

Dobson United Methodist Church

June 2006 Newsletter



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From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

For 147 years, except for a very brief time, Dobson United Methodist Church has shared a pastor with another church – many times several churches. Starting July 1, 2006 our church will start a new chapter in its history. The era of sharing pastors will come to an end. What a blessing!

In the early days of The Methodist Church, circuit rider ministers rode horses to spread the Good News. There were many churches on their circuit, the churches were wide spread, and there was no time to stay long at one place. As The Methodist Church grew, ministers were assigned to pastor fewer and fewer churches at the same time. The current administrators are in favor of this trend continuing. *

As I begin my last year serving as your pastor, I pray that I will make a positive difference. I feel called to visit each home in the town of Dobson. There are many people in Dobson who are un-churched, they do not know the Good News of Jesus Christ. They know very little about Dobson United Methodist Church. My hope, my dream, my calling is to visit each home in the town of Dobson to spread the Good News and invite families to worship with us at DUMC.

I will need your help. Come September when this "Town Visiting Ministry" begins, you will hear more about this project and I pray that each of you will be called to help.

May God bless you, *Benny Hahn*

Aaron and Hur stood by Moses' side and held up his arms to ensure victory against Amalek. (Exodus 17: 10-13) We need to "hold up the hands" of our spiritual leaders as well. Shouldering some responsibility, lending a word of encouragement, or offering a prayer are ways of refreshing spiritual leaders in their work.

-from Life Application Study Bible

Northeast District Church Statistics

Lisa Williams, from the Northeast District Office, gave the following information at a recent workshop:

- There are 83 churches in the Northeast District.
- There are 61 pastors that serve the 83 churches.
- There are 17 two-point charges in the district.
- There are 2 three-point charges in the district.

A New Chapter in the History of Dobson United Methodist Church

The Dobson United Methodist Church was established in 1858 and began as a Methodist Episcopal Church - South. Until 1876, the congregation met in the Surry County Courthouse or the Martin Hotel. Rev. Marquis Wood is associated with the founding of the church. He was stationed in Mount Airy as pastor of the Surry Circuit, Salisbury District.

The first church building was erected in 1876-77, on what is now North Crutchfield Street. The first meeting in the new church was in 1877 with Rev. W.S. Creasy serving as pastor of the circuit. As the congregation entered the church the men took seats on the right while the women sat on the left side.

In 1930 a dedication service was held for a new church building relocated to South Main Street. At this time the Dobson Methodist Episcopal Church was on the Mount Airy circuit, along with Dockery's Chapel, Old Siloam, Pleasant Ridge, Rockford, and Siloam.

In 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church merged into the Methodist Church. The new unified church in Dobson was placed in the Dobson Charge with Pleasant Ridge, Rockford, Siloam, and Stony Knoll. Rev. R.G. McClamrock was pastor of this circuit.

Under the leadership of Rev. Ivan Stephens, in 1952, the Dobson Methodist Church was placed as a single church station with a membership of 135. In 1964 it became a two church charge with Rev. Donald Davis serving as pastor of Dobson and Beulah Methodist Churches. Several years later the Dobson Church was placed in a two-point charge with Stony Knoll.

The Dobson Methodist Church became Dobson United Methodist Church in 1968. Methodist Churches nationwide merged with the Evangelical United Brethren Church as a result of a ruling of the General Conference.

On July 1, 2006 Dobson United Methodist Church will have the status of a "one point charge" or a "stand alone church." The pastor will serve only DUMC. As our church ventures into this new endeavor, the pastor, Administrative Board Chair, Work Area Council Chair, and the Finance Chair ask for the support and prayers of each church member. Together, this congregation can write a new and positive chapter in the history of Dobson United Methodist Church.

Much of the above information was taken from "A Brief History of the Dobson United Methodist Church" written by Church Historians Helen Walker, 1991, and revised in 2000 by Robert Comer.