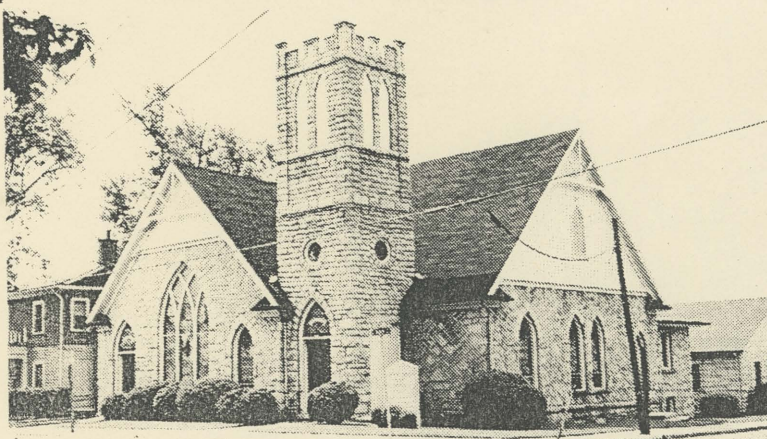




Local Quakers first met in Mount Airy on the second floor of the Welch Building on South Main Street.

Friends Mark 95th Anniversary

By R.J. BERRIER
Staff Writer

Mount Airy Friends Meeting observed its 95th anniversary Sunday.

The celebration began during morning worship, continued with a covered-dish lunch in the fellowship hall and concluded at 7 p.m. with a musical, "Down by the Creekbank," presented by the children of the church. Light refreshments in the fellowship hall followed the production.

The Rev. Willie R. Frye is the pastor of the church, assuming his ministry last year after the retirement of the Rev. James D. Reinhardt.

Reinhardt and another former pastor, the Rev. Charles R. Adams, assisted Frye in the morning service.

Before 1898, the Friends in Mount Airy had been holding worship services in the Old Methodist Church, still standing behind the N.C. Employment Security Commission on South Main Street.

Then the Friends moved to The Hall, a large room on the second floor of the Welch Building in the 800 block of South Main Street. Worship and other church activities continued there until the present meetinghouse was built in 1904.

Among the pioneering families of the Mount Airy Friends were those of Caleb F. Mitchell, G. Calvin Welch and John L. Worth. The three windows at the front of the meeting room honor the three.

Charter members of the church included Ella B. Marshall, Ella Ray, Anna Davis, Ette Welch, Sevell N. Owens, Emma Welch, Lizzie Thornton, Ethel Beasley, Ida Welch, Min-

nie Jordan, Ida E. Harris, Lyan Watkins, Walter P. Welch, George E. Welch, Elija Beasley, Catherine Thornton, William B. Worth, Daisy Worth, Caleb Mitchell, Jennie Mitchell, G.C. Welch, Della Welch, John L. Worth and Meline Worth.

Also, George F. Belton, Caleb F. Norman, Maude Dunningan, Susan M. Lowery, William T. Gant, Bettie Gant, Alice Welch, James Thacker, James W. Carpenter, Charles Griffith, Chattie Griffith, William R. Davis, Annie Watkins, John Carpenter, Bausley Beasley, Maggie Gant, W.R. Saunders, Charlie Gant, George Floyd, W.A. Holt, Minnie Marshall, Islo Marshall, Arthur Marshall and Richard K. Marshall.

In addition to Frye, Reinhardt (who served on two occasions) and Adams, former ministers of the church are Joseph Potts, James R. Jones, Leverett J. Rugg, Alder Larzler, Samuel Pickett, Franklin and Mary Moon Meredith, Miles Reece, Leannah Hobson, Wesley Wooten, Herbert Reynolds, David Brannon, Raymond Booth, Calvin Gregory and Ben Millikan.

Also, Emmanuel and Perchie Key, John Permar, Clifton Pearson, Seth B. Hinshaw, Milo S. Hinckle, Reuben J. Payne, Howard B. Yow, William G. Guthrie, Fred Hill, Robert M. Jones, Bobby L.

Medford and Hadley Robertson.

Present officers of the Meeting are Gene Bowman, presiding clerk; Sarah Johnson, assistant clerk; Frances Bowman, statistical secretary; Claudia Smith, financial secretary; Sue Creed, recording clerk; and James Thacker, treasurer.

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