



Westfield Baptist Church

"A Presbytery consisting of Elders R. D. Haymore, C. C. Haymore, Julius Terrill and Pinkney Oliver met at a stand near Westfield on the first Lord's Day in September, 1879 and were organized by electing R. D. Haymore moderator and Bro. J. M. Jessup, clerk and proceeded to organize the following persons into an independent Baptist Church: J. E. Simmons, M. O. Hill, T. L. Sarles, W. A. Simmons, J. M. Jessup, J. W. Caudle, Malinda Sarles, M. J. Simmons, L. J. Moir, Ellen Lowe, Laura J. Teder, Della Welch, M. J. Jessup, Mary E. Jackson, Delia A. Jessup, Samira Christian, Jennie King, Francis Caudle, Mandy L. Welch.

"The following confession of faith and church covenant were adopted by the church. Bro. J. E. Simmons and T. L. Sarles were chosen deacons and were at once set apart by the Presbytery. Elder Sherrill led in prayer and J. M. Jessup was chosen clerk. Elder Pinkney Oliver was unanimously called to serve the church as pastor for the next year. The church is to be known as the Westfield Baptist Church. Adjourned to meet on Saturday before the

2nd Sabbath in October."

J. M. Jessup, clerk.
(Copied from recently found minutes of the first meeting Sept. 1879-J. M. Jessup, clerk. These minutes were thought to be lost.)

Before the first church was built the congregation met first at Simmons School House and later in 1880 at Shelton's School House.

The first house of worship for this small band of believers was a small frame structure that stood approximately on the site of the present sanctuary. The church was heated by a pot-bellied stove and in later years lighted by electricity from the R. T. Joyce Mill near Asbury.

During the interval from 1878 to 1904, the following pastors served the church: Elder Pinkney Oliver, the Rev. Hence Bowman, the Rev. J. L. Jenkins, the Rev. J. T. Lewellyn and the Rev. C. C. Haymore.

The first Sunday School at Westfield Baptist Church was organized on Saturday before the third Sunday in March, 1896. J. M. Jessup was elected superintendent and E. J. Payne, assistant superintendent.

In August, 1906, Dr. J. T.

Smith held the first of his many revivals at the Westfield Baptist church. Thirty-four members were added to the church rolls. At the close of the revival, Dr. Smith was ordained to the ministry.

Saturday, June 13, 1925, Mrs. Wynn from Mount Airy met with a few ladies after the church service to organize the first Missionary Society at Westfield Baptist Church. Officers were Mrs. Emma Smith, president; Mrs. Mallie Tilley, vice-president; Mrs. Roxie Pell, treasurer; Mrs. John Hunter, secretary. There were 12 charter members.

In December, 1926, the members of the church voted to build a new church, to be started in the Spring of 1927. D. C. Cooke, architect and contractor from Mount Airy, built the church at a cost of \$12,121.10.

The first service in the church was held on the second Sunday in August, 1927, with the Rev. William Simmons from Missouri, a charter member of the church, delivering the message. After lunch, the cornerstone was laid with the following ministers taking part in the ceremony: the

Rev. S. T. Morton, pastor; the Rev. R. W. George; the Rev. Joe Hall, the Rev. J. T. Smith and the Rev. John Marion.

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The next 10 years were difficult times because of the severe economic depression. It was not until July 18, 1937 that the church was free of debt. An all-day service was held, and Dr. J. T. Smith dedicated the church.

The church had grown from a membership of 19 in 1879 to 333 in 1937.

In 1930, because of increased church membership, new Sunday School rooms were added to the church.

In 1953, a parsonage was built in order to have a full-time pastor living in the community. The Rev. Reece Kyzer was the first full-time pastor. During his pastorate, he devised a plan for the rotation of deacons.

A new Hammond organ was purchased for the church on January 20, 1955. In 1957-58, a new Education Building was built to provide additional space for the growing church and space for additional activities.

The first baptismal service was held in the new baptistry July 15, 1959. A beautiful painting in the baptistry was given by Mr. and Mrs. Thurmond Midkiff in memory of Joel Jessup.

On May 15, 1962, during a storm, lightning struck the church parsonage. The people were unable to extinguish the fire, as there was no fire department in the community at that time. Within a week, plans were made to erect a new one.

A special service was held Sunday, July 17, 1966, to dedicate the carillon presented to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Royal Hunter in memory of their son, Rixie Hunter.

Air conditioning was installed in the church in 1969, along with other renovations, including a new furnace, baptistry, drapes and so forth.

Two young men from the church have been ordained to the ministry, Dale Riddle and Mark Tilley. The Rev. Mr. Riddle and his wife, Gilda, are now engaged in

full-time evangelistic work, while the Rev. Mr. Tilley and his family live at Wake Forest, where he is attending the seminary and also pastors a church nearby.

In 1975, a recreational program, consisting of ball courts, playground equipment, picnic shelter, and so forth, was completed.

November 13, 1977, friends of Mrs. Roxie H. Payne filled the church as they honored her during a two-hour Sunday morning service. She has served the church for more than 40 years as pianist and music director. On behalf of the church, Luther N. Byrd, a former teacher, coach and principal of Westfield High School presented Mrs. Payne with a plaque in appreciation of her service in the church, school and community.

One of the latest ministries of the church is that of providing a telephone Bible class on Sunday morning to reach homebound adults who live in the community. This is done through a conference type call arrangement that allows several people to talk with one another on the telephone at the same time. Mrs. Wanda Journey teaches the class of about 18 members.

Sunday, October 15, 1978, Westfield Baptist Church celebrated its one hundredth anniversary.

Dr. Charles Howell, a former pastor of the church who is now a missionary to Peru, was the guest speaker. After lunch, Dr. Howell was commissioned by the church to serve as a foreign missionary.

The following ministers have served as pastors of the Westfield Baptist church from 1879-1981:

1879-1904--Elder Pinkney Oliver, the Rev. Hence Bowman, the Rev. J. L. Jenkins, the Rev. J. T. Lewellyn; 1904-06--the Rev. R. D. Haymore; 1907-08--Dr. J. T. Smith; 1909-11--the Rev. C. C. Haymore; 1912-14--Dr. J. T. Smith; 1914-15--the Rev. J. W. Beamer, 1916--the Rev. Charles Utley; 1920-12--Dr. J. T. Smith; 1923--the Rev. O. E. Ward; 1924-28--the Rev. S. F. Morton; 1928-37--

Lovell's Chapel UMC

In the year 1890, Jessie Lovell and others realized the need of a chapel in which to worship God.

The land on which the present Lovell Chapel stands was originally owned by Dan Venable, a pioneer. The deed became lost and a new one had to be drawn.

In compliance with the Methodist Conference, the new release reads: "Know ye by all those present that we, Mrs. Vernie Shelton, W. R. Cox and Lester Brown of this county release to the said Lovell Chapel Methodist Church and trustees L. A. Wynn, John Rutledge, Charlie Mack, Walt Reeves, Pearl Tilliman and John Ziegler, the new deed."

Two sons of the founder of the chapel--the Rev. John Henry Lovell and the Rev. Walter Lovell--became ministers.

Pastors who have served the church in the past include the Rev. Mr. Gilreath, A. J. Jenkins, P. T. Wells, Jimmie Revels, Henry Jones and his son, John Jones, the Rev. Mr. McBrayer, the Rev. Mr. Bynum, the Rev. Mr. Fiend, the rev. Mr. Evan and W. P. Cole.

In 1962, while the Rev. P. G. Carter was pastor, the church began its building

the Rev. O. H. Hauser;

1938-42--the Rev. R. W. Hovis; 1942-43--the Rev. Dennis Larkin; 1944-47--the Rev. Charlie Simmons; 1948--the Rev. E. W. Powers; 1949-51--the Rev. Lonnie Fleming; 1951-53--the Rev. E. L. White; 1954-56--the Rev. Reece Kyzar; 1957-59--the Rev. Waldo Early; 1959-63--the Rev. Talmadge Hall; 1963-67--the Rev. Marion Ringer; 1967-70--the Rev. Charles Howell; 1970--the Rev. Roy Franklin (interim); 1971-73--the Rev. Millard Bounds; 1973-77--the Rev. E. G. Jordan; and 1977, until the present, the Rev. Timothy Lawson.

program, with the help of the Rev. Henry Ridenhour and many other concerned citizens. The church held a mortgage burning ceremony in 1969. The Rev. Luther Jones, pastor, and Bishop Hunt participated in the ceremony, along with others.

The current pastor is the Rev. Garland Warren. Agnus Tillman is assistant to the pastor; Eddie Leake, lay leader and chairman of administration; Bobby Hampton, treasurer; Ruth Cobb, secretary; and Cecil Thompson, finance chairman.

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A Joyous Easter

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