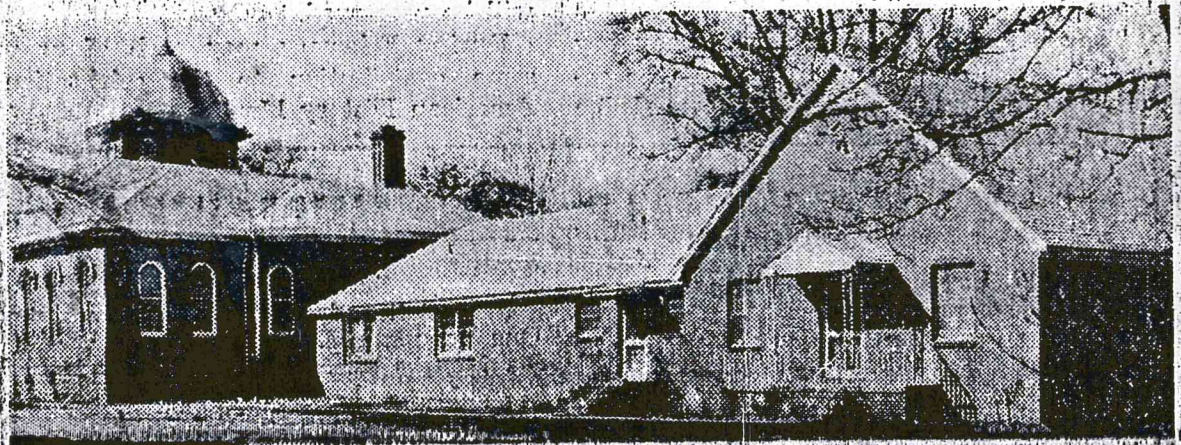
The brick, veneer building is connected to the church and was erected and partially equipped at a cost of \$35,000. The project included some remodeling of the old building to better utilize existing space and provide a choir room and new study for the min-

ister. *Feb. 16, 1962*

The new building includes six large classrooms which are being used by the children's and youth divisions. It also includes a fellowship hall of ample proportions and a large, completely equipped kitchen. The all new furnishings for this kitchen were provided as a memorial by the family of the late M. E. Brigman, Jr., who died before the building was completed and who had long been a generous contributor to his church. Three rest rooms for men, ladies, and children are also provided and the building is air conditioned.

THE BUILDING was opened in January 1960 and early in 1961 the church members were challenged to remove the indebtedness during that calendar year. This was done last fall and leads to this dedication of an attractive and adequate educational facility by this church that although small in number has a history of service to the community and sharing in the program of Methodism throughout the conference.

DURING the period of this construction, C. J. Bethea served as chairman of the Official Board and E. H. Tatum as church lay leader.



DEDICATION SET — This is the educational building of Main Street Methodist Church in McColl which will be dedicated at the church's morning worship service on Sunday, February 18. Dr. Paul Hardin, Jr., Bishop of the South Carolina Conference, will conduct the service which will be followed by a picnic type dinner in the building. All friends of the church will be welcome to attend the service and to participate in the picnic dinner.

Memories of Main Street Methodist Church told

The McColl Main Street Methodist Church is having some repairs made to the church organ and also needed building repairs. Various members volunteered to contact former church members and so it came that W. R. "Dick"atum phoned Mrs. Sara Margaret Tatum Singletary in Clarkton soon after their telephone conversation, her adult class at South-eastern Community College had to write a paper, and a story about church was one of the suggested topics the result of which is the following very interesting story, which the Tatums consented to share with everyone:

CHURCH STORY

A hurriedly scribbled note on her telephone pad said, "Dick" called tonight. Wants you to send some money for organ repair at McColl Church." Upon further investigation from the person who took the call, I learned that a drive for funds was underway to not only repair the pipe organ in my former hometown church, but to make some additional repairs to the building. My first impulse was to call back and say 'Welcome to the club', since our local Clarkton church is entering into a tremendous building fund drive for a new, ultra-modern structure which will take every bit of time, talents and tithes that can be scraped from our entire community.

On second thought, my practical mind turned sentimental and nostalgic. Memories raced through my brain like a fast moving camera showing a kaleidoscope of events and happenings. So many, many years ago! And yet, the projected scenes were clear as last week. I wondered how many other former members of that church, who are now being contacted for contributions, would recall with pride and prejudice the influence their old home church had had on their lives.

The McColl Methodist Church is a beautifully designed brick building with a huge round dome over the sanctuary. Four enormous white columns flank each side of the tall narrow marble steps leading to the entrance. I remembered the happy times I jumped down those steps, one at a time, swinging on my mother's hand, and in later years running down them two at a time, knowing full well I'd be scolded for

the act as soon as we sat down for Sunday dinner; the many times we lined up after Sunday School for Promotion Day — filling the entire entrance steps — to march single file and stand before the congregation in our frilly white dresses and dark blue suits, to receive our certificates of merit for memory work. Looking back, it seems that I memorized half the Holy Bible without knowing the meaning of one tenth of my recitations. We used to recite the 23rd Psalm, the Apostle's Creed, the 100th Psalm, the Christmas Story from Luke, the Ten Commandments in their entirety, the Beatitudes, and numerous passages of scripture. Today's child often seems to have difficulty finding the referred to books in the Bible, but they can answer our questions on science, outer-space, geography or mechanics.

The sanctuary of this church is built like an amphitheater with four aisles leading to a long, curved chancel railing. The lovely old mission pews will seat approximately 300 worshippers. Both side walls have magnificent stained glass memorial windows with life-size figures of Christ in Gethsemane and the Woman at the Well. The high, arched, lighted dome ceiling is covered with matching stained glass and surrounded with 56 small shaded lights. Invariably, one or two of these small lights needed replacing, but it was an inspiring sight to look at, meditate, and wonder during a sermon which never failed to hold one's attention. Architecturally, this room seemed to be designed for beautiful weddings; dignified funerals and sacred Holy Communion.

I vaguely remember one especially lavish wedding in which I participated as a flower girl. With three four-year-olds in both center aisles, we entered the church strowing rose petals on all sides, marched down the aisle, crossed in front of the preacher, marched up the other aisle and out of the church without waiting for the bride to enter. No one could prevail on any of us going back inside the church. Our mothers were furious that the audience got only a fleeting glance at our wedding clothes, which had been in the making for weeks, but that was the way they had rehearsed us the

night before and we felt we had done our duty.

This church can boast of one of the finest Moehler pipe organs. How is it possible that I've forgotten the number of large and small pipes which I counted hundreds of times while sitting in church? I have a special interest in that organ because my mother was organist for years and to hear her tell it my father practically paid for it himself, and no one else could play it quite as well as herself. I'm no sure of the financial angle, but I'm in complete agreement with her statement on performance. I used to sit in the church and listen to her practice and, even as a child, would catch the mood of her thrilling music. Once, when I was older, I recall begging her to play a popular number on the pipe organ, to open all the stops and really let 'er roll! She obliged half-way by playing a selection from "The Desert Song" and while she was playing, a nephew who lived next door and was a member of the choir, came in and requested to sing the selection "One Alone, To Be My Own."

Together they made music I'll never forget; his rich, marvelous voice singing a love song and Mama putting that manual to work in a new fashion. I thought I was being wicked to request anything other than sacred music, but their talents convinced me I was wrong.

My thoughts rush through moments of merriment and mischief at MYF meetings, early arrival at

Sunday School, youth socials and annual church pageants, when uncontrollable laughter was both prevalent and unforgivable; to the sad memories of following behind the caskets of loved ones leaving the church for the last time; to the soul-stirring personal experiences when you know the presence of God was there; to the memora-

tion while a little child led them. I still remember the reverent silence as we left the church that morning, and no one tried to hide the tears of gratitude and sorrow resulting from the pageant.

During a revival meeting at the church when I was about 14, the invitation was given for all young people, who wanted to put their talents to work serving their church, to come forward and kneel at the chancel railing and renew their church membership vows. I was the first one there and can truthfully say I've never taken an oath with more dedication and good intention. . . not even when I joined the church, nor later when I married. All through that summer I nearly worked myself to death with MYF and Sunday School activities. The pastor was filled with glee having such an eager beaver assistant for any work

he wanted the young folks to do and my Sunday night dates protested being forced to attend church before the movies I persevered with determination for a long time expecting to lose all my boyfriend. Eventually, I fell from grace and into love, thereby dividing my time more evenly between the spiritual and the emotional. Now when I search my soul for truth, believe my religious conviction began at the chancel rail of the church during Spring revival. It the promise I made then which pricks my conscience today when I push aside my church work for other things.

I wish my token gift to the church could be commensurate my love for it, but perhaps so of the other former members he become wealthy enough to contribute generously.
Submitted by:
Sarah M. Singletary
Clarkton, N. C.

ble Easter sunrise pageant when the little Hamer girl stood at the foot of a huge white cross erected at the chancel and sang "In the Cross" with the truest, softest voice ever. And just as she began the chorus, the sun sent its early morning rays through the eastern stained glass window of the church. It was like the hand of

Pine Grove Methodist Church

Pine Grove Church, located in the eastern part of Marlboro County, about two miles from the North Carolina line, and about three miles from McColl, is a lovely rural church in one of the best farming communities in the state. Across the road is Fletcher Memorial School. Close by is a beautiful body of water known as McNair's Pond. Homes of the members are in a radius of a few miles from this building.

It is safe to say that Pine Grove has been a place of worship for more than two centuries. Pine Grove Meeting House was built by Quakers on a grant of one hundred acres of land given to Johnathan Marine by Thomas Pinckney, Governor of South Carolina.

Deed to Piney Grove Quaker Meeting House was given by Jona Marine, and John Mendenhall, to overseers of Quaker Meeting House. Tract of land contained four acres price paid four dollars. This lot or tract of four acres being a part of a tract conveyed to Jonathan Marine by his exlency Thomas Pinkney Goarior dated November 9, 1787.

Deed dated 15th day March 1802 witnessed by Thomas Morris and Francis Thomas. Recorded in clerk of courts office for Marlboro County South Carolina in Book P. page 111.

Deed to Pine Grove Church property was signed by H. Mendenhall on 25th day of March 1833. Witnessed by Alex McLeod and William L. Adams H. Mendenhall of Guilford County North Carolina overseer of Piney Grove Meeting House acting under the authority and jurisdiction of the Quaker church or meeting for the State of North Carolina. Deeded to Jausha Fletcher, Charles Manship, William Bundy, Lewis Parker, Cornelius Newton, Thomas Lester and Willoughby Pate, Trustees for Piney Methodist Episcopal Church.

Tract of land contained four acres price paid thirty dollars including land and meeting house.

Recorded in Clerk of Courts office Book P - Page 145.

This Meeting House was first used by a fine colony of Friends(Quakers) who lived here before the Revoluntionary War. Other demoninations, Methodist and Baptist, were allowed to worship in this same structure. After the war ended, the Quakers sold their lands and left in a body for what was then called the Northwest Territory. Before they left, Johnathan Marine and John Mendinhall, two of the Quakers, paid four dollars to legalize the passing of our acres of land to the successors of the Pine Grove Meeting House.

For some time after the Quakers left, the building was used by both the Baptist and the Methodists. Eventually (in 1837) the Baptists moved over to Beaverdam near McColl and left this community to the Methodists. Our list of ministers shows that this church has been used by the Methodists since 1821. This list of ministers was kept by Joshua Fletcher who came to Marlboro County in 1815.

The same building the Quakers had built was used until 1857 when a new building was erected. This was a large white frame rectangular building with many large windows. It consisted of an auditorium with two rows of columns down the aisles supporting the roof. This church was known for its "Amen " corner.

About 1909 W. B. and J. A. Fletcher bought this building and moved it to their farm. A more modern building was built on the same site. This was a wooden structure, consisting of an auditorium and five classrooms. It was a very pretty church on the inside. Three beautiful memorial windows and other stained glass windows cast a glow over the interior. The pulpit furniture and pews were in walnut and a green carpet covered the floors in the main auditorium and ladies classroom which were connected by folding doors. The Reverend B. G. Murphy was pastor when this church was built. It was dedicated by Bishop John C. Kilgo who began his ministry on the Bennettsville Circuit. Later a two story brick parsonage was added near the church site.

This building ably filled the needs of this congregation until the 3rd Sunday of January of 1942 when it was destroyed by fire. To show the cooperative spirit of this community, only a short time elapsed before a new building was in the process of being built. The architect of this new building was H. D. Harrall of Bennettsville.

Members of the Building Committee

Chairman - M. W. Adams
Treas - Jesse Adams
Secretary- Frank Adams
Pastor- Rev. E. B. Johnson (he did most of the wiring of
the church)

It was noted that all of the workman on the building had Biblical names:

Builder- David Reese; Assistant builder - Daniel Jarvis;
Plasterer- Enoch Hines; Tile flooring- Nathaniel Malachi

It is of Gothic design and is a smaller model of the chapel of Duke University. The design of this building matches that of the school and the other buildings in the area. The church is a brick veneer building consisting of an auditorium, four classrooms, and a balcony. It was one of the first churches in this county with a divided chancel.

Trees were cut from the farms of the Fletchers, Betheas, McGregors, Mangrums, Adams, Nortons and Stantons to make the beautiful beams in the ceiling of the church. Everyone in the community pitched in to help with the expense of the building. It is not surprising that when it was finished in 1944, it was completely paid for and was dedicated by Bishop Clare Purcell on Sept. 4th of that year.

All of the stained glass windows in the auditorium are memorial windows with the names of former members and ancestors of the present members. Along the right side are windows in memory of:

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Frank Moore
Mr. and Mrs. John K. Fletcher

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Mr. and Mrs. Ben Frank Moore
Mr. and Mrs. John K. Fletcher

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnson Adams
Mr. and Mrs. Welcome Adams Moore

Along the left side:

Mr. and Mrs. Joel Nelson Adams
Mr. and Mrs. Raeford Fletcher
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Fletcher
Mr. and Mrs. Archie Patterson Norton

Above the balcony which is named the Adams Memorial Balcony are windows in memory of Jonathan Adams and his descendants.

Above the choir loft are lovely windows dedicated to the memory of John S. Fletcher and members of his family.

Every piece of furniture was given as a memorial. A red carpet covers the floor of the chancel and aisles of the church. An organ with chimes and a grand piano add to the religious services in the church.

Many distinguished pastors and laymen have spoken from the pulpit of this church. On September 16, 1973, during the pastorate of the Reverend Marion Caldwell, Pine Grove was honored to have Bishop Edward L. Tullis to preach at the eleven o'clock hour. Many visitors were present for this service.

The ladies of the church have two organizations - The Sue Fletcher Circle and the Louise Fletcher Circle. These two make up the United Methodist Women. Both groups are active in church work of all kinds.

The grounds of the church, school, community house, and parsonage have always been a community project. The shrubbery around the church was donated by the members. Longleaf pine trees and magnolia trees were planted by the members of the Saturday Afternoon Book Club as a living memorial for each church member who passed away.

We have only a small number of members today but all are very faithful in attendance and giving.

LIST OF PREACHERSPINE GROVE CHURCH

1899-1901	A. J. Cauthen, Sr.
1901-1905	J. W. Arial
1905-1908	W. P. Meadow
1908-1910	B. G. Murphy
1910-1912	M. W. Hook
1912-1916	T. E. Morris
1916-1920	M. W. Hook
1920-1924	George K. Way
1924-1928	J. P. Inabinet
1928-1930	W. P. Way
1930-1932	L. E. Peeler
1932-1936	A. M. Jones
1937-1940	Paul C. Scott (Transfer from Ohio Conf)
1941-1945	E. B. Johnson
1945-1950	Jesse G. Ferguson
1950-1954	D. N. Busbee
1954-1958	W. W. Ballentine
1958-1961	R. P. Smith
1961-1965	R, K. Christopher (Died Mar. 28th 1965) Rev. J. F. Manning (McColl Minister supplied)
1965-1966	Julian Weisner
1966-1970	Zack Farmer
1970-1973 (Dec)	Marion Caldwell
1974 (jan)	Ralph W. Atkinson
1975 (June)	Ralph W. Atkinson
1975 (June)-1979	Robert B. Campbell
1979-1983	Leon Wagnon
1983-1985	Buster Scruggs
1985-1990	David Caughman
1990-1995	Ashley Brunson
1995-	Timothy Fraeman