

March 16, 2008
505 Crooked Creek Road
Hendersonville, NC 28739

The Reverend Katherine Earley
Dobson United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 497
Dobson, NC 27017

Dear Pastor Earley:

Thank you for the invitation to come back to Dobson UMC for its 150th Anniversary Sunday Celebration on Sunday, October 5, 2008.

My wife, Patricia, and I plan to be present unless there should be unforeseen circumstances. I would be happy to participate in the "Special Memories" part of the service.

If you are updating your written history compiled by Mrs. Nannie Riggs which I received sometime ago, I would appreciate you revising the part about my ministry. For some reason she left my ministry out except for the dates I served.

Please include the following in the history of my ministry at Dobson UMC:

Rev. Rollin Gibbs returned to conduct a second pledge campaign to pay off the sanctuary remodeling debt. After obtaining a new minister, the congregation was willing to re-pledge and the debt was paid off in three years. Dr. Wilson Nesbit, Director of The Duke Endowment and a former pastor, came back for the note burning service. After the remodeling debt was paid off, the old Frank Riggs Homeplace behind the Educational and Fellowship Hall Building came available and the church voted to buy it for about \$18,000—the lot was about one acre and would provide off-street parking. When I left in 1971, the lot was paid down to \$9,000. Proceeds from the Annual Horse Show were used to pay off the debt. Franklin Freeman and Eleanor Cooper with the help of the youth and many of the adults carried out a very popular and successful horse show each summer in July that was held on the high school baseball field. Afterwards the youth were treated to a beach trip to Cherry Grove, SC.

Also, while I was there, a joint Vacation Bible School with Dobson Baptist Church and Dobson United Methodist Church was held each summer--one year at the Baptist Church using their literature and the next summer at the Methodist Church using our literature. Rev. Larry Williams was the pastor at Dobson Baptist Church at the time. We also jointly sponsored a Saturday Night Youth Recreational and Dance event in the Fellowship Hall at Dobson Methodist for a couple of years. The two congregations held a joint Easter Sunrise Service each year.

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The church's Boy Scout Troop at Dobson United Methodist was very strong under the leadership of Jimmy Davis and Johnny Norman. In the summer of 1970, they took the troop to Camp Philmont, New Mexico, which was a scout's dream.

In 1970, a committee was formed to search for a suitable house for a new parsonage. Otis Carter was chairperson of the committee. While several houses were looked at, none was quite suitable to the conference recommendations booklet. The committee continued to search when Rev. Jack Yarborough followed me and a lot was purchased on the edge of Mr. Grady Cooper's property and architectural plans were drawn up for the building of a suitable new parsonage.

The Hope Valley Rehabilitation Center for Men supported by our Annual Conference on the edge of Dobson was greatly supported by the Dobson Congregation. Frank Comer, the Administrative Board Chairman, was on the Board of Trustees of the Center.

Each year the Evangelism Committee would sponsor a series of services for Spiritual Renewal. Some of the ministers we invited to speak were, as follows: Dr. Mack Depp of Centenary UMC, Winston-Salem; Rev. Jim Coleman of First UMC, Marion; Rev. Kenneth Johnson, Green Street UMC, Winston-Salem; Dr. Russ Montford, Burkhead UMC, Winston-Salem; and Dr. James Peters, Winston-Salem District Superintendent. When Dr. Peters came, we invited the Lovell's Chapel Congregation of Pilot Mountain to worship with us and their choir to sing with us.

These are the significant events that took place during my ministry. The last year at Dobson, I was elected as President of the Northeast District Ministers Association. I served Dobson UMC for four years (1967-1971).

Thank you again for your invitation and I hope we will be able to attend as planned. I have been retired for eleven years at this year's Annual Conference. I always enjoy returning to former pastorates for special events.

Best wishes as you plan and anticipate the upcoming celebration on October 5th.

Sincerely,

Jim Calloway
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