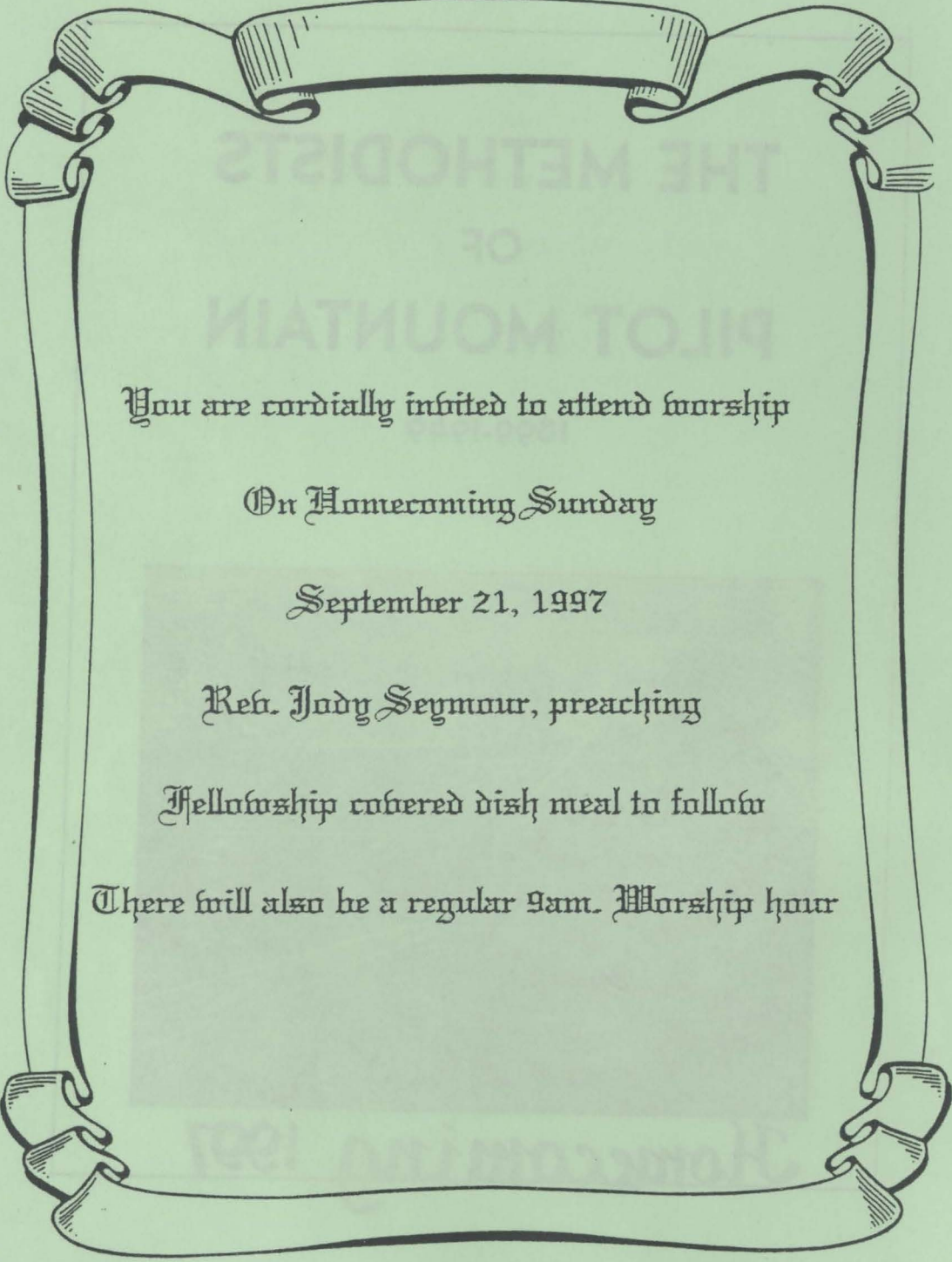


THE METHODISTS OF PILOT MOUNTAIN

1899-1949



Homecoming 1997



You are cordially invited to attend worship

On Homecoming Sunday

September 21, 1997

Rev. Jody Seymour, preaching

Fellowship covered dish meal to follow

There will also be a regular 9am. Worship hour

HISTORY OF PILOT MOUNTAIN FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BY: Melba Yount Simmons--1949; Revised in 1997 by Sidney Lanier

ACROSS THE PAGES OF THE HISTORY OF PILOT MOUNTAIN METHODIST CHURCH LIE THE LONG SHADOWS OF TWO MEN. ONE WAS BORN ALMOST ONE HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE THE CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED--THE BELOVED PATRIARCH, FATHER JAMES NEEDHAM. THE OTHER, HARDIN L. ADKINS, WAS THE INSTIGATOR AND CHIEF FIGURE OF THE MOVEMENT THAT ESTABLISHED TRINITY ACADEMY, OUT OF WHICH PILOT MOUNTAIN METHODIST CHURCH GREW.

FATHER NEEDHAM SERVED A FRUITFUL MINISTRY OF NEARLY EIGHTY YEARS, A LARGE PART OF WHICH WAS SPENT ABOUT AND NEAR PILOT MOUNTAIN. HE ORGANIZED BLUE RIDGE MISSION AND SERVED IT THREE YEARS. HE ALSO SERVED FISHER'S RIVER MISSION, WHICH LATER WAS JOINED TO THE BLUE RIDGE MISSION. HE RODE THE CIRCUITS OF SAURATOWN MOUNTAIN AND PILOT MOUNTAIN DURING THE CIVIL WAR. HIS LIFE, SPENT SO SACRIFICIALLY FOR OTHERS AND FOR HIS MASTER WAS A BENECTION TO THE WHOLE SECTION. THERE WAS HARDLY A MAN FROM THE BLUE RIDGE TO THE MIDDLE OF THE PIEDMONT PLATEAU WHO DID NOT KNOW AND REVERE FATHER NEEDHAM. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SAID THAT HIS SPIRIT WAS THE LEAVEN THAT GREW AND SPREAD INTO THE BEGINNING OF METHODISM IN PILOT MOUNTAIN.

SOMETIME IN THE LATE 1880'S, A TALL YOUNG MAN HALTED HIS HORSE AT THE CREST OF A HILL IN SURRY COUNTY, N.C. AND LOOKED OUT OVER THE LITTLE HAMLET NESTLED BELOW. THERE WERE ONLY ONE OR TWO STORES ENCIRCLED BY A SCORE, PERHAPS, OF HOMES AND A CHURCH AND A SCHOOL OF SORTS. THE GENTLY ROLLING LAND STRETCHED AWAY TO THE SAURATOWN RANGE IN THE SOUTH AND EAST, AND FARTHER AWAY TO THE WEST THERE APPEARED THE MISTY OUTLINES OF THE FOOTHILLS OF THE BLUE RIDGE. IT SEEMED TO THE SILENT YOUNG MAN ON THE HORSE, THAT HERE GOD HAD LEFT GOOD FALLOW FIELDS TO TILLED. WITH HIS MIND'S EYE, HE COULD GLIMPSE THE FUTURE OF THE VALLEY AS A THRIVING, PROSPEROUS

COMMUNITY . BUT HIS HEART BURNED WITHIN HIM OVER THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE FOR CHURCHES AND FOR SCHOOLS. THIS YOUNG MAN WAS THE METHODIST CIRCUIT RIDER, HARDIN L. ADKINS, AND HE WAS RETURNING FROM HIS CONGREGATIONS AT NEW HOPE, LITTLE YADKIN, CHESTNUT GROVE AND OTHERS. PROVIDENTIALLY FOR THE PILOT MOUNTAIN VALLEY, HARDIN L. ADKINS WAS A MAN OF VISION. HE SAW HOW THE YOUNG PEOPLE WERE HAMPERED BY LACK OF EDUCATION IN HELPING THEIR COMMUNITY TO TAKE ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE STATE, AND HE SAW HOW FEW AND FAR BETWEEN WERE THE CHURCHES WHERE THEIR SPIRITS COULD FIND REFRESHMENT.

AFTER FURTHER THOUGHT AND MUCH PRAYER, HARDIN L. ADKINS AND OTHERS WHO CAUGHT THE FIRE OF HIS ZEAL APPEALED TO TRINITY COLLEGE, NOW DUKE UNIVERSITY, FOR FUNDS TO BUILD A SCHOOL IN PILOT MOUNTAIN. THIS BECAME AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT IN 1890, WHEN TRINITY ACADEMY OPENED ITS DOORS TO THE EAGER YOUNG PEOPLE WHO CAME FROM MILES IN EVERY DIRECTION TO SEEK FURTHER KNOWLEDGE.

THE ACADEMY

DREW MORE AND MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO THE TOWN. THE HOMES WITH FACILITIES FOR KEEPING BOARDERS WERE OVERFLOWING WITH STUDENTS. SOME STUDENTS WERE BROUGHT BY THEIR FAMILIES, WHO SET UP BUSINESSES IN PILOT MOUNTAIN OR BOUGHT NEARBY FARMS. GRADUALLY THE POPULATION INCREASED, AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ESTABLISHING A METHODIST CHURCH CAME. SINCE THE OPENING OF THE SCHOOL, VISITING METHODIST MINISTERS HAD OFTEN HELD SERVICES IN ITS BUILDING, AND IN 1897, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF TH REV. T. H. PEGRAM, A SMALL METHODIST CONGREGATION WAS ESTABLISHED. PILOT MOUNTAIN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH. SOME OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS WERE MRS. R.E.L. FLIPPIN, MR. AND MRS. JOHN GREEN, MR. AND MRS. WILEY WRIKE, MRS NANCY GORDON, MRS. MARTHA GREEN AND MR. BUCK COX . FATHER NEEDHAM PREACHED THE LAST SERMON OF HIS EARTHLY LIFE TO THIS CONGREGATION

ON MARCH 12, 1899. HE WAS TO HAVE RETURNED ON HIS ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY, MAY 26 OF THAT YEAR, BUT SUCCUMBED TO THE GRIPPE ON APRIL 1, 1899.

THE INFANT CONGREGATION WORSHIPPED IN THE ACADEMY UNTIL THEY COULD FINANCE A BUILDING OF THEIR OWN. AT ONE TIME THE BAPTIST CHURCH ON DEPOT STREET OPENED ITS DOORS AND ALLOWED THE METHODISTS TO HOLD A GREAT REVIVAL MEETING THERE, AT WHICH TIME MANY SOULS WERE JOINED TO CHRIST. IN 1899 AND 1900 THE METHODISTS COMPLETED THEIR FIRST CHURCH BUILDING, LOCATED ON STEPHENS ST. THIS SMALL WHITE FRAME CHURCH, WITH A GRACEFUL SPIRE RISING AMONG THE TREES, WAS THE HOME OF THE METHODISTS FOR SOME FORTY EIGHT YEARS. IT WAS BUILT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PASTOR J.P. RODGERS, WHO WAS TRANSFERRED IN THE AUTUMN OF 1900, AND A.L. COBURN, WHO CAME AT THAT TIME. HARDIN L. ADKINS RETURNED TO PREACH THE DEDICATORY SERMON.

MEANWHILE THE ACADEMY BUILDING HAD BEEN SOLD TO THE TOWN OF PILOT MOUNTAIN AROUND 1901, AND THE PROCEEDS APPLIED TO THE NEW CHURCH BUILDING. IN 1908 THE ACADEMY BURNED TO THE GROUND, AND THE TOWN CONSTRUCTED A NEW SCHOOL. THE ACADEMY STOOD NEW THE FAR END OF ACADEMY STREET ON THE 52 BY-PASS. FEW CAN ESTIMATE HOW MUCH TRINITY ACADEMY MEANT TO PILOT MOUNTAIN, NOR HOW FAR REACHING WAS THE CULTURAL INFLUENCE OF THE FINE MEN AND WOMEN WHO TAUGHT THERE. THOSE WHO ATTENDED CLASSES THERE HOLD A DEBT OF GRATITUDE WHICH CAN BE PAID ONLY BY THEIR GIVING TO THE NEXT GENERATION THE OPPORTUNITIES SO GRACIOUSLY GIVEN TO THEM.

THE SMALL FELLOWSHIP IN THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH LOCATED ON STEPHENS ST., WERE FEW IN NUMBERS BUT LONG ON SPIRIT, PLAYED WELL ITS PART IN THE EVENTS OF NEARLY HALF A CENTURY. DURING THE WAR OF 1917-1918, THE WOMEN OF THE CONGREGATION JOINED THE OTHER LADIES OF THE TOWN IN SEWING AND KNITTING, COLLECTING SWEETS FOR THE SOLDIERS AND

PACKING BOXES FOR OVERSEAS RELIEF, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MRS. R.E.L. FLIPPIN AS HEAD OF THE LOCAL RED CROSS CHAPTER. THE YOUNG CHURCH DID NOT HAVE A PREACHING SERVICE EVERY WEEK BUT MET WEEKLY IN THE CLASS MEETINGS HELD BY MR. JOHN GREEN. MUCH SPIRITUAL FRUIT WAS GARNERED FROM THESE SESSIONS, WHICH WERE HELD UP TO AND DURING THE FIRST WAR. IT WAS IN 1901 THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH ORGANIZED THE WOMEN'S HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY. THIS GROUP LATER BECAME THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY AND THEN THE WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND NOW THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN. THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THIS GROUP IN 1901 WAS MRS. R.E.L. FLIPPIN. A POST SHE HELD FOR 25 YEARS. OTHER PRESIDENTS THROUGH THE YEARS HAVE BEEN: (IN ORDER) MRS. J.A. PELL, SR., MRS. J.A. HOWELL, MRS. J.B. JARRELL, MRS. A.T. MACON, MRS. ADA BADGETT, MRS. R.A. FRYE, MRS. J.E. NEEDHAM, MRS. C.W. PATTERSON., MRS. T.D. SIMMONS.

THE CHURCH WAS ALSO VERY ACTIVE DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR. THE CHURCH AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITY BANDED TOGETHER IN BUYING BONDS AND BANDAGE ROLLING AND PRAYING FOR THE MEN DURING THE WAR.

IT WAS DURING THE SPRING OF 1946, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE REV. COURTNEY ROSS, A YOUNG ADULT GROUP WAS ORGANIZED. THIS GROUPS WAS MADE UP OF THE YOUNGER MARRIED MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH, AND THOSE OF THEIR AGE BRACKET. MRS. O.W. SMITH WAS THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE CLASS. THEY CALLED THEMSELVES THE LIVE-WIRE GROUP. MRS. J.A. PELL, JR. AND DR. I FRANK STONE ALSO SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE LIVE-WIRE GROUP. THIS GROUP PROVIDED MANY WORTHWHILE PROJECTS IN THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY. THE FURNISHINGS OF THE CLASSROOM IN THE NEW CHURCH AND THE DAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AND MANY INFORMATIVE MEETINGS WITH OUTSIDE SPEAKERS WERE HELD.

IN 1947 AND 1948, THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH WAS WORN, DILAPIDATED AND OUTMODED, AFTER HAVING SERVED FOR NEARLY HALF-A-CENTURY AS THE

PLACE OF WORSHIP. THERE HAD BEEN A MOVEMENT AFOOT FOR SOME FOUR OR FIVE YEARS PREVIOUS TO BUILD A MODERN FACILITY. THE REV. R.ODELL BROWN AND COURTNEY ROSS HAD PAVED THE WAY BY ENCOURAGING THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE FOR THIS GREAT STEP. DUE TO THE WAR AND TO SCARCITY OF MATERIAL, WORK COULD NOT BE STARTED UNTIL THE SUMMER OF 1943. THE BUILDING FUND HAD GROWN TO OVER \$20,000 BY THAT TIME. IN THE FALL OF 1947 THE REV. LEE P. BARNETT WAS SENT TO HELP THE CONGREGATION GET THE NEW BUILDING STARTED. ON DEC. 30, 1947 THE NEW BUILDING PLANS WERE APPROVED. THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED ON APRIL 5, 1948 AND A GROUP OF DEDICATED AND LOYAL MEMBERS ASSEMBLED FOR THE GROUND BREAKING WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING. ON DEC. 15TH. OF 1948 THE NEW CHURCH OPENED ITS DOORS FOR PRAYER MEETINGS. THE FIRST SUNDAY FOR A PREACHING SERVICE WAS DECEMBER 19TH. THE NEW CHURCH BUILDING WAS CONSECRATED ON APRIL 17, 1949 WITH THE LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE AND IN MAY OF THE SAME YEAR, MAY 22ND., 1949, THE CHURCH WAS DECLARED DEBT FREE AND A DEDICATION SERVICE WAS HELD BY BISHOP COSTEN J. HARRELL.

GOD HAS CONTINUED TO BLESS THE CONGREGATION OF PILOT MOUNTAIN OVER THE YEARS. A PARSONAGE WAS BUILT ON THE PROPERTY WHERE THE OLD CHURCH HAD STOOD. THIS SERVED FAITHFULLY UNTIL THE CHURCH PURCHASED THE HOME OF MRS. HENRY RIDENHOUR IN 1993, FOR USE AS A PARSONAGE. REV. RIDENHOUR SERVED THIS CHURCH FROM 1958 UNTIL 1966. HE RETIRED AND SERVED AS MAYOR OF PILOT MOUNTAIN FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THE OLDER ADULT CLASS IS NAMED IN HONOR OF REV. HENRY RIDENHOUR BY CALLING ITSELF THE RIDENHOUR BIBLE CLASS. THE CARILLON ON OUR PIPE ORGAN IS ALSO GIVEN IN MEMORY OF REV. RIDENHOUR.

NEW PROPERTY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE CHURCH OVER THE PAST YEARS BY MANY FAMILIES. MR. P.G. WALL HAS GIVEN THE CHURCH A VACANT LOT THAT IS ACROSS FROM THE CURRENT PILOT MOUNTAIN FIRE DEPT. MR. AND MRS. JOE STONE HAVE GENEROUSLY GIVEN THE CHURCH THE HOUSE ON THE CORNER OF

STEPHENS AND MARION STREETS FOR USE AS A YOUTH BUILDING. THERE HAS BEEN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENDOWMENT FUND FOR CHURCH USE WHICH HAS GROWN OVER THE YEARS.

THE CHURCH CONTINUED TO GROW DURING THE 1950'S, SIXTIES AND SEVENTIES. IN MORE RECENT HISTORY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF REV. J. JAMES BOLES WHO WAS HERE FOR THIRTEEN YEARS NEW LONG RANGE PLANS BEGAN TO BE FORMED. THIS LONG RANGE PLAN CALLED FOR ADDITIONAL STAFF TO BE ADDED TO FACILITATE OUR GROWING CHURCH NEEDS AND A NEW ADDITION FOR CLASSROOM AND FELLOWSHIP HALL SPACE. THE HAND BELL CHOIRS WERE ESTABLISHED WITH A GIFT OF HANDBELLS IN MEMORY OF CLAYTON FULK.

THE BUILDING PLAN WAS ADOPTED BY THE CONGREGATION IN 1997, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PRESENT PASTOR SIDNEY LANIER AND THE BUILDING COMMITTEE. THE ADDITIONAL STAFF WAS ADDED THIS YEAR (1997). WE HOPE WITH THE HELP OF GOD TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF METHODISM IN PILOT MOUNTAIN, IN THE SPRING OF 1999 WITH A GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY. THIS WOULD MEAN THE METHODIST'S IN PILOT MOUNTAIN HAVE BUILT A NEW FACILITY EVERY 50 YEARS SINCE THE CONGREGATION WAS FORMED IN 1897.

MAY GOD BLESS OUR FUTURE EFFORTS.

IN THE NARTHEX ARE MANY HISTORICAL PICTURES OF PAST EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH. PLEASE TAKE A FEW MOMENTS AND LOOK AT THIS GATHERING OF ARTICLES, WRITINGS AND PICTURES.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF PILOT MOUNTAIN OFFICERS
ELECT FOR 1998

*Indicates those who are to attend Church Council meetings held each month.

Pastor--Sidney Lanier*	Chairperson Church Council--Ben Black*
Lay Leader--Jeanette Reid*	1 st . Vice Chair--Kenneth Meredith*
2 nd . Vice Chair--Jeanette Reid*	Secretary--Mona Thomas*
Treasurer--Tom Hauser*	Delegate to Annual Conference--Norma Boaz*
Alternate delegate to Annual Conference--Mona Thomas	

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK AREAS

Trustee Chairperson-- (To be elected by Trustees as per Discipline of the United Methodist Church before the end of 1997) *

Finance Committee Chairperson--Dr. Wayne Lankford*

Parsonage Committee Chairperson--Cindy Walters*

Staff-Parish Relations C.P.--Jerry Tilley* Long Range Planning C.P.--David Diamont*

MINISTRIES WORK AREA

Membership and Evangelism--Sallie Stone* Worship--Spence Key Jr.*

Children's Nurture and care--Ollise Griffith* Adult Nurture C.P.--Sharon Payne*

Fellowship Co--Chairpersons--Debbie Bartlett* and Juanita Henderson*

Youth nurture and Care Co--Chairpersons--Tracy Brooks* and Barbara Wilkerson*

Stewardship Chairperson--Dan Stone*

Local and World Mission Outreach--Shirley Key*

Education and Sunday School Supt.--Marilyn Goodson*

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

Altar Guild and Service Aids--Lillian Creeson*

U.M. Youth--(to be elected by the youth)*

U.M. Men-- (to be elected by the men)* U.M. Women (to be elected by the women)*

Newsletter Representative--Sue Stone*

Van Committee chairperson--Tom Beroth Jr.* Ushers--Tom Hauser*

STEWARDS OR MEMBERS AT LARGE OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

1998--Mike Hill*	1999-- Dwight Atkinson*	2000--Rod Simpson*
Trent Goodson*	Ruth Smith*	Sylva Cook*
Debbie Garris*	T.J. Payne*	Bob Walkup*
		Joe Stone*
		Ed Swason*

HONORARY MEMBERS TO THE AD. COUNCIL-- Fannie Fowler, Eva Huffman,
Ruth Stone.

COMMITTEES

TRUSTEES--The chairperson will be elected from this group by the trustees as per The Discipline of the United Methodist Church before the year end or 30 days into 1998. There are three classes for years to be served. No more than 9 persons.

1998--Jim York	1999--Wayne Lankford	2000--Lee Cook
Tom Beroth Jr.	Shirley Key	Jim Long
Mona Thomas		Jaunita Henderson
		Mrs. Tut Pell

FINANCE C.P. — Wayne Lankford*

This Committee is defined by the Discipline as certain positions on the Council then other members are elected

Dan Stone	Jeanette Reid	Trustee Chairperson--
Ben Black	Tom Hauser	
1998--Ken Shelton	1999--Tim Childress	2000--Tracy Wilkerson
Harry Folger	Lee Cook	Tom Beroth Sr.
Bill Weidon	T.J. Payne	Ann Anderson

PARSONAGE COMMITTEE C.P.--Cindy Walters*

John Mckenzie	Parry Lanier	Elizabeth Tilley
Norma Boaz	Bill Bryant	Melanie Diamont
Tut Pell-- representative of the Trustees		Mona Thomas

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS C.P.--Jerry Tilley*

1998--Art Weller	1999--Jeanette Reid	2000--Barbara Wilkerson
Mona Thomas	Tom Anderson	Cathy Long
Sallie Stone	Rod Simpson	

CHURCH HISTORIAN— John Mckenzie

NOMINATIONS AND PERSONNEL--C.P. (Is the Pastor)

This committee cannot elect members the class must be elected by the Charge Conference

1998--Shirley Key	1999-Jerry Tilley	2000--
Kenneth Meredith	Rod Simpson	2000--

LONG RANGE PLANNING Chairperson— David Diamont*

Doug Smith	Jim Long	Bill Walters	Bruce Widdowson
Tom Anderson	Susan Boaz	Tracy Wilkerson	Debbie Lankford

LIBRARY COMMITTEE Chairperson-- Cathy Long

Nancy Downs	Helen Snow	Susan Shelton	Julie Hill	Marilyn Goodson
Molly Wilkerson				

VAN COMMITTEE Chairperson--Tom Beroth Jr.*

Juanita Henderson	Ben Black	Barbara Wilkerson	Spence Key Jr.
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BUILDING COMMITTEE (This committee serves until building is finished and

Become occupied by the church)

Chairperson--Jim Long

Ben Black	Ann Anderson	Juanita Henderson	John Mckenzie
Van Dearmin	Barbara Wilkerson	Lee Cook	Jerry Tilley
Jeanette Reid			

The pastor is an ex-officio members of all committees

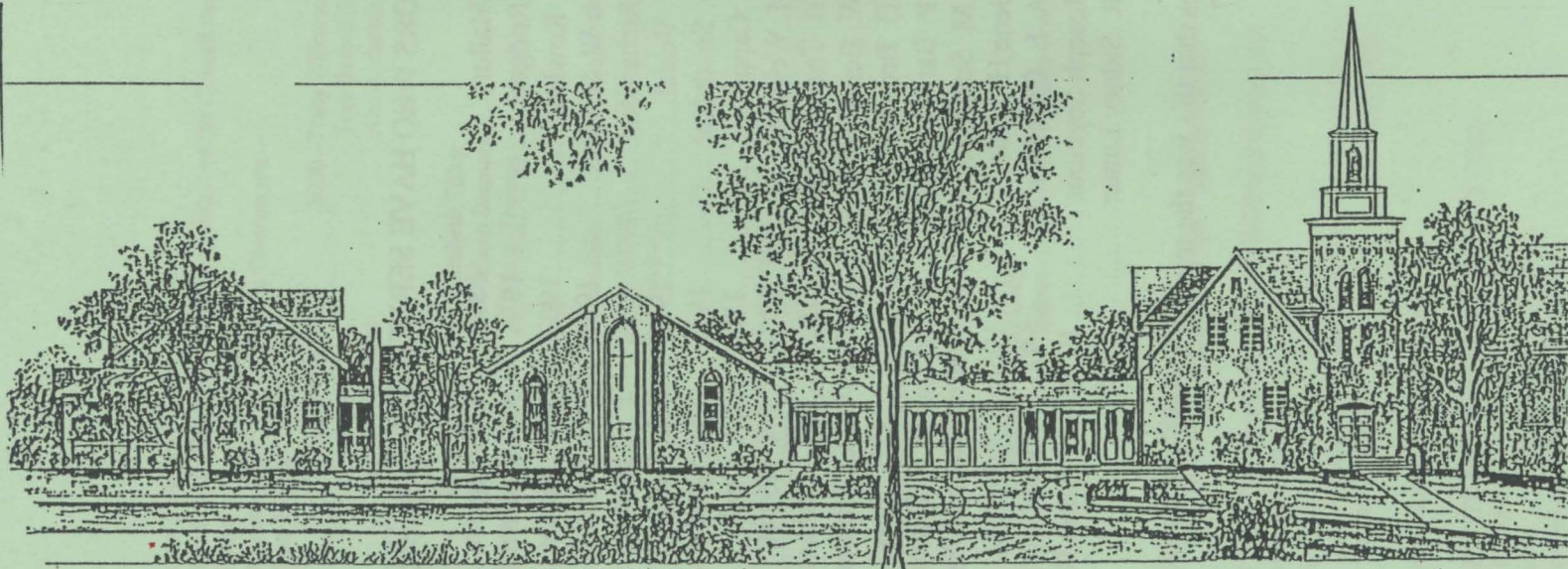
AT LARGE MEMBERS WITH NO VOTE ON SALARY MATTERS--

Chris Lawson--Choir Director*
Betty Reirson--Organist*
Darlene Chipman--Handbell and other music*
Judv Brinkley--Program Director*

PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED PILOT MOUNTAIN CHARGE

W. Mallory.....	1894	*T.H. Pegram.....	1895
J.P. Rodgers.....	1898	A.L. Coburn.....	1900
J.M. Rowland.....	1903	A.W. Jacobs.....	1905
Jacob W. Strider.....	1906	J.H. Brendall.....	1908
J.C. Richardson.....	1910	P.H. Brittain.....	1911
J.W. Vestal.....	1912	R.L. Doggett.....	1914
E.O. Smithdeal.....	1915	J.W. Combs.....	1916
J.H. Capps.....	1921	J.A. Cook.....	1923
H.M. Wellman.....	1924	J.A. Howell.....	1927
W.B. Thompson.....	1929	A.L. Latham.....	1933
J.W. Bennett.....	1934	C.C. Washam.....	1935
R.O. Brown.....	1941	C.B. Ross.....	1947
L.P. Barnett.....	1947	P.T. Dixon.....	1949
C.M. Smith.....	1956	Henry I. Ridenhour.....	1958
Gene H. Little.....	1966	Aubert M. Smith.....	1969
A. L. Chamblee Jr.....	1973	Grady Burgin.....	1978
Joseph Seymour.....	1979	J. James Boles.....	1983
R. Sidney Lanier.....	1996		

*indicates that this was the minister serving when the congregation was formed in 1897



FRONT ELEVATION

FAMILY LIFE CENTER
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PILOT MOUNTAIN, NC

JULY 1968