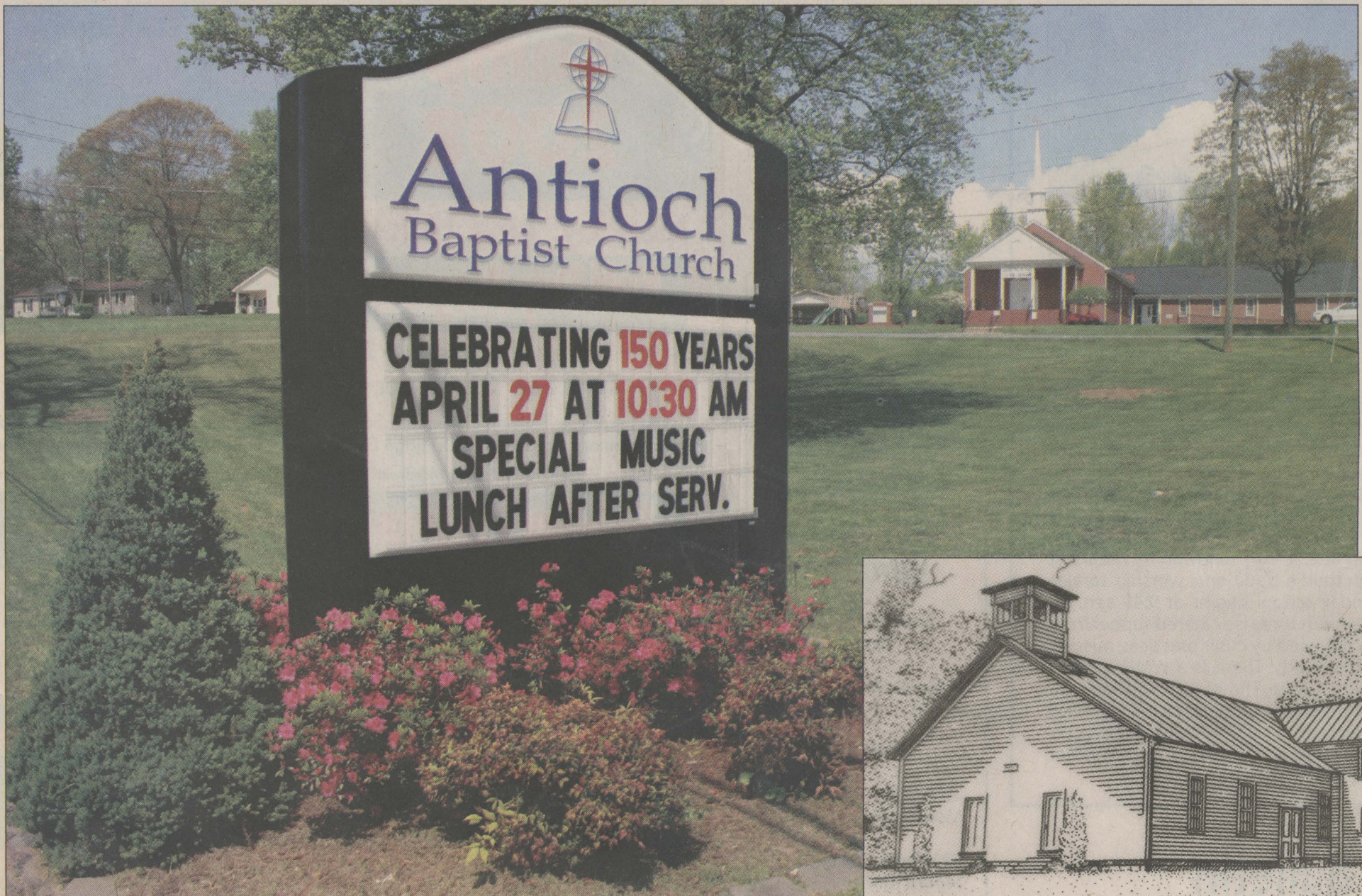


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# FAITH

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Phil Goble Jr./The Messenger

Antioch Baptist Church will be celebrating its 150th anniversary Sunday.

## Reflecting on the past ...

By Phil Goble Jr.  
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On April 28, 1858, 22 people got together to found a church. Union Hill Baptist Church began with a series of meetings at the members' homes in and around Old Hollow. Sunday at 10:30 a.m., Antioch Baptist Church — the church Union Hill became — will celebrate the 150th anniversary of those humble beginnings.

The day will begin with a special service at 10:30 a.m. Included in the event will be former pastors, men who have been ordained at Antioch and wives of pastors who have passed away. The Rev. Dale Wallace, pastor at Antioch, will preside.

"It didn't take as long as we thought (to reach the guests)," Louise Beamer, chairman of the History Committee, said Tuesday. "We've only not heard from two."

Fonda Younger, great-granddaughter of long-time member J. Heritage East, will return to sing "In the land where we never grow old." She will be joined by the Faithful Way Singers and

the quartet featuring the three oldest members of the church, Lizzie Hawks, 98, Josie Seal, 95, and Alice Horton, 96, and Hobert Johnson.

The event will also be the unveiling of "Antioch Baptist Church, 1858-2008," a book detailing the history of the church. Cost of the book is \$11 per copy.

"We worked on that history book for three years," Beamer said. "We had a great time going through that (information). It's been an experience, but a great experience."

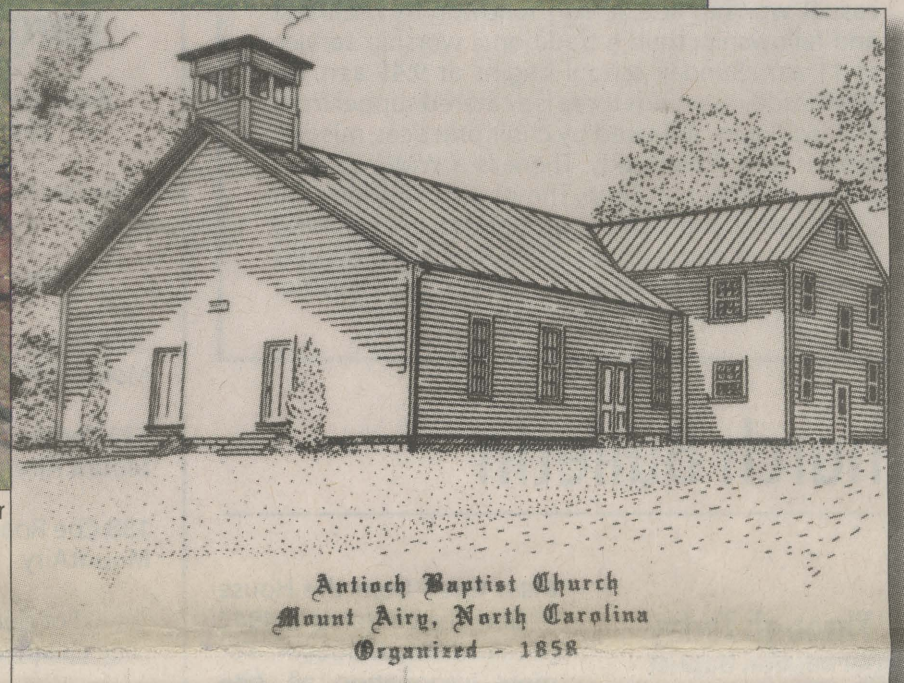
The group scoured old church records, studied photographs of the facility and conducted interviews with past and present members to complete the history.

Among the things the committee found:

- Antioch was the first Missionary Baptist Church established west of Mount Airy.

- Services were originally held just the first and third Sundays each month. In 1958, services were expanded to each week.

- Sunday school, first known as Sabbath School, was started in 1876.



## looking forward

- Felix and John T. Johnson donated one acre in 1877 that allowed the church to move to its present location on W. Pine Street. That year, the name was changed to Antioch.

- The church joined the Yadkin Association in 1859.

- The first parsonage was built on the property in 1964.

- The Rev. Bailey Elmore was the first full-time pastor of Antioch, accepting the church's call in 1969.

After the service, a luncheon will be served on the grounds. "We're going to have an old-fashioned luncheon with everybody bringing their special dishes," Beamer said.

For more information or to purchase a copy of the book, contact the church at 789-2057.