

THE FIRST HUGH CHATHAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

The first Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital was built in 1930-1931, and was opened to receive patients on April 20, 1931. It was a two-story, rectangular, brick structure, located on Hawthorne Road, with a total of 38 beds and six bassinets. Bedrooms were located on both the first and second floors, nursery on the second floor, business and surgeon's offices on the first floor; kitchen, dining-room, laboratory and X-ray room in the basement.

As a member of the Western North Carolina Methodist Conference, the hospital was dedicated to the treatment of sick people regardless of race or creed, and was not restricted to Methodists except for the use of Golden Cross funds for proven charity.

The Western North Carolina Conference never appropriated funds for the capital outlay. These funds were made available by interested persons in the geographical area around Elkin. The Hugh Chatham family was particularly generous. The fourteen and a half-acre site was given by Chatham Manufacturing Company.

"The role of the Methodist Church in this enterprise was an outstanding one and was made possible through the work of such men as Dr. L. B. Abernethy, Dr. C. C. Weaver, and Dr. J. S. Hiatt, who headed the work at the hospital and directed the Golden Cross Society from this base. The Methodist Church and the Town of Elkin will always be indebted to these three men for their monumental work." 1

1. From "Report on Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital", Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, May 22, 1967.

The Duke Endowment regularly allocated considerable sums of money, which was used in financing charity services and for improving facilities. An application from the Board of Directors for financial assistance from the Duke Endowment for building a home for nurses reads as follows:

"The hospital was built with assistance from the Duke Endowment and opened on April 20, 1931. The hospital has a capacity of 38 beds and six bassinets for newborn babies, but the surgeon who occupies two of the single-bedrooms and the eight nurses who are living in the hospital reduce the number of beds available to patients to 28 and six bassinets. The hospital has been occupied almost to its full capacity since the day it opened and it is becoming imperative that a home should be provided for the nurses so that they can be moved out of the hospital and the space made available to patients." 2

The following year a nurses' home was built just back of the hospital. One side of the two-story brick building was the residence of the surgeon and his family. The other half of the building was the nurses' home.

This same year, 1932, a two-story brick home was built on Hawthorne Road for the Superintendent, who at that time was Dr. L. B. Abernethy. Today it is the residence of the present administrator, Manuel Holthouser.

In 1938, the hospital was expanded by adding a wing on the west side. This new addition provided space for the surgeon's offices, business offices, a ward for colored people, an emergency room, and offices for the eye, nose and throat doctor. The two upper floors were used for additional bedrooms.

2. From "Minutes of a called meeting of the Board of Directors, May 15, 1931".

In 1950 and 1958, additions provided for more patients beds and a children's ward. The extensive improvements made in 1958, requiring an outlay of \$250,000, brought the hospital to the highest standard for that time.

In October 1966, the trustees voted unanimously for the dissolution of the ties between the Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital and the Western North Carolina Conference, and all assets and controls of the hospital were returned to a local non-profit operating entity. Since then it has operated as a community hospital.

The first chief surgeon and administrator of the hospital was Dr. Harry L. Johnson. He held this position from April 19, 1931 to 1935, when he moved to Hickory, N. C. Dr. Charles L. Haywood, Jr., followed Dr. Johnson, serving in the same capacity until his untimely death in 1942. Dr. E. L. Rice served as chief surgeon until 1946, at which time Dr. Johnson returned to serve in this same capacity. Several years later at the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees, he was recognized for around twenty-five years of unselfish and devoted service to the hospital. He had seen the hospital grow from the original thirty-eight bed facility to sixty beds and the addition of many technical services.

Dr. Luis E. Donayre followed Dr. Johnson in 1965. His successor was Dr. Franklin B. Wilkins, who continues to serve in this capacity in 1981.

Dr. L. B. Abernethy, pastor of the Elkin Methodist Church, became the first superintendent. After serving very ably in this position for a number of years he was succeeded by Dr. C. C. Weaver, another outstanding Methodist leader who worked in many capacities for the benefit of the hospital. Dr. Joe Hiatt followed Dr. Weaver, and is well remembered for his fine sense of humor. As was so aptly said of him, "Dr. Hiatt's Christian character and jovial personality brought comfort and joy to countless people in all walks of life."

The first full-time Business Manager was Barrett Lankford. He in turn was followed by Ned Ball, Horace Hamilton, ^{and Louis Swanson later} and Nelle M. Sale. The title was changed to Business Administrator when Julius L. Hall took over the reins. He held this position for twenty years and was followed by Manuel Holthouser, ^{in 1962} who continued to fill this position ~~in 1981~~. ^{until his death in 1985}

The fine, dedicated support of the hospital by many people made possible the good medical care it has given to the people of Elkin, surrounding communities, and to the Western North Carolina Methodist Conference.

Florence R. Johnson

See copy A

HUGH CHATHAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Elkin, North Carolina

Board of Trustees - 1931

Rev. L. B. Abernethy
Rev. H. K. Boyer
Alex Chatham
Thurmond Chatham
Dr. J. L. Doughton
R. A. Doughton
Dr. Fred M. Hanes
John W. Hanes
Mason Lillard
W. A. Neaves
Dr. J. W. Ring

Medical Staff - 1931

Dr. I. S. Gambill
Dr. H. L. Johnson
Dr. Hugh Parks
Dr. B. E. Pulliam
Dr. M. A. Royall
Dr. H. C. Salmons

Dentists

Dr. E. G. Click
Dr. R. B. Harrell
Dr. T. R. White

Medical Staff - 1947

Dr. Olivia Abernathy
Dr. Seth M. Beale
Dr. Spencer Bell
Dr. J. Moir Hall
Dr. B. H. Harding
Dr. H. L. Johnson
Dr. J. R. Johnson
Dr. John W. Jolley
Dr. Claude A. McNeill, Jr.
Dr. Vernon W. Taylor, Jr.
Dr. William Wood

Dr. R. M. Cooke

Medical Staff - 1959

Dr. Seth M. Beale
Dr. John N. Bennette
Dr. R. B. Boren
Dr. R. M. Cooke
Dr. J. Moir Hall
Dr. H. L. Johnson, Sr.
Dr. Claude A. McNeill, Jr.
Dr. Vernon W. Taylor, Jr.

Dentists

Dr. M. O. Fox
Dr. J. A. Harrell
Dr. R. B. Harrell
Dr. Lewis D. Pruitt
Dr. E. C. Schiebel

MEDICAL STAFF APPOINTMENTS

1980

Active Staff

Ballard, Evan A.
Blackley, William J.
Cooke, Ralph M.
Dudley, Council C.
Erlandson, Stephen E.
Faulk, Woodruff W.
Groner, Christopher W.
Hall, John M.

Levine, Max Phillip
McNeill, Claude A.
Merlo, Richard B.
Perry, Henry B.
Stuart, Hal M.
Taylor, Vernon W.
Wilkins, Franklin B.

Courtesy Staff

Adams, Richard W.
Brice, Robert S.
Crain, Bert J.
Currie, Donald P.
Davis, Wayne E.
Gwyn, Paul P.

Hart, Oliver J., Jr.
Mellow, Joseph A.
Reid, Charles F.
Roufail, Walter M.
Teta, Joseph M.

Dental Staff

Austin, Thomas M.
Harrell, James A., Sr.
Harrell, James A., Jr.
Harrell, Gavin
Jernigan, G. Perry, II

Parks, Eldon H.
Patti, James E.
Pruett, Lewis D.
Schiebel, Edward C.
Walter, James M., Jr.

STAFF OFFICERS and SPECIAL TITLES

Dr. Hal M. Stuart
Dr. Vernon W. Taylor
Dr. Franklin B. Wilkins
Dr. Henry B. Perry
Dr. Richard Merlo

Chief of Medical Staff
Chief of Medicine
Chief of Surgery
Chief of OB GYN
Radiologist

Medical Staff - 1968

Active

Dr. Seth M. Beale
Dr. Samuel T. Bickley
Dr. R. M. Cooke
Dr. Luis E. Donayre
Dr. Dennis B. Fox
Dr. J. Moir Hall
Dr. Claude A. McNeill, Jr.
Dr. Richard B. Merlo
Dr. Hal M. Stuart
Dr. Vernon W. Taylor, Jr.

Courtesy

Dr. Richard A. Adams
Dr. Chas. Council Dudley, Jr.
Dr. Jas. G. Hall
Dr. B. H. Harding
Dr. Lathan T. Moose
Dr. Frank E. Ochsa

Courtesy Dental Staff

Dr. Allie H. Duncan
Dr. J. A. Harrell
Dr. R. B. Harrell
Dr. Fred C. Miller
Dr. Eldon H. Parks
Dr. Lewis D. Pruitt

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MAILING ADDRESS

NAME

TERM EXPIRES

Mr. Alex Chatham, Jr.	Chatham Manufacturing Co. Elkin, N. C.	1980
Mrs. Virginia Hart	114 Hawthorne Road Elkin, N. C.	1980
Dr. James A. Harrell, Jr.	Parkwood Drive Elkin, N. C.	1980
Mr. Alan Payne	Ivy Circle Elkin, N. C.	1980
Mr. Henry Dillon	Dillon Avenue Elkin, N. C.	1981
Mr. Bill Boles	144 Park Circle Jonesville, N. C.	1981
Mr. Bobby Collins	Chatham Manufacturing Co. Elkin, N. C.	1981
Mr. Avery Neaves	401 N. Bridge St. Elkin, N. C.	1981
Mrs. Clyde Powers	243 Dutchman Creek Road Elkin, N. C.	1981
Rev. Bill Brown	300 N. Bridge Street Elkin, N. C.	1982
Mr. Richard T. Chatham, Jr.	Chatham Manufacturing Co. Elkin, N. C.	1982
Mr. Fred G. Eidson	G. & B. Oil Company Elkin, N. C.	1982
Mr. Franklin Folger	Northwestern Bank Elkin, N. C.	1982
Dr. Hal M. Stuart	Parkwood Drive Elkin, N. C.	1982

EX-OFFICIO

Miss Grace Laffoon	320 Church Street Elkin, N. C.
Mr. Fred Norman	689 North Bridge Street Elkin, N. C.

THE NEW HUGH CHATHAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

In the 1960's it became evident that the town of Elkin was in need of a larger, more modern hospital. To have such a facility would require an outlay in excess of \$3,000,000. A Federal Grant of \$2,000,000 was available if the community would raise \$1,000,000. The people of Elkin rallied to the challenge. With the help of Federal and State Grants, business firms, friends and hundreds of area citizens, the amount needed to build the hospital was raised.

A 104 acre tract of land on Johnson Ridge Road was selected as the site. This land and \$300,000 were a gift from the Chatham Foundation and family. The hospital was completed in 1973, at a total cost of \$3,500,000. It provides one hundred private rooms and baths, and is ultra-modern in every aspect of its construction and operation.

The people of this entire area take great pride in having such a fine, well-equipped, modern hospital, and are deeply indebted to all who made it possible.

F. R. J.

COPY A.....

In 1985, Hospital Management Professionals, Inc., assumed the management of the hospital with William S. Clark appointed as administrator.

In April 1987, a 15 bed skilled nursing unit was opened on the third floor of the hospital.

Construction on a 3 1/2 million dollar retirement center, Parkwood Place, was begun in July 1988 and will be completed in the Summer of 1989.

Currently, plans are underway for extensive remodeling of the hospital, to expand the outpatient facilities as well as other services. This project is expected to take two and one-half years to complete.

speaks for itself and represents several years of painstaking search and study. We feel this decision is for the best interest of all concerned.

Several areas within our conference have requested your Board to look into the advisability of having Homes for the Aged or Nursing Homes in those particular areas. A resolution is now prepared to be presented at the session of our Annual Conference asking for such a study as will enable us to do what is wise and expedient for our entire conference.

Our Board is most pleased with the pilot project in the Charlotte District of having a district Methodist chaplain. We commend the district and our chaplain there and recommend the reappointing of Sidney A. Head to the position for the ensuing conference year.

This summer we will send five ministers to the Duke Pastoral Care Clinic. This will be our last summer to support this, as we will turn the project over to the Conference Committee on Pastoral Care. Our relinquishing of this project is not to be misconstrued as a lessening of our interest in this vital program but rather as an attempt to enable the conference committee to have jurisdiction over projects that naturally fall into its scope.

Our committee on Mental Health has been most active. We have aided the Jurisdiction in the creation of SEMAR—the Southeastern Methodist Agency for the Retarded. This agency is to hire a director to help all our conference in planning to better care for these persons in our society who have not been blessed with mental healthiness.

Our Board recommends the following in this area of work:

1. Local church school classes for the retarded child.
2. Day care centers for pre-school children.
3. "Sheltered" recreation and day camping experiences.
4. Cooperation with our Board of Education in training workers for this field.

We recommend the reappointing of W. Q. Grigg as Conference Director of Golden Cross; Willard S. Farrow as administrator of the Methodist Home; M. T. Lambeth as superintendent of the Children's Home; and such chaplains and ministers as the Cabinet and institutions agreed upon.

E. H. NEASE, JR., *Chairman*
J. B. GOLDEN, *Secretary*

Report No. 2

HUGH CHATHAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Historical Statement 1930

The Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital was begun in 1913 in Elkin, North Carolina, to provide hospital care for the people in that area where there were no such facilities, as well as for the Methodist people across the Western North Carolina Conference. For many years this institution rendered invaluable medical service to people who could not otherwise pay for medical care and to a large number of ministers and Methodists across the state who likewise would have had to forego the needed medical attention.

The hospital itself was built through the generosity of a number of people in the geographical area around Elkin, North Carolina. Particularly generous was the Hugh Chatham family. The Western North Carolina Conference as such never appropriated any funds for capital outlay. This was done by Methodist laymen and other interested parties. The hospital was located on a fourteen-and-a-half-acre site to the north of Elkin given for this purpose by the Chatham Manufacturing Company.

The role of the Methodist Church in this enterprise was an outstanding one and was made possible through the work of such men as Dr. L. B. Abernathy, Dr. C. C. Weaver, and Dr. J. S. Hiatt, who headed the work at the hospital and directed the Golden Cross Society from this base. The Methodist Church and the town of Elkin will always be indebted to these three men for their monumental work.

Since 1950, a new trend has been set in relation to hospital care. In the state of North Carolina many community hospitals have been initiated. This has served to limit the sphere of service of the Hugh Chatham Hospital. From this time on, fewer and fewer Methodist patients and preachers have been served by the Hugh Chatham Hospital, whereas in its beginning it served many such patients. By the beginning of the 1950's there were four other hospitals in the surrounding territory. This resulted in the hospital itself becoming more community concerned and supported. The Western North Carolina Conference continued to support this hospital through its Golden Cross funds, of which about 90% went to the help of charity patients in this particular hospital. These funds usually amounted to around \$25,000 per year; however, for the past several years this amount has been reduced to \$3,600.00.

Realizing that a new situation had developed, both the trustees of the Hugh Chatham Hospital and the Board of Hospitals and Homes of the Western North Carolina Conference began to make a study to see what could be done for the mutual benefit of both parties concerned. In 1960 the Golden Cross monies were made available to the entire Western North Carolina Conference through a Golden Cross director who is no longer located in Elkin. This meant that the hospital itself was getting less support from the Methodists of the Western North Carolina Conference. In 1961 and 1962 much study was made concerning the continued relationship between the hospital and the Western North Carolina Conference and, as a result of the studies made by Ernst & Ernst Company, the General Board of Hospitals and Homes, and the Board of Hospitals and Homes of the Western North Carolina Conference, new by-laws were adopted by the hospital and, with other needed changes brought into effect, the hospital and the Western North Carolina Conference continued their historic relationship (see *W. N. C. Conference Journal* 1962, p. 185). For the first time in many years the Hugh Chatham Hospital became solvent due to the fine efforts of a professional hospital administrator.

It must be pointed out that in June of 1962 there was an acute awareness that a decision day must come soon as to whether the Western North Carolina Conference would give larger financial support to the hospital or release the hospital to the community of Elkin to enable that community to give better support.

Present Situation

A report prepared by the Department of Hospital Administration, School of Medicine, University of North Carolina, was submitted to the Board of Trustees of the Hugh Chatham Hospital in March of 1966, and was immediately placed in the hands of the Board of Hospitals and Homes of the Western North Carolina Conference, making clear the following facts:

1. The present physical plant is functionally obsolete.
2. The wisest decision financially and functionally was to build a new hospital. Total cost of the new structure will be approximately \$2,995,300 to be undertaken in two stages.
3. The present hospital, as well as the new structure, will be for a community service area including portions of Yadkin, Surry, and Wilkes Counties, or a radius of some 12 miles.
 - (a) It is bounded now by three hospitals, none of which are more than 22 miles from Elkin and by a large medical center some 35 miles away in Winston-Salem.
 - (b) Even with a new structure, this hospital will remain a good general hospital without hopes of becoming a medical center to attract patients from other areas.
 - (c) In 1964, 94.3% of the patients came from the aforementioned counties.

With the above well established, it became apparent that the hospital would need to call upon the Western North Carolina Conference to contribute some funds toward the erection of the new edifice. This was done in the spring of 1966. The conference was asked to contribute \$500,000 toward the approximate three million needed. The Board of Hospitals and Homes of the Conference, after consultation with other leaders in the Conference, could see no way that this amount could be raised in view of the fact that this hospital has become a local hospital and that the Methodist patients within the bounds of the conference will continue to go to their own community hospitals located near their own homes. A further fact became apparent: few of our present-day Methodists know of our connection with this hospital and this too would make it extremely difficult to raise any appreciable amount toward this capital improvements program.

In meetings between the Executive Committees of Hugh Chatham Hospital Board of Trustees and the Board of Hospitals and Homes of the Western North Carolina Conference, it became apparent that either the Conference must give some further financial support other than the \$3,600 a year for charity care, or else move out from its sponsorship of this hospital in order that the community might assume full responsibility. For The Methodist Church to continue to hold on to the Hugh Chatham Hospital will simply lead to the degeneration of medical service in that community by the continuation of a sub-par structure and make it extremely difficult for the trustees to move ahead on their proposed new structure and to get full community support. In September of 1966 the executive committees of the two parties concerned adopted a resolution asking the Hugh Chatham Board of Trustees and the Western North Carolina Conference to dissolve the present ties and to allow all assets and controls

of this hospital to be turned over to a local operating entity. In subsequent meetings of the Board of Trustees of Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital and the Board of Hospitals and Homes of the Western North Carolina Conference, each complied unanimously with the request of its executive committee.

In light of the above information, the Board of Hospitals and Homes of the Western North Carolina Conference, joined by the Board of Trustees of the Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital, offers the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Hospitals and Homes of the Western North Carolina Conference and the Board of Trustees of the Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital, Elkin, North Carolina, have, after thorough study, approved the above report;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Western North Carolina Conference and its duly authorized trustees, or other appropriate representatives, shall forthwith convey to the Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital, Inc. the real property known as the Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital property, Elkin, North Carolina, and more particularly described as:

BEGINNING on an iron, corner Hospital Road and Pine Drive, running thence with Pine Drive S. 32 degrees W. 163.8 feet to an iron; thence S. 25 degrees 05' W. 75.3 feet to an iron; S. 17 degrees 17' W. 132.6 feet to an iron; thence S. 9 degrees 02' W. 178.8 feet to an iron; S. 9 degrees 21' W. 216.3 feet to an iron; thence S. 6 degrees 31' E. 61.3 feet to an iron; S. 3 degrees 15' W. 97.3 feet to an iron, corner of Lot Nos. 2 and 3 on Pine Drive; thence with the division line between Lot Nos. 2 and 3 N. 88 degrees 06' W. 470 feet to an iron, Chatham Manufacturing Company corner; N. 1 degree 16' W. 184 feet to an iron; thence N. 1 degree 49' E. 886.8 feet to an iron; thence N. 2 degrees 05' E. 200 feet to a point on Hospital Road; thence with Hospital Road N. 88 degrees E. 150 feet to a stake, old corner Hospital superintendent's home; thence S. 79 degrees 28' E. 32.6 feet to a stake, corner Methodist parsonage lot; thence S. 2 degrees 30' E. 205 feet to a stake; thence S. 87 degrees 30' East 130 feet to an iron; thence N. 2 degrees 30' E. 175 feet to an iron; thence S. 43 degrees 22' E. 249.8 feet to an iron; thence S. 8 degrees 52' E. 101.8 feet; thence S. 64 degrees 29' E. 159.8 feet to an iron; thence S. 67 degrees 18' E. 16.1 feet to the beginning, containing 14.34 acres, more or less. See Drawing No. K-260A. See Deed Book 169, page 176, Registry of Surry County.

along with all personal property which may be owned by the Western North Carolina Conference and located in or at said hospital, and that the corporate certificate be amended so as to eliminate any interest or control of the Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital by the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church, and that the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church divest itself of any interest or control of the Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital, and that all control and ownership of the properties heretofore exercised by the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church be transferred to the Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital, Inc., and that the sole ownership and control of the Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital be vested in the Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,
BOARD OF HOSPITALS AND HOMES
OF THE W. N. C. CONFERENCE
E. H. NEASE, JR., *Chairman*

Report No. 3

GOLDEN CROSS

Through Golden Cross the conference shares in the healing ministry. Although many agencies are helping in this field, there is no let-up in demand and need for the services of the church.

During the past year \$3,600.00 was paid to Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital to assist in patient care. Duke Hospital received \$4,200.00. Of this amount \$2,500.00 was used for salary of chaplain; \$1,200.00 was used for the Graduate Chaplain Training Program and \$500.00 was used for the scholarship program for ministers in the summer clinic in-service training program. The amount of \$2,500.00 was used to aid the Charlotte Methodist Chaplain Program. The amount of \$21,861.50 was used for patient care throughout the Conference. One hundred fifteen patients received an average of \$190.00.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting (1931-1968)
2. Newspapers on file in the Elkin Library
3. Newspaper articles kept by family
4. Personal recollections