

A Brief History of Mt. Airy Friends Meeting

During the 1890s, several Friends ministers whose names are now forgotten came to Mt. Airy and held "stirring" revivals. (Annie Armitage and Emma Malone were from Ohio, Mary C. Woody came from Guilford College, and Meredith and John Kittrell from Indiana). By 1894, a group of Friends, led by G. Calvin Welch, John L. Worth, and Caleb Mitchel, began to meet in the Methodist Church which still stands near the present Meeting House. When the Methodists sold that building, Friends moved to a large room called "The Hall" on the second floor of the old Welch Building on South Main Street. Growth was steady and by 1904 Mt. Airy Friends, with \$1850 in the building fund, announced plans for a new Meeting House. Leverette Rugg was pastor at the time. When the building was completed sometime in 1905, the outstanding debt was only \$500 and by the time of the dedication on April 14, 1907, the Meeting was debt free. The total cost of the Meetinghouse, described as a beautiful new building of granite, was \$3500.

By 1907, membership was approximately 100 and the Meeting was vigorously engaged in Bible study groups, Sunday School, and revivals. Much effort was given to evangelism in the area. The Meeting participated in the establishment of a Meeting at Dobson and supported efforts "over the mountain" at Galax and Hillsville. It also supported work in Tennessee and West Virginia and joined other meetings in Surry Quarterly Meeting in the support of the Blue Ridge Mission at Ararat, VA which had been established in 1888. Nor were traditional Quaker concerns forgotten. Old minutes make frequent reference to the Meeting's activities on behalf of such concerns as the peace testimony and in opposition to the death penalty.

Shortly after the Meeting House was completed, John L. Worth built and donated a house on South Main Street to be used as a parsonage. In a few years, Sunday School rooms were added to the Meeting House and the Education Building was added in 1966-67.

Charter Members

Ila B. Marshall	George F. Belton
Ella Ray	Caleb F. Norman
Anna Davis	Maude Dunnigan
Ette Welch	Susan M. Lowery
Sevell N. Owens	William T. Gant
Emma Welch	Bettie Gant
Lizzie Thornton	Alice Welch
Ethel Beasley	James Thacker
Ida Welch	James W. Carpenter
Minnie Jordan	Charles Griffith
Ida E. Harris	Chattie Griffith
Lyan Watkins	William R. Davis
Walter P. Welch	Annie Watkins
George E. Welch	John Carpenter
Elija Beasley	Bausley Beasley
Catherine Thornton	Maggie Gant
William B. Worth	W. R. Saunders
Daisy Worth	Charlie Gant
Caleb Mitchel	George Floyd
Jennie Mitchell	W. A. Holt
G. C. Welch	Minnie Marshall
Della Welch	Islo Marshall
John L. Worth	Arthur Marshall
Meline Worth	Richard K. Marshall

Pastoral Ministers

Joseph Potts	John Permar
James R. Jones	Clifton C. Pearson
Leverett J. Rugg	Seth B. Hinshaw
Aulander Larzalere	Milo S. Hinckle
Samuel Pickett	Reuben J. Payne
Franklin and	Howard B. Yow
Mary Moon Meredith	William G. Guthrie
Miles Reece	James D. Reinhardt
Leannah Hobson	Fred Hill
Wesley Wooten	Robert M. Jones
Herbert Reynolds	Charles R. Adams
David Brannon	Bobby L. Medford
Raymond Booth	Hadley Robertson
Calvin Gregory	James D. Reinhardt
Ben Millikan	Willie R. Frye
Emmanuel and Perchie Key	