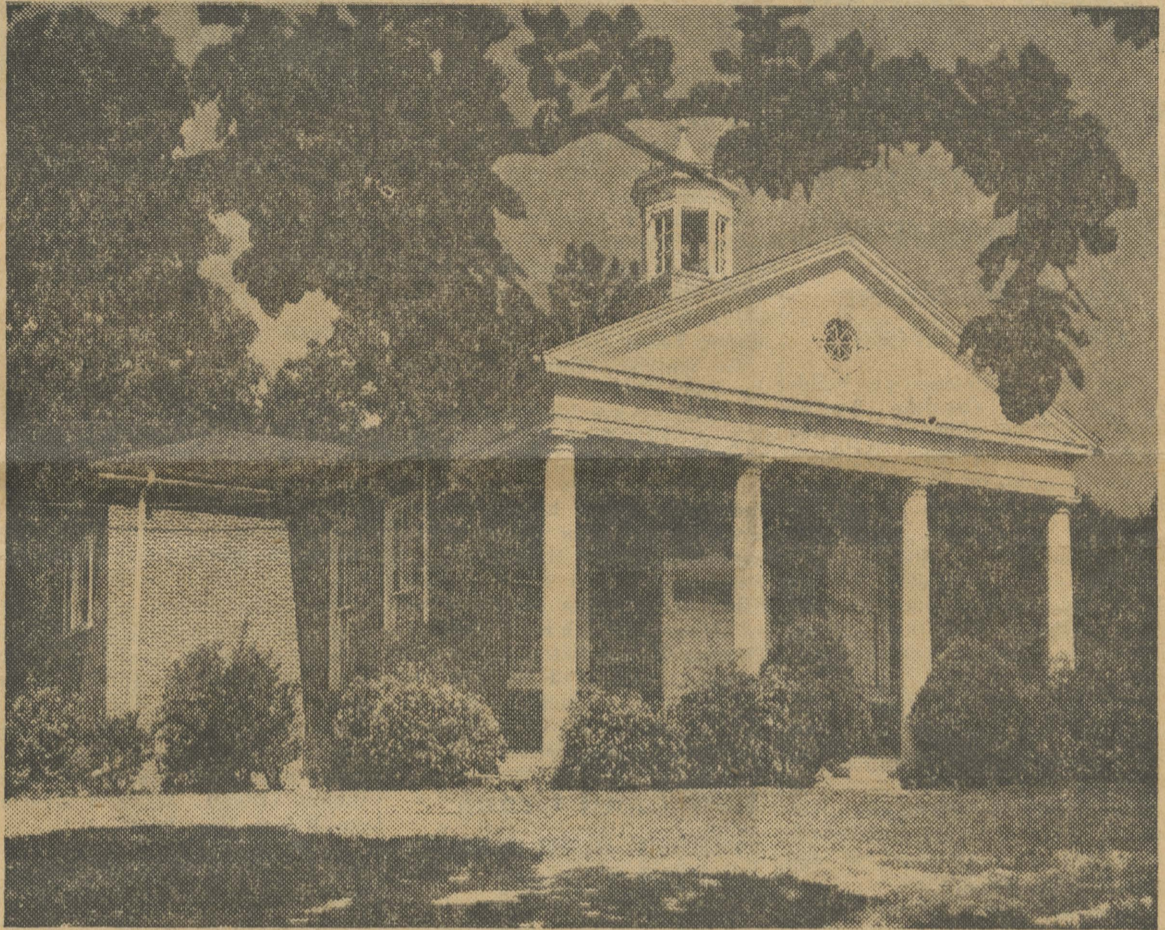


# MOUNT AIRY T

A Home Newspaper For Greater Mount Airy and Sur

MOUNT AIRY, N. C., JULY 19, 1957

## Mother Of Methodism In Community



Organized in 1857, Salem Methodist Church dedicated the building above on June 29, 1924. Erected in 1923-24, the building was given by Mrs. Susan Jackson Smith, wife of Zachary Taylor Smith of Mount Airy and mother of Mrs. R. J. Reynolds of Winston-Salem. The church was furnished by the congregation at a cost of \$5,000.

## Salem Methodist Will Observe 100 Birthday

DR. E. C. ASHBY

Salem Methodist Church, three miles north of Mount Airy, will celebrate its centennial during the week of July 28-August 4.

All the living former pastors, except Rev. M. W. Heckard and Rev. Edgar H. Nease, plan to return to the church for the 100th anniversary.

Rev. A. W. Lynch, the present pastor, was appointed in October, 1955.

During these two years the parsonage has been enlarged, the road between the church and parsonage has been hard surfaced and modern rest rooms are now being constructed at the rear of the church. The Salem Church has become more securely established as a growing station in the Winston-Salem District.

A history of the church is given in the following article.

BY REV. A. W. LYNCH

In a world of selfishness, hurry, war, and rumors of war, it is a relief to turn our thoughts to the past and to days of construction rather than to destruction.

We like to remember those men who made scientific discoveries; those men who invented the great machinery of the modern age; and those statesmen who have led us politically, socially, and economically.

Here, however, it is our joy and honor to pay a special tribute to those pioneers of the church—those who have led reli-

giously. They were the men who were always found at the front as our nation progressed. They became great by becoming servants, and rich because they gave all to the greatest cause known to man—leading ones neighbor to know God.

They were always found with Bible and hymn book in hand going about preaching and baptizing in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Just when one of these great messengers, or "Circuit Riders" as they are called, came to this community is not known exactly. It is believed that a Methodist preacher, Isaac Rollens, preached and taught along the Yadkin Valley in 1776.

In 1800 camp meeting became very popular in this section. People for miles around came together at a place suitable for the purpose. A large tent made of canvas was used for the house of

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God. For several weeks these meetings continued where a wonderful fellowship was enjoyed by all as they sang, prayed and preached together. One of the first of such meetings in this section was held in Toast, just west of Mount Airy. It was held there several years then moved to a location at Oak Grove, just south east of Mount Airy. From there the location was moved to Salem area in 1850. The old camp ground is just across the road from the present church and to the north in front of the cemetery. Great success was enjoyed and much interest was shown in the meetings. The people became aware of the need of a permanent house of God in the community. When the camp meetings closed there was a vacant spot in the lives of the people of this area. This need the citizens filled by a church.

Seeing this need and desiring to do his part in giving shape and form to dreams, John R. Patterson on May 6, 1857 deeded to the trustees: Murlin Sparger, Jess Roberts, Henry Sparger, Thomas Ivery and Rufus Roberts; property on which was to be erected a building for the advancement of God's cause in the Salem community.

Soon lumber was sawed, shingled rived and work was begun. All the labor was donated by interested persons, and within two years Salem community's first church was erected—Salem Methodist Church, South.

In this new church, a wood structure, preaching services were held and a church school was organized. Murlin Sparger was its first superintendent. Since that time its superintendents have been: John Satterfield, L. W. Ashby, Andrew Jackson Satterfield, Saint Patterson, W. L. Gwyn, W. T. (Willie) Parker, E. L. Brown, Kyle N. Smith, Elmer C. Wagoner and at present, Tommie Nixon.

Salem Church has been served and guided by many fine and noble preachers. Among the first were Rev. R. L. N. Stephenson, Rev. S. M. Davis, Rev. James Wilson, Rev. N. E. Coltraine, Rev. J. Wilson, Rev. Chas. P. Snow, Rev. Sammuel P. Douglas, Rev. T. W. S. Parker (Brother to J. M. Parker) and Rev. Hardin L. Atkins.

In 1894 during the pastorate of Rev. J. M. Rice the first Woman's Missionary Society was organized at Salem church. Mrs. Frank Brown was elected president, Mrs. Sarah E. Gwyn, vice-president and Mrs. J. D. Satterfield, secretary and treasurer. Other members were J. D. Satterfield, W. L. Gwyn, N. W. Brown, R. S. Satterfield, C. F. Calfee and Rev. J. M. Rice. In the years following the cause of Christ and his church was kept alive and burning in the hearts of the people by Rev. J. P. Lanning, Rev. J. P. Rogers, Rev. B. F. Carpenter, Rev. V. L. Marsh, Rev. W. L. Hutchens, Rev. R. L. Fruit (Married Alice Gwyn), Rev. D. C. Ballard, Rev. Z. E. Barnhardt, Rev. J. W. Kennedy, Rev. J. D. Gibson, Rev. B. M. Jackson, Rev. C. R. Allison, Rev. J. M. Folger, Rev. J. W. Bennett, Rev. Tom P. Jimmerson and Rev. G. W. Williams.

Some other ministers who