Caswell County Church Histories[1]

(Revised June 13, 2024)

Allen's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church



5630 Ridgeville Road
Ridgeville, Caswell County, NC

Allen's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church at Hightowers was organized in 1878 on a site deeded January 29, 1873, to Lewis Woods and Samuel McMullen by Samuel and Aby Allen.[2] A log church was built in 1903, a new one in 1905, and the present structure in 1967.[3]

Some of the details of this church history are a bit different in *In the Beginning: The Churches of Caswell County*, Jean B. Scott, Editor (1998):

Allen's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 1886. It was deeded to the black race and its heirs by Sam Allen and wife Aby to Lewis Woods and Samuel McMullen, as trustees of the colored school of the Hightowers district in Caswell County. The plot, as it was called, was made in 1873. The church grew out of the school, which adjoined the H. S. Thaxton land, on SR 1702 between Leasburg and Prospect Hill. The church was heated by wood until the late 1950s when an oil furnace was installed. Kerosene lamps were used until 1949 when electric lights were installed.

In 1967 the present brick structure was built under pastor Rev. George H. Brooks. There was a Pastor's study room, a secretary, and a choir room on the main floor. The fellowship hall, kitchen and lounge were in the basement or ground floor. A cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1967. The building was remodeled in 1983, with Rev. James Brown of Hillsborough as pastor and contractor. The fellowship hall, kitchen, pastor's study, choir room, and baptizing pool are on the main floor with the sanctuary.

The first baptism was in Rudd's pond on SR 1710 (Grier's Church Road), then a water hole on Thazton's farm about a half mile above the church on SR 1702 (Ridgeville Road). From there the congregation went to Hyco Creek on Grier's Church Road for baptisms, then to Houston Branch

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[1] This compilation was prepared by Richmond Stanfield Frederick, Jr., J.D. Attachment I is a list of all known Caswell County churches. Attachment II is a list of church histories in *The Heritage of Caswell County* (1985). Attachment III is a list of church histories in Scott, Jean B., Compiler. *In the Beginning: The Churches of Caswell County*, Jean B. Scott, Editor (2001). Attachment IV is a bibliography.

[2] Sam and Aby Allen

[3] Powell, William S. *When the Past Refused to Die: A History of North Carolina 1777-1977*. Durham (North Carolina): Moore Publishing Company, 1977, p. 449 (hereinafter "Powell").

on SR 1710 (Grier's Church Road). A well was dug in the 1940s. The church built an outside baptism pool in 1963.

Documented pastors are Aaron Moore; Spencer Warren (Bigelow Town, Caswell County); Preston Wiley (Sweet Gum community, Caswell County); Jonah Tucker (Virginia); Charlie Crutchfield (Semora, Caswell County); George Coates (Danville, VA); John Springfield (Roxboro, North Carolina); Spencer Woods (Leasburg, Caswell County); and James Brown (Hillsborough, North Carolina).

Recording secretaries: Steve Hester, Ellis Graves, and Mrs. Deborah Fuller. Calvin Hester also served as assistant and financial secretary. Thomas Bowden served as financial secretary.

Treasurers: Ransom Hester, Joe Graves, Willie Hester, Philip Woods, David Pulliam, Amos Woods, and Howard Hester. Sextons: Pryor Currie; Charlie Pulliam; Philip Woods; David Pulliam; Amos Woods; and Howard Hester.

Rev. George Curried organized the Missionary Circle in 1915. The first president was Mrs. Luella Wiley. Other presidents were Mrs. Adeline Woods, Mrs. Martha Singletary, and Mrs. Ruth Moore. Secretaries included Mrs. Adeline Woods, Mrs. Georgia Woods, Mrs. Elizabeth Woods, and Mrs. Shirley Vincent. Treasurers include Mrs. Lizzie Hester, Mrs Minnie Yellock, Mrs. Anna Rudd, and Mrs. Ida Pulliam.

The senior choir was organized in 1949 under the direction of William Murphy of Sedalia, North Carolina, growing to forty voices with Thurlia Brandon as pianist. Then came the youth choir, organized by the pastor, Rev. George Brooks. A membership of 30 with Valerie Thompson as pianist, and Brenda Daye, Vicentia Lipscomb, and Geraldine Martin as managers and directors. The Pastor, Rev. Kenneth Lilly, organized a Gospel choir with a membership of 19 in 1974. Rev. James Brown organized the male chorus in 1982 with 19 voices.

There are a senior and junior usher board and a Pastor's Aid Society. We have Bible Training Study twice each month. Vacation Bible School is held in June of each year. Our monthly services are held each first and third Sundays, also Sunday School. Other services are scheduled on Saturday nights. Sunday afternoons and at any time during the year when an auxiliary has a need.[4]

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For more on this church see: Allen's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church History

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[4] Scott, Jean B., Compiler. *In the Beginning: The Churches of Caswell County*, Jean B. Scott, Editor. Yanceyville: Caswell Parish, 2001, pp. 5-6 (hereinafter "Scott"), but based on an article published in *The Heritage of Caswell County* (1985).

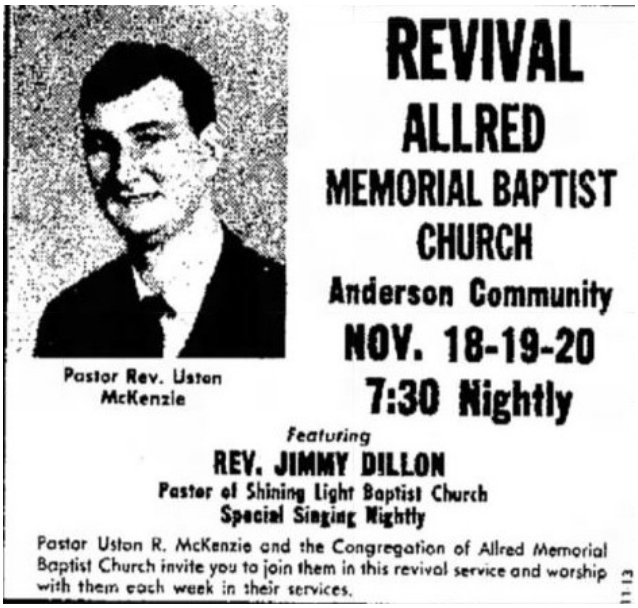
Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find A Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Allred New Mission Baptist Church



244 Kerr's Chapel Road
Anderson, Caswell County, NC

Several churches in south central Caswell County have been called some version of "Allred Baptist." These include Allred Memorial Baptist Tabernacle, which was established on July 1, 1970, when it erected a church building. A cemetery at the church was first used in May 1972.[5]



Other names are Allred Memorial Baptist Church, Allred New Mission Baptist Church (photograph), Allred Memorial Baptist Church, Allred Memorial Independent Baptist Church, and Peoples Church Allred Memorial Chapel.[6]

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[5] Powell at 449.
[6] Revival advertisement: *The Daily Times-News* (Burlington, NC), 13 November 1976. Note pastor: Uston McKenzie.

Baynes Baptist Church



1757 Baynes Road
Baynes, Caswell County, NC

Recognizing a need for a Baptist house of worship in the Baynes Community of Caswell County NC, a group gathered on Aug. 4, 1912, in a one-room schoolhouse near Baynes Store. Archibald "Archie" Alexander Baynes[7] donated one acre for the one-room wooden church. The contractor was David Fitch of Burlington. Church members donated building supplies as well as helped with the construction. The State Baptist Mission Board also contributed funds to construct the church. The foundation and pillars of the church were constructed in 1913. The actual construction started in May 1914. The Masons of Caswell Lodge No. 539 laid the cornerstone.[8] The original church building was a one-room wooden structure and was heated wish a wood heater. The structure had two front corner double door entrances. Gothic style windows were installed - and they are still in use today.

Records indicate that the church was first named Baptist Memorial Church, then changed to Baynes Chapel Church, and finally to Baynes Baptist Church. The first burial in the church cemetery was in 1923; however, four gravestones with earlier dates were moved to the church cemetery from a nearby family cemetery.[9]

[7] Archibald Alexander Baynes (1857-1917).
[8] Caswell Lodge, No. 539, located at Tony (or Baynes, as the community is also known), was chartered in 1906, but in 1924 it was consolidated with John A. Graves Lodge. The building erected at Tony was still standing in 1977.
[9] The name Baynes Chapel Baptist Church apparently was used in the early 1950s. See: *The Daily-Times News* (Burlington, NC), 5 July 1952. E. W. Byerly was pastor in 1953. See: *The Daily-Times News* (Burlington, NC), 1 January 1953.



An undated photo of the church shows the diagonal entrance. The arched side windows remain today.

From another church history: Baynes Baptist Church in the southern part of Caswell County was established on August 4, 1912, and the church building, still in use, was built in 1914. The church has been modernized and enlarged, and in 1952 is was brick veneered. It has Gothic-styled glass memorial windows. The records of Baynes Baptist Church for the period 1912-1965 have been microfilmed. The earliest grave in the cemetery is from 1923.[10]

In 1966, the pastor was Clyde Henry Stanfield (1898-1981), who married Martha Elizabeth Baynes (1899-1987). In 1930, Clyde Henry Stanfield was licensed to preach by the Baynes Baptist Church. This church was in the Baynes Community, Anderson Township, Caswell County, North Carolina. Reverend Stanfield preached his first sermon in March 1931 at the Baynes Baptist Church. He had attended Whitsett Institute, Wake Forest College, and the Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. During his forty-two years of ministry, he served seventeen churches, with his first pastorate being in Roxboro, North Carolina. Before entering the ministry, he was a tobacco farmer in the Baynes Community, Anderson Township, Caswell County, North Carolina.

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Baynes Church Is Dedicated; Brother to Succeed Pastor

Baynes Baptist Church, located on the Anderson-Baynes Road in Caswell Cunty near the Alamance County Line, has been officially dedicated, marking the completion of three years remodeling work on the church building.

Work began in 1953 with members and friends of the church doing most of the work. A brick veneered church with six classrooms and a large sanctuary recently was completed.

The building has modern heating and lighting facilities, as well as stained glass memorial windows, paneled walls, hardwood floors, carpet, and pulpit furniture.
The construction was done a a pay-as-you-go plan, with recent dedication ceremony climaxing the program.

Rev. E. W. Byerly took over the pastorate in 1951, with a wooden frame building housing the church. He began at once to stress the need for a more modern structure, and work was begun in remodeling the old structure.

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[10] Powell at 449.

Rev. Byerly has resigned the pastorate, effective Sunday because of ill health, and Rev. J. R. Byerly, brother of the present pastor, has accepted the call to succeed him.[11]

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100 Years Serving the Lord

In 2012, Baynes Baptist Church celebrated its 100th anniversary. A special worship service was held with guest speakers Joe Grubbs[12] of Semora Baptist Church and former pastor, Col. Larry McCarty, U.S. Army (ret). Rev. Grubbs grew up at Baynes and his parents [Joseph Elliott Grubbs and Willie Frances Roberts] were very dedicated members. McCarty served as the church's pastor from December 1988 until January 2000. He then became an Army chaplain at Fort Bragg.

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For more on this church, including early members, pastors, and building history see: Baynes Baptist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Bethany Methodist Episcopal Church (Old Campground Church)

Near 1787 Solomon Lea Road
Leasburg, Caswell County, NC

The following is from *The Heritage of Caswell County* (1985) at page 37:

Bethany has long been believed to be the first church built in the Leasburg area. It stood 1 1/2 miles north of the present church [Leasburg United Methodist Church]. Miss Ella Thompson described it in "Sweet Leasburg" as a "well-constructed, commodious brick church . . . The bricks used for trimming its doors and windows were brought from England." This church was also called Old Campground because it was the site of many outdoor camp meetings in the 19th century. The Campground Cemetery, located across the road from where Bethany Church stood, has two graves dated 1806. The presence of Asbury and his circuit riders in the area gave this Anglican congregation its first taste of Methodism, and when the Methodist Episcopal Church was officially founded December 24, 1784, the considered themselves Methodists. With

[11] *The Burlington Daily-Times* (Burlington, NC), 22 June 1956.
[12] Joseph Roberts Grubbs (1959-2020)

Leasburg's strong interest in religion, it is puzzling that Bethany's deed is dated, June 26, 1836, more than 80 years after the arrival of its first settlers.

In 1844 the Methodist Episcopal Church had a major difference with some of its southern churches over the issue of slavery. The result was a break with the established church to form the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The Methodist Church in Leasburg went by this name until 1939 when the segments healed their differences and became simply the Methodist Church.

If 1836 is indeed the date Bethany was built, this church was in use fewer than 20 years. Sometime before 1857 the members of Bethany began meeting for Sunday School and mid-week services in the Old Brick Academy, on the site of the present Leasburg Community Cemetery. Eventually all services came to be held there.

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In 1977 Jeannie Whitlow Keaton wrote "Found the site of Bethany Church. There were many homemade bricks covering a large area and many big stones in various mounds - some mounds had large trees on top. Have not yet determined exact spot of Bethany's foundation." First known burial was in 1800 and the last known burial was in 1917.

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The cemetery, across the road from 1787 Solomon Lea Road, is barely visible from the road. Carolina Caswell located this cemetery by Caswell Co NC Deed Book 240 page 523, which identifies the cemetery as "Old Stanfield burying ground." There are many graves marked only with "planted" fieldstones. Old Bethany Methodist Episcopal Church was across the road and to the south of this cemetery. See Deed Book 133/405 and Deed Book 100/283. Carolina Caswell conducted a photographic survey of the cemetery in December 2010. "Located 3 miles from Leasburg, N.C. on the Osmond Road." (1957, J. Burch Blaylock, Register of Deeds, Caswell Co NC) JBB 46.

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Caswell County Deed Book CC, Page 491-493:

Benjamin F. Stanfield of Caswell County to George W. Jeffreys, Lorenzo Lea, John Johnston, William Lea, Jun., George G. Lea, William Smith, Samuel Johnston, trustees, all of Caswell County and Person County, for $1, 2.54 acres on the west side of the road from Leasburg to Milton to build a place of worship for use of the Methodist Episcopal Church. June 26, 1836. Witnesses: James Harris, Allen Gunn

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The following is from Thompson, Ella Graves. *A History of Leasburg with Personal Recollections* (1960):

Meanwhile the church held an important place in the lives of the people. There was access to Lea's Chapel, Ebenezer, and Bethany, but no church building was in the immediate village. In early times regular services were held in Bethany, a Methodist church a mile and a half north of the village. Bethany was established in 1836 while John Wesley was in America. It was probably the first church of this faith to be built in this part of America. The first trustees of Bethany were George Jeffers, Lorenzo Lea, John Johnston, William Lea, George W. Lea, William Smith, and Samuel Johnston. It was a large well-constructed brick building. Because it was often used for a great Methodist camp meeting of the early period it became widely known as the Old Camp Ground. It was the central church of the Leasburg Circuit, which was then composed of ten churches, the pastor living in the parsonage here. Large gatherings of various kinds were held in this big one-room building at Camp Ground, among them commencement exercises for Somerville Institute. Crowds poured in from a long way off, in fine carriages, covered wagons, and on horseback, to see the young ladies take part in these so-called exhibitions and receive their diplomas.[13]

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The following is from the *Rocky Mount Telegram* (Rocky Mount, NC), 7 September 1952.

New Church Dedicated at Services and Homecoming at Leasburg, Caswell County: Century Old church Linked with Educator; Historical Background is Two Centuries Old

By Frances J. Lyon

Taking an about-face on the March of Time and going back some more than a hundred years, we review a little village in North Carolina, the acquaintance of the man whom the present Greensboro College for Women selected to be its first president, and renew the birth of one of the earliest Methodist country churches in our state.

<u>New Church Marks Anniversary</u>

A Caswell County church marked its approximately 100th anniversary this past month of August [1952]; however, the celebration marked more than the beginning of a small country church in the little village. The homecoming event for the villagers and their families was held Sunday, August 31, and a new church was dedicated.

Dr. Solomon Lea was reared in the strict discipline of his Methodist father and mother, William and Sarah McNeil Lea, in Leasburg, Caswell County, North Carolina, a village that was settled by William and his brother, James. The Leas came to the states from England and as legend goes they brought the across from their native land acorns that planted a large grove of oaks in the midst of which the Lea home was built, that the settled in or about the middle 18th century.

[13] A History of Leasburg

Caswell county lies in the north-central portion of the Piedmont Region of North Carolina. The boundary lines of the county form an almost geometrical square with the line dividing North Carolina and Virginia furnishing the northern boundary. This county, named for Governor Richard Caswell, has for its county seat, Yanceyville, located almost in the center and just to the east of the county seat is Leasburg, a possible forty miles from the nearest city, that of Danville, Virginia.

Educator and Methodist Leader

Solomon Lea, the third son of William and Sarah McNeil Lea, was of English descent on his father's side and Scotch on his mother's. His parents were second cousins. He was reared in the lap of Methodism. Originally the Lea family belonged to the Established Church of England and a few miles from Leasburg stands a Methodist church which bears the name of "Lea's Chapel." Here the Leas worshiped before the Revolution according to the rites of the English church.

Following Solomon Lea's early schooling in a country school near the Leasburg home, he was sent to the University of North Carolina, where he was graduated in 1833. He began his life's work as a teacher in Warrenton, N. C., teaching there for two years; and while there met the lady, Sophia Ainger, also of English descent, whom he married in 1837. She was a teacher like himself. Net he taught in Randolph Macon College the located in Boydton, Mecklenburg County, Virginia, during 1835-1836. It was during this time that he met the late Reverend T. M. Jones, for many years president of Greensboro Female College, who was a student and Latin pupil of his. After this, Mr. Lea became the principal of Boydton Female College until 1841; then, he went to Farmville, Virginia, and taught a female school for the next two years; and then, Greensboro Female College made him its first president.

Quoting D. T. M. Jones in his centennial address -- "On February 1846, the trustees of Greensboro Female College selected a faculty with the Reverend Solomon Lea, a local minister of Leasburg, N. C. as president -- a gentleman of liberal culture and pleasing manners and a teacher by profession." He had the honor of organizing the classes in the first regularly chartered female college in North Carolina and the second south of the Potomac -- the Wesleyan Female College at Macon, Georgia, being he first.

Founded Leasburg School

Leaving Greensboro College after two years, Solomon Lea returned to his home and birthplace, in Leasburg and there he founded and established Somerville Female Institute, and at the same time, re-established himself with the Methodist church as a leader just as his father before him. The school became popular and was largely patronized. Scores of North Carolina and Virginia girls were educated there. Soon after the close of the Civil War, the school was changed to a mixed one and with the exception of two years, was continuously taught by him, from 1848 until 1892, just five years before his death in 1897 at the age of 90 years. During the forty-four years as a teacher in Leasburg, he served as a local preacher in the Methodist church. He was both friend and ally of the minister in charge of the village country church and hardly a Sunday

passed that he did not preach in the local church or at one in its community. As history describes the greatly admired and beloved leader, he was seen many a day as well as Sunday, rain or shine, dressed in black coat high buttoned under the collar that was tied with black bow know; his brown curly hair (which never turned gray), flowing in the breezes, sitting straight and stalwart astride his proud horse, riding through the village street. The Reverend Mr. Lea was on his way to give a message of love at some church gathering or to spread happiness and cheer to some of his people. He tied the "nuptial know" for scores of his pupils besides many others and residents of the Leasburg community, today, firmly believe that he must have officiated for the first marriage that took place in the little old white frame structure.

Origin of Church

The Methodist church of Leasburg, which had its origin only a mile or so north of the little village on what the settlers called "the old camp ground," was moved into the heart of its people in 1857, and the late Brock Hambrick gave the land where the original white frame building was built. The first pastor was the Reverend J. P. Simpson and Dr. Tillitt, known as the "Iron Duke of Methodism," when serving as presiding elder for the district, made his home in the village. The place of worship was two story, the upper room serving as a lodge for the Masonic Order. In 1896 under the pastorate of the Reverend R. A. Broom, the upper room was removed from the building and some few improvements made that gave the small building more the appearance of a church. Later in 1909-1910, at the time of Dr. . A. Ormond's pastorate, now of Duke University, Durham, the church was again remodeled. It stood, a small white frame structure of one large sanctuary heated by a small stove in each far rear corner.

As I so vividly remember the small neighborhood country church in my childhood days, the village folk gathered there on Sunday mornings at 10 o'clock for Sunday school and, following their group lesson hearings, all moved together into the center of the large room for a closing worship hour with Miss Bessie Thompson at the "old push Stop button" organ, a service she rendered her church from 1889 until about 1900 when the two pedal pump organ was replaced by a piano. The first organist of the church was the late Martha Pulliam Newman, who after her marriage in the year 1889 moved from the little community to Winston-Salem where she made her home until death. This church stood until this year.

Of special interest to note about the village community and the little church that all grew up in is that most of its people were kin. In earlier days following its settlement by the Leas, there were the Pulliams, Newmans, Connallys, Bradshers and Stanfields. These families, some intermarried, thus most everybody was kin to everybody and the little village was like one big family.

The late W. Joe Pulliam, who married the late Fannie Newman, served the Sunday school as its superintendent for well over a quarter century and at his death in 1935 MIss Bessie Thompson became the superintendent: a church service, even though she is now in her early 80's, she still holds. Prior to Mr. Pulliam the superintendents were as follows: Benjamin Stanfield, William Paylor, G. N. Thompson and B. F. Stanfield.

Old Burying Ground

Not too far from the church is the burying ground and probably it may be far older than the church. All of the Leas are buried there: grandfather, father, and son. Some of the graves there have no markers at all and some, the old red brick Mausoleum, are not even readable.

Edward F. Smith, now pastor of the church, officiated Sunday at the new dedication services of the new church. Built of red brick, it stands two stories high, with the main sanctuary and three Sunday school classrooms on the first floor and several classrooms on the second.

Many Gifts Are Given

Dr. J. M. Ormond, a former beloved pastor of the Leasburg church and the Reverend D. D. Traynham, also a former pastor of the circuit, both spoke to the some several hundred village church members and its visiting former members and their families at the Sunday service. At this time special gratitude was paid the Duke Endowment officials, of which Dr. Ormond was in charge, for a contribution of $3500.00 and to the North Carolina Conference Board of Missions and Church Extension, J. R. Garlingston, chairman, for a liberal gift of $500.00 and a generous loan. The Reverend Mr. Smith announced that the pulpit rail, rostrum and pulpit furniture were given by Miss Mary Shore and Mrs. Lucille Cobern, of Person County, in memory of their father, The late Reverend John Henry Shore, a pastor of the church before the turn of the century, and Mrs. Shore. The carpeting was given by Mr. and Mrs. John O. Gunn of Yanceyville and many gifts ranging from small donations to large ones were made by both the church people and former members who have moved away from the village, but who wished to still have a part in their beloved native church.

Dr. T. McM. Grant, pastor of the First Methodist church, this city, began his ministry serving the Leasburg church as his first pastorate.

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The following is from the *Raleigh Christian Advocate* (Raleigh, North Carolina), 4 February 1985 (paragraph breaks added):

Reminiscences of By-Gone Days

Camp-Meetings At Bethany Church, Near Leasburg, Caswell County Fifty Years Ago

By Rev. Solomon Lea
"It may be both interesting and instructive during these Centenary Years of Methodism to call to mind some incidents connected with these meetings, and the distinguished preachers who participated in them.

"Bethany Church still stands in a grove of venerable oaks, which, if they could speak, could tell many a thrilling tale. The house is of brick, which looks as fresh as if it was just built. It still

stands as a monument to the memory of Benjamin F. Stanfield, and John Johnston, who lived nearby, and who were the main leaders in its erection.

"The neat cabins for the tent-holders that surrounded the Church have all disappeared and the Church, as to members, has nearly gone down. In former times the membership amounted to hundreds, now it has dwindled to some eight or ten. They still cling to it and are unwilling to give it up.

"But the influence that emanated from these camp=meetings at Bethany Church have not died away. For many miles around the sacred spot, both in Caswell and Person, Methodism is fully established. Leasburg and the surrounding country are almost exclusively Methodist, and a more religious and moral community can hardly be found anywhere.

"Doubtless it may be traced back to these camp-meetings at Bethany Church held between 1831 and 1840. I call to mind some of the noted preachers who attended these meetings, and who have left their impress upon this community and the Church at large. Among them may be mentioned Moses Brock, Hezekiah G. Leigh, John Early, Peter Doub, Lewis Skidmore, Hammett, McAden, and several others. They have all long since gone to the better land, from the Church militant to the Church triumphant, where camp-meetings will never end. These ministers were giants in their day. They would preach sometimes two hours or more, hold the audience spell bound, many powerfully convicted, and when invited, there would be a general rush to the altar amidst the shouts of Christians. At some of the camp-meetings as many as seventy-five, and a hundred, and one time, one hundred and sixty-seven professed religion.

"I remember one thrilling incident. It was Sabbath, a vast crowd had assembled. Brock, I think, was the preacher (another brother thinks it was Hammet). As he proceeded in his discourse, a divine unction rested upon him, the word was attended with power, and when penitents were invited, among the scores that pressed to the altar, was Ned Davis, a notable character, a professional gambler and horse-racer. He was standing on the outskirts of the congregation, catching hold of the arm of one of his associates, he walked rapidly towards the pulpit, his friend releasing his hold, passed off. Just before reaching the altar, he turned around to the audience, exclaiming aloud, 'farewell world.' Advancing a few steps further, he knelt down amidst the cries of the penitents and the shouts of the Christians. It was not more than sixty minutes before he rose praising God. A shout went up from the camp that thrilled the whole congregation. Davis had his horses on the premises, attended by his negro boy, who said to his baster, 'what shall we do with the horses now?' As quick as thought, he replied, 'go to camp-meetings with them.'

"He had a very devoted pious father-in-law on the camp ground whose prayers were continually ascending in behalf of his son-in-law. Once he caught hold of the arm of Davis, held him fast and knelt down and poured out an agonizing prayer for him. He did not resist, but stood still until the prayer was finished and walked off apparently unaffected. Let us follow the career of this notable character. He disposed of his horses, became a most devoted Christian, moved out to the Western part of North Carolina where he worked and superintended a gold

mine. The last I heard from him, he employed a minister to preach to the negroes while he himself held on to his religion.

"Doubtless he has long since died and gone to the Heavenly country, where he is exploring a mine more precious than gold. Hey yet speaketh, though dead."

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Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Bethany Presbyterian Church

The Yanceyville Presbyterian Church was an outgrowth of the Rattlesnake or Bethany Church. Foote, in his Sketches of North Carolina Churches, makes the first mention of this church when he states "there was a church in Caswell of long standing called Bethany, or Rattlesnake, situated on the road from Milton near Yanceyville, near the residence of George Williamson.[14] It enjoyed the labors of Reverend Ebenezer Currie, now (1846) the oldest minister in Orange Presbytery. This church divided and the old place abandoned, one part of the congregation worshipping in Yanceyville, and the other following the church of Gilead, five miles southeast of Milton."

Caswell County deed book H, pages 14 and 43, records that on March 26, 1792, the ruling elders of Rattlesnake Congregation purchased two tracts of land on the waters of Rattlesnake Creek - one from David Shelton[15] for 9 pounds, the adjoining plot from Thomas Jeffreys for 14 pounds. Rattlesnake Creek rises just north of Yanceyville, flowing northeast to meet the Dan River near Blanche. Rattlesnake Church is mentioned in Orange Presbytery minutes from 1795-1813: The minutes are missing for years 1813-1831. It was during this time the name was changed to Bethany. After 1831 mention is to the Bethany Church, and in 1836 Reverend N. H. Harding[16] represented Bethany and Milton Churches at Presbytery in Greensboro.

The minutes of Orange Presbytery, meeting in Milton, Friday 13th of April 1838 read as follows: "George Williamson and others obtained leave to be formed into a church at Yanceyville. Pickard, Montgomery, Lynch. and Harding were appointed a committee to meet at Yanceyville on the Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in June to organize the church. ordain and set apart elders:' The four named men were all ministers in Orange Presbytery.

[14] Most likely George (Royal George) Williamson (1788-1856) who owned the Melrose plantation on the road between Milton and Yanceyville.
[15] Probably Caswell County's first sheriff David Shelton (1736-1800) who owned property on Rattlesnake Creek.
[16] Reverend Dr. Nehemiah Henry Harding (1794-1849), who is buried in Cedars Cemetery (Milton, NC).

Source: Kendall, Katherine Kerr. *Yanceyville Presbyterian Church (Yanceyville, North Carolina): Early History of the Church with Sketches of the Founders* (1976).[17]

Bethel Christian Church



Bethel Christian Church
595 Baynes Road

595 Baynes Road
Anderson, Caswell County, NC
(336) 421-3536

Bethel Christian Church (earlier named Bethel Congregational Christian Church and Bethel United Church of Christ) near Anderson in the south-central part of Caswell County was organized in 1891 by the Rev. Thomas W. Stroud. The church erected at that time was remodeled several times, and in 1972 a new brick church was built. An adjacent cemetery was first used in 1891.[18]

Known Pastors: Bill Taylor; W. W. Snyder; Thomas D. Sutton. A Women's Missionary Society was active in 1946.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave

[17] See Bethesda Presbyterian Church and Rattlesnake Church.
[18] Powell at 463. The name changes have caused confusion about this church. And the trees shown in the photograph no longer stand.

Bethel United Methodist Church



2741 Ridgeville Road
Prospect Hill, Caswell County, North Carolina

Bethel United Methodist Church in the southeastern portion of Caswell County at the community of Ridgeville was established by 1872, perhaps earlier. It originated as a Singing Master's School with services held in the schoolhouse, but in 1873 or 1874 the present church was built on land across the road from the school given by Mr. and Mrs. James H. Dameron on July 3, 1873.[19] Pine timber for the building was cut and dressed locally. This building is still in use, but it has been somewhat altered and modernized.[20] The first known burial was in 1884.

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The date and the source of this record are unknown:

Bethel: On County Road 1702 at the Ridgeville Community two and a half miles north of the Orange County line; Founded in 1873 according to local church information; Earliest deed July 3, 1873, Book 82, Page 331 recorded October 4, 1927; Membership 82.

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Bethel Methodist Church Plans Homecoming Program

June 11 -- Bethel Methodist Church near Prospect Hill in Caswell County, will observe its annual homecoming day Sunday. This church, one of the member churches of the Leasburg Charge, regularly observes the third Sunday in June as homecoming.

Plans are being made to accommodate an overflow crowd. Special music will be presented in the course of the morning service which begins at 11 o'clock. Dinner on the rounds will be served for all attending the celebration.

The Rev. E. F. Smith, who will be leaving this church and charge early in the fall, will be the preacher for the morning service.

Durham Morning Herald (Durham, North Carolina), 12 June 1952.

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[19] Probably James Harrison Dameron (1818-1885)
[20] Powell at 443-444.

Bethel Revival

Leasburg, June 8 -- Revival services will begin Monday night at the Bethel Methodist Church, located near the Ridgeville Store, and will continue each night through the week. The Rev. Rufus Stark, pastor of the church, will deliver the message.

In addition, the Bethel Church will hold its annual Vacation Church School. The school will begin each afternoon at 2 p.m. during the week.

The Herald-Sun (Durham, NC), 9 June 1956.

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DEEDS: Caswell County, December 14, 2022

"Bonnie McNair, Pamela Lynch, Joel Lynch Sr. and R. Keith Vernon, Trustees of the Hebron United Methodist Church, to Carol McIntyre, Jerry Yarbrough, Franklin Rudd and Donald Carver, Trustees of the Bethel United Methodist Church, and Sylvia Johnson, Paul Richmond, David Powell, H. Leon Richmond, John Berdine and Ron Richmond, Trustees of the Union United Methodist Church, a tract, beginning in the center of Hwy 119, in Hightowers Township."

The Caswell Messenger (Yanceyville, NC), 14 December 2022.

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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find A Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Bethel United Methodist Church



6234 Park Springs Road
Pelham, Caswell County, North Carolina
(336) 388-2489

Bethel United Methodist Church in the northwestern part of Caswell County at the community of Bethel, a short distance northeast of Blackwell, traces its history to before the Civil War when a Dr. Dabney,

M.D., donated land for a nondenominational church. The Primitive Baptists, who were more numerous in those days, came more often, and such eloquent preachers as Rev. A. N. Hall, Rev. Shrever, Rev. Bodenheimer, and others, also Mr. Norman of the Methodist Church, were heard. It was used especially for funerals, and the last one preached in the old church was for Mrs. Nancy Cobb, grandmother of John, Hugh, and Jack Cobb. The latter was vice-president of the American Tobacco Company and donated Cobb School. As a boy, he attended this church. It was occasionally used until 1874 when, in such dilapidated condition and no funds, it was given to the owls and bats. The old church lot is now a cemetery disrepair and was abandoned.

In 1884, Methodists in and around Blackwell undertook to organize a church, and they discovered that no deed had been recorded for the site of the old church. The Glass family,[21] last owners of the land, gave the site to the new group, and the old church was repaired and enlarged. Since 1885 pastors have served this church on a regular basis. By 1918 the old church was too small and was abandoned in favor of a new site across the road donated by Tom Law.[22] There, a handsome brick church with a classical pediment and Doric columns was erected. The cemetery at the old site, first used in 1898, is still maintained. The congregation added an educational building in 1938 and in 1941 redecorated the main church.[23]

Bethel Church has been redecorated several times, and many gifts received over the years, including: a Hammond organ; stained glass windows; oil paintings; lights; picnic shelter; brick church sign; furniture; dining tables and chairs; and many other smaller valuable gifts.
In 1939, C. J. and Minnie Law[24] gave approximately one acre of land for a church cemetery. The cemetery was expanded in 1964 through a donation by Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Gatewood.[25] And, in 1972, Annette Law McKee and husband C. L. McKee[26] donated additional land for the cemetery. In 1966 an iron fence was installed around the cemetery and renovated in 1993 by Billy Henderson.

A group of churches combined to form the Yanceyville Charge, which consisted of Yanceyville, Prospect, Locust Hill, Shady Grove, and Bethel Methodist churches. One pastor served all five churches. The charge divided September 30, 1951, into two charges, becoming the Cobb and Yanceyville charges. The Cobb Charge included Bethel, Locust Hill, and Shady Grove.

Reverends who have served include: S. B. J. Barrett, J. D. Buie, L. E. Thompson, G. W. Fisher, J. H. Shore, J. W. Twilley, R. F. Taylor, J. H. McCracken, E. Pope, W. H. Kirton. G. R. Rood, C. R. Ross, J. E. Blalock, E. L. Pierman, R. G. L. Edwards, S. F. Nicks,[27] J. F. Stanford, E. L. Stack. W. C. Merritt, S. J. Starnes, Ivey T. Poole, W. L. Maness, A. E. Brown, J. V. Early, H. R. Ashmore, J. W.

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[21] Eugene Alexander Glass (1857-1903)
[22] This probably is Thomas Badgett Law (1862-1945) who rests in the church cemetery.
[23] Powell at 444.
[24] Charles James Law (1896-1968) and Minnie Lee Morgan Law (1900-2000)
[25] Probably Thomas Dudley Gatewood (1888-1980)
[26] Lillian Annette Law McKee (1939-2017) and Carl Louis McGee (1939-2006)
[27] Samuel Freeman Nicks (1874-1946)

Spears, W. S. Lambert, H. L. Harris, T. R. Conway, Charles R. Hutchinson, Clyde P. Pearce, Harold T. Pickett, Charles F. Eakin, Emitt C. McCall, Rex Brooks, Virgil Huffman, and Rufus Butner.[28]

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The date and source of this record are unknown but apparently came from a list of Caswell County Methodist churches:

Bethel: On County Road 1300 near County Road 1341 four miles south of Pelham; Founded in 1884 according to local church information; Earliest deed March 28, 1885, Book RR, Page 148; Membership 237.

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In 1909 the following Methodist ministers were serving Caswell County, North Carolina:

Nicks: Pelham and Shady Grove
Ross, C. R.: Yanceyville
Usry: Milton
Yearby, N. C.: Leasburg

The North Carolina Methodist Conference had a rule that required ministers to move to another church (called a charge) after four years.

Raleigh Christian Advocate (Raleigh, NC), 21 Oct 1909.

N. C. Yearby was reassigned to Mt. Tirzah in Person County and was replaced by J. C. Humble. But, in 1910 after serving only four months Humble became ill and was replaced by Thomas McM. Grant.

S. F. Nicks apparently was reassigned to Hillsborough and was replaced by L. L. Nash.

Usry apparently was replaced by W. T. Nory.

Goldsboro Daily Argus (Goldsboro, NC), 30 Nov 1909.

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[28] Scott at 8-10.

Of course, in 1909 there were other Methodist churches in Caswell County, but they were served by the minister in charge of a "circuit."

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For more on the history of this church see: Bethel United Methodist Church History (1800-1976)

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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Bethesda Presbyterian Church



216 Bethesda Church Cemetery Road
Casville, Caswell County, NC

Dr. Houston G. Jones, Director of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History and native of the Bethesda Community in Caswell Co NC, offered this perspective about Bethesda Presbyterian Church's predecessor, Hart's Chapel:[29]

"The church's founding [in 1765] came less than fifteen years after the first white settlers took up land along Hogan and Horsley's Creeks in what was then Orange County [now Caswell County NC]. The congregation is twelve years older than Caswell County [NC], eleven years older than the First North Carolina Constitution, and began its existence while its membership still paid allegiance to the British King."

Bethesda Presbyterian Church was originally organized in 1765 as Hart's Chapel in the Quick community of Caswell County NC near Hogan's Creek on the Neighbors Farm. Hart's Chapel may also have been known as Hogan's Church. About 1805 the church probably consolidated

[29] Dr. Houston Gwynne Jones (1924-2018)

with nearby Meroney's Chapel, moved to its present location, and changed its name to Bethesda.



African Americans not only attended Bethesda but also joined its membership before and after our Civil War. On November 17, 1822, Lucy Cobb became the first African American to receive the Sacrament of Baptism at Bethesda. An accidental fire in 1943 destroyed the wooden church building. Dedication services for the present brick building were held on Homecoming Sunday, June 25, 1944.[30]

Rev. W. B. Meroney[31] was the first burial in the church cemetery in 1816. Many African American attendees were buried at the rear of the cemetery in a section reserved for them. Most of these graves were marked only with un-inscribed fieldstones but most of these stones have since been removed so only depressions mark the location of some of these burials.[32]

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The relevance of the following church record entries is not known. They may be when the listed people joined the church, but that has not been confirmed:

Zachariah James Lovelace Nov. 24, 1822; Barnet & Betsy Lovelace
James Webster Lovelace July 18, 1824; Barnet & Betsy Lovelace
William Butler August 18, 1824; Joshua Butler
Eliza Ann Butler; Joshua & Susan (Lovelace) Butler
Susan Jane Butler
Mary Ellen Butler September 19, 1824; Joshua & Susan Butler
Calvin Pickard Lovelace October 1826; Barnet & Betsy Lovelace October
Ezekiel Currie Cobb II October 1826; Henry & Polly (Mary Lovelace) Cobb
Margaret Butler May 1828; Joshua & Susan Butler
Melvina Fitzelen Butler
Cynthia Lynch Butler August 22, 1831
Noah Cobb April 11, 1832 (Noah joined the same day his children were baptized)
Andrew Jackson Cobb; Noah & Phebe (Lovelace) Cobb
George Washington Cobb
Leuisa Ann Cobb

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[30] Orange Presbytery 173rd Session (1856) held at Bethesda Presbyterian Church.
[31] In 1813, Reverend William Britton Meroney (1769-1816) moved to Bethesda Presbyterian Church, just off Highway 158, ten miles west of Yanceyville, in Caswell County, NC. Rev. Meroney served this church as well as Grier's Church and Rattlesnake Church, until his death on August 1, 1816, in Caswell County. Source: *Celebrating 200 Years: Meroney Methodist Church* [Bear Creek, Chatham County, NC] (June 10, 2008).
[32] Lytch, W. E. *History of Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 1765-1965, Caswell County, N.C.* (1965).

Elizabeth Caroline Cobb
Andeluzi Cobb

Emily Donnel Butler August 1832; Joshua & Susan Butler
Emaline Donnel Butler August 1836; Joshua & Susan Butler
Joshua Barley Butler August 1836; Joshua a Susan Butler
Mariah Gaines Butler Aug. 18, 1839; Joshua & Susan Butler

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The following apparently are church minutes:

Bethesda Feb. 10, 1821. The Session met according to adjournment. Rev. John H. C. Pickard being the stated moderator. The following charges were alleged against Levi Cobb. Henry Cobb complains that Levi Cobb has used much unfriendly unchristian language, respecting him and his family; and that he threatened to beat him. And it appears to this session by information that Levi Cobb is guilty of uttering a falsehood, in telling several persons that he had lent George Williamson a sum of money on interest.

Adjourned to meet at this place on the 24th day of this month. Concluded with prayer.
John H. Pickard, Clk.

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Bethesda Feb. 24, 1821 The Session met according to adjournment. Opened with prayer. Present Joseph Scott, Zachariah Neal, Henry Cobb, James Cobb. Absent John Watt, Ezekiel Jones, John Stamps. Levi Cobb was verbally notified by the Session to attend at this time, to answer to the above charges. But having failed to appear, Resolved that a citation be issued to Levi Cobb to appear before the Session with the witnesses in his favor and answer to the above charges at Bethesda Church on the third Saturday in March next; and that Henry Cobb appear at the same time and place with his witness to establish his complaint. And further, Resolved that Rodham Loveless, Sam or, Garland Blackwell, Clayburn Dorton, Noah Cobb be requested to attend at the above place & time to give evidence on the second charge; and the names of the witnesses together with a copy of the charges accompany the citation to Levi Cobb.

Adjourned to meet at this place on the third Saturday in March next. Concluded with prayer.

John H. Pickard, Clk.

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Bethesda March 17, 1821. The Session met according to adjournment. Opened with prayer. Present James Cobb, John Watt, Joseph Scott. Absent Henry Cobb, Zachariah Neal, John Stamps. John Wan requested to resign his office as Ruling Elder in this congregation, which request was granted: and he is hereby released from the Eldership in this congregation. Sam Orr, a witness against Levi Cobb, on the second charge, saith that sometime last spring Levi Cobb mentioned the person to whom he had loaned his money. Henry Cobb failed to attend on

the first charge. The other witnesses on the 2nd charge failed to appear. Levi Cobb also failed to appear. Therefore, Resolved that Levi Cobb be again cited to appear before the Session on the evening of the 7th of April next, and answer the above charges at the house of Joseph Scott; and that Rodham Loveless and Noah Cobb, Jun. be requested to appear as witnesses against him. And further resolved, that Henry Cobb be directed to appear at the same time a place with his witnesses to establish his charge against Levi Cobb.

Adjourned to meet at the house of Joseph Scott on the evening of the 7th April next, Concluded with prayer.

John H. Pickard, Clk.

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At Jos. Scott's 7TH APRIL 1821. The Session met according to adjournment. Opened with prayer. Present Joseph Scott, Ezekiel Jones, Zachariah Neal, Henry Cobb. Absent James Cobb, John Stamps. Mr. Matthew Cobb being duly sworn on the complaint of Henry Cobb; saith that sometime last spring, he met Levi Cobb in the road, and that Levi said his brother Henry has promised to pay some money to stop an execution against his property; which he has not done; he said that Henry Cobb had told a lie, and that he had a great mind to go by and give him a proper whipping. Mrs. Mary Ann Cobb being duly sworn, saith, on the same case That sometime last spring, Levi Cobb came to her house, and said, that Henry Cobb had promised to take down some advertisements for the sale of his property, which he had not done; and he had told a lie; and that if Henry Cobb came to his house the next day to the sale, he would prepare a stick and would break his head, and cane him whilst he was within a tale of his enclosure. And that Levi Cobb further said, that he had been to Henry Cobb's some time before and that Henry Cobb's wife abused him very much, and if she was his wife, he would put her in the fire, set his foot on her, and keep her there ti11 she was burned up.

Mr. Rodham Lovelass being duly sworn on the second charge against Levi Cobb saith, that in the fall of 1819, Levi Cobb told him in his shop, that he had lent George Williamson $80, and that George told him that he would give him 25 percent interest on all that he could let him have. And that, some weeks after, Levi again told him, that he let George have $20 more, and he intended to let him have it as fast as he could get it.

Mr. Noah Cobb being duly sworn on the same charge against Levi Cobb, saith that sometime in 1819 he was at Levi Cobb's Shop and Levi again told him, he had lent George Williamson $100 at 25 percent interest.

Levi Cobb having been three times cited to answer to the above charges and as often failed to appear, Therefore Resolved, that Levi Cobb is guilty of the above charges by plain testimonies and further resolved that Levi Cobb be solemnly suspended from the communion of the church until he repent.

And the Session adjourned. Concluded with prayer.

John H. Pickard, Clk.

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Bethesda Sept 15th, 1822. The session met at the call of the moderator. Joshua Butler, John Jones, Betsey Cobb, Patsey Cobb, Henrietta Manley expressed a desire to join the church. They all gave a satisfactory relation of their experimental knowledge of religion and were received as members of this church. And the ordinance of baptism was administered to Henrietta Manley.

John H. Pickard, Clk.

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Bethesda Oct. 15, 1826. The session met. Susan Tailor, James Burke, Nancy Barker, Barnet Lovelace, Nancy Orr, and Polly Orr about to remove to the west requested letters of dismission which were granted.

John H, Pickard, Clk.

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Bethesda Dec. 16, 1826. The session met. Present moderator, James Cobb, J. Scott,?. Elmore, J. Jones, Z (?). Neal, J. Swift. Mrs. Kitty Cobb requested to join the church and after relating her experience, she was received into the communion of the church. Her baptism was postponed until April 15. At which time Joshua Butler was appointed to attend the Presbytery at Murfreesboro on the 3rd Wednesday in this month.

John H. Pickard, Clk.

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Bethesda August 15, 1830. The session met and Rebecca Wilson, Mary Denny, Nancy Cobb, Miller Nunn, and Mary Lovelace applied to join the church, and after relating their experience were received by a public profession of their faith in Christ. Mary Denny, Nancy Cobb, and Miller Nunn were baptized.

John Jones, Clk.

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The following persons about to remove to the west obtained letters of dismission as members in good standing: Benjamin Elmore, Polly Elmore, Freeman Elmore, James Jones, Elizabeth Jones, Calvin Jones, William Cobb, Katharine Cobb, Calton Nunn, Henry Cobb, Polly Cobb, Nancy Cobb.

John Jones, Clk.

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Bethesda February 18, 1832. The session met and Noah Cobb and his wife his wife Phebe Cobb applied to join the church and after relating their experience they were received into the communion of the church.

J. Jones, Clk.

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July 15, 1832. The session met present as usual. The session was informed that Polly Lovelace, a member of our church, was far gone in a state of pregnancy before her marriage with Thomas Pickerel. The session therefore appointed Z(?). Neal and John Jones, Ruling Elders, to visit her and report at next session.

John Jones, Clk.

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Bethesda August 18, 1832. The session met and was opened with prayer. The session all present. Z. Neal and John Jones who were appointed to visit and converse with Polly Lovelace (now Polly Pickerel) and that she confessed her guilt in this matter. Resolved therefore that she be suspended from the ordinances of the church until she repents.
J. Jones, Clk.

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March 16, 1833. The session met, and by common fame Polly Cobb, a member of our church, has been guilty of stating falsehood in that she certified that Thomas Gibson abused his wife, which she contradicted in a certificate given to Lickfork church. Resolve therefore that she be cited to appear before the session on the 3rd Sabbath in April to answer to the above charge.

John Jones, Clk.

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April 20, 1833. The session met Present as usual, opened with prayer. Mrs. Cobb appeared and answered that she had heard from T. Gibson's little daughter that he abused his wife and she told it to several persons, and she said she heard it from others. And that the certificate which she assigned was written in her absence and was not such as she would have written herself. And that it has no reference to any that which took place
while Thomas Gibson was out of the church. Resolve that the session having no farther proceedings in this matter.

John Jones, Clk.

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October 4, 1833. Carter Lovelace applied for a letter of dismission and at his own request a letter was granted to him as a member in good standing by order of the session.

John Jones, Clk.

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1834. Noah Cobb and his wife Phebe Cobb applied for letters of dismission and at their own request a letter was granted to them as members in good standing by order of the session.

J. Jones, Clk.

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Joshua Butler, Ruling Elder. Received July 16, 1826 Ordained Mary Lovelace. Dismissed Oct. 1839

Joshua Butler. Received on examination Dept. 15, 1822. Died 1850

Barnet Lovelace. Received on examination Oct. 13, 1822. Dismissed Oct.l6, 1826.
Polly Lovelace. Rec'd on exam. Aug. 15, 1830. Dismissed 1832

Noah Cobb. Rec'd on examination Feb. 19, 1832. Dismissed Sept. 1834.

Phebe Cobb

William Butler. Received on examination July 1839

Susan J. Butler. Rec'd by letter June 16, 1844

Emeline D. Butler. Rec'd by examination 15 Nov. 1851.

I Marie Butler. Received by examination 15 Nov. 1851

Joshua H. Butler

Source: Donna Price 14 April 1997 Post to the Rootsweb.com Lovelace Mailing List (Provided by Mary McGhee of Oxford, North Carolina).

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Pickard's School

The subscriber has opened a School in Caswell County, near Brown's Store, for the instruction of youth, in the rudiments of the English, Latin and Greek Languages. - Geography, with the use of the Globes. Natural and Moral Philosophy &c will also be taught. This School is 10 miles west of Caswell Courthouse, and 7 miles east from Rockingham Springs. John H. Pickard.

November 25.

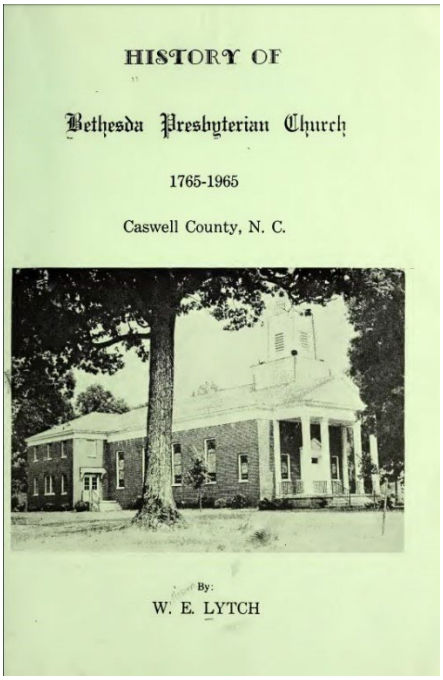
Raleigh Register, December 3, [between 1819 and 1825]

Note that a Reverend John H. Pickard is buried at the Bethesda Presbyterian Church (Caswell County, North Carolina). Died 9 September 1858: "aged 75yrs 2ms 11dys."

The Reverend John H. Pickard was a minister at Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Caswell County. He opened a school in the Brown's Store community in 1824. Pickard died in Caswell County on September 11, 1858, at age 75. North Carolina Presbyterian, September 24, 1858. He rests at Bethesda Presbyterian Church (Caswell County, North Carolina). Source: The Papers of David S. Reid.

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For more on the history of this church see: Bethesda Presbyterian Church History



Also, to commemorate the church's 200th anniversary in 1965, the pastor at the time, William E. Lytch, wrote what now is considered the definitive history of Bethesda Presbyterian Church: History of Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Caswell County, N. C., 1765-1965

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Beulah Baptist Church



1834 US Hwy 158 E
Leasburg, Caswell County, North Carolina
(336) 694-6996

Beulah Baptist Church was organized in 1834. On September 10, 1861, Sidney S. Lea[33] gave to the Beulah Baptist Church a certain house and lot and the right of way to the spring located on the road leading to the Red House Road [now High Rock School Road]. This lot contained two acres, and this is the land where the first Beulah Baptist Church was located near Blanch Prison.

The church met at Lambeth Hill School House from December 1921 to January 1922. From 1925 to 1940, the Hudgins, Everett, and Webster families were very active in the leadership of the church. Between 1935-1937, the church building was moved to Highway 158, five miles east of Yanceyville, North Carolina, where Mr. Walter Lunsford allowed the church to be located.[34]

The third site of the church was purchased from Mr. P. W. Thompson just across the road and a new sanctuary was built in 1961. Additional Sunday school rooms were added in 1965. In 1973, a new parsonage was built, and more land purchased. In 1981 a completely new sanctuary was built along with Sunday school rooms, baptistry, and bathrooms.



The old church building is presently [1985] located in the pasture of Louis H. Hall, and some of the lumber that is in this building came from the building that was located on its first site. The original building contains a balcony for slaves.[35]

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For more on this church see: Beulah Baptist Church History

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[33] Sidney Slade Lea (1810-1889)
[34] Probably Walter Thomas Lunsford (1871-1944)
[35] Whitlow, Jeannine D., Editor. *The Heritage of Caswell County, North Carolina* (1985) at 3-4 ("Beulah Baptist Church" by Clyde Everett).

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Beulah Baptist Church



3027 NC Hwy 119
Leasburg, Caswell County, NC
(336) 694-4200

The church cemetery, established by African American members of the community, does not have a survey of record. Carolina Caswell conducted a photographic survey in April 2011 and March 2012. This church cemetery does not have a survey of record in the J. Burch Blaylock Collection.

No comprehensive written church history is known. The following is from the church's website:

"The Beulah Baptist Church was organized in 1886. The first worship gatherings/services were held in an old school building. The first church building, made of logs, was constructed around 1890; a second building was constructed around 1900 to replace the log building. In 1913, a third building was constructed and over time there were structural additions to the main building as well as the building of a fellowship hall. In 2002, an extensive church building renovation began and we moved into the current building in July 2003.

"Beulah has been led by twelve pastors-the first being Rev. Dave Evans and the twelfth and current being Rev. Jerry 0. Wilson, Sr., (with us since February 8th, 1991). There are far too many people who were very instrumental in the growth and leadership of Beulah to name, yet every single one is truly appreciated.

"Currently serving the Beulah Baptist Church as ministers are: the aforementioned Pastor Jerry 0. Wilson, Sr. and Associate Ministers Cathy C. Wilson (the pastor's wife), Michael Ruff, Jimmy Stanfield, and Daphne Yellock; also serving Beulah's ministry are: Deaconess Druscilla Lea as church secretary; Trustee April Poteat as financial secretary; and Trustee Lena Pounds as church treasurer. Serving as deacons are: Frank Graves, Willie Pennix, Jr. (vice chair), Mary C. Johnson, Phil Holman, James Williams , James L. Poteat (chair}, Bobby Richmond, Serving as deaconesses are: Louise Graves (chair), Druscilla Lea, Gladys Pennix, Olivia Stanfield and Helen Torain. And serving as trustees are Martha Arrington, Bettie Harrelson (vice chair), Joe Jeffers, Ernest

Poole, April Poteat, Lena Pounds (chair) and Mary Williamson. There are also many serving as ministry presidents, vice-presidents and secretaries in and to various ministries of Beulah.

“Today, Beulah's membership continues to grow.”

Source: Beulah Baptist Church Website [https://www.beulahbaptistchurch119n.com/history; accessed 15 December 2022].

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Apparently the 1915 annual meeting of the Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association was held at Beulah Baptist Church in Topnot, Caswell County, North Carolina.[36]

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Blackwell Missionary Baptist Church



4777 Hwy 158 W
Locust Hill, Caswell County, NC
(336) 694-6902

Blackwell Missionary Baptist Church in the Blackwell community west of Yanceyville (Locust Hill) was established in 1896 and first occupied a log building constructed in 1869. In 1975 the membership decided that the old church building, renovated in 1961, had deteriorated beyond repair and contracted for erecting a completely new building that was completed in the summer of 1976. The large cemetery dates from 1904.[37]

The following is from *The Heritage of Caswell County, North Carolina*, Jeannine D. Whitlow, Editor (1985) at 4 ("Blackwell Baptist Church" by Mary G. Paylor, Assistant Secretary):
The Blackwell Baptist Church began in 1888 when a deed for a plot of land 36 ft. long and 26 ft. wide was given by Henry Blackwell. The witnessing trustees were Henry Madden, Sonny Blackwell, and Lyndsy Kew. Additional land was donated at this time by Mrs. Jenny Blackwell

[36] Springfield, C. J. *Minutes of the Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association: Which Convened With the Beulah Baptist Church of Topnot, Caswell County, North Carolina, on August 4th, 5th, and 6th, 1915*, 137 pages.
[37] Powell at 449.

Kernoldly and her sister Mary Blackwell Palmer. A small log building was built on this property, which served as the church and school until a frame building was built for a church.

Early ministers were Rev. Tucker, Buck Harrelson, Alfred Graves, Ras Clark, Wash Johnson, J. W. Wiley, and C. W. McBroom. Early deacons were James Gwynn, Walter Pinchback, Tom Jones, Romulus Watlington, Ed Russell, Walter Turner, Earnest Turner, and Harvey Gwynn. Later deacons included: Onza Russell, Lawrence Gwynn, Orlando Gwynn, Percy Willis, and Travis Bushnell. Sam Pinks Gwynn was the first Sunday School Superintendent. Early Mothers of the church were Minnie Vaughn and Senora Blackwell.

The first choir was organized under C. W. McBroom's pastorate. Officers of the first choir included President Robert Wiley, Vice President William Oliver, Secretary Frances Brown, Treasurer Lillie O. Gwynn. Early secretaries of the church were Bertha Palmer and Florida Willis. Early Ushers were Floyd Long and Tom King. Early pianists were Joshua Stephens, Eula Willis, and Cordia Bell Watlington. Rev. Harvey Gwynn was a licensed minister.

Pastor in 1985: Rev. G. H. Badgett of Reidsville (had held the position for thirty-three years). Officers in 1985: Lucy M. Slade, Secretary; Mary G. Paylor, Assistant Secretary; Elizabeth Blackwell, Finance Secretary; John Blackwell, Treasurer; and Dorsey Wiley, Assistant Treasurer. Trustees in 1985: Otis Totten, John Badgett, John Mims, Dorsey Wiley, and John Blackwell. Sunday School Officers in 1985: Robert Wiley, Superintendent; John Badgett, Assistant Superintendent; Bessie Oliver, Secretary; Rebecca Merrill, Assistant Secretary; and Dorsey Wiley, Treasurer. Senior Choir Officers in 1985: Lorraine Long, President; Mae Emma Gwynn, Treasurer; and Effie Williams, Secretary.

Junior Choir Officers in 1985: Carolyn Foster, President; Kathy Slade, Secretary; and Rena Chandler, Treasurer. Queenie Willis served as pianist and manager for both senior and junior choirs. Community Choir Officers in 1985: Margo Totten, Director; Robert Garrett, Pianist; Edith Totten, President; Margo Totten, Secretary; and Ross Gwynn, Treasurer. Missionary Circle Officers in 1985: Sarah B. Johnson, President; Mary G. Paylor, Secretary; Lillie O. Gwynn, Treasurer; and Alvista Williams, Program Chairman. Usher Board Officers in 1985: Henry Totten, President; John H. Blackwell, Vice President; Betty Graves, Secretary; and Maggie Long, Treasurer. In 1985, the most recent licensed minister was Ellington Watlington, and the oldest members of the church were Pallie Watlington and Wilanna Gwynn.[38]

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For more on this church see: History of Blackwell Missionary Baptist Church

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census

[38] Blackwell Missionary Baptist Church History

Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Blanch Baptist Church



5931 Blanch Road
Blanch, Caswell County, NC

Blanch Baptist Church, in Caswell County's Blanch/Blanche community (north central Caswell County), was established in 1903 by members of Shiloh Baptist Church. The original building of that date, with additions and renovations, is still in use.[39]

On March 2, 1903, a small congregation consisting of three ministers, J. E. Holland (Danville, VA), R. J. Bateman (Milton), and G. W. Wilson (Yanceyville), a few laymen, and sisters met at the home of R. E. Powell[40] and organized a Baptist church. It was composed of the following members: Mr. and Mrs. D. Y. Mebane,[41] Miss Kate Mebane,[42] Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Powell, Eddie Powell, Walter Powell, Miss Mamie Powell, Mr. and Mrs. William Lea, Miss Pearl Lea, William Lea, Jr.,[43] Mrs. Betty Moore, and Mrs. Blanche Moore.[44] This church was not sponsored by any other church. The members, who lived in the community, felt the need to have a church closer by, which would eliminate having to travel long distances to attend services. Land to build the church was given by Mrs. Betty Moore and her family. Members held services on the church grounds until a building could be erected. The church was without a steeple until 1991. The original church building had two front entrance doors.[45]

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

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[39] Powell at 449-450 (but the reference to Shiloh Baptist Church may be incorrect.
[40] Probably Rufus Edwin Powell (1856-1924)
[41] DeBerniere Yancey Mebane (1848-1938)
[42] Mary Katherine Mebane (1875-1953), daughter of DeBerniere Yancey Mebane and Mary John Graves
[43] This is the family of William Lea (1854-1924)
[44] Mrs. Betty Moore is Bettie Margaret Powell Moore (1851-1938). Her daughter is Blanche Lydia Moore Moore (1882-1960).
[45] Scott at 15-16.

Brown's Arbor Primitive Baptist Church



570 Underwood Road
Camp Springs, Caswell County, NC

Caswell County black primitive Baptist churches include Brown's Arbor Church, located about two miles from Highway 87 on county road No. 1139 (Underwood Road) near the Shaw Brothers store. It was organized October 21, 1905, with thirteen charter members. Elders J. H. Parker and Ellis Faucette were the first pastors. Services were held in Camp Springs schoolhouse until the church building was erected in 1909. It is a member of the Durham colored Primitive Baptist Association, which convenes annually the first weekend in August in Alamance County near Snow Hill. Until a few years after the Civil War the white and black people of the Baptist faith were members of the same churches. After the war blacks established separate churches.[46]

A cemetery is adjacent to the church building. Buried there is Madison Brown (1825-1900).

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[46] Powell at 459-460.

Brown's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church



461 Brown's Chapel Road
Matkins, Caswell County, NC
(336) 584-0770

Brown's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in the southwestern corner of Caswell County dates from 1912 when a group of people who had been meeting in private homes built a church. The church experienced a period of unusual growth in 1962, and plans were begun for remodeling the church. The work was completed in 1966. Dr. H. G. McGhee has been widely acclaimed for his participation "in the fight for civil rights and justice." Before 1950, when a cemetery was established, the dead of the congregation were frequently buried at Brown's Arbor Primitive Baptist Church in the same community.[47]

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Burton's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church[48]



Burton Chapel Road
Hightowers, Caswell County, NC
(336) 421-9530

The cemetery is in the vicinity of 4912 Burton Chapel Road. Access road to the cemetery is north of above address and surrounded by government lands. About 2/3 mile north of the church at 5277 Burton Chapel Road and on the opposite side from the church. This church cemetery established by African

[47] Powell at 450.
[48] Photograph courtesy Carolina Caswell.

American members of the community does not have a survey of record. The earliest marked grave is dated 1840.

No written church history is known. Church representatives were contacted February 2020.

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"The Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association convened in its Sixty-Sixth Annual Session with the Burton's Chapel Baptist Church, Caswell County, Corbett, N. C, promptly at 9:30 A. M. Wednesday, August 9th, 1933. The house was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Wm. Warner."[49]

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Fire Destroys Caswell Church

Yanceyville, N.C. – "Burton Chapel Baptist Church in Caswell County was totally destroyed by fire late yesterday. The frame structure, located some eight miles southeast of Yanceyville, was "just about burnt up" when men from the Yanceyville Fire Department arrived on the scene during hard rain about 11 a.m., it was reported.

"Also answering the call to the blaze was the Prospect Hill Fire Department, but it appeared that the flames had gotten a good start before anyone in the rural community spotted them and there was little the fire fighters could do.

"Cause of the fire was uncertain."

Source: *The Bee* (Danville, Virginia) · 25 Jan 1971, Mon · Page 5

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[49] *Minutes of the Sixty-Sixth Annual Session of the Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association 1933.*

Bush Arbor Primitive Baptist Church



101 Cherry Grove Road
Jericho, Caswell County, NC

On the 4th day of August 1801, Sallie Tait of Caswell County, NC deeded the site for Bush Arbor Primitive Baptist Church and its cemetery "to the Baptist now under pastoral care of Barzillai Graves, known as North Country Line Church, for love and good will, 1 acre for purpose of erecting a meeting house and carrying on public worship" (Caswell County NC Deed Book M, page 146). Originally known as Bush Arbor Baptist Meeting House, the church was organized by 1806. The present brick church building was erected amongst a grove of century old oak trees in 1948 and is the third known Bush Arbor church building on this site. The well-maintained cemetery, located adjacent to the church, is still in use today. The first known burial in the church cemetery is 1807. Many graves have only field rocks to mark them. Notable Elders since 1806:

* Barzillai Graves 1806-1810[50]
* Richard Martin 1810-1834
* John I. Stadler 1834-1860
* Francis Linden Oakley 1863-1890
* Yancey I. Chandler 1890-1916
* Benjamin Franklin McKinney 1916-1928
* William Curry King 1929-1970
* Wallis Art Smith 1970-2006

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Bush Arbor Primitive Baptist Church, which possibly received its name from the fact that services in its early history may have been held under a bush arbor, is located on Highway 62 about nine miles south of Yanceyville and was organized before 1806. It has a large membership currently [1977]. According to the earliest known church records, Elder Barzillai Graves served as its pastor until 1810.[51]

Samuel Harris and his co-laborers were instrumental in gathering and helping to establish several congregations in this area. Among these was the one near Yanceyville, North Carolina. The meetings were first begun in homes. Perhaps the first meeting house built for Country Line Church was on the north bank of Country Line Creek, southwest of Yanceyville. This was about one acre deeded by Sarah Tate in 1801 to the church served by Barzillai Graves, known as North

[50] Reverend Barzillai Graves (1759-1827)
[51] Powell at 455.

Country Line Church. (There was at that time a South Country Line Church). There remains on this property the old cemetery.

Source: *Historical Sketch of the Country Line Baptist Church Near Yanceyville Caswell County North Carolina* by Berry, W. J; Caswell County Historical Association (1975).

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Bush Arbor meeting house, 11 miles from Yanceyville, stands in a pleasant grove. Hard by is a marble monument to Elder John Stadler, born in Granville [County] in 1792 and deceased in 1860. Here the Baptist Cent Society met in 1820 and collected funds for Foreign and Domestic Missions. Here was once a Sunday school in which children were instructed in the Word of God.

Now, alas! the house is most miserably dilapidated, and one hundred three panes of class are needed in the windows. Apple cores, peach seeds and tobacco juice disgrace the floor. In fact, the house looks as if a picnic party had been held there. Elder Oakley is the pastor, and we beg leave to suggest to him that as many of his members are men of wealth, and as they oppose all contributions to missions and even pay their pastor very little, they certainly can afford to honor the Lord with a better house of worship. Outsiders will not respect the religion of those who roll in luxury at home and worship God in a shanty.[52]

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"The Bush Arbor Primitive Baptist Church, first place winner among the white churches, was organized about 1806, and now has a membership of 65 persons. Thanksgiving, 1947, church members discussed building a new church, and they now have an attractive brick church building valued at about $60,000, completed and paid for."

"Caswell County Church Beautification Contest," *The Herald-Sun* (Durham, North Carolina), 25 December 1949, Sunday, Page 33.

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Microfilmed church records 1809-1960 are housed in the Z. Smith Reynolds Library Special Collections and Archives, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[52] *The Biblical Recorder* (Raleigh, North Carolina), 23 Aug 1871, Wednesday, Page 3.

Calvary United Methodist Church



2182 Calvary Road (Rt. 119)
Alton, Halifax County, VA[53]

While this church is in Halifax County, Virginia (about seven miles from Milton), it is included here because of the close ties to Connally United Methodist Church, its mother church.

CONNALLY - A "MOTHER CHURCH"

Several Calvary Methodist Church members were originally members of the first and second Connally Churches before the Calvary Church was built in 1882.

In 1882 the original Calvary Church building was begun. The members themselves donated logs and built the one room wooden structure which was to serve as sanctuary and Sunday School building for the next 65 years. Plans for a new building were begun in 1944. With stews, box suppers, donations of money and tobacco crops, the needed $15,280.00 was raised. Finally, in 1949 the neat brick structure, with three classrooms and an auditorium of 120 seating capacity, was completed. Mr. Lynn Williamson, father of the late Mr. George Williamson, was a member of the first and the second Connally Church. This Mr. George Williamson was a member of the second Connally Church. These and others of Calvary Community, on account of the distance to the second Connally Church, decided to build Calvary Methodist Church which was erected in 1882. Mr. W. Smith Brandon of Milton, N. C. said his grandfather, Mr. Smith Brandon, and Mr. John Lipscomb built the first Calvary Church.

Source: Barker, Ophelia, Editor. “A Brief History of Neighborhood Churches” in *History of Connally United Methodist Church, Milton, North Carolina, Organized 1821* (1969), p. 18.

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Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave

[53] Church photograph courtesy Natalie Maynor on Find a Grave.

Camp Springs United Methodist Church



9168 Cherry Grove Rd
Camp Springs, Caswell County, NC
(336) 616-1182

Camp Springs United Methodist Church in the southwestern corner of Caswell County was established in 1809 near a spring at which British troops under Cornwallis camped during the Revolution. The first pastor began his duties in 1829 and that is a date celebrated as the founding of the church. The present church, a brick structure, is the fourth one occupied by the congregation. At the intersection of Cherry Grove Rd. (SR-1133) and Camp Springs Rd. (SR-1146).[54]

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The date and source of this record are unknown but apparently came from a list of Caswell County Methodist churches:

Camp Springs: Intersection of County Roads 1146 and 1133 two miles east of the Rockingham County line; Founded in 1809 according to local church information; Earliest deed June 30, 1809; Book Q, Page 19; Membership 160.

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CHURCH CHANGES DENOMINATION

As of January 1, 2023 Camp Springs United Methodist Church is no longer a Methodist Church. It will be called Camp Springs Community Church. We are located on Cherry Grove Road in Caswell County. Everyone is welcome to come and join us in the new direction we are headed. Church services are 11:00 a.m. each Sunday morning. At this time we are having different pastors to help out during our transition period. Come and worship!

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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

[54] Powell at 440.

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Camp Springs United Methodist Church



9502 Cherry Grove Road
Camp Springs, Caswell County, NC

This is one of two churches with the same name that are near each other on the Cherry Grove Road in Caswell County, one predominantly African American and the other predominantly white. The African American church was established in 1890. The present building, erected in 1940, is the fourth at the side. An adjacent cemetery has been in use since 1893.

The name Camp Springs came from early horse traders traveling place-to-place selling horses. They camped at the springs each time they came to the area. Land approximately 0.8-acre in size south of the springs was given to the Methodist Episcopal Church by Joseph Windsor on August 28, 1828, for a place of worship. Lofton Lamberth witnessed the signature of Joseph Windsor.[55] On March 15, 1869, an additional 2.5 acres was purchased from David A. Moose. Trustees appearing on the deed are J. L. Bolden, Joseph Vincent, and Joseph Williamson.

The original church was a log structure, which eventually was replaced with a weather-board building. In 1940 bricks were added to the exterior. In 1966-1967 a new wing was added that included two restrooms, a choir room, a pastor's study, fellowship hall, and kitchen. In the early 1970s the name was changed to Camp Springs United Methodist Church.[56]

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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

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[55] *The Heritage of Caswell County, North Carolina*, Jeannine D. Whitlow, Editor (1985) at 600-601 (Article #826). "John Windsor" by Helen Windsor Booth). Joseph Windsor (1788-1867) is the father-in-law of Lovick Loften Lamberth (1820-1901).
[56] Scott at 17-18.

Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church[57]



4011 US Hwy 158
Locust Hill, Caswell County, NC

This church hosted the annual meeting of the Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association.

The current building probably was built after 1940 because 1940 photographs of the meeting that year of the Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association show a wooden building. It also is called the Cedar Grove Baptist Memorial Building. Apparently, no cemetery is associated with this church.



Photograph: October 1940 meeting of the Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association. For more photographs of this meeting go to: Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church

The 100th session of the Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association was held August 7-12, 1967.

Building Photographs

[57] Photograph of brick church building courtesy Carolina Caswell (taken 2010).

Cherry Grove Missionary Baptist Church



412 Browns Chapel Road
Cherry Grove, Caswell County
(336) 349-7822

Cherry Grove was briefly known as Nu Life Baptist Church.

No written church history is known. However, it is an independent Baptist church, not associated with any denominational organization, and especially not connected to the Southern Baptist Convention. The independent Baptist churches apparently split from the Southern Baptist Convention (or were created anew) when that organization was deemed too "liberal." The founder is Ernest Bailey Sartin (1937-2015), followed as minister by his son Danny Bailey Sartin. The building apparently at one time housed a Bible Institute.[58]

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[58] A Bible Institute, also called a Bible College, is institution of higher education which prepares students for Christian ministry with theological education, Biblical studies and practical ministry training. Source: Wikipedia.

Christ Episcopal Church



Corner of Broad and High Streets
Milton, Caswell County, NC

The Episcopal Church is the direct descendant of the Anglican Church or the Church of England, sometimes known as the Established Church in the colonial period. Caswell County was formed just as the Anglican Church was dismissed from its favored position as the official, tax-supported church of the colony. In some parts of the young state the Church was well enough established that local congregations survived the Revolution and continued to exist afterwards. Elsewhere, however, the small chapels that had been served only by visiting missionaries on a very irregular schedule quickly ceased to be used. Other denominations took them over. The Protestant Episcopal Church, as a state organization, was not formed in North Carolina until 1817.

Incomplete records suggest that St. Paul's Church was organized in Milton in 1831, but if this is the case it did not survive very long. The Rt. Rev. Levi Silliman Ives, Bishop of North Carolina, conducted services in Yanceyville in 1843 when he confirmed three persons. His successor, Bishop Thomas Atkinson, also held services there in 1858. In 1864 Bishop Atkinson again visited Yanceyville and he also was in Milton. Christ Church, Milton, was erected in 1890, and Bishop Theodore B. Lyman preached there on September 20, 1891, at which time it probably was consecrated. The congregation was never very large -- usually numbering only around a dozen members. The church, however, accommodated 200 and the Sunday School was often larger than the body of the church members. In 1973 there was only one family of Episcopalians left, just five persons, and on September 18, 1974, the church was formally deconsecrated.

St. Luke's Church, an unorganized mission, was formed in Yanceyville in 1973 with nine baptized members and it has an attractive brick church. The pews from the Milton church were moved to the church in Yanceyville.[59]

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Reidsville Review: “A correspondent informs us that the Episcopalians in Milton contemplate building their new Church on a hill near the old home of Dr. Ajax Walker, owned now by Maj. L.

[59] Powell at 467.

H. Hunt. It is the loveliest site in Milton and commands fine views in every direction. The noble Dan sweeps at the foot of the hill."

Reidsville Review Reprinted in *The Wilmington Morning Star* (Wilmington, North Carolina), 24 April 1889.

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Episcopal Church (1890): Built as Christ Episcopal Church in 1890 in Gothic architectural style. Deconsecrated and purchased by Milton Woman's Club Charter Members September 18, 1974.

Maintained and used by the Club, the building is also a site for many civic and social functions.[60]

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No cemetery is associated with this church. As with most Milton churches, burials are in Cedars Cemetery or elsewhere.

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For a while this small congregation met in Yanceyville in the old Swicegood house on West Main Street.[61] It then built a new church building in Yanceyville. See the St. Luke's Episcopal Church entry in this paper.

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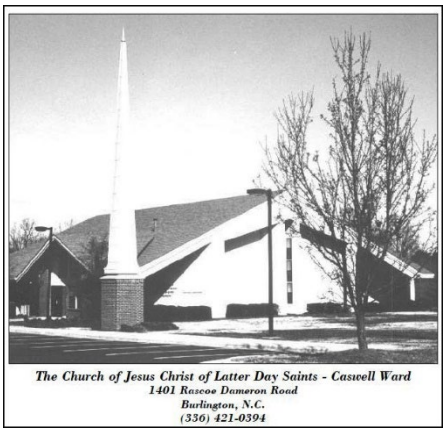
Building Photographs
Cedars Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cedars Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cedars Cemetery Photographs

Church of Christ

Little is known about this church that may now occupy the building that once housed St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Yanceyville. The street address is the same: 237 Parkway Dr. The church apparently remains active as it placed a notice in the January 15, 2020, issue of *The Caswell Messenger*.

[60] Source: Plaque erected by the Milton Preservation & Beautification Society.
[61] Swicegood House

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints



1401 Rascoe Dameron Road
Anderson, Caswell County, NC

Missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints began working in Caswell County in 1911 and converted the families of William Henry Stainback and William Thomas Aldridge late in the year. Services afterwards were held in the homes of these families until 1913, when membership had reached the point at which a church building was required. Stainback was ordained an Elder, and Aldridge donated land for a church.

Meetings were held in the original building for forty-two years when Mrs. William Thomas Aldridge gave land nearby for a new church (see photograph), which was dedicated March 2, 1958.[62]

This building was used for many years until replaced in 1987 by the building in the photograph.

The new branch, established in the south-central part of Caswell County north of Anderson, was named Union Ridge. Afterwards it was changed to Aldridge Chapel, but in April 1955 the present name, Caswell Branch, was adopted.

The church cemetery does not have a survey of record. Carolina Caswell conducted a photographic survey in January 2013 and placed the images on Find A Grave. This cemetery does not have a survey of record in the J. Burch Blaylock Collection on file at the Caswell County Register of Deeds.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave

[62] Powell at 463, 65.

Church on the Square

43 Main St.
Yanceyville, Caswell County, NC

The current status of this church is not known. However, it apparently once occupied the old Yanceyville post office building on West Main Street in Yanceyville. No written church history is known. No cemetery is known to be associated with the church.

Community Baptist Church



3050 Old NC 86 Hwy N/Old State Hwy 486
Yanceyville, Caswell County, North Carolina

The Community Baptist Church, Yanceyville, was established in 1938, with a building erected the same year. A cemetery at the church was first used the following year.[63] In 2020 the supply pastor was Don English.

Note that the foregoing is misleading in that the church that became Community Baptist Church was built on what now is Foster Road on land originally purchased by Edward Green Covington (1827-1916) in 1869. Between 1869 and 1888 he built a church on an acre of this land. His first wife, Lurina Ann Roberts Covington (1824-1888) lies in a small cemetery beside this old church building. As of 2001, "[T]his tall, weather-worn, majestic building" still stood. The church building was used by Baptists until they joined with others to form Providence Baptist Church. The building was used for storage until 1935 when Covington's Chapel was established. Reverend W. E. Hardy obtained permission from the Covington family to use the building, and in 1935 a few families formed Covington's Chapel. This church was used for about a year and a half when the congregation ventured out to establish what now is known as Community Baptist Church.
In July 1937 one acre of land was purchased from T. H. Hatchett and E. W. Hatchett on Highway 14, now known as Old Highway 86 between Yanceyville and Purley. By 1938, a small white wooden church had been erected. The current building dates from 1965.

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census

[63] Powell at 450.

Cemetery on Find A Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Concord Christian Church



4908 Cherry Grove Road
Cherry Grove, Caswell County, NC

Concord Christian Church in the southwestern part of the county near Milesville was established in 1814 perhaps by the Rev. Benjamin Rainey. On December 15, 1814, Abraham Simmons and Elisha Barton deeded an acre and a half to the church for the modest sum of one-quarter of a dollar. The first church, a log structure, had one room in the shape of a cross with twelve corners; one section was reserved for blacks. Among the family names represented in the records for 1842 are: Williamson, Barton, Donoho, Miles, Anderson, Terrell, Walker, Pinnix, Saunders, Rudd, Simmons, Garrison, and Turner. The second church was erected in 1883, while the present attractive brick structure was occupied first on June 25, 1955.[64] In 2014 the church celebrated its 200th anniversary.

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For more on the history of this church see: Concord Christian Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[64] Powell at 463.

Connally United Methodist Church



1664 Snatchburg Road
Milton, Caswell County, NC

Deconsecrated and disbanded September 2023 after operating at least two-hundred years.

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Connally United Methodist Church, about a mile and half east of Milton, was organized before 1821 (probably as early as 1815). A log church was built first, but in 1855 a new building was erected some distance away. When the railroad was built nearby, the church was moved again so that trains would not frighten the horses of members who were attending services. The present church was completed in 1888 and has recently been modernized.[65]

In Miss Ophelia Barker's comprehensive history of Connally Methodist church she cites the purchase of land from John Pass of Caswell County by Thomas Connally, William Connally, John McCain, Samuel Smith, Newman Durham, William Chiles, and Merry Maynard, on October 1, 1821. The cost was one dollar for one and a third acres of land. This was a log church believed to be on the VA/NC state line near the land of Norman Barker. Very old members of the community could remember their parents and grandparents talking about attending this church. An interesting note is that in his journal, Joseph Merritt mentions Nathaniel Pass and his wife as members of "Connally Church near Milton." Mr. Pass died in 1819, and his wife in 1815. So, it seems that Connally church was in existence before 1815, with 1821 as the first recorded land purchase.[66] The church has two cemetery locations.[67]

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First Connally Church

"On October 1, 1821 one and one-third acres of land was purchased from John Pass of the County of Caswell and the state of North Carolina of the one part and Thomas Connally, William Connally, John McCain, Samuel Smith, John Smith, Newman Durham, William Chiles and Merry Maynard; trustees appointed by the Methodist Society of the other part witnesseth that the said John Pass for and in consideration of the desire he was promoting the worship of God and further consideration of one dollar to him in hand paid by the trustees aforesaid hath given, granted, bargained, and sold this land." This parcel of land was on the road leading from the

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[65] Powell at 440.
[66] Scott at 23-25.
[67] The definitive history of Connally United Methodist Church is: Barker, Ophelia, Editor. *History of Connally United Methodist Church*, Milton, North Carolina, Organized 1821 (1969).

Red House in Samora, N.C. to Milton, N.C. A nearby spring provided water for the church. Witness: Samuel Dunnaway and John H. McAdin (see book V, page 286 in the Register of Deeds Office in Caswell Courthouse.) According to other information obtained from the Register of Deeds Office in the Courthouse "one-fifth of an acre of land was purchased on June 28, 1824, form Charles Wilson and Jeremiah Dixon by John McAden, Jr., and John Giles, Merry Maynard, and Samuel H. Smith to add on to the land on which Connally Meeting House already stood." (See Book W, page 42 in Register of Deeds Office. The first church is remembered as a long log structure on the left side of the road near Alec Cobb's home on what was once Linsey Moore land. This information has been passed down by Connally Church members from one generation to another.

Second Connally Church

From records in the Courthouse, "one and one-half acres of land was purchased from Caleb Richmond by William Connally, David Elliott and others on March 29, 1855" on which to build the second Connally Church. (see Book ll, page 102 in Register of Deeds Office.) It was said Mr. Buck Connally built the second Connally Church. It was located between the first church and what later was the third church. Two known members of this second church was Mrs. Mamie Worsham Gillespie and Mrs John McCann. After a railroad was built so near this second church that the trains frightened the horses and caused them to break loose, the members decided they needed to move the church again. The second church as later used as a tobacco barn and burned.

Third Connally Church

On December 1, 1890 one and one-half acres of land was exchanged with Mr Nat Richmond and his wife Lizzie and Mrs Ellen A Ramseur, all of Caswell County, to Mr William Connally, David T. Elliott, James E Barker, H. T. Barker, Jasper Fleming and Sidney Stephens, trustees of Connally Church, for two acres of land on which the Third Connally Church was built. (See Book W, page 546 in the Register of Deeds Office.) The Third and present Connally Church was completed in 1888. We have been told the third church was built by Nat Richmond and William Nichols. Thirty babies were christened the day of the first Sunday in August 1888 by Rev. J. H. Shore. Among the babies were George Evan, Lewis Gee, Robert Nichols and Ora Reagan. There is a rather large cemetery at the present Connally church which at this time (1998) is kept in good condition.

Deconsecration (September 2023)

The deconsecration and disbanding declaration included:

"This congregation was organized as part of Christ's holy Church and The United Methodist Church. It was God's gift for a season. We are thankful for the many ways it has served the mission given to it by Jesus Christ. It has accomplished its purpose. We declare that it is no longer a United Methodist congregation and is now disbanded. As we take this action today, we

also hold out hope that from death comes resurrection, that after a time of laying fallow, this church may again arise in a new way into new life and new ministry."

Source: "A New Milton Chronicle" by Angela Daniel-Upchurch and Jim Upchurch in *The Caswell Messenger* (Yanceyville, NC), 27 September 2023.

As far as information is available, the following is a list of the early Ministers who have served Connally Church:

James R. Nicholson 1845
Soloman Lea 1865
Rev Foggs
Rev Earnhart
John H. Shore 1888

L. L. Nash 1890
John H. Shore 1890-94
E .E. Rose 1894-95
W. M. Moore 1890-96
E. W. Fox 1896-98

N. C. Yearly 1900-02
J. A. Dailey 1902-06
T. S. Ellers 1911-12
S. F. Nicks 1912-15
J. E. Blalock 1915-19

Source: Caswell County NC GenWeb Archives.

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There has been uncertainty as to the Caswell County Methodist churches served by Reverend Samuel Freeman Nicks (1874-1946) and how long he was in Caswell County. The following helps. It appears he had served the Yanceyville circuit since 1915 and presumably served the Leasburg circuit until at least 1923.

The Caswell County Methodist churches associated with each circuit remains unclear.

Yanceyville, Dec. 27. -- Rev. S. F. Nicks and family left Saturday for their new home at Leasburg. Mr. Nicks served the Yanceyville [Methodist] circuit for four years. He and his family endeared themselves to the people of the town who have regretted to see them leave.

Greensboro Daily News (Greensboro, NC), 28 December 1919.

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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

The date and source of this record are unknown but apparently came from a list of Caswell County Methodist churches:

Connally: On County Road 1543 one mile west of State Road 119 in the northeast corner of the county; Founded in 1821, Book V, Page 286; Another deed June 28, 1824, Book W, Page 42 is for land on which Connally Meeting House then stood; Membership 45.

For an extended history of this church see: Church History I and Church History II

Building Photographs
Cemetery (New) on Cemetery Census
Cemetery (New) on Find a Grave
Cemetery (Old) on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Corbett Memorial Baptist Church



1694 Mineral Springs Road
Allison, Caswell County, North Carolina

This church cemetery established by African American members of the community does not have a survey of record. Carolina Caswell conducted a photographic survey in January 2011. This cemetery does not have a survey of record in the J. Burch Blaylock Collection.

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Country Line Primitive Baptist Church



The Country Line Primitive Baptist Church was established in 1792, with the church building shown being built during the nineteenth century on old Highway 62 about four miles south of Yanceyville. The structure is typical of primitive Baptist churches of the time, with little ornamentation and separate doors for men and women. This church eventually split into two congregations due to a disagreement over missionary activity. Those favoring missionary work founded the Baptist church in Yanceyville.

The relationship between Bush Arbor Primitive Baptist Church and the Country Line Primitive Baptist Church is not understood. Both were established early in the history of Caswell County (Bush Arbor in 1792, and Country Line before 1806).

Reverend Barzillai Graves (1759-1827) was a co-founder of Bush Arbor Primitive Baptist Church, located in southern Caswell County (established before 1806). However, by 1812, Reverend Graves apparently was associated with the Country Line Primitive Baptist Church, which was built on Graves land near Yanceyville. He may have founded both churches. It is possible that Country Line Primitive Baptist Church once was called Graves Meeting House.

Elder John I. Stadler (1792-1860) joined Bush Arbor Primitive Baptist Church in 1821, was ordained the next year, and was called as the pastor in 1834. However, eventually he became associated with the Country Line Primitive Baptist Church. Query whether there was a schism at Bush Arbor in the early 1800s that resulted in a portion of the church members leaving to create/join the Country Line church.

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Samuel Harriss and his co-laborers were instrumental in gathering and helping to establish several Baptist congregations in this area. Among these was the one near Yanceyville, North Carolina. The meetings were first begun in homes. Perhaps the first meeting house built for Country Line Church was on the north bank of Country Line Creek, southwest of Yanceyville. This was on about one acre deeded by Sarah Tate in 1801 to the church served by Barzillai Graves, known as North Country Line Church. There was at that time a South Country Line Church). There remains on this property the old cemetery.

The members of the first Country Line Church were made up of members in Caswell County and Pittsylvania County, Virginia. According to John Asplund it was organized 1772. John Oakes and Thomas Mullen (or Mullins) were assistants to Samuel Harriss at Country Line Church in 1772.

Country Line Church seated messengers in the first session of the Roanoke Association (VA), in 1788, reported 160 members in 1790, Thomas Mullins (or Mullen) pastor and Joseph Bush itinerant minister.

In 1794, several churches situated in North Carolina requested to be dismissed from the Roanoke Association to form the Flat River Association of North Carolina. Country Line Church was one of these churches. In 1806 Flat River was divided by a line running north and south, and the churches west of this line formed the Country Line Baptist Association, named by the Country Line Creek. The churches from these two Associations originated from the Separate Baptists, and some of the oldest of them were gathered by Samuel Harriss, James Reed, Thomas Mullins, and Dutton Lane.

The second, and present location of Country Line Church is on old Highway 62 five miles south of Yanceyville. The present highway took part of the three acres, deeded to the church in 1869 by J. L. Graves.
In about the year 1827 the churches of the Country Line Association declared against the movement then agitating the Baptist churches over missions, seminaries, Sunday Schools, salaried ministry, etc. For traveling convenience, in 1906 the Country Line Association was divided into the Upper and Lower Country Line Associations. Country Line Creek was used as the dividing line, and Country Line Church was represented by messengers in the Upper Country Line Association.

Those who served as pastor or assistant were Samuel Harriss, John Oakes, Thomas Mullen (or Mullins), Joseph Bush, Barzillai Graves, L. I. Bodenheimer, James S. Dameron, James A. Burch, F. L. Oakley, Y. I. Chandler, B. B. McKinney, W. C. King, from 1944 to the present (1975).

-- W. J. Berry Sr.[68]

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For more on this church see: Country Line Primitive Baptist Church History

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Cemetery on Find a Grave

[68] Berry, W. J. *Historical Sketch of Country Line Baptist Church*. Elon College (NC): Primitive Publications, 1975

Covenant Reformed Baptist Church



6611 Old North Carolina Highway 86
Providence, Caswell County, NC

No known written history. The church appears to be house in a former commercial building.

Unknown whether a cemetery is associated with the church.

Building Photographs

Cross Roads Baptist Church



1744 Ashland Road
Ashland, Caswell County, NC

In 1958, Rev. Billy Hamlett founded Ashland Road Baptist Church (formerly known as Crossroads Baptist Church). A new building was built on May 21, 1961. The Rev. Hamlett served as pastor from 1958 until 1969. Purportedly he bricked in all the church windows to keep people from looking outside. However, the members said the windows were bricked to keep the preacher from jumping out.

The Rev. John Steward was unanimously voted in as new pastor on July 26, 1969. He served for three years. While in office he made a motion for the name of the church to be changed from Cross Roads Baptist to Ashland Road Baptist. The members voted on this, and the name was changed. The Rev. Stewart resigned on June 25, 1972.

The Reverend Clyde Ingram was heard by the pulpit committee of Ashland Road Baptist Church on December 24, 1972. He preached two trial sermons before being voted in as pastor. He served from December 13, 1972, until January 13, 1974.

The Reverend James A. Lowery was a member of the church when he was called to preach. He and his family traveled many miles spreading the gospel wherever the doors were opened. He also taught the adult Sunday school class. Rev. Lowery served as supply pastor for three months. The deacons of the church recommended him to be pastor. The members voted 100% in favor of this and he began on March 3, 1974 and served until 1978.

The Reverend William Terrell (Bro. Bill) was called to preach on February 10, 1978. Before accepting the call, he served as assistant pastor under Reverend James Lowery. Brother Bill was ordained at Lively Stones Baptist Church on April 23, 1978. He graduated from Greensboro Bible Institute in April of 1978. He was voted on April 26, 1978, to be the pastor and has been serving since then. We love and appreciate him and his wife Sandra.

Our annual revival is held each May. Homecoming is the next Sunday following revival. We also have an annual Fall Festival with dinner in October of each year. Our church is located on the Ashland Road which is off Hwy 158 about 10 miles from Yanceyville. Coming from Hwy 158 East it is 10 miles from Reidsville. Turn right at caution light onto Ashland Road. The church is about 1 mile down on the right.

In 1975 the pastor was James Lowery. In 2000 the pastor was Rev. Bill Terrell.

The church cemetery was established in 1963.

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As of 2022, the name is Cross Roads Baptist Church, being changed back to the original name a few years back under the pastorage of Tim Redman (the pastor in 2022).

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church



2901 Bertha Wilson Road
Providence, Caswell County, North Carolina

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 1848 under the leadership of Rev. Reuben Wilson in a log building in the general vicinity of the current church. Around 1900, with the basement of the log building as a subfloor, a new wooden church was erected. The current

church building was built in 1954. Ebenezer became one of the first churches in the county to organize a nurse's unit. In 1988 a new addition to the church was dedicated.[69]

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In 1848, under the leadership of Reverend Reuben Wilson (1842-1928), a group of believers organized Ebenezer Baptist in a log building in the general vicinity of the present church. Around 1900, with the basement of the log building as a subfloor, an new wooden building was constructed. In 1954, on the third Sunday in November, the congregation marched from the second building to the present brick edifice.

To 1966, Ebenezer was under the leadership of the following able spirit filled pastors: Reuen Wilson, J. F. Harraway, F. N. McLaughlin, J. W. Wiley, and W. J. Beard. A Deacons Board was organized; new music groups were added; new deacons were ordained as the need arose.

In 1966 Reverend R. L. Ferrell accepted the call to lead the congregation. Under his leadership services were held every Sunday, rather than only one Sunday in the month. Ebenezer became a thriving church. Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Service were instituted. Ebenezer became one of the first churches in Caswell County to organize a Nurse's Unit. Communion was carried to the sick and shut in. Holy Communion services were set for the first Sunday in each month at 6:00 p.m. A tape ministry, Youth Revival, and a nursery were added to the ever-growing ministries of the church.

In 1988, on Sunday, November 20, the new addition to the church was dedicated.

In 1994, Reverend Paul Andrew Jackson was called to succeed Reverend Ferrell whose poor health made it necessary for him to terminate his pastorate of 29 years. In the time that Reverend Jackson has been at Ebenezer his spirit and vision have been blessings to the congregation as we continue our service.

Our vision has become even clearer with the adoption of the EBC 2000 Plan. This comprehensive vision plan serves as our guide for doing ministry into the twenty-first century. Evangelism, discipline, and stewardship are its main components. As Ebenezer approaches her 150th anniversary we continue to prayerfully forge "Forward in Faith."

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave

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[69] Scott at 26.

Ebenezer Primitive Baptist Church



John Pleasant Road
Person County, NC

While this church is in Person County, North Carolina, it is included here because of its historical association with Leasburg, Caswell County, North Carolina.
Photograph courtesy Perry A. Sloan

The following is from Thompson, Ella Graves. *A History of Leasburg with Personal Recollections* (1960).

It was at Ebenezer Church ¾ miles east of Leasburg that one of the most celebrated events in North Carolina church history took place in 1833. Ebenezer at that time was a member of Country Line Baptist Association. At the associational meeting that year, 1833, under pressure from reactionary members coming in from another state, a resolution was passed declaring "irreconcilable hostility to Bible societies, missionary societies, temperance societies, Baptist conventions and religious newspapers." Stephen Pleasant whose heart was aflame with missionary zeal and fervor for enlightenment, voted against this resolution. Because of his stand, Ebenezer withdrew fellowship from him. The next year Stephen Pleasant organized three small churches of those Baptists who had views similar to his. Thus came about that separation of Missionary Baptist from Primitive Baptists which has never since been bridged. By the time of Stephen Pleasant's death twenty years later, more than twenty churches had declared their independence of [from] this deadening resolution of 1833 and had joined the Beulah Association which Stephen Pleasant had organized. Ebenezer has continued until now a bulwark of the Primitive Baptist Faith.

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Stephen Pleasant (1779-1852) was first called into the ministry in 1824 and followed his father in-law Elder William Brown (1758-1828) as Elder at Ebenezer Primitive Baptist Church in 1828 and remained there until 1832/1833. He also served at Flat River Primitive Baptist Church, which is one of the oldest Primitive Baptist Churches in North Carolina, dated back to 1750.

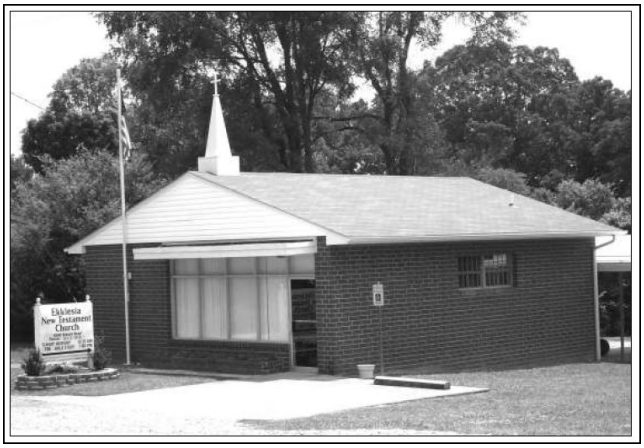
Source: *The Heritage of Caswell County, North Carolina*, Jeannine D. Whitlow, Editor (1985) at 431.

Note that a large Caswell County Pleasant family descended from Elder Stephen Pleasant, including those who established a prominent country store in Purley, Caswell County, NC.

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Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery on Person County NC GenWeb

Ekklesia Baptist Church



4450 Blanch Road
Blanch, Caswell County, NC
(336) 694-4465

No written church history is known. The church is housed in the former Blanch Post Office building. No cemetery is known to be associated with the church.

Once known as Ekklesia New Testament Church, the name was changed to Ekklesia Baptist Church.

The church was launched in the 1990s by David Williams upon his return from Ireland as a missionary. As of 2022 the pastor was Mark Cobb.

Building Photographs

First Baptist Church of Yanceyville



Current Church Building

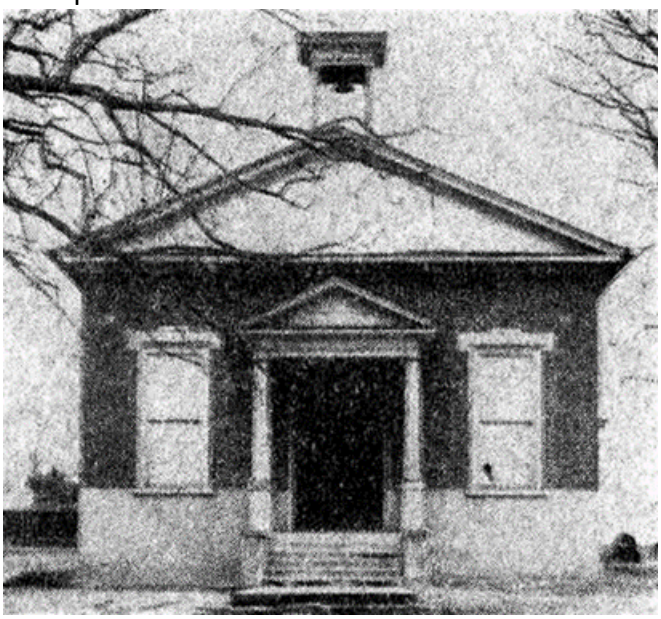
378 Church Street West
Yanceyville, Caswell County, North Carolina

The First Baptist Church of Yanceyville was organized in 1834 when the Country Line Baptist Association decided not to support church missionary efforts. From its founding until 1843 it was known as Country Line Church, from 1844 until 1953 as Yanceyville Baptist Church, and since 1954 as First Baptist Church of Yanceyville. The site of the church was given by Col. Thomas Graves,[70] a

[70] Colonel Thomas Slade Graves (1775-1847)

son of John Herndon Graves[71] and accepted by trustees Thomas W. Graves,[72] Jeremiah Graves,[73] Philip Hodnett, and Calvin Graves.[74] The first church building, a small but pleasing brick building, was removed in 1950 when the present larger and imposing church was built. The cemetery adjacent dates from 1842 when the Rev. John Kerr[75] was buried there. Several distinguished people have been members of this church – among whom were Dr. William Louis Poteat,[76] Miss Ida Isabella Poteat, Dr. Edwin Poteat, Congressman John Kerr, Jr., John H. Kerr, and Mrs. William Oliver Spencer, Sr.[77]

An extensive history of this church dated August 2000 was submitted for inclusion in *In the Beginning: The Churches of Caswell County*, Jean B. Scott, Editor (2001), pp. 27-28. Here is an excerpt:



Original Church Building

There are three different dates given as the beginning of the First Baptist Church of Yanceyville. The earliest is 1833, the date given by the Beulah Baptist Association Minutes of 1922. Then in 1928 Minutes the date given is 1840, the date that Mr. Tom Henderson used in writing an article for the *Greensboro Daily News* in 1950. The minutes of 1837 of the Beulah Baptist Association list a Country Line Baptist Church and its delegates. The delegates were A. Howard, Phillip Hodnett, and John Redding. A. Howard is listed again in 1839 and 1840 as delegate. The 1843 Annual Minutes listed Country Line Baptist Church and Yanceyville Baptist Church together.

Then the minutes showed only the Yanceyville Baptist Church until the church's name was changed in 1954 to the First Baptist Church of Yanceyville, NC. Therefore, the date of 1837 would support the church's existence in 1837 along with the delegates.
The church had its beginning as a result of differences concerning missions. It is no reflection on either the Primitive Baptists or the Missionary Baptists to state that most of the founding fathers of this church were Primitive Baptists who had pulled out of the fellowship of the Country Line Baptist Church following a heated discussion about missions.

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[71] Captain John Herndon Graves (1746-1829)
[72] Probably Thomas Williams Graves (1801-1877)
[73] Jeremiah Graves (1786-1868)
[74] Calvin Graves (1804-1877) who eventually left this church to become a founder member of Trinity Baptist Church and its first clerk.
[75] John Kerr (1782-1842)
[76] Dr. William Louis Poteat (1856-1938)
[77] Powell at 455.

This was perhaps one of the greatest debates that ever was held in this part of the world and it was held on the grounds of Country Line Church when Elders John Kerr and John Stadler engaged in the mission debate. The scholarly Kerr fighting for a more liberal creed was pitted against the Godly homespun philosopher and humorist Stadler. The debate, according to Billie Poteat, lasted almost the entire day and a vote was taken just before evening. Elder Kerr lost, according to Poteat and the recollections of others, and "at sundown Elder Kerr led his followers out of the church, never to return, and moved on over to the village of Yanceyville." This debate was probably in 1833 and support the founding of the church in 1833.[78]
The foundation rocks of the Country Line Baptist Church have never been found on the side of the creek where the church stood near the ancient mill site of the late William Graves. The date of the founding of the Country Line Baptist Church has been debated and it is almost impossible to date.

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"Yanceyville [Baptist Church] Sunday-school has had the same Superintendent for fifty years, and during all this time Bro. [Francis Burkett] Lowndes has been faithful to his trust. He has been blind thirty-five years. His fine form, grey hair and dignified bearing as he is led into the school-room every Sunday morning, is a sermon without a spoken word. He is always gentle and cheerful and his whole life is a reproach to those who, blessed with sight, youth and health, do nothing for the good of the world. Bro. Lowndes's work in Yanceyville should not be forgotten.

"His daughter [Eliza J. (Lizzie) Lowndes], one of the accomplished and popular teachers in the Oxford Female Seminary, has furnished me an interesting statement of her father's life and labors, but I have not access to it at present. I hope soon to write an account of the life work of this eminent servant of God."

L. L.

Source: Baptist Churches of Caswell County. *The Biblical Recorder* (Raleigh, NC), 16 Mar 1892.

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Final Services Will Be Held Today in Yanceyville's Old Baptist Church; To Give Way to Modern New Building

By Tom Henderson

Yanceyville, Jan. 28 -- The walls of Yanceyville's historic Baptist Church will echo some weeping and wailings, along with paeans of thanksgiving, Sunday morning when the pulpit is preached from for the last time and the doors officially locked, preparatory to tearing down the old building and breaking ground for the new, whose architectural magnificence and magnitude

[78] John Joshua James (1814-1892) may have been the first pastor.

will more fittingly eulogize the living God and more lovingly express the denominational loyalties of a growing membership.

Perhaps those who are yet unrelentingly loyal to the ancient landmark, satisfied with its size and imposingness and loath to see it razed will find some consolation in the knowledge that the costlier edifice will arise in the same setting of the grove of oak and hickory donated by Thomas Graves in the long ago.

Many Noted Sons

Through the years this church has been the home-base shrine of the Kerrs, Poteats, the Graves and the Yanceys. From the portals have gone out into state and national life many who have become eminent in the professions of life. Senator Bartlett Yancey, Dr. Edwin McNeill Poteat, Dr. William Louis Poteat, Miss Ida Poteat, Judge John Kerr and Representative John Hosea Kerr, to particularize, learned much of their Bible beliefs from the teachings here.

It is no reflection on either the Primitive or the Missionary Baptists to tell that the founding fathers of the Yanceyville church were mostly Primitive Baptists who had pulled out of the Country Line Church, whose foundation rocks are yet to be found on this side of the creek near the nascent mill site of the late William Graves, now in the possession of the heirs of the late Billie Martin, an ardent and orthodox Primitive Baptist.

The late Dr. Billie Poteat once "commissioned" this humble scribbler to "search the records and find out the historical facts incident to the splitting-off of the Missionary church from the Primitive." Unfortunately, these irreplaceable records have either gone up in smoke or "gone with the wind."

Great Debate Recalled

Dr. Billie told me that the greatest debate ever held in this part of the world was that day on the grounds of the Country Line Church when Elders John Kerr and John Stadler engaged in a forensic contending over the "status quo" of their church. The scholarly Kerr fighting for a more liberal creed, was pitted against the Godly homespun philosopher and humorist Stadler. The oratorical fur flew almost all day long, and a vote was taken just before night. Elder Kerr lost, according to Dr. Billie and the recollections of others, and "at sundown Elder Kerr led his followers out of the church, never to return, and moved on over to the village of Yanceyville."

In the endeavor to be both truthful and fair, this feeble historian must say that some of the descendants of the illustrious John Kerr, contended that their ancestor was at that time a Missionary Baptist preacher living in Virginia -- a "traveling bishop" and organizer of churches of that denomination in both Virginia and North Carolina.

If he was a Missionary Baptist preacher at the time of the debate, one who knows something of the stubborn loyalties of the Primitive wonders how he retained for a day his "status quo" as a

secessionist within the confines of Primitive grounds. There is some substantiation of Dr. Billie Poteat's relatings in the handed-down report, in colloquia vernacular, that when Elder, or Reverend, John Kerr left Country Line Church he carried with him "ha'r, hide, guts and feathers."

Once Only Sunday School in Town

Reminiscently, this scribbler goes back only 6 years in his personal associations with the Yanceyville Baptist Church. My older brother and I were led by our father to its Sunday school, where he was a teacher of the Bible class for many years. He was not a member of any church (his paternal ancestors were Episcopalians of the yet-standing St. John's church of Williamsborough while his maternal were Presbyterians of nearby historic Nutbush), but he was a Bible student of great faith. At the time the Presbyterians and the Methodists in Yanceyville were too feeble in numbers to conduct Sunday schools.

My first "baby roll" teacher was the late Miss Linnie Poteat, who has always been my ideal in the perfection of lovely Christian womanhood.

Indulging further in personalisms, an inclination which may have virtues as well as faults, permits me to say that I can almost call the roll of the Sunday school roster of that long ago. Rev. W. B. Wingate was pastor. Mr. "Buck" Lowndes, blind and wheel-chair-ridden (he was pushed to the pulpit by faithful "Uncle" Jerry Graves, the old Negro who discovered the Ku-Klux-killed body of Senator John Walter (Chicken) Stephens in the Yanceyville courthouse), was Sunday school superintendent.

Blind, But Did His Own Painting

Mr. Lowndes was a Richmond, Va., Baptist who had come to Yanceyville and established a carriage and casket manufactory. Although totally blind, he did his own painting, even to striping wheels. His daughter, Miss Lizzie, who for more than a half century adorned the teaching profession in Yanceyville and in Danville, was also a Sabbath school teacher. A granddaughter, Mrs. Lula Belle Jeter of Greensboro, is the oldest living daughter of this church and Sunday school.

Incidentally, a son of Rev. John Kerr became Judge John Kerr, a jurist widely known for scholarly learning and polished oratory. Most of the descendants of Elder John I. Stadler are yet Primitive Baptists, preserve the "status quo," keep the faith of their fathers and worship at ancient Bush Arbor, now pastored by Elder W. Currie King, one of Greensboro's successful business executives. The new Country Line Church, moved from the old site to across the creek to the "Russell Hills," has almost passed out of the picture. I am informed that his church has now but one member -- Mrs. Lula Poteat Foster -- who lives in Burlington and is nearly 80.

The boundaries of the old graveyard, as we called it back in the days of our provincialisms, have been broadened from time to time. Some of the graves in the oldest section have no

inscriptions on the hand-hewn stones, and there is no way of telling who was first laid to rest there.

Memories Sweet and Sad

The old church has many sweet and sad memories for many of us who were reared in its shadows. I saw and heard Dr. Billie Poteat when he smilingly "preached" his own mother's funeral. I heard the thud of the clods falling on the open graves of "Cap'n Jim Poteat, "Miss Jule (Mrs. Julia McNeill) Poteat, Miss Linnie and Miss Ida. Perhaps my weeping will mingle today with others who love the ancient landmark.

The pastor, Rev. W. T. Baucom, his good wife, the deacons and many of the faithful members have labored long and tirelessly to raise the funds for the planned $50,000 church building. Only three-fifths of the money has been raised, and some of the members feel the building should not be started now, but the majority have their hearts set on the Godly endeavor and to them the completed structure is a vision "like apples of gold in pictures of silver."

Greensboro Daily News (Greensboro, NC), 29 January 1950

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See:

First Baptist Church History
First Baptist Church Pastors
First Baptist Church Records

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Building and Member Photographs[79]
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find A Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[79] House Beside the First Baptist Church of Yanceyville

Gatewood Baptist Church



182 Gatewood Road,
Providence, Caswell County, NC

Gatewood Baptist Church began in 1956 as Foster Road Missionary Baptist Church in an old storehouse that was rented for $10 per month. Rev. Bob Phelps was the pastor, and Joseph Thornton Williams was one of the church's charter members. In 1958 Thornton Williams, with Pastors Clifford Sloan and M. Ray Mabry, arranged for Foster Road Missionary Baptist Church to rent a small white building on Gatewood Road that had been a beer joint called the "White Elephant." The rent was $25 per month. The congregation immediately began cleaning the former beer joint, tearing out the bar, and throwing out lots of beer bottles. In the fall of 1958 they moved in, renaming the church Missionary Baptist Church, then later changing the name to Spiritual Missionary Baptist Church. "Gatewood" was later added to the name when Rev. Lawrence Gentry became pastor. The "White Elephant" building site now is the church's parking lot.

During 1959-1961, there was a succession of pastors. Rev. Clifford and Rev. R. Ray Mabry were the first to serve in the Spiritual Missionary Baptist Church. Church records are inconclusive about other pastors and service dates for this period. However, it is documented that Rev. Walter (Pete) Pulliam was serving as interim pastor when Rev. Lawrence E. Gentry was voted in as pastor on October 28, 1961.
On January 4, 1961, Thornton Williams bought the "White Elephant" and its acre-plus land from Mrs. Frances Bell Smith. She had priced the property at $4,000 but reduced it to $2,500. Thornton paid her 25 $100 bills, using his own money. He had the property deeded to the church.

In 1965 plans were made to replace the "White Elephant" with another building. The church borrowed $3,600 on May 25, 1965 and built a basement. In May 1967 the church borrowed $10,000 to build the sanctuary. The note was paid, and on November 16, 1973 the church borrowed $18,500 to build onto the back of the church (Sunday school rooms, restroom, and a fellowship hall on the basement level). This note was paid in full on April 7, 1977.



September 18, 1977

Rev. Lawrence E. Gentry was pastor from October 18, 1961, until March 1, 1984, when he resigned due to bad health. He still preached from time to time when he was able until 1990. He died February 25, 1990, always a faithful member of Gatewood Baptist Church.

In January 1978 Rev. Lawrence Gentry's son, Rev. John C. Gentry, was voted in as assistant pastor. He had been licensed as a preacher in 1974 and ordained on October 22, 1978. On April 4, 1984, he became pastor of Gatewood Spiritual Baptist Church. During his pastorate the word "Spiritual" was removed from the church name.

A new fellowship hall was built in September 1990 in memory of Pastor L. E. Gentry. The construction took only ten weeks to complete. Today (1998) the church property is valued at over $200,000.

List of ministers: Henry Moose, Bob Phelps, Clifford Sloan, R. Ray Mabry, Walter (Pete) Pulliam, Moses Goodson, Tommy London, Tommy Shelton, Lawrence E. Gentry (wife Bertie), and John C. Gentry (wife Mary Jo), who wrote this history in 1998.[80]

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Note Burned by Gatewood Baptist Church

Special note-burning services were held recently at Gatewood Spiritual Baptist Church on the old Yanceyville Rd. The church was organized in 1962 with the Rev. L. E. Gentry as pastor, with an active membership of 13. Today the church has grown to a membership of approximately 150. At the note-burning were the pastor and the deacons, Johnny Gentry, Raymond Moore, Jack Moore, Joe Williams and Evans Dunevant. The minister's grandson, Randy, lighted the note. The church is now debt free, it was announced.

The pastor told the congregation the church still expects to make some additions, including an all-purpose room for homecomings and other gatherings.

Source: *The Bee* (Danville, VA), 28 April 1973, Saturday, Page 14.
No cemetery is known.

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[80] Scott at 29-30. Homecoming advertisement: *The Danville Register* (Danville, VA) 18 September 1977, Sunday, Page 18.

Building Photographs

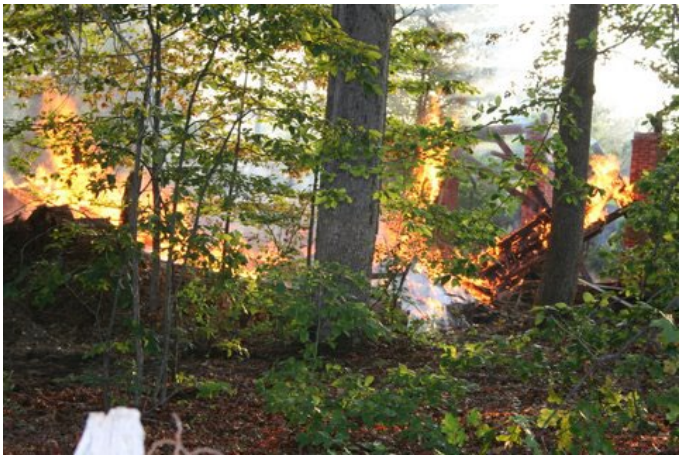
Gilead Presbyterian Church



Highway 62N, Estelle, Caswell County, NC

When Rattlesnake or Bethany Church divided in 1839, the part of the congregation that did not go into Yanceyville formed Gilead Presbyterian Church about five miles west of Milton in the Estelle Community. The church continued until 1858 when it was merged with the church in Milton. During the early years of the Civil War services may have been held at the church again using the old name of Bethany, but, if so, it was abandoned by 1863. In 1892 the congregation was reorganized with W. W. Taylor, elder, and N. T. Rainey, deacon. The Rev. William S. Campbell was the first pastor. The congregation was dissolved on September 8, 1955, and in 1962 the church and the lot on which it stood were sold for $500. In recent years, the building has been used to store tobacco. There is a cemetery in the adjacent woods.[81]

The original 1922 deed was to James Sanders, James Montgomery, John Long, and David Montgomery (probably as trustees for the church, with title being held by the Orange Presbytery). However, as the congregation became so small the church was dissolved and the property sold. It was about two acres and included the cemetery.



In 1897, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted a law making it unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell or otherwise dispose of, with a view to remuneration, any spiritous, vinous, malt or other intoxicating liquors within two miles of Gilead Presbyterian Church in Caswell County, North Carolina.The church building fell into disrepair, and the property was purchased by private owners. The Thomas Day pews were removed. Several were used for the Bartlett Yancey High School football team's use as benches on the sidelines of the football field. One is owned by Yanceyville resident Barry Smith and is used in his Yanceyville home. On July 28, 2007, the church building was intentionally burned by a local volunteer fire department.

[81] Powell at 438.

Photographs of the fire:

Gilead Presbyterian Church Burned

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The following is found in the Session Minutes of the Milton Presbyterian Church dated 23 March 1958: “Discussion of damage to Gilead Church. Session voted unanimously to have it repaired. It was voted to allow the piano to be stored at Milton Presbyterian Church.” However, the damage to the Gilead Presbyterian church is not described.[82]

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"Rev. NR Claytor, longtime Presbyterian minister (lived in the Clay-Irvine house, now home to Jim Upchurch), served five Presbyterian churches in the Milton area--Red House in Semora, Milton Presbyterian, Gilead, Community (across Dan River in Virginia), and Palmer's Chapel -- black congregation. To the back and south side of Gilead is a fairly large cemetery, where Phil Allen's grandparents are buried, as well as the Bryant family. I have an announcement of a Rainey wedding there in 1906." Source: Jean Bradsher Scott 3 March 2014 Post to the Caswell County Historical Association Facebook Page.

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Photographs of gravestones in the Gilead Presbyterian Church cemetery (Estelle, Caswell County, North Carolina) that were cleaned in 2007. Phil Allen (and relatives) cleaned them, against the advice of the Caswell County Historical Association: Gilead Presbyterian Church Cemetery

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[82] *Session Minutes of Milton Presbyterian Church* transcribed by Martha Bradsher Spencer. See the Milton Presbyterian entry in this collection.

God's Blessing Center Church



Highway 62N, Estelle, Caswell County, NC

Organized February 1987 with Bishop F. B. Kidd as the first pastor. It is housed in the former Archibald Murphey Elementary School on Highway 62N south of Milton. No cemetery is known.

However, nearby is the site of the now-demolished Gilead Presbyterian Church and cemetery. The two churches are in no way associated.

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Building Photographs

God's Grace Baptist Church



88 Bethesda Church Road, Casville, Caswell County

The church was founded in 2006 by Pastor Wayne Jones. It originally met at the Central Caswell Ruritan building, then at Pastor Jones's house, finally moving into current building January 2018.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave

Grace Baptist Independent Missionary Church[83]



630 Rascoe Dameron Road
Anderson, Caswell County, NC

No written church history is known.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave

Graves Chapel Missionary Baptist Church



5373 Badgett Sisters Pkwy
Yanceyville, NC

The following historical overview of Graves Chapel Missionary Baptist Church is based upon a church history prepared by Doris Graves Liggins for the church's 128th anniversary on August 10, 2003:

Graves Chapel Missionary Baptist Church is one of the oldest African American churches in Caswell County, North Carolina. The first church building was a log structure erected after the Civil War, probably between 1865 and 1868. Built by former slaves (including Monjett Graves and Morris Graves), the old church building was situated on a small parcel of land donated by four former slave owners: Henry Graves; Lee Graves; Dock Graves; and Bill Graves. The church was named Graves Chapel in honor of these land donors.

The Graves family from whom the land donors descended is one of the oldest families in the United States, dating back to Captain Thomas Graves who was born around 1584 in England. Captain Thomas Graves came from England on the ship *Mary and Margaret* with the Second Supply voyage in 1608 and settled at Jamestown. he was one of the charter members and stockholders of the Virginia Company of London, which had been formed to establish the first

[83] Photograph courtesy Carolina Caswell on Find a Grave.

permanent English settlement in North America. He was a member of the House of Burgess in 1619, the first legislative assembly in what was to become the United States. John Graves, a descendant of Captain Thomas Graves, was the first of the Graves family of Virginia to move to Caswell County, North Carolina, where he settled on Country Line Creek in the 1750's.

Little written information is available concerning the early Graves Chapel log building. However, oral histories collected from older church and community members indicate that Reverend Sandy Wade was the first pastor, with the following people among the earliest church members: Susan Desnoose Graves; Margaret Graves; Lewis H. Graves; Manjett Graves; Lue Ellen Graves Dismuck; Maggie Graves Koger; Mary Graves Mayes; Lillie Bell Graves; Melviney Graves; Madison Graves; Ann Graves; Morris Graves; Bethia Phillips; Mollie Smith Shaw; Reuben Smith; James T. Moore; Willis Carey; Calvin (Red) Graves; Alfred G. Graves; Sandy Wade; Monroe Wade; Kaline Watkins; and Hattie Bigelow.

According to a statistical report included in the minutes of the eighth annual Session of the Cedar Grove Baptist Association, held August 12-14, 1875 (Mount Zion, Person County), Graves Chapel Missionary Baptist Church was an organized church with sixty members under the pastorate of Reverend Alfred G. Graves. The minutes further show that the church sent two delegates to the 1875 Association, M. Wade and M. Graves, who paid a $3.10 "representative fee."

In 1893, to prepare for the church's further growth and development, J. L. and Fannie L. Graves deeded a parcel of land (Caswell County Deed Book XX/307) to Graves Chapel Church in consideration of ten dollars as long as the land was used for church purposes and no other. Additionally, in 1896 the church purchased approximately one acre from Barzillai Shuford and Mallie Graves (Caswell County Deed Book ZZ/540) for the sum of one dollar. The conveyance stipulated that the property be used only for church purposes and upon that purpose not being realized the property would revert to Barzillai Shuford Graves and his heirs. Barzillai Shuford Graves descends from Captain Thomas Graves, thereby continuing the Graves family tradition of providing land for church.

In 1897 a new white wood-frame church building was erected on the land acquired from Barzillai Shuford Graves. The new building was across the road from the old log structure. Dave Poole and Marshall Graves provided the first lumber needed for construction. They cut the lumber and hauled it to the site on a wagon.

In 1922 more land was acquired for the church from Annabelle, Ida, Lillie, and Jim Neal Thompson (Caswell County Deed Book 74/384, with twenty dollars being paid). During that same year, William Henry Graves and Albert Henry (Allie) Graves donated to the church approximately one acre of land to be used as a cemetery (Caswell County Deed Book 74/544). Over the next several decades, under the leadership of Reverends R. S. Clark, K. L. Dixon, C. W. Crutchfield, Tom Harris, and C. W. McBroom, Graves Chapel experienced considerable growth, with the church membership steadily increasing. Homecoming, the fourth Sunday in June, drew record crowds.

In June 1956 a groundbreaking service was held for a new brick and concrete church building, which would be the third.

In 1987 five of the oldest church members were honored and their portraits placed in the church building: Reverend G. P. Graves; Mary Magdalene Piles Irvin Graves (better known as Mary Willie Graves); Mrs. Mary Poole Graves; Hattie L. Sellars; and Mrs. Clayton Johnson. On 31 April 1994 the church welcomed its second white member when Mrs. Emma Lea Chambers was baptized.

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Graves Chapel

Yanceyville -- Men's and Women's Day will be observed Sunday at 3 p.m. at Graves Chapel Baptist Church on Rt. 1, Yanceyville. The Rev. Nathaniel Gaylord, president of Kittrell College in Kittrell will speak. He is also pastor of St. Paul's AME Church in Raleigh.

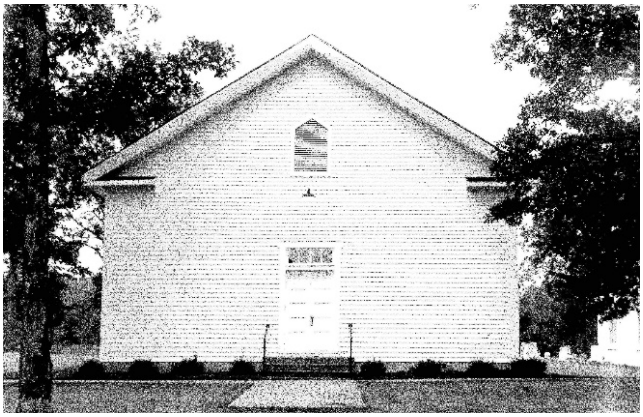
Lunch will be served prior to the service. Mrs. Ethel Fuller and Mrs. Doris Graves Liggins are the program committee.

The Daily Times-News (Burlington, North Carolina), 19 April 1973.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave

Grier's Presbyterian Church



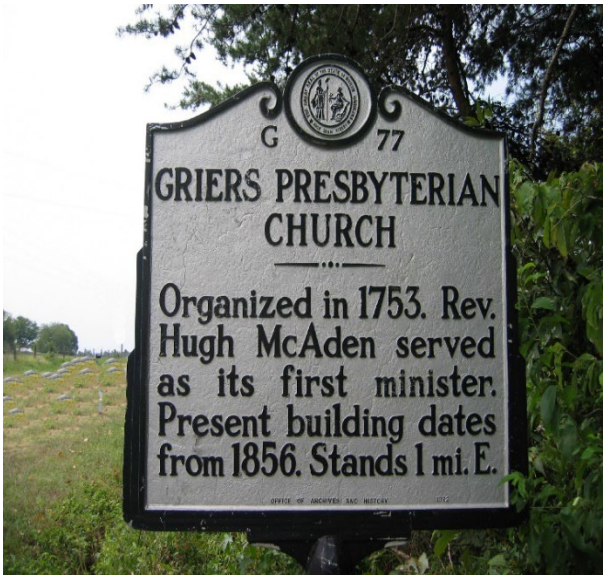
569 Grier's Church Road
Hightowers, Caswell County, NC

It seems generally conceded that Grier's Presbyterian Church northeast of Hightowers is the oldest church in Caswell County. It was organized in 1753. Originally known as Upper Hico or Hyco, it was located about a mile east of the present site where an old cemetery may still be seen. The present site was selected in 1835 and the church still standing was erected in 1856. The congregation may have been formed at the urging of Samuel Bell who moved into the area from Pennsylvania with his brothers and a son-in-law named Donnell. The Rev. Hugh McAden served the church after 1768 when he settled nearby. Between the spring of

1809 and the fall of the following year the name of the church was changed to Greer or Grier. Blacks attended services here, and on September 22, 1850, the Rev. John S. Grasty wrote in his diary that preaching was "interrupted by the shouting of a negro." The congregation has always been small ranging from a low of twelve in 1879 to a peak of seventy-three in 1904.[84]

The following is from *The Heritage of Caswell County* (1985) at 636:

Since Grier's Presbyterian Church was established in 1753, much has happened in the world. Although this was 23 years before the birth of our country, history was being made on the banks of Hyco River. Some of the present members can trace their heritage to very early members.



This country church painted white (present building 1856) has a simple exterior. Inside, the sanctuary is quite beautiful. Note the pulpit area in an arch done in red with hand-carved furniture. The podium is very old and was made from one tree. The chandelier over the center aisle is dated in the early 1800s. The slave balconies on both sides of the church and the pews were constructed with pegs.

Family names of members both past and present include: Smith, Mitchell, Walker, Wilkinson, Hooper, Pattison, Currie, Graham, Newman, Butler, Compton, Everett, Malone, Burton, Trollinger, Pettigrew, Moore, Cooper, Walters, Oliver, Chandler, Covington, Love, Hughes, Fitch, Marcilliot, McMullen, Dunevant, Warren, Long, Rudd, Neighbors, Thomas, Hester, Barker, Talley, Biswell, Wade, Carver, Hamlett, Sluder, Nix, Mise, Williamson, McSwain, Murphy, Rimmer, Satterfield, Bass, Kimbro, McDuffie, Barnwell, Tuck, McCann, Baker, Snyder, and Mebane.

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The following is from *The Heritage of Caswell County* (1985) at p. 48:

Old Grier's Presbyterian Church Cemetery: Abandoned long ago, this old cemetery is located on the old Frogsboro-Corbett Ridge Road, now the John Oakley Road, near the site of Love's Grist Mill. Names found are Allen, Burton, Currie, Johnston, Love, Mitchell, Moore, Morgan, Oakley, Richmond, Wade, Wells, and Woods. William Currie died October 16, 1819, and is the earliest date found. The last known burial here was Miss Maggie Love, who died about 1913. – W. Ernest Blalock. [Two cemeteries are associated with this church.]

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[84] Powell at 434-435.

Grier's Presbyterian Church and associated cemetery is one of two such properties on the National Register of Historic Places. The other is Red House Presbyterian Church.

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For more on this church see: Grier's Presbyterian History; and National Register of Historic Places

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemeteries on Find a Grave
Cemetery (Old) Photographs
Cemetery (New) Photographs

Gwynn's Chapel Baptist Church



242 Gwynn's Chapel Road
Pelham, Caswell County, NC

Gwynn's Chapel Baptist Church located in northwestern Caswell County was established in 1907. In 1962 a new church building was constructed across the road from the old one, with the building subsequently enlarged. A cemetery adjoins the church.[85]

In 1907, the Gwynn family moved to the Pelham community on the Howard farm. There was an old schoolhouse known as the Green Pond School. Mrs. Cora Gwynn opened a Sunday school in this building. At some point the Caswell County School Board apparently demolished the old schoolhouse, and Mr. Howard allowed Mrs. Gwynn to continue her Sunday school in an old log house on his farm. Early participants were the families of Joe Williams, Morris Graves, and Bedford Williamson.[86]

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Building Photographs

[85] Powell at 450.
[86] Scott at 37.

Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Hamer Missionary Baptist Church



4425 NC Hwy 62 N
Blanch, Caswell County, NC

Established 1881 and originally called Hames Chapel Baptist Church for a black blacksmith Thomas Hames of the community (and wife Lucretia). The organizers were James Jeffries, Nelson Moore, Anderson Long, Louis Lea, John Lea, and West Lea. The original building was of logs. The land was purchased for $30, with a second tract of 1.5 acres purchased in 1913 from Cornelia F. Hubbard for $40. In 1934 the log building was replaced with a wooden frame structure. In 1949 the third and present church building was constructed of brick. A 1997 church history was written by Katie Lipscomb and Elaine Jefferies Cunningham.[87]

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For more on this church see: Hamer Missionary Baptist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census

Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Harrison's Meeting House

The *Milton Gazette & Roanoke Advertiser* for July 31, 1830, announced that a cmp meeting for the Caswell Circuit would commence at Harrison's Meeting House on Friday, August 20 "under the superintendence of the Rev. Moses Brock, Presiding Elder for the Yadkin District, with the assistance of the Rev. John H. Watson & John Head. Other travelling and local Preachers are particularly invited to attend." Harrison's Meeting House was a well-known landmark in the north central part of the county and had given its name to the neighborhood by October 1841,

[87] Scott at 38-39.

when the county court designated slave patrollers for it. The site is marked by a cemetery about half a mile north of Purley.[88]

Hebron United Methodist Church



202 Hebron Church Road
Hightowers, Caswell County, NC

Hebron United Methodist Church at Hightowers in the southeast section of Caswell County may date from about 1875, although the records are not clear. The Rev. R. A. Willis held services here from 1879 until 1881, the present church was built in 1909, and the earliest deed located for the property was recorded on April 24, 1916. The earliest grave in the church cemetery is dated 1892.[89]

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The date and source of this record are unknown but apparently came from a list of Caswell County Methodist churches:

Hebron: On State Road 119 one half mile from State Road 86 in the Community of Hightower; Founded in 1910 according to local church information; Earliest deed October 28, 1829, Book AA, Page 95; Membership 40.

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DEEDS: Caswell County, December 14, 2022

"Bonnie McNair, Pamela Lynch, Joel Lynch Sr. and R. Keith Vernon, Trustees of the Hebron United Methodist Church, to Carol McIntyre, Jerry Yarbrough, Franklin Rudd and Donald Carver, Trustees of the Bethel United Methodist Church, and Sylvia Johnson, Paul Richmond, David Powell, H. Leon Richmond, John Berdine and Ron Richmond, Trustees of the Union United Methodist Church, a tract, beginning in the center of Hwy 119, in Hightowers Township."

The Caswell Messenger (Yanceyville, NC), 14 December 2022.

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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

[88] Powell at 444.
[89] Powell at 445-446

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave

High Rock Baptist Church



3330 High Rock School Road
Pleasant Grove, Caswell County, NC

The original church was known as the "Old Field Church" and was located on the north end of what now is Stephentown Road. At some point the church was relocated, and another building constructed on the Stephens property. The site, which is bordered on the northeast by what now is the old John Miles property, was located on a high hill beside a large rock – thus providing the name "High Rock." The first pastor was Rev. Covell Dixon. The second pastor was Rev. Fountain Love. It was May 1, 1912, when Preston Stephens, John Long, Joe Brown, and John Poteat, as trustees, purchased the land at the present location. Almost ten acres were purchased from Julius Johnston for $100 (known as the Hudgins or Hughes place) – for the "colored" race and their successors. The property adjoined the land of Mrs. W. W. Blackwell and Mrs. Sallie Lea. Presumably a church building was constructed soon thereafter.

The present church's most recent addition began June 1984 and was completed July 1986. This consisted of the front part of the church – from the area of the front pews, the pulpit, choir stand, baptizing pool, side halls, pastor's study, trustees' and choir rooms, and restrooms. The dedication service was held May 24, 1987.[90]

"The High Rock Baptist Church, first place winner among Negro churches, was organized about 1876 and now has a membership which totals 260. Work on their new brick veneer church building was launched in October, 1948, and was completed in February, 1949. The structure is valued at between $17,000 and $18,000."

"Caswell County Church Beautification Contest," *The Herald-Sun* (Durham, North Carolina), 25 December 1949, Sunday, Page 33.

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[90] Scott at 40-41.

For more on the history of this church see: High Rock Baptist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census

Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

High Street Baptist Church



11759 Academy St.
Milton, Caswell County, NC

In 1883, a group of men with a vision to establish a self-supporting church began their work. With $60 and a mission, John B. Freeman. W. S. Gamble, Nat Gordon, A. J. Henderson, and John Bonner purchased a lot from John and Bettie Irvine on August 16, 1883, and became founding members of High Street Baptist Church in Milton, NC. Early pastors were C. W. Crutchfield, Jonas Tucker, Roland Mason, J. F. Harraway, Clem Williamson, W. P. Keene, J. C. Cable, Leon Johnson, and Lee Johnson.

In 1948, Reverend Theodore Roosevelt Siddle (1911-2000) was ordained and installed as pastor. He is most remembered for his fine work with church youth. He had a magnetism and youthful spirit that attracted young people to the church. Many who came under his leadership have gone on to become successful in their respective fields.[91] Under Rev. Siddle the church purchased new pews and a new heating system.

In 1971, Rev. Leroy Stephens became pastor and led the church through a building expansion and renovation program. This included new fixtures and air-conditioning. In 1980, Rev. Walter Tinsley became pastor. He oversaw remodeling of the choir loft and the addition on a new church sign. Rev. Rufus Johnson became pastor in 1982 and supervised renovation of the kitchen in the lower auditorium. Under the leadership of Rev. Arthur Crews, in 1985 the church retired its mortgage, bought a church van, and installed new clerical and office equipment. Rev. Charlie Farmer became pastor in 1989. Under his pastorate a lot was purchased from Deacon J.

[91] Including his daughter Dr. Vanessa Siddle-Walker.

T. Bethel for a paved parking lot and a male chorus was organized. In the early years the church was heated by a pot-bellied stove. It still has the church bell.

The foregoing history was prepared by Mrs. Cleota McCain Jeffreys in 1997.[92]

Building Photographs

Holy Tabernacle of Jesus Christ



9487 Ridgeville Rd.
Leasburg, Caswell County, NC

No written church history is known. No cemetery is known to be associated with this church.

Willie Herman Oliver (1939-2013) was a Deacon.

Building Photographs

Jones Cross Road Baptist Church[93]



3651 Stoney Creek School Road
Cherry Grove, Caswell County, NC

Jones Cross Road Baptist Church in the northwestern part of Caswell County was established in 1912. A building erected at that time has twice been enlarged and still serves the congregation. There already was a cemetery at the site (known as Denton's

[92] Scott at 42-43.
[93] Photograph courtesy Carolina Caswell.

Cemetery and used by whites) now used by the church.[94]

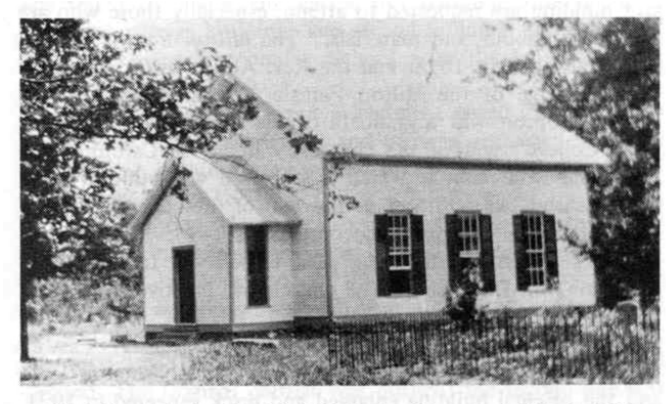
Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Kerr's Chapel Baptist Church



2980 Kerr's Chapel Road
Stony Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina

Kerr's Chapel Baptist Church in southern Caswell County near Stoney Creek Mountain on the Alamance County line was established in 1843 on land given by James Kerr.[95] The church was originally known as Sycamore Grove Church, but the name was changed in 1845 to honor the Rev. John Kerr, born nearby in 1782 and who died in 1842. The Rev. Mr. Kerr was a member of Congress in 1813-15 and 1815-17, after which he became a popular and effective preacher in Virginia and North Carolina. A new church apparently was built in 1844 with galleries on either side. About 1892 the building was enlarged slightly, and the galleries removed. Finally, in the 1950s it was torn down and a new church was completed in 1957. The records of the church for the period 1842-1965 have been microfilmed.[96]



Kerr's Chapel Baptist Church in 1928

In 1845 the name of the Sycamore Grove Church was changed to Kerr's Chapel in his [Reverend John Kerr} memory. In the same year his brother, James Kerr, gave land for a new church of the missionary Baptist faith on the main road leading from Stony Creek bridge to Anderson Store. This is the present location of Kerr's Chapel, Caswell County. Sources: White -- History of First Baptist Church of

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[94] Powell at 450.
[95] James Kerr (1788-1848), brother of Reverend John Kerr (1782-1842). Oddly, Reverend John Kerr is buried at the First Baptist Church of Yanceyville.
[96] Powell at 450-451.

Richmond; Virginia Baptist Preacher, September 1843; and Caswell County deeds

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For more on the history of this church see: Kerr's Chapel Baptist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Lea Bethel Baptist Church



1820 Ridgeville Road
Prospect Hill, Caswell County, North Carolina

Lea Bethel Baptist Church, about a mile south of Ridgeville in the southeastern section of Caswell County, was formed by about seventeen people with itinerant pastors during the period 1880-1885. In 1904 a church was organized and afterwards remodeled and enlarged several times until 1938 when the present church building was erected. It too has been remodeled in recent years. (See also Old Lea Bethel Baptist Church).[97]

The beginning of Lea Bethel Baptist Church is to be found during the second half of the 1800s. In 1883 three trustees of Beulah Baptist Church purchased a lot for the construction of a "church house." In 1884, a "church" house called "Lea Bethel" was dedicated at that site. Little is known about the construction of this first building except that it was accomplished at a cost of about $500. The name may have been chosen because the Lea family of Beulah Church played an important part in establishing this small church.

In 1890, six and one-half years after the land purchase, Lea Bethel was constituted as a church and was and was admitted into the Beulah Association. Membership ranged from 12 (four men and eight women) in 1891 to 23 in 1896. Sunday School enrollment was as high as 48 in 1891.

As early as 1913 Lea Bethel had combined with Clement Baptist Church to form one church field. Lea Bethel began its fourth decade as one of four churches in a field composed of Lea Bethel, Clement, Lamberth Memorial, and Semora. Reverend L. V. Coggins came to the field in 1921 and served until 1948 when he resigned due to poor health. He and Mrs. Coggins lived in

[97] Powell at 451.

the parsonage at Semora with no controlled heat and no plumbing most of the 27 years he served the field.

In 1973 T. A. Watson and J. N. Watson offered a one-acre lot in front of Willie L. Compton's home for a new church building. The building committee concluded the location was near the center of the church's congregation and accepted the offer. On this lot the present church was built. By 1959 an educational building was completed that included a pastor's study, a kitchen, a nursery, two restrooms, an enlarged choir loft, a junior assembly room, a baptistry, and thirteen classrooms. In 1960 a cemetery was established on one acre of land donated by the T. A. Watson family.

In 1968 Lea Bethel's first full-time pastor was hired. In 1974 the Jack Watson family donated one and one-third acres of land to the church for parking and recreation. In 1975 the congregation undertook remodeling the sanctuary and making many necessary improvements to the church plant. The sanctuary was extended to allow space for additional pews, a vestibule and four Sunday school rooms. The rostrum was remodeled, making space for a piano on the left and an organ on the right. New Accordion doors were installed to separate classrooms on either side, and stained-glass windows and a steeple were added. The cost was $57,000. In 1995 a fellowship hall was dedicated, consisting of four classrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen, storage room, and fellowship hall. The cost was $226,000.

Prepared by Mrs. Dorothy B. (Coy E., Jr.) Mabe[98]

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[98] Scott at 47-49.

Lea's Chapel United Methodist Church[99]



6415 Leasburg Rd.
Person County, NC
(336) 597-4257

The church was established in 1750 as an Anglican Chapel by the Lea family that founded Leasburg, Caswell County, NC.[100]

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Building and Related Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery Photographs

Leasburg United Methodist Church



Hwy 158E
Leasburg, Caswell County, NC

The Leasburg United Methodist Church traces its origins to an early 19th century church known as Bethany that was located about 2.5 miles north of Leasburg. Bethany's deed was dated June 26, 1836. Bethany was the site of camp meetings and was also known as Old Camp Ground Church.

[99] This church is in Person County just east of Leasburg. It is included here because the church was important to the early history of the area. Person County was part of Caswell County until 1792.

[100] Rose, Ben Lacy and Satterfield, Preston III. *Chapel on South Hyco: The Story of Lea's Chapel United Methodist Church, Person County, North Carolina*. Richmond: Robert Schreiber, Printing, 2000.



Built about 1857, it was remodeled several times, the final remodeling was done in 1916. A new brick structure replaced this church about 1953, and this old building was torn down about the same time in 1953.

As the population of Leasburg grew it became less convenient for people to attend services at Bethany, so services began to be held in the boy's academy building adjacent to the present Leasburg cemetery. The Bethany property was sold in 1886. About 1857 a church was erected near the cemetery and next door to the parsonage that the congregation already owned. The Methodists joined forces with the local Masonic lodge and erected a two-story structure; the second floor contained a Masonic Hall while the first floor served as a church. In 1896 the second floor was removed, and the remaining structure remodeled to make it look more like a church than the factory it had sometimes been mistaken for previously. The Leasburg Methodist Church was long noted for its early and excellent Sunday School, and during a period of ninety years had only six superintendents. The Sunday School library was notable and at one time numbered over 160 volumes. An elderly black sexton rang the bell on a regular schedule for many years. On one occasion he seemed to ring it early and when questioned about it, he replied: "I ring it when I git ready; you kin come when you git ready." In 1952 the congregation moved into a large new brick church.[101]

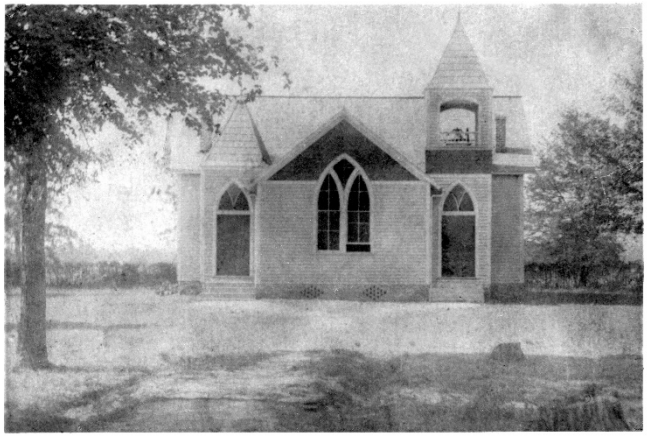
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On Thursday, the 3rd of August 1780, Francis Asbury traveled 25 miles from Hillsborough to the home of John Lea in Caswell County. A quarterly meeting was held on Saturday the 5th at Henley's preaching house. He lodged that night with Mr. Lea and preached the next day near the Lea home. The following is a quote from the journal of Francis Asbury: "Sunday Aug. 6th. We had a great meeting, love feast at ten – very warm weather; a log house, covered with long shingles; the sun beating through. At one o'clock preaching began. I spoke on Eph. Iii, 16-18, to about 500 people; was blest and the word went with power. Some were moved, some hardened, yet I hope good was done and the work will revive." A small walnut table, said to be where Francis Asbury rested his Bible when he preached here, has made its way into the present church [Leasburg United Methodist Church] as a reminder of our early religious history.

Leasburg's Lea family and indeed many of its early settlers were members of the Anglican Church, but with the coming of the War of Independence ties with the mother church in

[101] Powell at 441-442.

England were hard to maintain. These people, isolated and struggling, welcomed such spiritual leaders as Rev. Asbury and the other circuit preachers who made regular treks through Leasburg and the surrounding area. So faithful were these circuit riders to their rounds that a common remark of the period in rough weather was, “There’s nothing out today but crows and Methodist preachers.”



In 1857, members of the congregation and the Masons built a rectangular, frame, two-story building on land donated by Martha Paylor Hambrick. It was located next door to the parsonage. This building was described as resembling, and was often mistaken for, the tobacco factory nearby. Worship services were held on the first floor. The second floor was used for the meetings of the Masons and other community organizations.

The Masons disbanded, and in 1896 the upper story was removed. In 1910 there was further renovation, and the little frame structure, which now looked very much like a church, was given a fresh coat of white paint. Its appearance remained unchanged until the building was razed in the early 1950s. At this time, it was decided that a new church building was needed because of drastically increased membership. This much larger brick structure was dedicated May 17, 1953 and is the building presently in use. A steeple was added in 1963, and at that time Miss Ella Thompson and Miss Helen Graves donated the chimes that call people to worship services, funerals, and to meditation in the evening. Ernest Winstead saw that these were working properly. The fellowship hall was added to the rear of the church in 1967. It was built by church members, the pastor, nonmembers, and people from other churches. The latest change to the appearance of this building has been the covered sidewalk added to the front entrance in the late 1970s.

In 1961 a new parsonage was built to the left [east] of the church. Land for the parsonage was donated by the Connally family. The old parsonage was sold to Raymond Bradsher, Jr.

In the mid-1800s a church library was active, but as more people could afford their own books and had access to public libraries, this library was no longer used. In the early 1960s Miss Sallie B. Newman, along with Mrs. Reginald Ponder again established a library. This library now numbers some 750 volumes. Hilda Holt is the present librarian.

Organizations of the church include, The Bright Jewels Band, a 19th century youth group, United Methodist Youth Fellowship, United Methodist Women, and the United Methodist Men.

Beginning with the pastorate of Brian Sexton, Leasburg United Methodist Church became independent from Salem Methodist Church and was no longer part of a charge.

Music has always been important to the people of Leasburg Methodist. Mr. Ed Lea led the singing for many years before any instrument was used. A pump organ was purchased in 1881 and was used until 1900 when it was replaced by a piano. The two organists during this period were Martha Pulliam Newman and Bessie Thompson. This organ has been restored and is now owned by Jeannine Whitlow. In the early 1960s Jerry Warren Dixon donated an electronic organ to the church. Those who have played this organ are Mrs. Reginald Ponder, Mary Linda Winstead, and Jeannette Davis Briggs. Pianists have been numerous. Some of the most recent are Jean Davis, Lynn Dixon Holt, and Janet Davis. Yolanda Dixon has been the choir director and an outstanding soloist for the past twenty years. There have been many out of the ordinary voices in the choir over the years. Legendary are the basses of Joe Pulliam and Wm. Dow Fulcher, Sr., the tenors of Walter Connally and currently Newman Bradsher, and the soprano of Nancy Newman Stephens and the alto of her sister Emma Newman Bradsher.

Present Membership of Leasburg United Methodist Church is around 230 people, with about 70 active members.

Pastors who have served this church are:

J. P. Simpson
Alfred Norman
James Reed
L. L. Shell
Dr. John Tillett

Rev. Kingsbury
G. W. Ivey
Dr. J. W. North
L. L. Massey
R. H. Broom

J. B. Thompson
Rufus Bradley
R. F. Taylor
N. C. Yearby
T. M. Grant

J. M. Ormand
C. R. Ross
J. A. Martin
R. E. Atkinson
S. F. Nicks

E. R. Clegg

J. T. Stanford
J. W. Demmett
E. W. Hurst
W. C. Jones

Chancie De Shield Barclift (1930-1931)
T. R. Jenkins
David Dinwiddie Traynham
F. A. Lupton
W. G. Burgin

J. R. Reagan
Edward Franklin Smith
P. Wesley Aitkin (also seen as Aitken and Aikens)
Rufus Stark
H. H. Hodgin, Jr.

Eugne Wood
Robert McBride
R. W. Ponder
Holland Hale
W. A. Wentz, Jr.

Charles Hutchinson
Earl G. Dulany
Randy Hillman
K. Brian Sexton
Robert Sadler

Sunday School Superintendents have been Benjamin Stanfield, Wm. Paylor, Major George N. Thompson, B. F. Stanfield, W. J. Pulliam, Bessie Thompson, Mattie Pulliam, Mrs. Nash Winstead, Samuel H. Winstead, Mrs. John Stephens, Jr., Charlie Wayne Coleman, Bert Coleman, and Virginia Tatum.

Secretaries have been very few and have served long terms, Riley Hambrick, George Connally, Anabel Thompson, Bertwell Winstead, Curtis Briggs, Shirley Denny, and Sue Whitlow.

Sources: *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, Powell's *History of Caswell Co.*, church histories by Bessie and Ella Thompson, *Sweet Leasburg* by Ella Thompson, *World Bk. Ency., Francis Asbury in N.C.* –Carroll.

-- Mary Linda Winstead Janke[102]

[102] "Leasburg United Methodist Church" in *The Heritage of Caswell County* (1985) at pp.37-38.

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An extensive church history also is in *In the Beginning: The Churches of Caswell County*, Jean B. Scott, Editor (2001) at pp. 50-53 (written by Miss Bessie Thompson with additional notes by Jeannine D. Whitlow).

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The following is from Dixon, William S. *The Leasburg I Knew* (1968):[103]

Our nearest neighbors were the George Thompson[104] family. Mr. Thompson was deceased, but his third wife lived there with the children of his three marriages.

Of the first family was Miss Bessie.[105] Miss Bessie attended Solomon Lea's Academy, there in Leasburg. At this time, she was teaching school. The horse was hitched to the wagon, and with a little colored boy, Dave Curry, sitting beside her, grinning like a "Cheshire," she drove off to school over near Mr. Charlie Winstead's home, on the road to olive hill. Sometimes she rode the horse side saddle, with Dave behind her. Miss Bessie was the organist at the Leasburg Methodist Church, and teacher of the grown-ups, biggest class in the Sunday School.

Then there was Miss Annabel[106] of the second family. She was the man of the house and did a bit of farming with the help of the same Dave Curry. She wore a man's hat and coat when doing these farm duties but at other times was the acme of simple neatness and good taste. She was Sunday School teacher of the boy's class for years and a good teacher she was.

The Methodist Church, stood as now, at the intersection of the Semora Road with the Roxboro-Yanceyville Road, the parsonage alongside, to the west. There were five churches in the Leasburg circuit, Salem, Bethel, Hebron, and Union. I am not sure how one preacher made the rounds. I do know he preached once a month in Leasburg in the morning, and at 3:00 p.m. most every other Sunday, as well as Sunday night. Ed [Lea] said that Wednesday night prayer meeting was Leasburg's "matchmaker," it provided such a comfortable opportunity for the boys to escort the girls to and from church.[107] The modern "date" was unheard of at the time. Adjacent to the parsonage was the Joe Pulliam home and across the street was Pulliam's store.

Mr. J. W. (Joe) Pulliam, owner of Pulliam's Store, was one of the finest men I ever knew.[108] Not only was he pleasant and friendly in his business relations, but he was a mainstay in the church. As long as I lived in Leasburg, he was Sunday School Superintendent. I can still see Mr. Pulliam standing back of the organ with Miss Bessie Thompson at the organ and Ed Lea seated just back

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[103] William Sergeant Dixon, Jr. (1896-1978); *The Leasburg I Knew*
[104] George Nicholas Thompson (1832-1891)
[105] Bessie Thompson (1870-1955)
[106] Anabel Lea Thompson (1876-1937).For more on the Thompson family go to Caswell County Genealogy
[107] Edward Wadsworth Lea (1844-1921), son of Reverend Solomon Lea (1807-1897).
[108] This is William Joseph (Joe) Pulliam (1850-1934)

and to her right. There was no choir. Everybody sang. Ed led the singing. Mr. Pulliam sang a good bass. Walter Connally sat nearby; he was our only tenor and he had a beautiful voice.[109] Up the hill was Connally's store, managed by Mr. H. T. Connally,[110] and adjacent, was the Connally home, one of the finer homes in Leasburg. Here lived fiery, but likeable, Mr. Henry Connally, wife Sallie, daughters Mary and Mildred, and sons, George, Edgar and Walter.

Connally's store was mainly operated by George, the bachelor son.[111] George was a favorite with lady customers, for he carried a good selection of dress goods and accessories and he had a knowledge of just which of such items would be becoming to his customers. He kept individual tastes in mind when he made buying trips to Richmond. He also had a pleasant manner and voice, which customers appreciated. I would be amiss not to mention the great service George Connally gave the [Leasburg Methodist] church. He took it on himself to act as custodian and kept the church spic-and-span condition, rang the bell, provided and arranged flowers for services, and on cold days, started fires in the two stoves that heated the building. He was also Sunday School Secretary, and part of the time, was Treasurer.

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There has been uncertainty as to the Caswell County Methodist churches served by Reverend Samuel Freeman Nicks (1874-1946) and how long he was in Caswell County. The following helps. It appears he had served the Yanceyville circuit since 1915 and presumably served the Leasburg circuit until at least 1923.

The Caswell County Methodist churches associated with each circuit remains unclear.

Yanceyville, Dec. 27. -- Rev. S. F. Nicks and family left Saturday for their new home at Leasburg. Mr. Nicks served the Yanceyville [Methodist] circuit for four years. He and his family endeared themselves to the people of the town who have regretted to see them leave.

Greensboro Daily News (Greensboro, NC), 28 December 1919.

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In 1909 the following Methodist ministers were serving Caswell County, North Carolina:

Nicks: Pelham and Shady Grove
Ross, C. R.: Yanceyville
Usry: Milton
Yearby: Leasburg

The North Carolina Methodist Conference had a rule that required ministers to move to another church (called a charge) after four years.

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[109] Unknown is whether this is Walter Eugene Connally (1878-1956) or his son of the same name (1909-1940).
[110] Henry Thomas Connally (1849-1914).
[111] George Berryman Connally (1873-1956).

Raleigh Christian Advocate (Raleigh, NC), 21 Oct 1909.

Yearby apparently was reassigned to Mt. Tirzah in Person County and was replaced by J. C. Humble.

S. F. Nicks apparently was reassigned to Hillsborough and was replaced by L. L. Nash.

Usry apparently was replaced by W. T. Nory.

Goldsboro Daily Argus (Goldsboro, NC), 30 Nov 1909.

Of course, in 1909 there were other Methodist churches in Caswell County, but they were served by the minister in charge of a "circuit."

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The date and source of this record are unknown but apparently came from a list of Caswell County Methodist churches:

Leasburg: On U.S. Highway 158 in the Community of Leasburg; founded in an Anglican Church and became Methodist related by 1836 according to local church information; Earliest deed June 26, 1836, Book CC, Page 491 (This lot on which the Methodist Church was located was sold July 13, 1886, Book TT, Page 512 by the trustees of Bethany Church); Membership 206.

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Leasburg Methodist Church Auxiliary: 1913

In February 1913, the Leasburg Methodist Church Auxiliary met at the parsonage and elected the following officers:

President, Mrs. M. C. Thomas; Vice-President, Mrs. R. T. Newman; Recording Secretary, Miss Mary Connally; Treasurer, Miss Mattie Pulliam; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. C. R. Ross; and Press Superintendent, Miss Bessie Thompson.

The treasurer's report showed that the group had raised more money in 1912 than in any previous year. The purpose of the funds raised apparently was to support missionaries.

Raleigh Christian Advocate (Raleigh, North Carolina), 27 February 1913.

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The cemetery links below are to the Leasburg Community Cemetery. While it is located behind the Leasburg United Methodist Church the cemetery is used by all denominations.

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The following is from the *Rocky Mount Telegram* (Rocky Mount, NC), 7 September 1952.

New Church Dedicated at Services and Homecoming at Leasburg, Caswell County: Century Old church Linked with Educator; Historical Background is Two Centuries Old

By Frances J. Lyon

Taking an about-face on the March of Time and going back some more than a hundred years, we review a little village in North Carolina, the acquaintance of the man whom the present Greensboro College for Women selected to be its first president, and renew the birth of one of the earliest Methodist country churches in our state.

New Church Marks Anniversary

A Caswell County church marked its approximately 100th anniversary this past month of August [1952]; however, the celebration marked more than the beginning of a small country church in the little village. The homecoming event for the villagers and their families was held Sunday, August 31, and a new church was dedicated.

Dr. Solomon Lea was reared in the strict discipline of his Methodist father and mother, William and Sarah McNeil Lea, in Leasburg, Caswell County, North Carolina, a village that was settled by William and his brother, James. The Leas came to the states from England and as legend goes they brought the across from their native land acorns that planted a large grove of oaks in the midst of which the Lea home was built, that the settled in or about the middle 18th century.

Caswell county lies in the north-central portion of the Piedmont Region of North Carolina. The boundary lines of the county form an almost geometrical square with the line dividing North Carolina and Virginia furnishing the northern boundary. This county, named for Governor Richard Caswell, has for its county seat, Yanceyville, located almost in the center and just to the east of the county seat is Leasburg, a possible forty miles from the nearest city, that of Danville, Virginia.

Educator and Methodist Leader

Solomon Lea, the third son of William and Sarah McNeil Lea, was of English descent on his father's side and Scotch on his mother's. His parents were second cousins. He was reared in the lap of Methodism. Originally the Lea family belonged to the Established Church of England and a few miles from Leasburg stands a Methodist church which bears the name of "Lea's Chapel." Here the Leas worshiped before the Revolution according to the rites of the English church.

Following Solomon Lea's early schooling in a country school near the Leasburg home, he was sent to the University of North Carolina, where he was graduated in 1833. He began his life's work as a teacher in Warrenton, N. C., teaching there for two years; and while there met the lady, Sophia Ainger, also of English descent, whom he married in 1837. She was a teacher like

himself. Net he taught in Randolph Macon College the located in Boydton, Mecklenburg County, Virginia, during 1835-1836. It was during this time that he met the late Reverend T. M. Jones, for many years president of Greensboro Female College, who was a student and Latin pupil of his. After this, Mr. Lea became the principal of Boydton Female College until 1841; then, he went to Farmville, Virginia, and taught a female school for the next two years; and then, Greensboro Female College made him its first president.

Quoting D. T. M. Jones in his centennial address -- "On February 1846, the trustees of Greensboro Female College selected a faculty with the Reverend Solomon Lea, a local minister of Leasburg, N. C. as president -- a gentleman of liberal culture and pleasing manners and a teacher by profession." He had the honor of organizing the classes in the first regularly chartered female college in North Carolina and the second south of the Potomac -- the Wesleyan Female College at Macon, Georgia, being he first.

Founded Leasburg School

Leaving Greensboro College after two years, Solomon Lea returned to his home and birthplace, in Leasburg and there he founded and established Somerville Female Institute, and at the same time, re-established himself with the Methodist church as a leader just as his father before him. The school became popular and was largely patronized. Scores of North Carolina and Virginia girls were educated there. Soon after the close of the Civil War, the school was changed to a mixed one and with the exception of two years, was continuously taught by him, from 1848 until 1892, just five years before his death in 1897 at the age of 90 years. During the forty-four years as a teacher in Leasburg, he served as a local preacher in the Methodist church. He was both friend and ally of the minister in charge of the village country church and hardly a Sunday passed that he did not preach in the local church or at one in its community. As history describes the greatly admired and beloved leader, he was seen many a day as well as Sunday, rain or shine, dressed in black coat high buttoned under the collar that was tied with black bow know; his brown curly hair (which never turned gray), flowing in the breezes, sitting straight and stalwart astride his proud horse, riding through the village street. The Reverend Mr. Lea was on his way to give a message of love at some church gathering or to spread happiness and cheer to some of his people. He tied the "nuptial know" for scores of his pupils besides many others and residents of the Leasburg community, today, firmly believe that he must have officiated for the first marriage that took place in the little old white frame structure.

Origin of Church

The Methodist church of Leasburg, which had its origin only a mile or so north of the little village on what the settlers called "the old camp ground," was moved into the heart of its people in 1857, and the late Brock Hambrick gave the land where the original white frame building was built. The first pastor was the Reverend J. P. Simpson and Dr. Tillitt, known as the "Iron Duke of Methodism," when serving as presiding elder for the district, made his home in the village. The place of worship was two story, the upper room serving as a lodge for the Masonic Order. In 1896 under the pastorate of the Reverend R. A. Broom, the upper room was

removed from the building and some few improvements made that gave the small building more the appearance of a church. Later in 1909-1910, at the time of Dr. . A. Ormond's pastorate, now of Duke University, Durham, the church was again remodeled. It stood, a small white frame structure of one large sanctuary heated by a small stove in each far rear corner.

As I so vividly remember the small neighborhood country church in my childhood days, the village folk gathered there on Sunday mornings at 10 o'clock for Sunday school and, following their group lesson hearings, all moved together into the center of the large room for a closing worship hour with Miss Bessie Thompson at the "old push Stop button" organ, a service she rendered her church from 1889 until about 1900 when the two pedal pump organ was replaced by a piano. The first organist of the church was the late Martha Pulliam Newman, who after her marriage in the year 1889 moved from the little community to Winston-Salem where she made her home until death. This church stood until this year.

Of special interest to note about the village community and the little church that all grew up in is that most of its people were kin. In earlier days following its settlement by the Leas, there were the Pulliams, Newmans, Connallys, Bradshers and Stanfields. These families, some intermarried, thus most everybody was kin to everybody and the little village was like one big family.

The late W. Joe Pulliam, who married the late Fannie Newman, served the Sunday school as its superintendent for well over a quarter century and at his death in 1935 MIss Bessie Thompson became the superintendent: a church service, even though she is now in her early 80's, she still holds. Prior to Mr. Pulliam the superintendents were as follows: Benjamin Stanfield, William Paylor, G. N. Thompson and B. F. Stanfield.

Old Burying Ground

Not too far from the church is the burying ground and probably it may be far older than the church. All of the Leas are buried there: grandfather, father, and son. Some of the graves there have no markers at all and some, the old red brick Mausoleum, are not even readable.

Edward F. Smith, now pastor of the church, officiated Sunday at the new dedication services of the new church. Built of red brick, it stands two stories high, with the main sanctuary and three Sunday school classrooms on the first floor and several classrooms on the second.

Many Gifts Are Given

Dr. J. M. Ormond, a former beloved pastor of the Leasburg church and the Reverend D. D. Traynham, also a former pastor of the circuit, both spoke to the some several hundred village church members and its visiting former members and their families at the Sunday service. At this time special gratitude was paid the Duke Endowment officials, of which Dr. Ormond was in charge, for a contribution of $3500.00 and to the North Carolina Conference Board of Missions and Church Extension, J. R. Garlingston, chairman, for a liberal gift of $500.00 and a generous

loan. The Reverend Mr. Smith announced that the pulpit rail, rostrum and pulpit furniture were given by Miss Mary Shore and Mrs. Lucille Cobern, of Person County, in memory of their father, The late Reverend John Henry Shore, a pastor of the church before the turn of the century, and Mrs. Shore. The carpeting was given by Mr. and Mrs. John O. Gunn of Yanceyville and many gifts ranging from small donations to large ones were made by both the church people and former members who have moved away from the village, but who wished to still have a part in their beloved native church.

Dr. T. McM. Grant, pastor of the First Methodist church, this city, began his ministry serving the Leasburg church as his first pastorate.

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The following is from the *Raleigh Christian Advocate* (Raleigh, North Carolina), 4 February 1985 (paragraph breaks added):

Reminiscences of By-Gone Days

Camp-Meetings At Bethany Church, Near Leasburg, Caswell County Fifty Years Ago

By Rev. Solomon Lea
"It may be both interesting and instructive during these Centenary Years of Methodism to call to mind some incidents connected with these meetings, and the distinguished preachers who participated in them.

"Bethany Church still stands in a grove of venerable oaks, which, if they could speak, could tell many a thrilling tale. The house is of brick, which looks as fresh as if it was just built. It still stands as a monument to the memory of Benjamin F. Stanfield, and John Johnston, who lived near by, and who were the main leaders in its erection.

"The neat cabins for the tent-holders that surrounded the Church have all disappeared and the Church, as to members, has nearly gone down. In former times the membership amounted to hundreds, now it has dwindled to some eight or ten. They still cling to it and are unwilling to give it up.

"But the influence that emanated from these camp=meetings at Bethany Church have not died away. For many miles around the sacred spot, both in Caswell and Person, Methodism is fully established. Leasburg and the surrounding country are almost exclusively Methodist, and a more religious and moral community can hardly be found anywhere.

"Doubtless it may be traced back to these camp-meetings at Bethany Church held between 1831 and 1840. I call to mind some of the noted preachers who attended these meetings, and who have left their impress upon this community and the Church at large. Among them may be mentioned Moses Brock, Hezekiah G. Leigh, John Early, Peter Doub, Lewis Skidmore, Hammett, McAden, and several others. They have all long since gone to the better land, from the Church

militant to the Church triumphant, where camp-meetings will never end. These ministers were giants in their day. They would preach sometimes two hours or more, hold the audience spell bound, many powerfully convicted, and when invited, there would be a general rush to the altar amidst the shouts of Christians. At some of the camp-meetings as many as seventy-five, and a hundred, and one time, one hundred and sixty-seven professed religion.

"I remember one thrilling incident. It was Sabbath, a vast crowd had assembled. Brock, I think, was the preacher (another brother thinks it was Hammet). As he proceeded in his discourse, a divine unction rested upon him, the word was attended with power, and when penitents were invited, among the scores that pressed to the altar, was Ned Davis, a notable character, a professional gambler and horse-racer. He was standing on the outskirts of the congregation, catching hold of the arm of one of his associates, he walked rapidly towards the pulpit, his friend releasing his hold, passed off. Just before reaching the altar, he turned around to the audience, exclaiming aloud, 'farewell world.' Advancing a few steps further, he knelt down amidst the cries of the penitents and the shouts of the Christians. It was not more than sixty minutes before he rose praising God. A shout went up from the camp that thrilled the whole congregation. Davis had his horses on the premises, attended by his negro boy, who said to his baster, 'what shall we do with the horses now?' As quick as thought, he replied, 'go to camp-meetings with them.'
"He had a very devoted pious father-in-law on the camp ground whose prayers were continually ascending in behalf of his son-in-law. Once he caught hold of the arm of Davis, held him fast and knelt down and poured out an agonizing prayer for him. He did not resist, but stood still until the prayer was finished and walked off apparently unaffected. Let us follow the career of this notable character. He disposed of his horses, became a most devoted Christian, moved out to the Western part of North Carolina where he worked and superintended a gold mine. The last I heard from him, he employed a minister to preach to the negroes while he himself held on to his religion.

"Doubtless he has long since died and gone to the Heavenly country, where he is exploring a mine more precious than gold. Hey yet speaketh, though dead."

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New Building Ready For Leasburg Church

Leasburg, Aug. 28 -- "The morning service of worship in the Leasburg Methodist Church in Caswell County Sunday morning will find the homecoming congregation meeting in a new church and Sunday school building.

"The building program which has been under way for two years is virtually completed and the church will be ready for occupancy at the homecoming service.

"Three former pastors, the Rev. F. A. Lupton, the Rev. D. D. Traynham, and the Rev. J. M. Ormond, have been invited to take leading parts in the service. The incumbent pastor, E. F.

Smith, who completes his service in the Leasburg Church and charge next Sunday, will be the presiding minister."

The Herald Sun (Durham, North Carolina), 29 August 1952.

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Ministers Mentioned:

Lupton, Frederick Arthur
Ormond, J. M.
Smith, Edward Franklin
Traynham, David Dinwiddie

United Methodist Clergy

From the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church website:

Rev. Traynham was born in Clarkton, NC & joined the NCUMC Conference in Henderson in 1935.

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Associate Pastor Is Announced

Swepsonville -- Rev. Cliff Attkinson of Hampton Va., a student at the Duke University School of Divinity, will assume a temporary position Sunday as associate pastor at Swepsonville Methodist Church. Rev. Attkinson, who has held a similar position with the Leasburg Methodist charge in Caswell County, will be at Swepsonville five weeks and will give particular attention to youth work.

The Daily Times-News (Burlington, NC), 3 July 1964.

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For more on this church see: Old Leasburg Methodist Church

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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Lebanon Christian Church



349 Cunningham Road
Semora, Caswell County, NC

Lebanon Christian Church near the Person County line a short distance northeast of Semora was organized about 1845. The original frame building seated over 200 people. Members of the Apple family were among those most active in the early years. A new building was erected in 1885 to seat 350 and in 1950 it was completely renovated.[112]

Several variations of the name have been used, including Lebanon Christian United Church of Christ.

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Lebanon Congregational Christian Church was organized in 1845. In 1885 a new building was erected, and in 1895 a recessed pulpit was added. In the year 1905 the church set aside the third Sunday in May for Memorial Day to honor its dead. In 1952 the church was remodeled, and classrooms added. This church had a heating plant installed when it was remodeled. In 1962 a basement was added which provided one more classroom and a recreation room. Water fountains were placed in the hall and rest rooms were installed too. About two years ago the pulpit and aisles were carpeted.

Source: Barker, Ophelia, Editor. "A Brief History of Neighborhood Churches" in *History of Connally United Methodist Church, Milton, North Carolina, Organized 1821* (1969), p. 18-19.

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Early records testify to the fact that Rev. James O'Kelly founded the Christian Church after a break with Bishop Francis Asbury and the Methodist Episcopal Church. His faith and Irish love of freedom led him to make the final break, and he and his followers adopted the name of "Christians" at a gathering, August 4, 1794, at Old Lebanon Meeting House in Surry County, Virginia. On that day, a new denomination was born.

In 1845, the Christian Church at Semora was organized with the Rev. Solomon Apple as first pastor. He was ordained about the middle of the 19th century. He came from Guilford County, NC, and settled in Caswell County near Semora. This was his home for the remainder of his life. He served churches in the North Carolina and Virginia Conference. He was married to Agnes Farmer on December 16, 1840, and there were three children: Cornelius A. Apple, Newton H. A. N. Apple, and Mary Ann Apple who married Mr. Rodden. His son Cornelius entered the ministry

[112] Powell at 463.

and went to the Eastern Conference where he was quite prominent. Solomon Apple and his wife are both buried in Lebanon Cemetery.



The first house of worship was a frame building of good material and seated two-hundred people. This building served the congregation for forty years. In 1885, a new building was erected. The cornerstone was laid with Masonic honors by Golden Fleece Lodge, Number 74. The following is on the cornerstone: “Laid March 14, 1885, Grover Cleveland, President, A. M. Scales, Governor of North Carolina, Rev. W. S. Long, Pastor, R. H. Spencer, Architect.”

When the Academy for the community was closed about 1900, the children attended school in a one-room building beside the church. In 1905, plans were prepared, and money subscribed for the erection of a new academy building. Before the erection, the State built the first public school in the community thus relieving the church of the responsibility of operating a school system. The school building, a log house, remained on the church grounds until 1938.

The first deed on record for a church building lot was dated 1851, from John E. Hamlett, Joseph M. Stanfield, James M. Church, and Ambrose Jones. By 1857 the church was known as Lebanon Christian Church. It is located at Semora, on the northern boundary of Caswell County with Person County on its eastern boundary.

In 1950 the church building was renovated. Classrooms, recreation room, rest rooms, and a new heating plant were added. The exterior is now brick. This building was dedicated to Mr. Walter Lee Taylor on October 15, 1961.

On January 18, 1948, the church merged with the Congregationalists, and that name was added to the official name. Because the basis of the principles on which it was founded declared that “the name Christian is the only appellation by which we will be known,” the name Christian has always been included in the name of the church.

In 1905, the church set aside a memorial day to remember and honor its dead. The third Sunday in May has been observed every year since. Each year on this day former members, relatives, and friends gather with the congregation to worship. An appropriate sermon is followed by the decorating of the graves with spring flowers. A picnic lunch and good fellowship follow the service. A perpetual fund for the care of the cemetery began in 1950 by Mr. Henry Earp. J. Thomas Coates has been chairman of this committee since 1971.

The church merged with the United Church of Christ in 1963 and is now known officially as Lebanon United Christian Church.

In 1916, the Rev. Charles E. Newman of Virgilina, VA, became pastor. The relations between pastor and congregation continued for thirty years until he retired. Man y pastors have served Lebanon over the years, including: Solomon Apple, 1845; E. W. Beale, D. A. Long, M. L. Hurley; W. S. Long, 1845; C. C. Peele; J. W. Hold; T. E. White; L. F. Johnson; C. C. Peele; W. C. Wicker; T. W. Stroud; J. O. Cox; J. L. Foster; J. W. Patton; C. E. Newman, 1916-1946; Mark Andes; bland Leabrick; W. W. Stone, 1955; J. R. Bennett, 1957; Clifton Walker, 1957-1958; Rex Thomas 1958-1959; Lafayette Wilkins 1959-1962; Lewis Wicker 1963-1967; William T. Scott 1968-1971; Joe Sigler 1971-1974; Dr. William J. Elzie 1974-1975; Jack Fitz 1975-1976; John Barnhart 1977-1978; John Wilder 1979-1980; Robert Hal Cooper 1981-1982; Eddie Walker 1982-1983; and Don Ward 1980-. Since then there have been several interim pastors.

A study of veterans who are buried in the Lebanon Cemetery reveal at least thirteen from three wars. They include: James M. Wells and Loftin B. Scott from the Confederate States of America. William Connally, Thomas H. Owen, Earnest G. Scott and Marvin M. Jones from World War I. Samuel V. Lockhart, James M. McAden, Hustler R. Wilkins, Frederick J. Clark, Robert H. Wells, Hugh McAden, Rudolph McSherry, Clyde Owen McSherry, John B. Taylor, Fonzie A. Taylor, and William Edd Henderson from World War II. There could be more Confederate States in unmarked graves.

Although there were about twenty-five original members, their names are not recorded. Some early members include Solomon Apple, J. Morgan Smith, James Wells, William H. Wells, John D. Lea, Henry Farmer, N. B. Farmer, Mary Ann McCain, H. A. N. Apple, Henry E. Rodden, Martha C. Hamlett, J. A. Foster, Anna T. Wells, Mary A. Clark, Bethany Hamlett, John E. Farley, Mary Ann Gee, Jennie Grinstead, Betty V. Covington, and Eliza J. Brandon

Lebanon Church has been an influence for good in the community for one-hundred fifty-three years. At least three of its members have become ordained ministers: Cornelius A. Apple, Warner Lee Wells, and Ben Joe Earp. Many young couples have pledged their marriage vows there. There is no way to know how far the influence of Lebanon has reached through the years.[113]

The following is from Satterfield, Mary McAden, “Semora” in Motley, Charles B. *Carolina Communities*. Radford (Virginia): Commonwealth Press, Inc., 1995, pp. 64-65:

Lebanon Congregational Christian Church has a history of more than a century. The church deeds are dated 1851, but records lead us to believe that the church was organized in 1845, under the leadership of the Rev. Solomon Apple. Mr. Apple came to Caswell from Guilford County and remained in Caswell County his entire life.

[113] Scott at 54-55 (author unknown).

Early members of the church are listed as: Solomon Apple, N. B. Farmer, J. M. Smith, H. A. N. Apple, Mary Ann McCain, Henry E. Rodden, Margaret S. Hamlet, Jennie Grenstead, Eliza Bray, Eliza J. Brandon, Betty V. Covington, J. A. Foster, John E. Farley, Bethany Hamlet, Martha G. Hamlet, Mary Ann Gee, and Anna T. Wells. Later, some of the worshippers listed included James Wells, William H. Wells, John D. Lea, and Henry Farmer.

The first house of worship was a frame building of good material and seated over 200 people. This served the congregation as a place of worship for 40 years. In 1885, a new building took the place of the old. The lettering on the cornerstone is:

Laid March 14, 1885
Grover Cleveland, President
A. M. Scales, Governor of N. C.
Rev. W. S. Long, Pastor
R. H. Spencer, Architect

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave

Lively Stones Baptist Church



2347 Chandlers Mill Road
Pelham, Caswell County, NC

No written history known.

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Building and Related Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave

Locust Hill United Methodist Church



281 Stoney Creek School Road
Locust Hill, Caswell County, NC
(336) 388-2489

Locust Hill United Methodist Church, a short distance south of the community of that name in western Caswell County, was formed before 1884 when a group of Methodists began meeting in Stephen Neal's store. A few years earlier an acre of land had been deeded to Dr. James Williamson by a Methodist circuit rider when he left the state. The site was not considered suited for a church, so the timber on it was first sold and then the land. An arbor was erected at the site of the present church and services were held for a time. When the decision was made to build a church, land was offered by Dr. Grandison Siddle, but he died before the deed was executed, and it fell to Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Yarbrough to provide land. Money, material, and labor were contributed by residents, and the attractive white frame building then erected is still in use.[114]

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The date and source of this record are unknown but apparently came from a list of Caswell County Methodist churches:

Locust Hill: Just south of U.S. Highway 158 in the Community of Locust Hill; Founded in 1886 according to local church information; Earliest reference to church property Spring Term of Superior Court, 1884, Book PP, Page 528 (This lot sold May 2, 1887, Book UU, Page 140); Another lot was acquired March 3, 1887, Book VV, Page 261; Membership 90.

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"Second place winner in the white group, the Locust Hill Methodist Church, was organized about 1884 and has been on the Yanceyville circuit for 65 years. Last year the present building was remodeled, and inside memorial windows were installed. Membership now totals 65."

"Caswell County Church Beautification Contest," *The Herald-Sun* (Durham, North Carolina), 25 December 1949, Sunday, Page 33.

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For more on this church go to: Locust Hill United Methodist Church History

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[114] Powell at 445.

See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Lynch's Creek Primitive Baptist Church

Lynch's Creek Primitive Baptist Church, sometimes called Hyco Primitive Baptist Church, located on the Corbett Ridge road about twelve miles southeast of Yanceyville, was organized in 1799 according to its original minutes. This church is now extinct, but a cemetery remains.[115] A church called Deep Creek Church may have been constituted from Lynch's Creek Primitive Baptist Church in 1806, but no more is known.

Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Primitive Baptist Association[116]

The Upper Country Line Primitive Baptist Association was held with the church at Lynch's Creek, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. From several points of view this was one of the best associations held in recent years. Lynch's Creek church is in one of the finest sections of Caswell County. The people are amply able to take care of an association and they manifested to the greatest extent their willingness to do so. The church authorities and their neighbor friends were diligent in their determination that no person should be without a home and the hospitality of these good old Caswell homes poured out in abundance. In short, the people were cared for, and cared for well.

The general behavior on the grounds was better than usual. Of course, there was some misconduct on the outskirts where those who went for base pleasure stayed; but near the preaching stand the order was better than in recent years. This was due largely to the fact that the stand was far removed from the throng.

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[115] Powell at 457.
[116] Primitive Baptist Association Caswell County Meeting 1911

The preaching itself was of a very high order, there being present several of the ablest preachers of the denomination. The introductory sermon was preached by the Moderator of the Association, Elder L. H. Hardy. The sermon was worth to be beginning of the several excellent sermons that followed. Having mentioned Elder Hardy, we want to add that he is one of the best executives and presiding officers that the Association has ever had. The excellent order, the care for the people, and the general success of the occasion was largely due to his splendid management.

The Association closed Monday at 12 o'clock and the people who had stayed to the end began to move toward their homes, carrying with them an admiration for the fine country that they had visited and full appreciation of the kindness of the people.

The crowd was estimated at between five and seven thousand, Sunday as usual being the chief day.

The Association will meet next year at Lickfork.[117]

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Caswell County, North Carolina
Deed Book N, Page 108

James Murray to Congregation of Baptist order and faith at Linches Creek Meeting House formerly Stone's Meeting House and to John Landers of the Congregation, a spring as long as it continues a place of worship with penalty of $100. 17 August 1802. Witnesses: Larken Herndon, Alexander McMinnemy.[118]

[117] Webster's Weekly (Reidsville, Rockingham County, North Carolina), 22 August 1911, Tuesday, Page 1.
[118] Caswell County North Carolina Deed Books 1777-1817, Katharine Kerr Kendall (1989) at 244.

Macedonia AME Church



4164 Yarborough Mill Rd
Yarbro, Caswell County, NC
(336) 234-8731

No written church history is known.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find A Grave

Mill Creek Primitive Baptist Church

Mill Creek Primitive Baptist Church was located on Country Line Creek near Semora and Milton where Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church now stands. It was organized on May 30, 1830.[119]

Milton Baptist Church



The *Milton Gazette & Roanoke Advertiser* of February 28, 1828, called on all persons who had agreed to subscribe to the building of a Baptist Meeting House to report to the Commissioners on the first Thursday in March "at which time and place all those who may wish to encourage and aid in the said building are requested to attend, especially those who are to furnish labour and materials."

The Milton Baptist Church was established in 1828, and the Rev. Abner W. Clopton[120] who was in charge of the Milton Female Academy was the first pastor. Clopton was a graduate of the

[119] Powell at 457.
[120] Abner Wentworth Clopton (1784-1833)

Rev. David Caldwell's "Log College" and of the University of North Carolina. The handsome little church which is still used was built of brick made nearby. An addition to the rear of the church has been made and the interior redecorated in 1974. The original furniture which is still being used is believed to have been made in Tom Day's shop. The church was inactive from 1923 until 1937.[121] As with most Milton churches burials are in Cedars Cemetery or elsewhere.

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In 1844, the *Biblical Recorder* announced:

"The arm or branch of the Baptist Church of Yanceyville, located in Milton, N.C. was constituted into a separate and independent church on the Saturday before the fifth Sunday in the last month (June 1844) by the Presbytery of the Beulah Association. Elder S. Pleasant acted as Moderator."[122]

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Milton Baptist Church Parsonage

Memorandum of contract made the 15th day of July 1888 between Thomas O. Jones[123] of the first part and Joseph J. Yarbrough,[124] Wm. A Smith, Thomas A. Myers, J. B. Walters, Jr.,[125] and Albert G. Ferguson,[126] Trustees of the Milton Baptist Church of the second part a certain lot of land situated on High Street in the town of Milton, N.C., adjoining the lot of Wm. A. Smith on the North and the lot of W. P. Ray on the South for the sum of $600.00 on a credit of three years – to wit: from the 15th of July 1888 to the 15th of July 1891 to bear interest at the rate of eight percent per annum until paid.

The said property was purchased by the said Trustees for the purpose of erecting a Baptist Parsonage on same and whenever the said Thomas O. Jones shall have been paid in full the debt and whatever interest may have accrued and not paid – then the said Thomas O. Jones hereby obligates and binds himself and his heirs to make the Trustees aforesaid a good and perfect title in fee simple to the said property against the claim or claims of all person whatsoever. It is understood and agreed to by all of the parties of this Contract that this property stands its own security and that the Trustees aforesaid neither in their individual capacity nor as Trustees of the Milton Baptist Church are in any responsible for this debt.

In Testimony whereof all the parties to this Contract have affixed their hand and seal this 15th day of October 1889.

T. O. Jones, J. J. Yarbrough, W. A. Smith

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[121] Powell at 451-452.
[122] Elder Stephen Pleasant (1779-1852)
[123] Thomas Oldham Jones (1856-1909)
[124] Joseph Joel Yarbrough or his son Joseph Joel Yarbrough, Jr.
[125] Possibly Joel Brown Walters, Jr. (1857-1934).
[126] Albert Gallatin Ferguson (1832-1905)

Witnesses: R. L. Walker;[127] C. J. Walker

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For more on this church see: Milton Baptist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cedars Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cedars Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cedars Cemetery Photographs

Milton Methodist Church



The deed for the property on which the Milton Methodist Church stands is dated March 29, 1890. An earlier attempt to establish a Methodist church in Milton had not been successful. In 1891 the Rev. Dr. E. L. Perkins recalled that he had preached his first sermon in a new brick church in the town of Milton on October 9, 1842 [1841]. Afterwards, he noted, the church was sold under a mortgage "and went into the hands of the Baptist denomination." Trustees of the church in 1890 were Jasper Fleming, Robert L. Dixon, S. L. Stephens, E. D. Winstead, and George W. Burton. Captain William Farley built the church and made the benches for it.[128]

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"The Methodists are going to build a church at Milton."

Milton Advertiser as Reprinted in *The Reidsville Review* (Reidsville, North Carolina), 21 August 1889.

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Land for Milton Methodist Church was purchased on August 8, 1890, from L. H. Hunt and wife, S. T. Hunt by the following trustees: Jasper Fleming, Robert L. Dixon, S. L. Stephens, E. D. Winstead and George W. Burton. Witnessed on November 29, 1890, by: L. H. Hunt, S. T. Hunt, Lewis Walker, and J. A. Foster. (See book W. W. page 224 in the Register of Deeds Office in Yanceyville.) Captain William Farley built this church and made the benches, etc.

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[127] Possibly Robert Lewis Walker (1854-1913)
[128] Powell at 445. See Bethany Church.

Following is a list of the CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS SERVING MILTON METHODIST CHURCH:

S. S. Lankford
Robert Lee Dixon
Marcus C. Winstead
John L. Satterfield
C. B. Austin
John A. Newman
Mrs. W. L. Thomas III
L. Banks Satterfield
David Sunderland
J. Hunter Brandon
Halcott T. Newman
Mrs. J. Hunter Brandon
Mrs. Halcott T. Newman

Following is a list of SOME WHO HAVE SERVED AS SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS:

Mrs. S. S. Lankford
Nan Lewis (from Texas)
Mrs. J. L. Satterfield
Mrs. W. L. Thomas
Mrs. C. B. Austin
Mrs. J. A. Hurdle
Mrs. C. R. Thomas
Marcus C. Winstead
Martha C. Newman
Mrs. G. L. Lipscomb
Herbert A. Ellis
Mrs. John A. Newman
(Mrs. H. A. Ellis)
Mrs. W. L. Thomas, Jr.
Mary A Hall
Jasper Flemming

PRESENT TEACHERS SERVING THIS CHURCH:

Mrs. Hunter Brandon
Mr. Halcott Newman
Miss Ann Brandon
Mrs. Lee Thomas

MUSICIANS OF MILTON CHURCH:

Mrs. H. A. Ellis, formerly Mrs. John A. Newman, served as pianist and organist for a number of years. Mrs. Harrell W. Barker is now serving as organist.

WEDDINGS IN MILTON METHODIST CHURCH:

Mary Sue Griffith and Mr. Stroup
Annie S. Dixon and C. B. Austin
Maude N. Dixon and J. H. Pritchett
Lillian C. Walker and Connally Corbin
Roma Hyler and Cenroe Williamson
Sally Louise Thomas and John Wallace Jr.
Billy Hyler and Shirley Page

Source: Barker, Ophelia, Editor. “A Brief History of Neighborhood Churches” in *History of Connally United Methodist Church, Milton, North Carolina, Organized 1821* (1969), p. 19-20.

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The date and source of this record are unknown but apparently came from a list of Caswell County Methodist churches:

Milton: One mile north of intersection of State Roads 62 and 57 in the Town of Milton; Founded in 1890 from Connally Methodist Church according to local church information; Earliest reference to church property a deed of trust given by trustees for a lot on which the church was being erected September 20, 1889, Book WW, Page 428; Earliest recorded deed March 8, 1890, Book WW, Page 224; Membership 64.

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In 1909 the following Methodist ministers were serving Caswell County, North Carolina:

Nicks: Pelham and Shady Grove
Ross, C. R.: Yanceyville
Usry: Milton
Yearby: Leasburg

The North Carolina Methodist Conference had a rule that required ministers to move to another church (called a charge) after four years.

Raleigh Christian Advocate (Raleigh, NC), 21 Oct 1909.

Yearby apparently was reassigned to Mt. Tirzah in Person County and was replaced by J. C. Humble.

S. F. Nicks apparently was reassigned to Hillsborough and was replaced by L. L. Nash.

Usry apparently was replaced by W. T. Nory.

Goldsboro Daily Argus (Goldsboro, NC), 30 Nov 1909.

Of course, in 1909 there were other Methodist churches in Caswell County, but they were served by the minister in charge of a "circuit."

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As with most Milton churches, burials are in Cedars Cemetery or elsewhere.

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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

Building Photographs
Cedars Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cedars Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cedars Cemetery Photographs

Milton Presbyterian Church



The Milton Presbyterian Church traces its origin to 1826 or perhaps a few years earlier. Baptist minister Rev. Abner Clopton[129] took charge of the academy in Milton in 1821 and held services there. In 1823 Rev. D. A. Montgomery succeeded him, a Presbyterian who preached monthly for a year. A Ladies Fragment Society (sewing circle) was formed to raise money for a church. By selling jewelry, needlework, and other handicrafts they made, they soon had an impressive amount of money. In 1826 a small wooden church was erected near the gate to the local cemetery by W. A. Royster.

All who would pay $4 for a year's support of a minister were permitted to vote as to the denomination of the minister to be sought. The tally was 38 Presbyterians and 8 Episcopalians. The Rev. James W. Douglass of Murfreesboro was invited and arrived in March. On October 5, 1826, the Milton church was received by Orange Presbytery.

The first members listed in 1826 are Martin P. Huntington, Mary A. Oliver, Mrs. Ann B. Owen, Mrs. Reny Carlson, Mrs. Sarah New, Miss Sally Patrick, Miss Margarette Smith (certificate number 1 from 5th Presbyterian Church of Baltimore), John Ponsonby (certificate #2 from church at Petersburg, VA), Mrs. Pamelia Nunnally, Henry J. Foster, William F. Hayes, Sicily (slave owned by Col. A. Donoho), James Holder, Miss Melinda Holder, Mrs. Sarah Jones, and Mrs. Sarah Holder.

The congregation soon outgrew the small church building, and in 1837 the present brick structure was erected. It is a sturdy building of locally made brick and with large hand-hewn rafters and beams held by wooden pegs. As with most Milton churches burials are in Cedars Cemetery or elsewhere.

Several free blacks were members of the church and there was a balcony for them and slaves. Thomas Day, local free black cabinetmaker, was a member, but he wanted a place for himself and his wife on the main floor. He is said to have offered to make the pews and other furnishings for the church in return for the privilege of sitting wherever he chose. This was

[129] Abner Wentworth Clopton (1784-1833)

agreed to, and the work of his hands and shop may still be seen in the church. His pulpit is still pointed out to visitors. Rev. Nehemiah Henry Harding, a native of Maine, was pastor from 1835 until 1848. In 1838 he helped to establish the church in Yanceyville. He served both churches from then until 1848.[130]

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Milton historian Martha Bradsher Spencer transcribed a portion of the Milton Presbyterian Church Session Minutes, particularly those relating to member names, dates of membership, letters of dismission, and certain disciplinary actions. This fifty-nine-page transcription will be found online at: Milton Presbyterian Church Session Minutes[131]

Martha Bradsher Spencer also authored a history of the African American members of the Milton Presbyterian Church: African American Members of the Milton Presbyterian Church:

Both the above works are much more than rote transcriptions of Session Minutes. They provide a history of Milton and the Milton Presbyterian Church.

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"Rev. NR Claytor, longtime Presbyterian minister (lived in the Clay-Irvine house, now home to Jim Upchurch), served five Presbyterian churches in the Milton area--Red House in Semora, Milton Presbyterian, Gilead, Community (across Dan River in Virginia), and Palmer's Chapel -- black congregation." Source: Jean Bradsher Scott 3 March 2014 Post to the Caswell County Historical Association Facebook Page.

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Left of the church's front door is a bronze plaque: "Milton Presbyterian Church Established 1826 Erected 1837"

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Building Photographs
Cedars Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cedars Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cedars Cemetery Photographs

[130] Powell at 436-437.

[131] The controlling administrative body of a Presbyterian church is the board of elders and deacons (a deacon being of a lesser status than an elder). This board is called a "session." Thus, the record of this board's meetings is called "Session Minutes."

Mineral Springs Baptist Church



774 Mineral Springs Rd
Pelham, NC 27311
Phone (336) 694-4323

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave

Moon Creek Primitive Baptist Church



528 Park Springs Road
Providence, Caswell County, NC

Moon Creek Baptist Church (usually called Moon's Creek) is located on the Park Springs Road in Providence, being named for nearby Moon Creek. On April 17, 1830, Moon Creek Baptist Church was organized as a Church of Christ. At that time, since there was no church building or regular pastor, meetings were held in various homes. Original members include Pastors Stephen and James Chandler, Payne Daniel, William Badgett, Arch Ingram, Joseph Ware, Thomas Travis, and Anne Cobb. On November 17, 1841, Arch Ingram gave one acre of his farm to the church, bordering the John S. Dameron farm. The survey was completed by Joseph Ware. Just prior to the Civil War, J. W. Neal and his slaves built a small rough structure. His slaves attended church with him. During the 1862-1866 Civil War Era years, meetings were infrequent. In April 1872, the church established a school on the Dameron farm adjacent to the church property and known as the James S. Dameron Academy.

J. W. Neal built the present church in 1866, at that time a white weatherboard structure. He completed the church long before becoming a member in 1882. He built the church for his young wife Belle in his desire to fulfill her wishes, one of which was to have her own church. The church underwent extensive renovation in 1974. At that time, it was bricked, destroying much of the historical value. The original hand-hewn wainscot and hand-made glass windows remain.

The original builder, J. W. Neal is the father of William L. Neal. Willie carried out the family tradition in helping with the remodeling. J. W. Neal's sister, Mary Neal, married Crawford Sledge. His granddaughter Mary Ema Sledge Sartin attended church with Belle Neal as a child, later joining the church and remaining a member for over 60 years. Henry Sledge, cousin to Ema's father, served as visiting preacher. Moon Creek Church has always had a strong family tradition with its upkeep being provided by various family members, even if not church members.

The family cemetery can be found inside the antique wrought iron fence. Various relatives of the Neals, Lovells, and Riddles are buried there. The Nicholas Dixon family cemetery is also located at the church. Presently, Bernard H. and Reba M. Dixon are members along with Ema Sartin.

For many years, the same minister would preach at Providence Missionary Baptist Church in the morning and Moon Creek in the afternoon. Some family members were members of Providence and others of Moon Creek. For a short time, Moon Creek was affiliated with the Upper Country Line Primitive Baptist Association but has always remained as an independent church.

Prepared in 1998 by Ruby S. Hovatter for her mother, Ema Sartin, 88 years of age.[132]

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church



2578 NC Hwy 119 N
Semora, Caswell County, North Carolina

No written history is known.

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"The Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association convened in its Sixty-Fourth Annual Session with the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Caswell County, Milton, N. C, promptly at 9:30 o'clock Wednesday

[132] Scott at 62.

morning, August 5, 1931. The Association was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. William Warner."[133]

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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave

New Ephesus Missionary Baptist Church[134]



8939 US Hwy 158 W
Locust Hill, Caswell County, NC
New Ephesus Missionary Baptist Church in west central Caswell County between Locust Hill and Cobb's Shop was established in 1894, and the original building enlarged, and brick veneered in 1931. The current building was erected in 1976.

As of 1966 New Ephesus Baptist Church was a member of the Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association.

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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[133] Swann, James E., Secretary (Pelham, North Carolina). *Minutes of the Sixty-Fourth Annual Session of the Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association Which Convened With the Mount Olive Baptist Church, Caswell County, North Carolina, August 5th, 6th and 7th, 1931*.
[134] Beside the church is a building that was the former location of Dan River Lodge #490 of Prince Hall Freemasons, which remains today as one of four chartered Prince Hall lodges in Caswell County.

New Haven Baptist Church

16 New Haven Baptist Church Road
Milton, Caswell County, NC



New Haven Baptist Church, organized in 1879, has a long history in the Milton community. Unfortunately, records of the church's early history were destroyed by a person seeking shelter from the cold. This person started a fire in the church stove using the available fuel, which was the documents and records of the church's activities.

The original site of the church was in Skutt Town. In 1923, land was purchased from the late George Hughes, and a church building was erected on the current site.[135]

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs Collection

New Hope Baptist Church[136]



351 New Hope Church Road
Leasburg, Caswell County, NC

No written history is known.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave

[135] Scott at 63-64.
[136] Photograph courtesy Carolina Caswell

New Hope United Methodist Church



Long's Mill Road, Caswell County, NC

New Hope United Methodist Church in the northeastern section of Caswell County, about halfway between Milton and Yanceyville, traces its origin to a private chapel traditionally constructed by John B. Davis in 1779. In January 1859, John G. Lea gave 4 ½ acres of land to Thomas C. Pass, Thomas Reid Ellis, John Rice, Buford Reid, J. Lathan Roberts, and James Mitchell as trustees, and later in the year a church building was constructed. The present structure was dedicated on July 22, 1906. The earliest grave in the church cemetery is dated 1893.[137]

Mrs. Anne Taylor Daniel wrote an excellent history of this church for *The Churches of Caswell County*. Here is the first paragraph:

"New Hope Methodist church, which is now known as New Hope United Methodist Church, was one of the earliest churches founded in North Carolina. Even before it was founded officially in 1779, people in the Blanch/Hamer communities were meeting in the name of the Lord and conducting worship services. These were held first under a large oak tree about a mile from the site of the present structure before the year 1778. But let us go back further and find a little history to pave the way for this coming together of a group of people to worship their Lord."[138]

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The following is from *The Heritage of Caswell County* (1985) at 656:

New Hope Methodist Church, located on the Longs Mill Road in Caswell County, between the Blanch and Hamer communities, is one of the oldest established churches in N.C. It is the oldest church in the Burlington District of the Methodist Conference.

New Hope was officially established in 1778. Even before then, people in the community were gathering together as a group to worship; first, under a giant oak tree in summer, near the home of John B. Davis, and in winter services were moved inside the Davis home. John B. Davis, of the Hamer community, set up a private chapel in his home for the purpose of worshiping together as a group.

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[137] Powell at 442-443.
[138] Scott at 65-67.

Francis Asbury came to America as a missionary and met John B. Davis when he was in Hillsborough, N.C. (then the county seat of Orange County). Asbury and Davis became very close friends, and Asbury lived for a while in the Davis home. These two were instrumental in forming the New Hope Methodist Church. Under the close supervision of Asbury, the church building, a log structure, was erected and dedicated in 1779. It was named New Hope. The log building was built about one mile from the Davis home. In 1860, it was torn down and moved to a new site, just north of the present church.

In 1860, a new church was constructed on the site of the present church, and the old log church was used as slave quarters. John G. Lea gave four and one-half acres of land to the church in 1859. This structure served until 1906, when Mr. W. H. Humble and a carpenter helper, Mr. Hall, boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nat Taylor and constructed the church.

Money from the Harrelson fund was used to help build the church. Harrelson, a bachelor, was a native of Caswell County. The rough lumber for the new church was donated by Jim Satterfield.

The present structure retains the handmade pews as well as the elaborately carved pulpit made in 1907.
A few years ago, a fellowship hall was added to the 1907 structure. It was designed to blend and retain the architectural characteristics of the old part of the church.

This small, white clapboard church, with gingerbread trim and stained-glass windows, sits nestled among a grove of giant oak trees, creating a scene that reflects the tranquility and simplicity of country life.

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(As copied from a news article prepared by a member of New Hope Church, published about 1925, and provided by Mrs. C. W. Pointer.):

History of M. E. Church in Milton Circuit New Hope, Oldest church of this group Milton Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church South Composed of five churches was cut off from Yanceyville and Leasburg circuits something more than 35 years ago. New Hope and Purley were then a part of the Yanceyville circuit and Connally then belonged to Leasburg circuit.

New Hope is the oldest church on this work, having been founded about 1779 by John Davis whose descendants donated a beautiful pulpit to the church when it was built anew some years ago during the pastorate of Rev. J. A. Dailey. The church was originally 150 yards or more north of its present location and was moved by the tedious process of rolling on skids by men before the modern way of moving buildings was known.

The old church that stood for centuries before the modern one which now stands, had an annex where the slaves always attended worship and listened attentively to the sermon and could often tell a great part of the sermon they so much enjoyed and listened to.

The present church was built by Mr. Humble of Burlington who has several sons in the ministry and is himself a very fine Christian Character. The first pastor of the Milton Circuit was John H. Shore, who preached four years beginning in 1890.

Some attractive memorial windows were installed in this church a few years ago.

Source: Barker, Ophelia, Editor. "A Brief History of Neighborhood Churches" in *History of Connally United Methodist Church, Milton, North Carolina, Organized 1821* (1969), p. 20.

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The date and source of this record are unknown but apparently came from a list of Caswell County Methodist churches:

New Hope: On County Road 1565 just off State Road 62 six miles north of Yanceyville; Founded by tradition in 1779 according to local church information; Earliest deed June 25, 1831, Book AA, Page 15; Another deed January 22, 1859, Book II, Page 642; Membership 92.

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In 2009, New Hope United Methodist Church celebrated its 230th anniversary. See: New Hope United Methodist Church Anniversary Brochure which includes a church history and a complete list of its pastors.

For more on the history of New Hope United Methodist Church see: New Hope United Methodist Church History

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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

New Zion Baptist Church



364 Old Satterfield Rd
Milton Township, Caswell County, NC

New Zion Baptist Church was organized in 1890. The first church was constructed with timber donated by early founders. While there may have been other church buildings, the current structure apparently was erected in 1972. One noted pastor is Rev. Cephus Lea.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery on Cemetery Census

Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church

Hodges Dairy Road
West Yanceyville, Caswell County, North Carolina

Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church was located about three miles west of Yanceyville just off Highway 158W and behind the former (now demolished) O. B. Watlington, Jr., store. The exact dates of this church are unknown, but it was found to be listed in the association minutes of 1908. This church became extinct in the 1930s.[139]

Southern Historical Collection

Repository: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Library. Southern Historical Collection. Creator: Blaylock, J. Burch. Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church.

Title: Caswell County (N.C.) Primitive Baptist Church Records, 1923- 1928. Call Number: 4147-z Language of Materials: Materials in English Extent: 2 items.

[139] Powell at pp.457,459.

Abstract: Minutes, 1923-1928, of the Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church, Yanceyville, N.C.; and History of the Primitive Baptist Church of Historic Caswell County, N.C., by J. Burch Blaylock, which includes the location, founding dates, and history of the Primitive Baptist congregations in Caswell County, N.C.

Acquisitions Information: Gift 1978
Processed by: SHC Staff Encoded by: Noah Huffman, December 2007
Preferred Citation: [Identification of item], in the Caswell County (N.C.) Primitive Baptist Church Records, #4147-z, Southern Historical Collection, The Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
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Blaylock, J. Burch. Caswell County (N.C.) --Church history. Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church. Primitive Baptists (N.C.)--History.

Collection Overview: Minutes, 1923-1928, of the Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church, Yanceyville, N.C.; and "History of the Primitive Baptist Church of Historic Caswell County, N.C.," by J. Burch Blaylock, which includes the location, founding dates, and history of the Primitive Baptist congregations in Caswell County, N.C.

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For more on this church see: Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church History

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Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Oak Level AME Church



722 Snatchburg Road
Milton, Caswell County, NC

In 1919, several men built a one-room log building that became Oak Level Church. This first building was about 200 yards east of the current building in the Snatchburg community. The cemetery at that time was on the Mary Nelson property. In the 1920s, an acre of land was purchased from

Lawrence Taylor and a new church building erected just a few feet from the present location. In 1972, the church was rebuilt, with substantial additions and renovations since.[140]

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave

Oakview Presbyterian Church



11 Oakview Loop Road [5811 NC Hwy 62 N]
Fitch, Caswell County, NC

Oakview Presbyterian Church, about six miles south of Yanceyville, was organized in the summer of 1950 with the assistance of the Yanceyville Presbyterian Church and several individuals. A former barracks was moved from Greensboro and used by the congregation until 1957, when the present brick church was completed.[141] The church began as a chapel and Sunday School sponsored by the Yanceyville Presbyterian Church and led by Mr. C. D. Covington[142] and Mrs. Mary Oliver Kerr.[143]

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For more on this church see: Oakview Presbyterian Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[140] Scott at 69.
[141] Powell at 438.
[142] Probably Clem DeWitt Covington (1892-1980).
[143] Mary Johnston Oliver Kerr (1896-1982), mother of Eliza Katherine Kerr Kendall (1921-1997).

Old Lea Bethel Baptist Church



6035 Ridgeville Road
Frogsboro, Caswell County, NC

Lea Bethel Baptist Church was established on December 29, 1883, at its present site, with land deeded by Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Allen. The original church building was a one-room frame structure. it also was an offspring of Beulah Baptist Church. On May 21, 1939, a new church building was organized in the Lea Bethel Building. Mr. Noell was the moderator of the Beulah Association at that time. At this first meeting, Mr. Tom Murray was elected moderator, and Mr. B. C. Woody as clerk. Church records indicate an initial enrollment of thirty-seven members, with five additional members by letter. It was decided by the membership and the Beulah Association's moderator that it should be named Old Lea Bethel Baptist Church. The first pastor was Rev. C. E. Sullivan. The church continued to grow, and in January 1963, two new Sunday School rooms were built. Additional land was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Rudd and Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wade for this expansion.

The first well for drinking water and other purposes was dug. One additional long room was added to the back around 1970. Because of physical and spiritual growth, plans were begun for a new church building in 1977. The original sanctuary was torn down by volunteer members of the church. The new building was completed in early 1978, and a dedication service was held on May 7, 1978. Rev. John Hancock, the pastor at that time, along with three former pastors, were in attendance. Submitted by Phillip Wade 1999.[144]

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For more on this church see: Old Lea Bethel Baptist Church History

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Building and Related
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[144] Scott at 70-71.

Olive Hill Baptist Church[145]



643 Olive Hill Church Road
Leasburg, Caswell County, NC

Olive Hill Baptist Church, a short distance southeast of Leasburg, was established in 1907. The present church was built in 1940.[146]

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave

Page's Arbor Primitive Baptist Church



1917 Union Ridge Road
Anderson, Caswell County, NC

Page's Arbor Primitive Baptist Church, located on the Union Ridge Road near the Caswell-Alamance County line, was organized in 1888. A couple of the earlier pastors were Elders McCauley and Dancer.[147] Historically significant African American Primitive Baptist Church and cemetery.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[145] Photograph courtesy Carolina Caswell.
[146] Powell at 452.
[147] Powell at 459.

Palmer Church

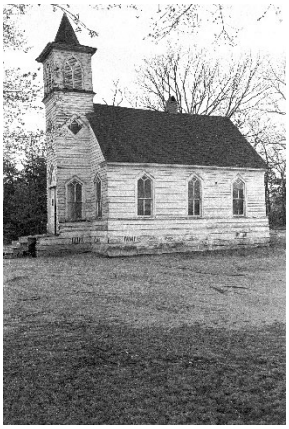


124 Simpson Brown Drive
Yarbro, Caswell County, NC

No written church history is known.

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find A Grave

Palmer's Chapel Presbyterian Church



In May of 1892, a church for blacks at or near Semora was admitted into the Orange Presbytery, the second church in the Presbytery. The Rev. Boswell B. Palmer, who was ordained that year, was in charge of Elim Presbyterian Church, and he also conducted a school in the community. The Rev. Mr. Palmer died in 1915, but the church continued until it dissolved in the spring of 1928. Palmer preached to blacks at Red House Presbyterian Church on third Sunday afternoons, and after his death the Rev. N. R. Claytor of Red House went up to Semora to preach for the blacks. Elim Presbyterian Church was also known as Palmer's Chapel Presbyterian Church.[148]

"Rev. NR Claytor, longtime Presbyterian minister (lived in the Clay-Irvine house, now home to Jim Upchurch), served five Presbyterian churches in the Milton area--Red House in Semora, Milton Presbyterian, Gilead, Community (across Dan River in Virginia), and Palmer's Chapel -- black congregation." Source: Jean Bradsher Scott 3 March 2014 Post to the Caswell County Historical Association Facebook Page.

[148] Powell at 438-439.

Park Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church



5181 Foster Road
Park Springs, Caswell County, North Carolina

No written church history is known.

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Pearson Chapel AME Church



222 NC Hwy 62S
Yanceyville, Caswell County, NC

No written history is known.

The Pearson Chapel AME Church is on Highway 62S in Yanceyville, Caswell County, North Carolina. It apparently dates from 1868 as a 2020 newspaper item provides the following:

"Celebrating the Past and the Present" It has been 152 years since Pearson Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church opened its doors. On Sunday, March 15, we will be celebrating our 152nd Church Anniversary at 3 p.m. Our guest speaker for this awesome occasion will be Rev. Claude Walker, Associate Pastor at Allen's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Prospect Hill, NC. Also on the program will be The Heavenly Stars of Leasburg NC who will render the music. So come on out and fellowship with us as we celebrate our 152nd Church Anniversary. Rev. Barrington B. Ross-Servant Pastor and Sister Kim E. Monroe-Church Anniversary Committee. The church is located at 222 Highway 62 South, Yanceyville, NC 27379.[149]

A quick look at the Pearson Chapel AME Church cemetery entries on Find A Grave showed the earliest grave marker dated 1913. Of course, this may not be a complete survey, and markers

[149] *The Caswell Messenger* (Yanceyville, NC), 26 February 2020, p. 5.

with an earlier date may exist.

What is the genesis of the name: Pearson Chapel? Who was Pearson? Who owned the land on which the church stands? Who were the ministers over the years? Much of the land in the area was owned by Sally Womack Wiggins.

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find A Grave

Pelham United Methodist Church



594 Red Marshall Road
Pelham, Caswell County, North Carolina

Pelham United Methodist Church in the northwestern corn of Caswell County at the community of Pelham had its beginnings when services were held under a bush arbor. A frame church was erected in 1871 only a few feet from where the present church stands. Land was given by William B. and Elizabeth Swann to trustees Daniel S. Price, John W. Garrett, William Coleman, Milton Voss, Washington Price, Vincent B. Swann, John Fitzgerald, Bannister Fitzgerald, and John Archer Pierce. After serving for more than seventy years, the old building was deemed no longer adequate, and in 1941 a new church building was begun. Dedicated in 1943, the attractive brick church serves an active congregation.[150]

Pelham United Methodist Church had its beginning before 1871 when a group of people under the leadership of Rev. John W. Lewis gathered to worship under a bush arbor erected on the site of the B. R. and Elizabeth Fitzgerald home, now the home of Mike and Betty Gentry. The original structure was a sanctuary with windows near the top and a balcony across the back. It was heated by pot-bellied stoves, one on either side. The original Bible and some of the original furniture is on display in the current church building. The first wedding in the church united Georgia F. Price and O. R. Hinton. The cemetery, part of the original land grant, was enlarged in 1974. Church history compiled in 1998 by Iris Pryor and Nancy Turner.[151]

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[150] Powell at 443.
[151] Scott at 72-74.

Pelham Church to Mark 100th Anniversary

The Pelham Methodist Church is holding an observance of its 100th anniversary of its founding day in the church sanctuary. The original church building was constructed on the site of the present modern brick structure during 1871. On September 3 of that year the frame house of worship was dedicated as "The Pelham Episcopal Church, South." The history of the church, however, dates back to a time for which all records are lost. For months or years prior to the construction of the 1871 church members of the congregation met regularly under "bush arbors" at the site of the present home of B. S. Fitzgerald, Sr.

There was no salaried minister -- he subsisted on the gratuities of the residents who became the church congregation. There were no bills for fuel or electricity; there was no church budget. But there was a strong feeling of dedication among neighbors who felt a need to hear The Word. Without hymnals or musical instruments, they raised their voices in praise or sat under their arbor of bushes to hear their pastor explain the Gospel.



ALTAR BIBLE DATED 1871 EXAMINED BY MRS. NAT SWANN

But the need for a church building could no longer be denied. Building a church during the period following the War Between the States posed many problems for the growing young congregation. The South had been exhausted by long years of war. Many church members gave generously of their meagre savings and others gave grueling labor in place of cash. John Arch Pierce, an early church trustee, raised $200 for the proposed new building by cutting, hauling and erecting a line of poles from Reidsville to Danville for, the church history states, a telephone line. Photograph: Altar Bible Dated 1871 Examined by Mrs. Nat Swann[152]

The first building was constructed by James Rawlings, an area contractor. it was sturdily built but not beautiful by any standards. It was large but had few of the refinements that excited admiration from the passerby. For about 72 years it resounded to the tears, laughter, snags and solemn moments of a church membership that continued to grow with the growing community.

[152] The identity of this person is not certain. Nathaniel Henderson Swann (1888-1960) married Mary Chandler Stokes (1900-1975). Nathaniel Henderson Swann, Jr. (1927-) married Sarah Elizabeth Hayes.

More than once gay wedding parties gathered at nearby homes and trooped into the sanctuary to exchange their vows of eternal faithfulness. One such group in 1879 celebrated the rites of Miss Georgia Price and O. R. Hinton of Covington, Ga. On the 6th of May a reporter described the scene: "Extensive, not to say extravagant, arrangements had been made for the occasion. Thirteen couples were engaged as attendants" the report said. Again, at the fine and hospitable home of Mr. Price, the parlors were filled with lovely women and gallant men, it was said. Thus, the membership of the church had progressed from the drab surroundings of a bush arbor to the display of finery in the postwar South that only could be described as "magnificent."

The first church board of trustees includes names well known in local history: Daniel S. Price, John W. Garrett, William Coleman, Milton Voss, G. Washington Price, Vincent Swain, John and Banister Fitzgerald, and John Archer Pierce. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Dr. Numa Reid, who selected for his text, Matthew VI, "Thy Kingdom Come." He was assisted in the dedication by James A. Chandler of Chandler's Mill, N.C.

The altar Bible, now preserved with loving care in a protected . . . with funds solicited by Georgia Price, whose marriage was an early social highlight of the church.

William Capus Norman served as pastor of the new congregation from 1871 to 1875 and was followed through the years by 46 others. The photographs of many are framed and hang in the new building.

The present church building, built on the same site donated some 72 years earlier by William B. Swann and Elizabeth A. Swann, was started on Good Friday, 1941, under the leadership of the Rev. James W. Fowler. J. H. Fowlkes, the late Nat H. Swann, and the late Paul D. Fitzgerald made up the building committee, and the contract was let to E. M. Fitzgerald of Danville. Dedication services on September 19, 1943 were led by the Rev. Walter Thompson. The sermon was preached by the Rev. J. M. Ormand who used the altar Bible donated by Col. Edwin Turner and Witcher Turner.

The Pelham Methodist Church has never ceased to prosper, although a decline has been noted in the membership as elder folk take their places in the quiet cemetery adjoining the church and young people drift away to other areas.

Gifts from church members have added to the reverent atmosphere of the sanctuary -- a church organ and chimes were added in 1954.

The present minister, the Rev. Cameron Dodson, presides over a modern and progressive church body which had its beginnings a hundred years ago as a small group of friends who gathered under a bush arbor to satisfy their need to worship.[153]

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[153] *The Bee* (Danville, VA), Sunday, October 31, 1971.

The following is from *The Heritage of Caswell County* (1985) at 662:

Ministers Who Have Served Pelham Church: before 1872 John R. Lewis; 1871 William Capus Norman; 1875 Robah L. Bumpass; 1876 V. A. Sharpe; 1880 N. E. Coletrane; 1884 P. L. Herman; 1885 A. G. Barrett; 1886 G. L. Round; 1888 A. G. Troy; 1890 L. E. Thompson; 1891 G. W. Fisher; 1893 J. H. Shore; 1897 W. J. Twilley; 1899 R. J. Taylor; 1901 J. H. McCracken; 1904 E. Pope; 1905 W. H. Kirton; 1906 W. D. Sasser; 1907 S. F. Nicks; 1911 F. E. Dixon; 1912 R. L. Andrews; 1913 H. C. Smith; 1916 L. L. Smith; 1917 L. C. Brothers; 1918 J. O. Long; 1919 Rev. Walters; 1920 H. F. Starr; 1924 J. H. Brendall; 1926 G. W. Williams; 1927 Iron L. Roberts; 1929 J. W. Bennett; 1930 E. W. Needham; 1932 Robert M. Laughlin; 1935 Rev. Saffritt; 1936 E. C. Calhoun; 1937 H. R. Cornelius; 1938 J. W. Fowler, Jr.; 1939 Walter R. Thompson; 1945 Paul Taylor; 1947 F. W. Dowd Bangle; 1948 G. Howard Allred; 1953 Roy L. Grant; 1956 Paul Dennis; 1958 C. D. Brown; 1959 Larry E. Barden; 1963 W. H. Benfield; 1965 C. W. Randolph; 1968 Cameron Dodson; 1973 Joe Luther (interim); 1973 Gerald Hester; 1974 Earl M. Hansell; 1977 Wade E. Wright; 1981 Thomas Cramer (interim); and 1981 Jack D. Luther.

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In 1909 the following Methodist ministers were serving Caswell County, North Carolina:

Nicks: Pelham and Shady Grove
Ross, C. R.: Yanceyville
Usry: Milton
Yearby: Leasburg

The North Carolina Methodist Conference had a rule that required ministers to move to another church (called a charge) after four years.

Raleigh Christian Advocate (Raleigh, NC), 21 Oct 1909.

Yearby apparently was reassigned to Mt. Tirzah in Person County and was replaced by J. C. Humble.

S. F. Nicks apparently was reassigned to Hillsborough and was replaced by L. L. Nash.

Usry apparently was replaced by W. T. Nory.

Goldsboro Daily Argus (Goldsboro, NC), 30 Nov 1909.

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Building Photographs and Related
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find A Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Philippi Primitive Baptist Church



Locust Hill, Caswell County, NC

Philippi Primitive Baptist Church, located on the south side of Highway 158 in Locust Hill (about ten miles west of Yanceyville), was organized, as far as can be determined from the meager information available, about 1907, with Elder Wesley Henderson as one of its early pastors. The deed to the church lot was dated July 17, 1907.[154] The church, which has been disbanded, now rests on private property.

Historically significant African American Primitive Baptist Church and Cemetery. Known burial dates are from 1911 to 1982. In 2014, there were twenty inscribed gravestones. This cemetery does not have a survey of record. In the vicinity of 8343 US Hwy 158. The cemetery is located in the woods, along the south side of old road bed of Hwy 158 and behind the now abandoned and deteriorating church.

Carolina Caswell identified this cemetery by USGS Topographic Map, Caswell County NC Deed Book 61 page 404 and Deed Book 334 page 642 which provides a reference to the 2 acres owned by Philippi Church. Carolina Caswell conducted a photographic survey in March 2014. This church cemetery does not have a survey of record in the J. Burch Blaylock Collection.[155]

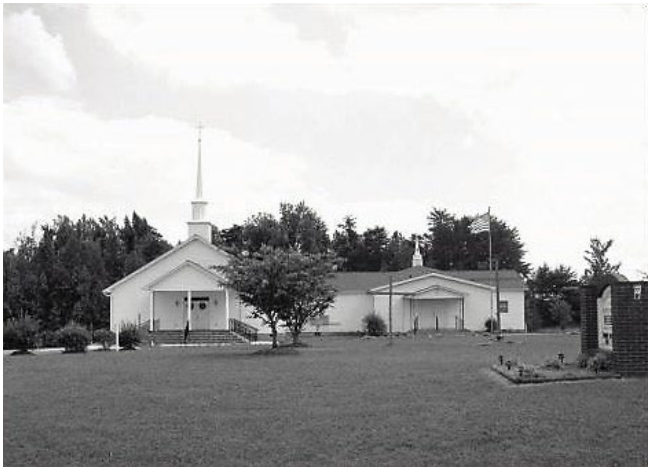
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Cemetery on Find a Grave

[154] Powell at 459.

[155] Source: Philippi Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery on Find A Grave

Pilgrim Chapel Baptist Church



9923 Kerr's Chapel Rd
Caswell County, NC

The church is in the extreme southwest corner of Caswell County and barely in Caswell County.

No written church history is known. No cemetery is known to be associated with this church.

Building Photographs

Piney Grove Methodist Church

Early in the history of Methodism in North Carolina itinerant ministers were welcomed in home along the way and they often stayed for extended periods of time when the found a warm welcome and an attentive congregation. It was recalled by Gunn family historians that Revolutionary veteran Starling [Sterling] Gunn reserved a special room in his modest home as the "Preacher's Room." It was described as comfortably furnished and often used. Tradition relates that it was Gun who constructed a building that came to be known as Piney Grove Methodist Church. From hewn logs he and his neighbors erected a 40 by 24-foot building for the use of any minister who passed; a partition three feet high across the back of the building marked off an area reserved for any slaves who wished to attend.[156]
See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

Pinnacle Ministries

173 W Main Street
Yanceyville, NC 27379

While probably not an organized church, Pinnacle Ministries operated for a few years in the late 1900s and early 2000s in the former Baptist home that was constructed adjacent to Dongola in Yanceyville, North Carolina. The owner of the property, Faiger Megrea Blackwell, apparently

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[156] Powell at. 339-440.

was the organizer and leader. Blackwell purchased the property in 1998 from Canadian Zale Magder. The name of the ministry came from the business conducted on the property: Carolina Pinnacle Studios.

In 2001, Pinnacle Ministries had the following statement on a website: "WE ARE NOT A CHURCH, WE ARE A PLACE FOR RESTORATION FOR ALL GOD'S PEOPLE"

Pinnacle Ministries sold the original Yanceyville property and purchased the abandoned Yanceyville United Methodist Church building. See the entry for that church.

No written history is known, and no cemetery is associated with the ministry.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church



85 Pleasant Grove Church Road
Topnot, Caswell County, North Carolina

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church, four miles southeast of Yanceyville, was established in 1904 through the efforts of Griers Presbyterian Church whose pastor began preaching at a schoolhouse there in 1893. The site was donated by Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Mitchelle. The original frame building, now brick veneered and considerably remodeled, is still in use. The nearby cemetery dates from 1910.[157]

In 1998, Gladys Lunsford Donevan submitted an extensive church history for *In the Beginning: The Churches of Caswell County*, Jean B. Scott, Editor (2001), pp. 75-77.

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Minister Killed

Yanceyville -- (U.P.) -- Rev. S. E. [Samuel Edwin] Sapp of Leasburg, a Presbyterian minister, was killed yesterday when a tobacco hogshead from a truck broke loose and crashed onto his auto. Sapp died in a Danville, Va., hospital shortly after the accident, officers said. The truck driver, identified as Leo Werry, 30, of Oxford, was charged with manslaughter.

Statesville Daily Record (Statesville, NC), 23 March 1951.

[157] Powell at 438.

Freak Accident Kills Man Near Yanceyville

Yanceyville, March 23 -- (AP) -- A man was killed yesterday when a hogshead of tobacco fell off a truck onto his car. This was reported today by the State Highway Patrol. The Patrol listed the victim of the freak accident as Edward [Edwin] Sapp, 31, of Leasburg, Rt. 1. The wreck occurred on Highway 86 about 10 miles north of Yanceyville.

The News and Observer (Raleigh, North Carolina), 24 March 1951, Saturday, Page 13.

While Samuel Edwin Sapp (1920-1951) was described in the above newspaper item as a Presbyterian minister living in Leasburg, with what church he was associated has not been determined. However, based on the following it may have been Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church.

When we drove to Danville on Old Highway 86 my mother occasionally would comment on this death as we passed the site. I believe it was at the bottom of the hill near Hogan's Creek. Rick Frederick Facebook Post 2022.

He left a wife and 4 children. I think about them often. Came up on right after it happened, we had to stay in the car. He preached at Pleasant Grove. Patsy Webster Stanley Facebook Post 2022.

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find A Grave

Pleasant Grove Primitive Baptist Church



2704 Ashland Road
Ashland, Caswell County, NC

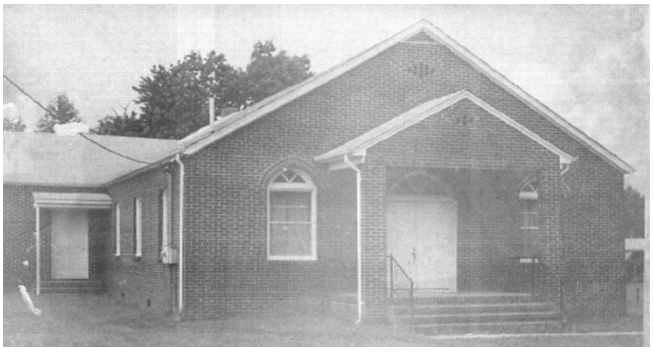
Pleasant Grove Primitive Baptist Church was organized in 1829 and is located just south of Casville.[158]

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[158] Powell at 457.

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Pleasant View Assembly of God Church



10792 Cherry Grove Road
Camp Springs, Caswell County, NC

Pleasant View Assembly of God Church was established at Summers Grove in the northwestern part of Caswell County where a church was built by Robert Brown and Posie King in 1935. In 1948 it was moved to the southwestern corner of the county near the Rockingham County line west of Camp Springs. The church built then has since been remodeled and improved in a variety of ways. A cemetery there has been used since 1950.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave

Prayer of Faith Ministry



3668 NC Hwy 57 N
Semora, Caswell County, North Carolina

No written history is known.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave

Prospect Hill Primitive Baptist Church



Prospect Hill Primitive Baptist Church was organized in 1866 on two acres donated by Ephraim Burch. In 1889 one-half acre was purchased from the Caswell County school committee. The church building is on Ridgeville Road just east of Highway 86 in Caswell County, NC. The current brick structure was completed in 1956. The old church building was sold and moved. As of February 2020, the church building had been decommissioned and was for sale on the open market. Pastors include: A. N. Hall; David R. Moore; L. H. Hardy; B. F. McKinney; W. B. Stadler; W. C. King; Donald E. Smith; and Donald Johnson.[159]

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Building Photographs

Prospect Methodist Church



Prospect Church Road
Baynes, Caswell County, NC

Prospect Methodist Church in the south-central part of Caswell County about a mile north of the Alamance County line may have been organized about 1815. The present large wooden church, the third on the site, was built in the early 1900s. Services are held now only once a month. The Rev. L. L. Nash, in his *Recollections and Observations*, published in 1916, relates that when he was pastor of the Leasburg Methodist Church, he held a meeting at Prospect. Attendance at the initial meeting was not as large as expected, but on August 31, 1886, there was an earthquake centered in Charleston, which was felt in much of North Carolina. On the next day, Dr. Nash reported, he had a much larger congregation and found people ready to do anything they could to assist with the revival.[160] Also known as Smith Memorial Park Cemetery.

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[159] Scott at 78 (reprinted from *The Heritage of Caswell County* (1985).
[160] Powell at 442.

Camp Meeting

"A Methodist Camp Meeting will commence at Prospect meeting house, in Caswell County, seventeen miles north west of Hillsborough, on Friday the 5th of September next, and end on Tuesday following. The meetings will be under the supertintendance of the Rev. Peter Douh, presiding elder of the Yadkin district. The friends of Zion are respectfully invited to attend."

The Hillsborough Recorder (Hillsborough, NC), 6 August 1828.

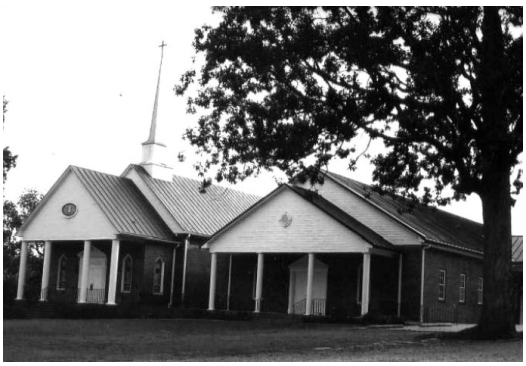
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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Prospect United Methodist Church



1900 US Hwy 158 West
West Yanceyville, Caswell County, NC

Prospect United Methodist Church about three miles west of Yanceyville may have been an outgrowth of the Piney Grove Methodist Church that Starling Gunn is said to have built. Early buildings appear to have been built on land for which no deed was recorded and that may have been soon after the American Revolution. In 1850 Elijah Roberts gave some land to the congregation and in subsequent years additional land was given. The present church, originally a wooden structure but now brick veneered, was built in 1905 with an addition made in 1929. The earliest grave in the cemetery is dated 1876.[161]

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The following is from *In the Beginning – The Churches of Caswell County*, which was published in 2001. The author is unknown:

We do not know the exact date the Prospect United Methodist Church was organized, but tradition has that it is the oldest church of the old Yanceyville Circuit, which included Prospect,

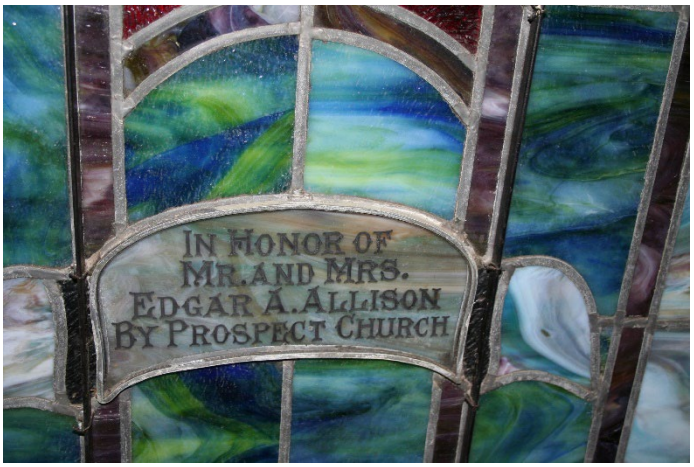
[161] Powell at 442.

Pelham, Bethel, Shady Grove, Yanceyville, and Locust Methodist churches. Early church histories date Prospect's origins as shortly after the Revolutionary War.

Prospect Church is thought to have originated from Piney Grove Methodist Church, which no longer exists. Starling Gunn established Piney Grove Church on what now is Murray Road just off the County Home Road. Gunn served in the Revolutionary War and purportedly witnessed the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. Soon after the war Gunn moved to North Carolina and provided lodging to circuit riding preachers. He later donated land for the Piney Grove Church building.

The first Prospect Church was several small cabins that served camp meetings and visiting circuit-riding preachers. Later a proper church building was erected behind the current church structure. No known deeds establish when the property was acquired, and the date of his building is not known. However, deeds do establish the date of the current site as 1850-1854. The building on this site was a simple structure, which is essentially the present sanctuary. Of course, the building has had several additions and modifications.

In 1929, Prospect Church matched a $1,000 Duke Endowment grant to brick veneer the sanctuary, remodel the structure, replace windows, add two halls, add classrooms, and build a porch. Later additions to the church building included a fellowship hall, classrooms, nursery, choir loft, narthex, and a steeple.



The first minister appointed to Prospect Church, which was part of the Yanceyville Circuit, was the Reverend Simpson (appointed 1856). Since then, fifty-four ministers have served and contributed to the growth and outreach Prospect has had in the community. Many of the family names found in the earliest church records are names of families still active in the congregation today. Many of Prospect Church members have served in both church and community. Members of the church have been community leaders in education, government, and health care. Prospect Church has long been known for its warm acceptance of new people to the community who seek a caring and serving church.[162]

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[162] Scott at 79.



Prospect UNC Celebrates Dedication Held August 24

Sunday, August 24, 2008, was a special day in the life of Prospect United Methodist Church of 1900 US Hwy 158 West. On this day, the congregation, friends and community members gathered to worship and dedicate their new fellowship hall. Pastor David Grissom, the Prospect Choir, and other church leaders participated in the service. Flowers for the service were given by Frank and Diane Murphy in memory of her parents, Thomas and Anna Odell.

Billy Hodges, Building Committee Chairman, thanked everyone who helped make this dream a reality. He recognized the family of the late long-time church leaders Eugene and Dorothy Aldridge, whose legacy provided the beginning of the building fund. In early 2007 the church voted to establish a building committee, began fund-raising efforts, and officially broke ground on the structure in July 2007. The building was built by Quality Construction and various subcontractors, but church members also contributed over 1500 hours of volunteer labor in the construction process. Pastor Grissom noted that the project had been begun with the theme "Do Everything in Love" and that the building was dedicated to the glory of God.

Following the worship service in the sanctuary, the guests moved into the fellowship hall to tour the building, enjoy refreshments, and spend time in fellowship with old and new friends. Mrs. Louise Shelton presided at the guest register for the event. Programs and audio tapes of this special service are available. Call the church at 694-5810 for more information.[163]

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As of April 2019, the pastor was Sang Park (sangpark@nccumc.org).

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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[163] *The Caswell Messenger* (Yanceyville, North Carolina), 3 September 2008. The photograph shows the fellowship hall under construction.

Providence Baptist Church



5762 Walter's Mill Road
Providence, Caswell County, NC

Providence Baptist Church at Providence in the north-central part of Caswell County between Yanceyville and Danville was established in 1862. The Rev. S. G. Mason, the first pastor, served 1862-1874 and was recalled, serving again 1888-1890. The first church building was moved to a new site and is still standing [1977], although used more as a storage building. The second building, erected about 1911/1912, was used for Sunday school after the present church was completed in 1960.[164]

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Following is the church history submitted for *In the Beginning – The Churches of Caswell* County (201):

In the summer of 1859, Brother S. G. Mason, pastor of the Yanceyville Missionary Baptist Church began preaching one Saturday of each month at Moon's Creek Meeting House, which belonged to the Anti-Missionary Baptist Church. In 1860 the meetings were moved to Sergeant's schoolhouse because some of the Anti-Missionary group objected to the Missionary group using their building.

Steven Sergent, who was a member of Moon's Creek congregation, did not agree with their anti-missionary beliefs. He forthwith gave the missionary group a one room schoolhouse building and ample land and joined their congregation. This was across the road from where the present Providence Church stands. Later this land was traded to C. B. Flintoff for land where the present Providence Missionary Baptist Church stands.

In 1862, the Yanceyville Methodist Church granted the Providence arm of the church the right to hold meetings and secure the right of preaching the word, reception and dismissal of members, administration of the ordinances, and the exercise of discipline. During that year the first church house for Providence was built. Some 65 persons were on the membership rolls. The first record of contributions to missions was in that year, also.

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[164] Powell at 452-453.

In May 1874 the Providence arm of the Yanceyville Baptist Church was constituted into an independent church and began "keeping house for the Lord."

In 1887 we find the first record of a preacher being employed at a fixed salary. C.A.G. Thomas was called at a salary of $125.00 for the year.

A larger church building, with some Sunday school rooms, was built in 1912 to take care of the increased membership.



The church grew and its third worship house was built in 1962. The old building continued in use as Sunday school rooms, etc., until the present educational building was completed in 1978. Then the old building was torn down and removed. Photograph: new building under construction in 1959 with old building to the right.

In 1990 an elevator was installed. Rev. Barry Crocker, Louie and Connie Oakley went on a Mission trip to Cost Rica. Louie and Connie also went on other Mission trips to Costa Rica in 1993 and 1995. In 1991, 12 chandeliers were hung in the sanctuary and a new sound system was installed. In 1992, the fellowship hall was remodeled. In 1995, a new sign for the front of the church was purchased and plexiglass was put over the stained-glass windows of the church, also a volleyball court was added, and the church grounds were landscaped. In 1992 and 1994 there were Mission trips to West Virginia, each time clothes, food and toys were taken, and each time the estimated value was over $3,000. In 1995, the first Youth pastor was hired, Bruce Morgan, and a new piano was purchased. In 1998, new playground equipment was given by L. Aubrey Goodson, Jr., Nancy G. Parrott, and Neal Goodson, the children of Louie and Lenna Goodson. In 1999, a Disaster Relive tram went to the NC coast to rebuild and repair homes destroyed by Hurricane Floyd. The team was made up of 12 men, youth and 2 women. Also, a truck of supplies went with them for the victims.

Later the parking lots on both sides of the church were paved.

Today the church continues to grow. A large youth and young people's department assures there will continue to be a Providence Missionary Baptist Church in the future.

Pastors who have served Providence Missionary Baptist Church: Revs. S. G. Mason, Jesse Wheeler, T. H. Walker, B. H. Phillips, J. A. Lamberth, C. G. Jones, C. A. G. Thomas, S. G. Mason (again), S. B. Wilson, Wingate, J. B. Jones, J. E. Armstrong, D. J. Harris, D. A. Keller, J. K. Reid, S. L. Becker, H. T. Allison, J. F. Davis, J. A. Hackney, R. W. Prevost, Hugh Nichols, C. W. Wood, W. S. Tillman, Karl Stukenbroke, Frank L. Israel, W. T. Smith, B. C. Lamb, Roy D. Keller, Charles O.

Jenkins, Howard Laney, Allen Thompson, Talmadge Wilcox, Claude Harrelson, Barry Crocker, Dan Wackerhagen, Steve Conerly, Kenneth Clark.

Rev. Clark is still serving at this time (1998) and the church is growing in members and service for the Lord. Rev. Bruce Morgan was engaged to minister to the children and youth in 1995 and also there has been a very favorable growth in this area.[165]

For more on this church go to: Providence Baptist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Providence Missionary Baptist Church



Hwy 86 at 185 Wilbur Webster Road
Caswell County, NC

This church cemetery established by African American members of the community does not have a survey of record. The Cemetery is on NC Wildlife Commission Property across NC Hwy 86 from Cobb Road. There is a marked dirt access road for the Wildlife Property but no signage for the cemetery. The cemetery is to the right, off the access road. This family cemetery does not have a survey of record. The Church is 1/2 mile south of this location and on the opposite side of NC Hwy 86 at 185 Wilber Webster Road.[166]

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[165] Scott at 81-82.
[166] Source: Providence Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery on Find A Grave

Purley United Methodist Church



4011 Old Hwy 86 N
Purley, Caswell County, North Carolina

Purley United Methodist Church, a little more than a mile south of the old Harrison's Meeting House, is a direct outgrowth of the meeting house. When the congregation outgrew the old building and when it desired a more central location in the community, Mrs. Samuel Harrison donated land in 1884. Local people contributed lumber and other material to construct the building.[167]

There is little doubt that Bishop Francis Asbury had something to do with the origin of Purley Church. In simplest terms, the gospel spread westward from Lea's and Davis's Chapels, 1752 and 1759 respectively, on account of the efforts of this pioneer of Methodism. A genealogy filed by E. D. Duckett at Gunn Memorial Library quotes Asbury's Journal in Duke University Library, p.342, to the effect that on March 13, 1781, he preached the funeral of Thomas Harrison's first wife, Mary Kinnon, on the Dan River in Caswell County. Asbury wrote that he was offered a large sum of money by Major Harrison to come to his plantation located between the mouth of Rattlesnake Creek and the mouth of Moon's Creek. Asbury apparently agreed to come but rejected the fee. Of the occasion Asbury further wrote there was a large attendance in spite of snow on the ground and mentioned his favorable opinion of Mary's brother, Charles Kinnon. Of the major he remarked that he hoped his great concern over his wife's passing would result in a greater concern about his own soul.

We can believe all this was not wasted on Thomas H. Harrison, young son and namesake of the major, and it is most probable that as soon as he became head of a family and took up residence on a portion of Harrison land some three miles south of the river on what is now the Duckett place on the Blanche Road that he established a Camp Ground and Meeting House nearby. In his father's will he received the land he was "then living on" in 1800. Whether Harrison's Camp Ground and Meeting House was used for Methodist gatherings before 1790 is not known. However, *The Milton Gazette and Roanoke Advertiser* for July 31, 1830, announced that a Camp Meeting for the Caswell Circuit would commence at Harrison's Meeting House on Friday, August 20 "under the superintendence of the Rev. Moses Brock, Presiding Elder for the Yadkin District, with the assistance of the Rev. John Watson and John J. Head. Other traveling and local preachers are particularly invited to attend."

When Thomas Harrison, "Jr.," died in 1834, his plantation was divided among his children, and the Meeting House was given as a point of reference on the map recorded at the Caswell

[167] Powell at 444-445.

County Courthouse. In fact, Harrison's Camp Ground and Meeting House on the Irish Road was a well-known landmark throughout the northern end of Caswell County. The lot with the Meeting House was given to Mary Polly Kinnon Harrison who had married Abisha Slade of Bright Leaf fame in 1826.

On January 1, 1835, Abisha and Mary K. Slade in return for $60 gave deed to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church for 3.3 acres, including the meeting house lot and access to the spring. The Caswell Circuit Trustees named were Andrew Harrison, John P. Harrison, James Ingram, James Harris, Joseph Knight, Sterling Gunn, Allen Gunn, Jr., John Price, William W. Price, and James Harrison. The special trust was that "they will assist in keeping standing thereon a house of worship." There are those of this century who remember the board-covered "Harrison Church" but no one can say how old it was. The exact location was between the present cemetery on the Ralph Harrison farm and the Blanche Road. This church sufficed for around fifty years.

As time passed, however, traffic on the Yanceyville-Danville Plank road increased. And the village of Purley grew. It was built on lands of Samuel Smith Harrison, a nephew of Thomas H. Harrison. A new building was probably needed at what was called "Harrison's Church" on the old maps. So, a new location was chosen. Mrs. Louisa McDaniel Harrison, widow of Squire Samuel, on October 6, 1886, executed a deed to the Trustees for the Yanceyville Circuit for one acre located between the Plank Road and the road leading to Dr. George Gunn's. The consideration was $5 and her "love and affection for the said Methodist Episcopal Church." In 1887 the Trustees sold the old lot for $100. Trustees named were: John W. Slade, Dr. George Gunn, S. G. Woods, George Dailey, Joseph C. Pinnix, and R. S. Smith, who also was superintendent of the Sunday school. Stewards were Ben Harris, Henry Hatchett, Dr. George Gunn, and S. G. Woods.

A white frame building was constructed on virtually the same spot as the present brick church. Church records contain the following family names, correlated with the cemetery where there is a Slade buried in 1894: Chandler, Cox, Finch, Gunn, Harrelson, Harris, Hodges, Hatchett, Lunsford, Norman, Pleasant, Price, Pickeral, Rowlett, Richardson, Slade, Smith, Thompson, Wilkerson, White, Warren, Woods, and Ware. The ministers until 1920 were serving the whole Milton Circuit and are named in other accounts. This arrangement continued until 1963 when New Hope and Purley became the only two churches on their circuit. The parsonage at Milton was sold and a new brick one built in 1966 on land donated by Henry Watkins in Blanche. The 1960s also marked the transition of Hines and Pauline Hatchett from New York City to Hines's native Purley and to the Purley M. E. Church.



The old wooden church which had been added to in 1948 was sold and moved intact to a nearby lot in 1960[168] and a brick Fellowship Hall built on the spot with Malcolm Watlington contracting. Dedicated May 29, 1966, it served for both Sunday school and worship. Plans had been secured from the Duke Foundation with a view to a future use of the hall as the sanctuary when connecting rooms and a complete hall and kitchen suitable for church suppers, etc., should be added.

This goal was reached when the present Early American style structure was built at a cost of $72,713.19 and dedicated December 30, 1979; the Rev. Clay Smith was pastor. A large bequest from Mr. Hatchett's brother, William Siddle, who died in 1970 had been augmented by Duke Foundation funds and significant contributions from Paul Bolden Hatchett, the Powells, Covingtons, Woods, Pleasants, Eatons, and many others.

Authors: Frances A. Slade, Chairman; Verna C. Rowland; Henry Grant, Pastor.[169]

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"A Camp-Meeting, under the superintendance [sic]of the Rev. Jas. Patterson, will commence the last Thursday of September, instant, at Harrison's Meeting House in Caswell County, about 8 miles from Milton and 6 from Caswell Court-House."

Weekly Raleigh Register (Raleigh, NC), 3 September 1819.

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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[168] The old church building was purchased by Samuel Earl Lea (1901-1993) and wife Esther True Moorefield Lea (1906-1999) and converted into their Purley residence.
[169] Scott at 82-83 (reprinted from *The Heritage of Caswell County* (1985).

Rattlesnake Church

The Yanceyville Presbyterian Church was an outgrowth of the Rattlesnake or Bethany Church. Foote, in his Sketches of North Carolina Churches, makes the first mention of this church when he states "there was a church in Caswell of long standing called Bethany, or Rattlesnake, situated on the road from Milton near Yanceyville, near the residence of George Williamson. It enjoyed the labors of Reverend Ebenezer Currie, now (1846) the oldest minister in Orange Presbytery. This church divided and the old place abandoned, one part of the congregation worshipping in Yanceyville, and the other following the church of Gilead, five miles southeast of Milton."

Caswell County deed book H, pages 14 and 43, records that on March 26, 1792, the ruling elders of Rattlesnake Congregation purchased two tracts of land on the waters of Rattlesnake Creek - one from David Shelton for 9 pounds, the adjoining plot from Thomas Jeffreys for 14 pounds. Rattlesnake Creek rises just north of Yanceyville, flowing northeast to meet the Dan River near Blanche. Rattlesnake Church is mentioned in Orange Presbytery minutes from 1795-1813: The minutes are missing for years 1813-1831. It was during this time the name was changed to Bethany. After 1831 mention is to the Bethany Church, and in 1836 Reverend N. H. Harding represented Bethany and Milton Churches at Presbytery in Greensboro.

The minutes of Orange Presbytery, meeting in Milton, Friday 13th of April 1838 read as follows: "George Williamson and others obtained leave to be formed into a church at Yanceyville. Pickard, Montgomery, Lynch. and Harding were appointed a committee to meet at Yanceyville on the Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in June to organize the church. ordain and set apart elders:' The four named men were all ministers in Orange Presbytery.

Source: Kendall, Katherine Kerr. *Yanceyville Presbyterian Church (Yanceyville, North Carolina): Early History of the Church with Sketches of the Founders* (1976).[170]

[170] See Bethany Church and Bethesda Church.

Red Hill Missionary Baptist Church



6038 Park Springs Road
Bethel, Caswell County, NC

Red Hill Baptist Church was organized in 1898 with Rev. James Adams, Pastor. A larger church building was erected in 1905. Another church building was completed in 1971. Substantial renovations were completed in 1997, including replacing the front entrance that was very near the road with two side entrances.[171]

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Red Hill Missionary Baptist Church

By Charles Harrison Blackwell (Special to *The Caswell Messenger*)

Take a scroll back to 1898. That is exactly what the program committee of Red Hill Missionary Baptist Church ("Church") recently did as we went on a historical tour of sites significant to the church's development and growth. The tour was part of an overall initiative spearheaded by the Church's Pastor, Gregory L. Hopkins, and First Lady Tammie Hopkins, to more specifically document the church's 126-year history and the history of its creating founders and descendants. This documentation will also include the production of oral interviews with current church members and the publication of a church pictorial directory.

The tour was conducted on April 13th and included stops at four sites in the Blackwell/Bethel communities of Caswell County:

1. Old Red Hill School
2. Big Oak Farm Creek where members were baptized through the 1940s
3. Farish Cemetery
4. Church's cemetery located on the Church campus at 6038 Park Springs Road

As the Church van moved slowly up and down Park Springs Road on this chilly and reflective morning, a listing of the 1900 Federal Census was slowly read by Shannon Simpson. The census,

[171] Scott at 84-85.

having been compiled just two years after the Church's creation in 1898, provides a particularly good indication of the families who resided within proximity of the Church during the year 1900. During that era, families needed to be close to the Church since there were no automobiles and travel would have been by walking, riding horses and mules, and by horse/-mule drawn carriages.



Tour Stop #1: Old Red Hill School Site. The current owners of this property, Delano and Edith Hammock, graciously greeted and welcomed us to this first stop on our tour, which is located off Park Springs Road just two miles west of the Church.

When slavery ended in 1865 millions of former slaves were placed in a situation where a lick of literacy, along with continued and severe racism, made life extremely difficult for them to endure. In response to the situation where educational opportunities had not formerly existed ex-slaves rose to the occasion by taking whatever little resources they had in attempting to create an educational system for their children. Their efforts, combined with limited funds provided by the State and subsequently by northern philanthropists, led the way for schools to be created to start down a road toward literacy.

One of the first schools we are aware of that was created in Caswell County for Negroes was constructed at this site and was known as the Red Hill School. Based on information provided by deceased member, Mary Rena Howard Walker, it was also one of the sites where the Church, which was organized in 1898, held services until a church [building] could be constructed. This information was included in a documentation of church history by Jo Ann Yancey Covington, member and former church clerk.

According to 95-year-old member Ruby Blackwell Harrelson and her 89-year-old sister, Dorothy Jean Blackwell Williamson (both of whom participated in the tour), the school had two classrooms with a kitchen and would have included grades 1-7. The teachers during the 1940s were Mrs. Ollie King of Ruffin and Mrs. Sadie Edgerton of Reidsville. This site remained operational as a school until the early 1950s when new elementary schools were built at various locations throughout Caswell County.

We can hardly imagine the amount of determination and drive that it must have taken for former slaves, starting out with almost nothing, to accomplish this huge task of educating an entire population of now-freed individuals. In honor of the determination of those former slaves the tour group dedicated the site as a symbol of the remarkable accomplishments of our ancestors who were involved in that process.

Tour Stop #2: Big Oak Farm Road Creek (Baptismal Site). Based on information provided by our older parishioners, the first site at which baptismal services occurred was at Big Oak Farm Road Creek. Dorothy Jean indicates she and her siblings were baptized there, with her baptism in 1945. Ann Withers Parker stated she also was baptized there.



After 1950 baptism services were moved from Big Oak Farm Creek to the creek off Henderson Road. According to Dorothy Jean the move to Henderson Road resulted from the water off Big Oak Farm having become deep, and there was fear someone would drown. According to Willie Apple although the new location was off Henderson Road this creek is part of the same body of water running off Big Oak Farm. According to Frank Graves a new dam was built at the Henderson Road location, and I can also recall witnessing my older brother, Algia, Jr., being baptized at this side during the mid-1950s. Also, according to Willie Apple, some of the Church's baptisms in the 1950s took place at the nearby New Ephesus Baptist Church where an outside baptismal pool had been constructed.

By 1960 an outside baptismal pool had been developed on the grounds of Red Hill. It was at this location that Pat Blackwell-Pickard and many of the Church's current members were baptized. The present-day baptismal pool was constructed inside the Church in conjunction with the overall renovation of the Church's sanctuary in 1971.

In recognition of the sacredness of the sites at which Church members were baptized in the name of the "Father, Son, and Holy Ghost," the tour group dedicated the Big Oak Farm, Henderson Road and other sites as being significant sites in the spiritual life of the Red Hill Missionary Baptist Church.



Tour Stop #3: Farish Cemetery. This cemetery is located off King Road, just off Park Springs Road and is less than one mile from the Red Hill School site. It is the cemetery where many of the white individuals are buried who had been former plantation owners and others who are known to have interacted with our black ancestors during slavery, the reconstruction and post-slavery eras. Through stories passed down by ancestors and evidence documented in certain other sources, two names associated with this cemetery are Dr. James Badgett and Iverson Glass.

One source of interest that has recently surfaced was discussed by Harvey D. Long, professor at N.C. A&T State University. Professor Long is a Caswell County native whose Blackwell family ancestors are rooted at Red Hill. Long recently circulated information concerning work performed by the Freeman's Bureau. The Bureau was an agency set up by the federal government at the end of slavery to assist former slaves in the south. Its mission was to help freed people establish schools, purchase land, locate family members, and legalize marriages. It also supplied necessities such as food and clothing, operated hospitals and temporary camps, and witnessed labor contracts between freedmen and plantation owners or other employers.

One of the stories included in the Bureau's narratives for Caswell County included that of an encounter between Iverson Glass and one of his former slaves, Edward. Glass had enslaved Alfred and Mary Fuller Glass, parents of Jennie Glass Blackwell, who is an ancestor of many of the current Blackwell Church members. Documentation of released Freedman Bureau narratives is at Freedmen's Bureau Search Portal



Tour Stop #4: Red Hill Baptist Church Cemetery. The oldest grave recorded in the cemetery is the unmarked grave of Susie Bettie Yancey Brown who died March 1915. Unmarked grave information was provided by Carolina Caswell, who is one of the people who have researched and created inventories of cemeteries throughout Caswell Count and recorded the results on Find A Grave.

A review of the cemeteries for several other black churches in Caswell County on the Find A Grave website reveals the earliest burials recorded at those churches did not take place until around 1910-1915. It is likely the recording of these burials at that time began as the result of a 1913 North Carolina law requiring death certificates. The earliest marked grave in the Red Hill Baptist Church cemetery is Willie Lovelace Siddle, November 11, 1923. Siddle is the grandfather of Dr. Vanessa Siddle Walker, Emory University professor and former Church member.

As Red Hill Baptist Church was organized in 1898, and important question is: where were the slaves and ex-slaves buried who died before 1898? This is a question the program committee realizes will require additional research. We do know slaves and ex-slaves often were buried on grounds owned by their enslavers. Examples are the Bedford Brown plantation at the intersection of Highways 150 and 158 and the Calvin Graves plantation on Highway 150.

There is reason to believe some slaves were buried in white church cemeteries. According to a history of the white Bethesda Presbyterian Church slaves and former slaves were allowed as members and some were buried in the back of the cemetery as evidenced only by large, unmarked stones. When one considers the physical proximity of Bethesda Presbyterian Church to Red Hill Baptist Church it is probable that some of the ancestors of Red Hill Baptist Church might have been buried at Bethesda Presbyterian Church.

The program committee and tour participants acknowledge our ancestors paid a major price for the progress we made, and we owe them a major debt of gratitude and respect. Included with that respect is our efforts to identify and honor their final resting places. Therefore, at the conclusion of the tour we gave honor to those souls who have gone before us. Those ancestors include those buried in the Red Hill Baptist Church cemetery along with the others whose bodies may not have been respected and were buried in unidentified places.

In conclusion, as the program committee moves forward in documenting Church history, we solicit the support of Church members and the community at large. There is treasured information in libraries, stored in family bibles, and in individual minds that can add value to

our efforts. It is only when we document and understand our history we are able to create an environment for a better understanding of and appreciation for the lives of our ancestors. Their sacrifices are history we cannot afford to forget.

The Caswell Messenger (Yanceyville, NC), 15 May 2024.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave

Red House Presbyterian Church



13508 NC Hwy 119
Semora, Caswell County, North Carolina

Red House Church near Semora may have existed as early as 1755. It was known first as Middle Hico, but the name was changed to Red House about 1806 as that was the name by which the community was generally known. The name came from a noted inn nearby that was painted red. It was a popular stopping place between Hillsborough and the Virginia Line. The Rev. Hugh McAden served the congregation here from 1768 until his death in 1781, and he is buried in the churchyard. He died a short while before British troops under General Charles Cornwallis invaded the area, and his grave is said by tradition to have been opened by his troops in search of gold or other valuables. British troops are also credited with the destruction of his journal, books, and other records and with extensive damage to the church and family property.
The first church purportedly was built in 1756, the second in 1806, the third in 1809 (presumably after a fire destroyed the recently built structure),[172] and the present in 1913. The 1809 church was remembered as "a quaint wooden structure. It faced west, and inside the pulpit stood between the two front doors by which the congregation entered the church." This meant that late-comers could not slip in unobserved and take a back seat – they entered the front and had to take seats in the sight of those already present. It was also remembered that there was no balcony for slaves as was the case elsewhere; instead seats were to one side for slaves. The pews were said to have been made by Thomas Day in Milton, and when the present church was occupied, they were given to Gilead Presbyterian Church.

[172] The third church building may have been moved to the farm of T. S. Allen in Semora, Caswell County, NC.

Hugh McAden was born in Pennsylvania of Scotch-Irish parentage and he was educated in Nassau Hall, now Princeton University. He was a diligent missionary and pastor and the Red House community became a cultured center because of his presence. The Murphey family also lived nearby, and for many years an academy was conducted near the church.[173]

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(Prepared by one of its members and recorded in Caswell County Register of Deeds Office.)

Red House Church was organized prior to 1755 and was first called Middle Hyco Chapel. During the year 1806 the name was changed to Red House. This house was painted red and was known to travelers as the "Red House."

Mr. Hugh McAden was the first regular pastor of this church that we have a record of. At the time of Mr. McAden's death this section of the country was overrun by two contending armies, for the country was in the throes of the Revolutionary War. The army of General Green was retreating across Dan River closely followed by the army of Lord Cornwallis, the latter leaving destruction in its tracks. About two weeks after Mr. McAden's death the British encamped in the church yard and it is said that Lord Cornwallis had his headquarters in the church and the tradition is that so great was the hatred of the Tories that they not only destroyed the property of his family and burned their home but they dug into his grave and mutilated his body.

There have been four houses of worship. During the year 1876 the church was repaired and modernized and used until 1913 when a brick building was erected. After the war between the states the small children in the Sunday School were furnished Bible Primers and had lessons in them. Many of them studied hard and came with lessons well prepared every Sabbath. In this way they learned to read and write for there were no schools. The first Sabbath was the regular appointment for services for many years. On third Sunday evenings there was preaching for the servants and the house would be filled to overflowing.

Following is a list of pastors of this church:

Mr. Hugh McAden	T. A. Faucette
William Moore	Mc. G. Shields
James H. Bowman	P. C. Morton
Hugh Shaw	James Evans
John McLean	E. H. Harding
A. D. Montgomery	N. R. Claytor
George W. Ferrell	Rev. Whitney served during the year 1945
N. H. Harding	Rev. William Hodgkin
John Paisley	Rev. John Boyd
S. A. Stanfield	Rev. Bill Wrenn (serving now)

[173] Powell at 435-436.

(See Miscellaneous records I. page 183 and II. page 437 in Registerof Deeds Office.)

Source: Barker, Ophelia, Editor. “A Brief History of Neighborhood Churches” in *History of Connally United Methodist Church, Milton, North Carolina, Organized 1821* (1969), p. 20-21.

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"Rev. NR Claytor, longtime Presbyterian minister (lived in the Clay-Irvine house, now home to Jim Upchurch), served five Presbyterian churches in the Milton area--Red House in Semora, Milton Presbyterian, Gilead, Community (across Dan River in Virginia), and Palmer's Chapel -- black congregation." Source: Jean Bradsher Scott 3 March 2014 Post to the Caswell County Historical Association Facebook Page.

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Reverend Hugh McAden (c.1730-1781) grave marker inscription: “Pioneer Missionary to North Carolina in 1755 and first Presbyterian Missionary to settle in the State. Pastor in Duplin County 1757-1768. Pastor of Red House and other churches from 1768 to the day of his death January 20, 1781.”

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The following is from Satterfield, Mary McAden, “Semora” in Motley, Charles B. *Carolina Communities*. Radford (Virginia): Commonwealth Press, Inc., 1995, p. 64:

Red House Church history has been told and re-told. The church congregation was known as Middle Hico until 1806 when it was named Red House because of the Red House Tavern nearby. The congregation or certainly a group of worshippers, was here in 1755, as evidenced by Hugh McAden’s Journal. The earliest church records were not available, so I do not know the names of the Charter members. I am sure there were Jeffreys, Raineys, Irvines, Murpheys and Debows among them.

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Red House Presbyterian Church and associated cemetery is one of two such properties on the National Register of Historic Places. The other is Grier’s Presbyterian Church.

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For more on this church see: Red House Presbyterian Church 250th Anniversary; Red House Presbyterian Church 1918 Dedication; and National Register of Historic Places

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Building Photographs[174]
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[174] Additional photographs are in *The Heritage of Caswell County* (1985) at p. 665.

River Bend Pentecostal Holiness Church[175]



5235 Mountain Hill Road
Milton, Caswell County, NC

No written history is known. Church is just south of the Virginia line on the north side of Dan River.

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave

River Zion Baptist Church



5637 Blanch Road
Blanch, Caswell County, NC

River Zion Baptist Church apparently was organized in 1890. Preachers include Alfred Graves, J. McGruder, Floyd Long, Walsh Johnson, J. A. Tucker, Sam Badgett, and T. B. Wilson. The current building dates from 1956.

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave

[175] Photograph courtesy Carolina Caswell.

Sassafras Grove Baptist Church



3254 Old NC Hwy 86
Covington, Caswell County, NC

In 1875 the founding fathers of Sassafras Grove Baptist Church, Americus Holloway, Isham Harrison, and Ransome Slade, asked Thomas Hatchett to use his one-room cabin for use as a church. The first pastor was Alfred Johnson. In 1878, Thomas Hatchett sold the log cabin and ½ acre of land to the three men for $7.50 for religious and educational purposes, with the condition that the property would revert to Thomas Hatchett should it be used for another purpose. As the building was surrounded by a grove of Sassafras trees, the church was so named. The next building was erected in 1924, with the present church structure dating from 1978.

It appears the Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association held its 1914 annual meeting at Sassafras Grove Baptist Church.[176]

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery on Cemetery Census

Semora Baptist Church



14450 NC Hwy 119
Semora, Caswell County, NC[177]

Semora Baptist Church near Semora in the northeast corner of Caswell County was begun as a result of funds raised in 1906 by members of Shiloh Baptist Church. Formal organization came June 8, 1907, with ten members, most of whom had attended Shiloh Church about five miles away. A cemetery committee was appointed and reported in

[176] *Minutes of the Forty-Seventh Annual Session of the Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association, Which Convened with the Sassafras Grove Baptist Church of Purley, North Carolina, August 6, 7, 8, 1914*
[177] Actually, is on Murphey Road/Zion Level Church Road.

1910, but it was not until 1951 that property was acquired for the cemetery. Significant improvements were made to the church building over the years.[178]

Mary McAden Satterfield wrote a history of Semora Baptist Church that was included in *The Heritage of Caswell County* (1985), which was republished in *In the Beginning: The Churches of Caswell County*, Jean B. Scott, Editor (2001).
The church cemetery is located across Murphy Road from the church adjacent to and forward of the Allen Family Cemetery.

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EXCERPTS FROM THE HISTORY OF THE SEMORA BAPTIST CHURCH 1906 - 1968

Do you recall road conditions as far back as 1906? Then you will remember something of the roads when the winter snows and deep freezes, caused mud axle deep, with traveling almost impossible. Such a day occurred late in January of 1906 on a certain Sunday morning; when the T. M. Allen family, Mr. John B. Yarbrough, their two daughters, Mary John Yarbrough and Ella Yarbrough, and Dr. J. F. Swann, were ready to get seated in a two-horse wagon to make a trip to Shiloh Baptist Church, a distance of six miles from their homes at Semora, N. C, where they attended church and Sunday School for many years.

The day was dreary, and snow was beginning to fall, so Dr. Swann said, "Why can't we have Sunday School here at Mr. Yarbrough's?" "Nuff said." Mr. and Mrs. Allen, The John B. Yarbrough family met in the parlor of the Yarbrough family and Sunday School was duly held.

The question of building a church at Semora, N. C. was first mentioned by Dr. Swann on this particular day. Mr. Thomas M. Allen said, "I'll give the building lot," Mr. Yarbrough being a contractor and builder said, "I'll put up the building, free of charge." Mrs. Yarbrough and daughter, Ella and Mrs. T. M. Allen were named a committee to solicit funds to buy the building material; thus, the church was organized.
June 1907 was truly a great day for the newly organized church for the ten charter members, together with the many interested friends, assembles for the dedication of the Semora Baptist Church. The charter members were: Mr. T. M. Allen and wife, Carrie Kersey (Mrs. T. M. Allen, Carrie Allen Holloman (Mrs. John Holloman), Willie Allen, Mrs. Sallie Hinton Grinstead, Dr. Joseph Fuller Swann, Ella Yarbrough McAden (Mrs. John H. McAden), Mary Harrison Yarbrough (Mrs. John B. Yarbrough), Mary John Yarbrough Taylor (Mrs. W. L. Taylor), and Mrs. John B. Yarbrough.

During the years from 1907 to 1968 the following ordained pastors have served the church.

D. W. Thomasson - 1907 Charles A. Stephens - 1950-1951
J. K. Faulkner - 1907-1912 Richard McKay - 1952-1953
D. T. Putnam - 1912-1914 L. J. Morgan - 1953-1955

[178] Powell at 453.

M. F. Hodges - 1915-1916 David Rogers - 1955-1960
Paul Hartsell - 1916-1919 Wayland Johnson - 1961-1964
H. O. Miller - 1919-1921 Richard Bass - 1964
L. V. Coggins - 1922-1948 Gene Tully - 1964-1965
Henry Crouch - 1948-1949 Paul W. Travis - 1965-1966
Theo Gaze - 1949-1950 A. M. Johnson - 1966-1968
James F. Johnson - 1968
In June 1957, the church celebrated its fiftieth Anniversary, which was attended by approximately 200 people. Many were descendants of the Charter members and former pastors of the church. The Church and Sunday School has always had regular services. Ministerial Students, attending Eastern Seminary, have supplied as pastors; some more than two years at the time. The church has always contributed to all Missions, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Associations.

Mrs. S. O. Garrett, Historian
Semora Baptist Church

Source: Barker, Ophelia, Editor. "A Brief History of Neighborhood Churches" *in History of Connally United Methodist Church, Milton, North Carolina, Organized 1821* (1969), p. 21-22.

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The following is from Satterfield, Mary McAden, "Semora" in Motley, Charles B. *Carolina Communities*. Radford (Virginia): Commonwealth Press, Inc., 1995, pp. 65-67:

The history of the Semora Baptist Church is a typical one. The organization grew out of a great need and a desire for a place to worship. In the early days of this 20th century, North Carolina had not developed its highway system as we know it today. The roads could hardly be called more than wagon trails in many instances. Cars were a rarity and good roads were dreams of the future. On a winter's day, 5 or 10 miles was a long hard trip. A little group of Baptists at Semora attended Shiloh Baptist Church, about 5 miles from the village. Shiloh was at the top of a long steep hill leading from Country Line Creek.
In the winter this hill became almost impassable for even a two-horse carriage. I have heard Mama[179] say that they would have to get out of the carriage at the bottom of the hill and walk up because the horses could not pull the loaded carriage through the mud. They changed their shoes and carried their Sunday shoes to change again when they reached the church. One cold rainy Sunday the little band had started to Shiloh. Dr. J. F. Swann, a young physician who had settled in the neighborhood, suggested that they go in at Brother Yarbrough's and have their Sunday School lesson by his fire. This was the beginning of the Semora Baptist Church. The first memorandum of this meeting is dated January 1906.

Charter members of the congregation dated June 8, 1907, were: John B. Yarbrough, Mary L. Yarbrough, Mary John Yarbrough, Ella Yarbrough McAden, Thomas M. Allen, Carrie K. Allen,

[179] Ella Temperance Yarbrough McAden (1871-1955)

Carrie Allen Holloman, Willie Allen, Sallie Hinton Grinstead, and Dr. J. F. Swann. The Rev. D. W. Thomasson was the first pastor.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave

Semora United Methodist Church



1415 NC Hwy 119
Semora, Caswell County, NC

Semora United Methodist Church in the northeast part of Caswell County was organized in 1920 under the leadership of the Rev. B. O. Merritt with about thirty members. An increasing number of Methodists had moved into the community a few years before, some from Connally and others from Providence (in nearby Person County) churches. The present church was dedicated on April 8, 1924.[180]

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An increasing number of Methodist families had moved to Semora before 1920. Thirty charter members organized themselves into a Semora Methodist Church about this time and had services in the Semora Baptist Church twice a month at night.

The Semora Methodist Church was organized in 1920 under the leadership of Rev. B. O. Merritt with about thirty charter members. Building funds were raised under the leadership of Rev. A. J. Hobbs. The building was completed during the pastorate of Rev. J. B. Hurley. It was dedicated April 8, 1924. To our former pastors and present pastor, W. F. Meacham we record sincere appreciation.

Source: Barker, Ophelia, Editor. “A Brief History of Neighborhood Churches” in *History of Connally United Methodist Church, Milton, North Carolina, Organized 1821* (1969), p. 21-22.

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The following is from Satterfield, Mary McAden, “Semora” in Motley, Charles B. *Carolina Communities*. Radford (Virginia): Commonwealth Press, Inc., 1995, p. 67:

[180] Powell at 446.

The Semora Methodist church is the youngest organization in the [Semora] community. I do not know the exact date it was organized but it was in the early 1920s. I can barely remember when that church was built! There was a joke in circulation when the church site was selected across the road from the Baptist church. It was something about it would not work to have the two churches across from each other – for, when and if one of them started to sing "Will There Be Any Stars In My Crown?" the other one would answer "No, Not One." Knowing the members of both congregations, I am sure as I can be that there have been stars placed in the crowns of those on both sides of the road who have gone on before us.

Some of the charter members of the Semora Methodist Church include: Mr. S. M. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. John Barker, Mr. W. W. Pointer, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Talley, Mr. and Mrs. George Rogers.

The first pastor was the Rev. A. J. Hobbs or Rev. J. Bascon Hurley. He preached for several months at the Baptist Church until the new building was completed in 1924. It was dedicated April 8, 1924.

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No associated cemetery is known.

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Building Photographs

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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

Shady Grove Baptist Church



1588 Shady Grove Road
Providence, Caswell County, NC 27315
(336) 388-2580

No written church history is known. Purportedly established 1866 (based upon a Facebook page titled "Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church – Providence)."[181]

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave

[181] https://www.facebook.com/Shady.Grove1866/about/?ref=page_internal [Accessed 21 April 2022].

Shady Grove United Methodist Church



Shady Grove Road, Caswell County, NC

Shady Grove United Methodist Church in the northcentral part of the county south of Gatewood dates from 1856 when services were held in a log schoolhouse nearby. In 1858 a log church was built and the land on which it presumably stood was deeded to trustees I. B. Carter, H. E. Hodges, J. W. Garrett, W. T. Price, and W. T. Hodges on March 1, 1869; a new church was then erected. In 1871 land for a burial round was given by Jas. A. Hodges. In 1905 the cornerstone of a new church was laid, and this building was used until 1926 when it burned. In 1928 the present brick structure was dedicated.[182]

The first services at Shady Grove United Methodist Church were held by Rev. Simpson in 1856 in a log schoolhouse that stood just north of the location of the current building. Apparently, this schoolhouse was used until 1858 when a log church was built facing south, just south of the schoolhouse. The log building had two doors in the south end, with the pulpit between the two doors. The second building was constructed in 1869, mostly of poplar. Bill Rainey refurbished the building in 1882. In 1869 a deed was recorded in favor of the first trustees: I. B. Carter; H. E. Hodges; J. W. Garrett; W. T. Price; and W. T. Hodges, conveying one-half acre from Dr. DeJarnett for the purpose of building a church. In 1871 James A. Hodges donated to the same trustees one and one-half acres for a burial ground. The first person buried in the cemetery was Mrs. Susan Patterson Hodges.

On November 2, 1905, the cornerstone was laid for a large frame church, which burned down in March 1926. Services were held in the schoolhouse about a mile north of the present church until 1928, when the present church was built and dedicated. An addition was dedicated in 1964.[183]

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Masons to Participate

"The corner-stone of Shady Grove M. E. Church, South, of Caswell County, four and one-half miles from Danville, will be held on Tuesday, the 31st day of October, by the John A. Graves Masonic Lodge, of Yanceyville, assisted by the lodges of Danville. Addresses will be delivered by two or more distinguished Masons. A brass band will be present on this occasion to furnish

[182] Powell at 443.
[183] Scott at 100.

inspiring music. A barbecued dinner, including Brunswick stew, will be prepared to feed 1,500 people. A cordial invitation is extended to everybody."

The Reidsville Review (Reidsville, North Carolina), 20 October 1905.

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In 1909 the following Methodist ministers were serving Caswell County, North Carolina:

Nicks: Pelham and Shady Grove
Ross, C. R.: Yanceyville
Usry: Milton
Yearby: Leasburg

The North Carolina Methodist Conference had a rule that required ministers to move to another church (called a charge) after four years.

Raleigh Christian Advocate (Raleigh, NC), 21 Oct 1909.

Yearby apparently was reassigned to Mt. Tirzah in Person County and was replaced by J. C. Humble.

S. F. Nicks apparently was reassigned to Hillsborough and was replaced by L. L. Nash.

Usry apparently was replaced by W. T. Nory.

Goldsboro Daily Argus (Goldsboro, NC), 30 Nov 1909.

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In 1909 the following Methodist ministers were serving Caswell County, North Carolina:

Nicks: Pelham and Shady Grove
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The North Carolina Methodist Conference had a rule that required ministers to move to another church (called a charge) after four years.

Raleigh Christian Advocate (Raleigh, NC), 21 Oct 1909.

N. C. Yearby was reassigned to Mt. Tirzah in Person County and was replaced by J. C. Humble. But, in 1910 after serving only four months Humble became ill and was replaced by Thomas McM. Grant.

S. F. Nicks apparently was reassigned to Hillsborough and was replaced by L. L. Nash.

Usry apparently was replaced by W. T. Nory.

Goldsboro Daily Argus (Goldsboro, NC), 30 Nov 1909.

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Of course, in 1909 there were other Methodist churches in Caswell County, but they were served by the minister in charge of a "circuit."

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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census

Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Shady Oak Baptist Church



Shady Oak Baptist Church

1739 Walters Mill Road
Gatewood, Caswell County, NC

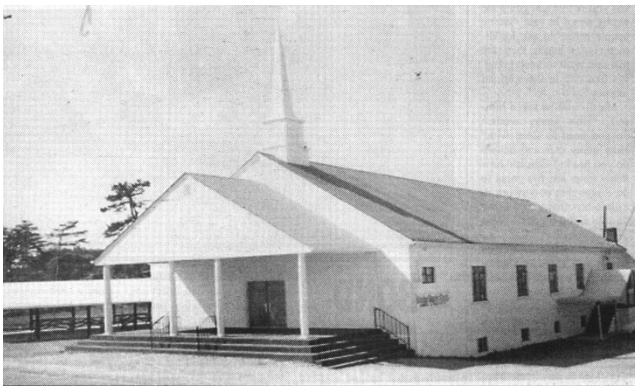
In 1924 a group was attending Sunday school in a small public one-room school on the Walter's Mill road where Mrs. Mabel Booker was teaching. Interested in having a preaching service, they invited Lemuel Hopkins from the Church of Christ in Danville, VA. Mrs. Cora Brock Wrenn donate property adjoining the school for a church building. In 1928 this became the Shady Oak Christian Church. Several years later Sunday school rooms were added

and a well dug. A brick church building was completed in 1964. In 1974 the name was changed to Shady Oak Baptist Church.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave

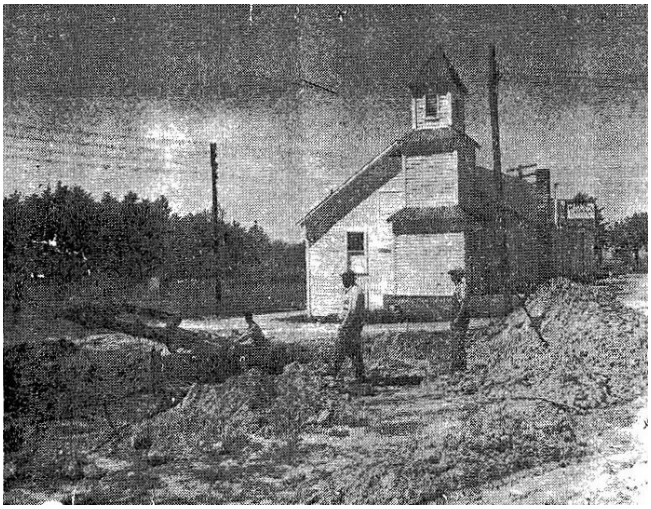
Sheldon Baptist Church



2486 Old U.S. Hwy 29
Pelham, Caswell County NC
(336) 388-2689

Sheldon Baptist Church is located on old U.S. Highway 29 South, one mile from the Danville City limits near the intersection with Holland Road.

In 1942, Melvin Evans of the Pelham community asked Rev. Roy L. Hall, then living in Danville, VA, to preach at Pelham. A small lean-to building was rented at the intersection of Holland Road, and on Easter Sunday 1943 the first service was held with an attendance of 119 people Soon the building became too small, and a building up the road known as the Green Mill Dance Hall was rented with an option to buy. It was named Sheldon Baptist Church after the railroad stop behind the church. The church was organized December 12, 1943 with thirteen charter members: Henry and Viola Adkins; Wesley and Bessie Paschall; Otis and Lilly Mae Adkins; Leatty Gauldin; Roy and Lena Hall; Curtis and Bell Mullins; Huston and Dorothy Jannie.



After enlarging the old building several times, a new church building was erected in 1953. A paved parking lot and a steeple

came years later. Rev. Roy L. Hall was minister for forty years.[184]

Photograph shows site being prepared for new church building with old church building in the background.[185]

Unknown is whether a cemetery is associated with this church.

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Building Photographs

Shiloh Baptist Church



1760 Yarbrough Mill Road
Yarbro, Caswell County, NC

Shiloh Baptist Church in the northeast portion of Caswell County between Estelle and Yarbro was established in 1878 at what had been Mills Baptist Church. The earlier church, a Primitive Baptist church, had been organized on May 30, 1830, but by 1874 most of the members had moved away. With the assistance of Milton Baptist Church, the new congregation was organized in February 1878 with seventy-three members. The next year a Sunday school was organized. In 1886 Shiloh purchased the property of Mills Baptist Church. In 1903 members of Shiloh formed the Blanch Baptist Church, while in 1906 others formed the Baptist Church at Semora. In 1955 the Shiloh church burned, but before the end of 1956 a new building was ready for use.[186]
A more comprehensive church history will be found in *In the Beginning: The Churches of Caswell County*, Jean B. Scott, Editor (2001), pp. 104-106 (based upon an article submitted to *The Heritage of Caswell County* (1985):

On May 30, 1820, for $1 Joseph Samuels sold to James Lea and Joel Thomas land on Country Line Creek to be used for the sole purpose of building a church. The church, primitive Baptist, was named Mills Baptist. James Lea and Joel Thomas were the first deacons. In 1874 the church closed. In 1878 Shiloh Baptist church was organized and accepted into the Beulah Association.

An account also is found in *The Heritage of Caswell County* (1985):

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[184] Scott at 103-104.
[185] *The Register* (Danville, VA), 16 May 1952.
[186] Powell at 454.

Shiloh Baptist Church is located on the Yarbrough's Mill Road running from Hwy 62 near Estelle to Hwy 57 near Semora. In February 1878, a Presbytery consisting of J. K. Faulkner, F. H. Jones, and J. H. Vernon convened with the arm of the Milton Baptist Church that had been worshipping at Yarbrough's Mill for the purpose of constituting a regular church. There was a roll of 73 members.

A permanent organization was created by calling F. H. Jones to the chair and appointing J. H. Vernon as secretary. J. E. Jordan moved that the church be known as "Shiloh Baptist Church." The motion carried. The first deacons were John P. Yarbrough, W. R. Bryant, and James B. Moore. Elder F. H. Jones was the new pastor. The first clerk was C. J. Yarbrough; and the treasurer was R. C. Yarbrough. Charter members were Je. E. Jordan, F. Stegall, Green Carter, James Jones, and W. S. Yarbrough. In July 1878 the church sought membership in the Beulah Association and was admitted.

The Sunday school dates from March 1879. J. B. Moore was the first Sunday school superintendent, with Tom Allen assistant.

In 1903, some church members left and organized a new church at Blanche: Blanche Baptist Church. And, apparently another church was an outgrowth of Shiloh Baptist Church: Semora Baptist church in 1907.

A major church building remodeling program was launched in 1952 and completed three years later. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rogers donated land that allowed for more cemetery and lawn space.

The church building burned in 1955. On the first Sunday morning in December 1955, just before Sunday school, word spread that the church building was burning. Having just completed the remodeling project and retired all church debt only $23.94 remained in the church treasury.

After the fire services were held at Gilead Presbyterian Church. Rebuilding began almost immediately. Individuals and neighboring churches donated $977.62, and in 1956 services were held in a partially completed new church building. Only the basic structure had been erected, and chairs were borrowed from a funeral home. Dedication of the new church building was December 2, 1956, one year after the original building had burned. On October 30, 1957, the entire church debt was retired.

Pastors: F. H. Jones (1878-1885); W. B. Wingate (1885-1887); J. R. Jones (1887-1894); J. E. Armstrong (1895-1898); L. N. Chappel (1898-1900); B. J. Bateman (1901-1903); A. V. Joiner (1903); W. J. Jones (1903); J. B. Davis (1903); J. J. Adams (1904-1906); L. M. Holloway (1906-1909); J. F. Faulkner (1909); G. W. Read (1910-1913); H. T. Allison (1914-1917); J. F. Davis (1917-1919); J. A. Hackney (1920-1922); R. W. Prevost (1922); Hugh L. Nichols (1923-1925); J. A. Hackney (1926); Walter S. Tillman (1928-1931); Rev. Stukinbroke (1931-1932); V. E. Duncan (1932-1933); F. L. Israel (1932-1940); W. T. Smith (1940-1944); B. C. Lamb (1944-1947); A. F. Yarbrough (1947-1948); Rev. Murray, Supply (1949-1950); L. J. Morgan (1951-1955); David

Rogers (1955-1957); I. T. Allgood (1957-1958); Carson Morris (1959); E. L. Epperson (1960-1969); John L. Warner (1969-).

Sources: *History of Shiloh Baptist Church 1878-1978* and church records.[187]

Note the reference to *History of Shiloh Baptist Church 1878-1978*, which suggests a written church history. However, this publication has not been located.

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For an interesting anecdote about the difficulty of reaching this church from Semora during bad weather see the entry in this paper for Semora Baptist Church.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave

Smith Chapel Baptist Church



94 Smith Chapel Road
Pelman, Caswell County, North Carolina

No written history is known.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave

[187] Willis, Clyde D. "Shiloh Baptist Church History" in *The Heritage of Caswell County*, Jeannine D. Whitlow, Editor. Winston-Salem: 1985, pp. 66-67.

Spirit and Truth Baptist Church[188]



1301 Milesville Road
Milesville, Caswell County, North Carolina

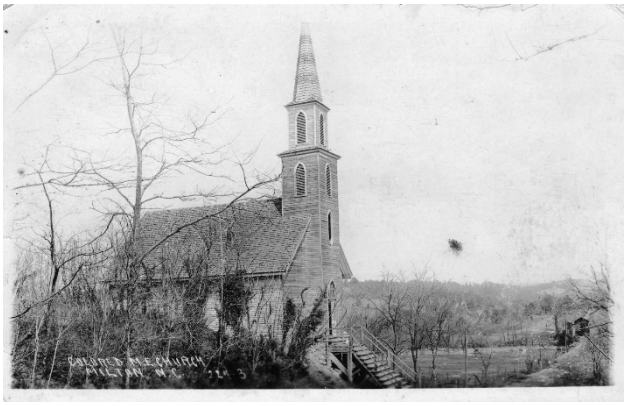
No written history known.

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave

Spiritual Baptist Church

Spiritual Baptist Church at the Virginia line in Gatewood was organized in 1959 in a local store building. A new brick church was completed in 1967.[189] See Gatewood Baptist Church.

St. Andrews AME Church



African American Methodist church in Milton, North Carolina. No longer stands.

No written church history is known

[188] Photograph courtesy Carolina Caswell.
[189] Powell at 454.

St. James Baptist Church



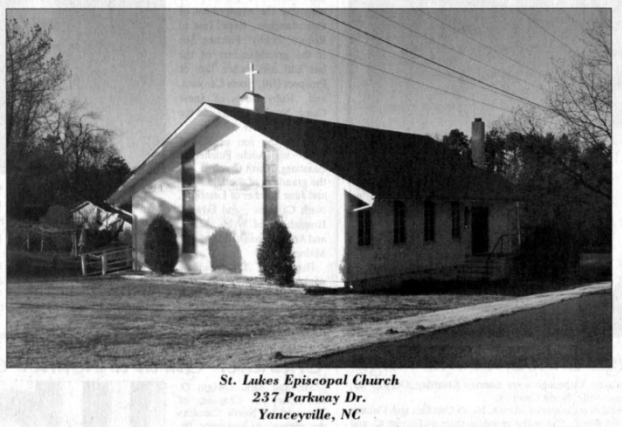
Leasburg, Caswell County, NC

No written church history is known.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave

St. Luke's Episcopal Church



237 Parkway Drive
Yanceyville, Caswell County, NC

On Sunday, April 15, the second Sunday after Easter, the Right Reverend Edwin Anderson Penick, will lay the cornerstone of the new building to serve the congregation of St. Luke's Mission in Yanceyville. The structure is designed to be used for both church services, the Sunday Church School, and other activities of the congregation.

Although some of the early inhabitants of Caswell County were Episcopalians, the difficulty of obtaining the services of a priest and the scattered population made impossible the organization of a church in the county in its early years. At Milton, St. Paul's Church was organized in 1831, but later disbanded. It was not until 1890 that the present Christ Church in Milton was erected, and an Episcopal Church established in Caswell County.

Services were held in Yanceyville intermittently. Bishop Ives visited Yanceyville in 1844 and noted in his diary the prospects of establishing a congregation in the town. Bishop Atkinson held a service in Yanceyville in 1858, and Bishop Lyman visited both Milton and Yanceyville in 1864. But distances were great, and there was no parish close enough for any permanent arrangement to be made so that services could be held, and pastoral supervision supplied with any regularity. The few Episcopalians who lived in Yanceyville were attached to Milton, thirteen miles away, until seven years ago when the first organized effort was made to establish a congregation in Yanceyville.

In 1949, Fred I. E. Ferris, then a Lay-Reader resident in Roxboro, previously a student at Duke University, and since ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of East Carolina, came to Yanceyville and brought the Episcopalians living in the community together to form a Mission congregation. St. Mary's chapter of the Woman's Auxiliary was also formed. in order to have a place of their own for church services and Church School the old Swicegood house in Yanceyville was secured and served for seven years as their church It soon became apparent that a church building was necessary, and in 1953 a lot was purchased in a residential section of the town, and plans made to build. Construction began in the spring of 1955.

At present, there are thirty-one Episcopalians in St. Luke's congregation, seventeen being adults. The total cost of the building, including land, architects fee, and miscellaneous expenses, will be $12,045, all of which has been raised through gifts from the Diocese, the Diocesan Auxiliary and Laymen's League, and through local pledges, projects of the local Woman's Auxiliary, and gifts of friends of the church, except for $4,200 borrowed through the American National Bank and Trust Company of Danville, VA.
Edwin A. Penick, D.D., Bishop
Richard H. Baker, D.D., Bishop-Coadjutor
George I. R. McMahon, Priest-in-Charge
Clarence L. Pemberton, Warden
Mission Committee: Mrs. Charles R. Thomas, John T. Clark, Louise M. Homewood, Mrs. Edward H. Wilson
Architects, Schnedl and Schnedl, Reidsville, NC
Contractor, Baron Neal, Yanceyville, NC[190]

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, an unorganized mission, was formed in Yanceyville in 1973 with nine baptized members. It has an attractive brick church. Pews from the Milton Episcopal church were moved to the church in Yanceyville.[191] See the Christ Episcopal Church entry in this paper. The congregation from Christ Episcopal apparently moved to Yanceyville. However, whether this building continues to house an Episcopal Church is not known. No associated cemetery has been identified.

Building Photographs

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

Incomplete records suggest that St. Paul’s Episcopal Church was organized in Milton in 1831. However, if so, it did not survive long.[192]

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[190] Church history associated with the dedication of the new church building in Yanceyville in April 1956.
[191] Powell at 467.
[192] Powell at 466.

Stokesland Baptist Church



130 Taylor St.
Danville, VA
(434) 792-6686

This Danville, VA, church is included here because it originated in Caswell County, NC.

Stokesland Baptist Church, formerly known as State Line Baptist Church, was the outgrowth of a bush arbor revival held by C. C. Chaplin at a school house not far from the site of the first church building located near the rock quarry at Pelham, Caswell County, NC, on old Route 29 South. A congregation was constituted October 18, 1874, through the ministry of the First Baptist Church of Danville. The land for the church and a one-room building was donated by William D. Coleman, granduncle of Kenneth, Herbert, Grace, and Bertie Coleman. State Line Baptist Church joined the association with other Baptist churches in 1876.

Fifty years after the church was founded a stone company began blasting at the quarry. As this was a great risk to the church, in 1924 the membership decided to move to what then was known as "Stokesland Village" and changed the name to Stokesland Baptist Church. The two lots used for the church remain in use today. One lot was purchased, and the other was donated to the church by Mrs. Ella Coleman Gatewood, aunt of the Coleman's in 1925. A frame building of one large room and two small rooms (at the rear of the pulpit) were built. The current church dates from 1956. A fellowship building was erected in 1978.

Source: Stokesland Baptist Church History (1993), which was written as part of the 200th anniversary of churches in Danville, VA.

Building Photographs

Stoney Creek A.M.E. Church



3769 Milesville Road
Stony Creek, Caswell County, NC

Stoney Creek Church in the southern part of Caswell County near the Alamance County line was established in 1885. The original church has been remodeled and brick veneered.[193]

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave

Sweet Gum Grove Missionary Baptist Church



8609 Hwy 119 S
Baynes, Caswell County, NC

Sweet Gum Grove Missionary Baptist Church north of Baynes in southern Caswell County was established in 1887. Fire destroyed the building in 1891, but a white congregation had a church that was too small for them and it was given to Sweet Gum, disassembled, moved, and reassembled. The church now has stained glass memorial windows, and there is a cemetery nearby.[194]

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Cemetery Census

[193] Powell at 446.
[194] Powell at 454.

Trinity Baptist Church (Old)

Trinity Baptist Church in southwestern Caswell County near the Rockingham County line was established May 2, 1840, with Alexis Howard, William Slade, and Azariah Graves as trustees. It counted among its early members some of the most distinguished families of the county: Graves, Stamps, Russell, Slade, Lawson, Blackwell, Farish, Lea, and others. Judge Thomas Settle was a member from 1843 until 1851 when he was a young man. The church roll of the 1850s also includes blacks.[195]

The following is from *In the Beginning . . . The Churches of Caswell County*, Jean B. Scott, Compiler (1998) at 109-110:

In 1840, some residents of southwestern Caswell County left the Yanceyville Baptist Church (Yanceyville, North Carolina) to from the Trinity Baptist Church, which was nearer their homes. Members also came from Wolf Island, Lick Fork, Dan River, Pleasant Grove, and other churches. William Pleasants was the first pastor; Calvin Graves, the first clerk; and Alexis Howard, the first treasurer. Alexis Howard, William Dupree, and John Stamps were elected deacons. Azariah Graves, Alexis Howard, and William Slade were trustees of the church property. Calvin Graves, William Dupree, and Alexis Howard were delegates to the Association held 1840 in Yanceyville. R. W. Lawson offered a site for church and school. In 1842, Zachariah Neal from Bethesda Presbyterian Church joined Trinity Baptist Church and applied for a license to preach, which he received in the fall of 1842.

Also in the fall of 1842, Trinity, in association with the Yanceyville Baptist Church, called John Joshua James as pastor. The Association was held at Trinity in 1843, and a revival was held in connection with the Association that lasted twenty days. At this time, Judge Thomas Settle made a profession and joined the church on August 13, 1843. About this time, Hosea McNeil made a motion to organize a church at Sycamore Grove near Major Kerr's home. The name of this church eventually was changed to Kerr's Chapel Baptist Church. In 1844, the Milton Baptist Church was organized as an arm of the Yanceyville Baptist Church, and Reverend John Joshua James served three churches. At this time, Thomas Settle was Reverend John Joshua James's assistant and held services at Trinity Baptist Church each month.

The first Sunday School organized in this section of the state was at Trinity 10 April 1844, with twelve officers and teachers and forty pupils. Many slaves were members of Trinity Baptist Church.

For many years, Elias Dodson was Associational missionary. Dr. Wait, President of Wake Forest, preached for two weeks at Trinity Baptist Church in the fall of 1844. Many were added to the church. In 1845, Calvin Graves put on foot a move to build a Classical School for this section, and R. W. Lawson deeded a site that now is occupied by a Caswell County public school and is to revert to his estate when it ceases to be used as a school site. Resolutions and other

[195] Powell at 454.


John Henry Lacy

procedures were gone through with, and the trustees were named as follows:

Judge Thomas Settle
Robert W. Lawson
William Russell
Calvin Graves
Alexis Howard
Zachariah Neal
Azariah Graves
Samuel Moore
Thomas J. Reid, Esq.

The school opened with J. J. James as principal and the church was used until the school building could be completed.

Calvin Graves resigned as clerk on the second Saturday in December 1847, giving as his reasons so frequent absences on account of professional business and public engagements. William Slade was selected clerk.

Joshua J. James served as pastor from 1840 until January 1, 1850, when he resigned on account of feeble health. Samuel Wait, D.D., President of Wake Forest College, was called as pastor but could not take up the work. He sent John H. Lacy, who served until the fall of 1853, when Thomas Tobey of Raleigh was called by Trinity and Yanceyville at a salary of $800 per year. At this time, the church had about 200 members.

The first mention of a collection for Foreign Missions was when Azariah Graves made motion in May 1849 that pastor preach at next appointment on Missions and take a collection for same. The amount of @27.50 went to William Slade, who served as clerk until 1863.

In May 1859, Reverend Samuel G. Macon was called and served until December 1871 when Reverend J. H. Jones came. Reverend Jones served until 1880. No record in book from 1880 until 1904 when W. E. Apple was named clerk and Mr. Willson was pastor. There is a slip of paper in existence that reads as follows:

"May 4th, 1885 Received of Mrs. Z. G. Neal ninety dollars and twenty-seven cents ($90.27), the amount in full Trinity Church owes me for pastoral services up to date. F. H. Jones."

In August 1906, Mr. C. J. Yarbrough was made Church clerk. At the same meeting, James M. Shelton, C. J. Yarbrough, and T. Howard Slade were made trustees. Howard Slade, Loftin Lambert, and Woodfin Yarbrough were named delegates to Association to meet with Kerr's Chapel. Mr. O. A. Keller, called as pastor in 1907, served one year. Reverend. D. W. Overby was called in 1910 and served until 1922 when the church was without a pastor for a year.

The account just give is from notes found in A. Graves Thompson's desk. Family records show that Azariah Graves joined Lick Fork Church on the second Saturday in May 1824. If this were Gen. A. Graves, he was 34 years of age. If it were his son, he was nine years old. There is also a notation that Ella Williams Graves (Mrs. George Thompson) and Mildred Franklin were baptized in the baptistry at the spring below the church on the 34d Saturday in Dec. 1864.

On the 5th of February 1840 Calvin Graves gave a Note of Obligation to William Slade, A. Howard, and A. Graves, Gen. Trustees, for one acre of land for building a church. On January 3rd. 1842, a deed of 1.18 acres and a right-of-way to "Meeting House Spring" situated northwest of the property was given to the same Trustees. The deed was duly registered in court on Feb. 15, 1842. Both of these papers are in existence. A. Graves Thompson was Clerk for some years when his family was young, and his son Azariah Graves Thompson, Jr., was baptized there about 1928. The entire family attended services there until the early 1930s when Reverend Worrell served as pastor. It was then that the Thompson children began to move from home for school and marriage, and Graves Thompson joined Locust Hill Methodist with his wife and other children who were always Methodist.

Ella Thompson Hobbs
From Heritage of Caswell County
By Permission

From a letter from Lelia Neal Essic dated October 6, 1998: Trinity Church was a wooden structure when I was growing up and to the right of it was a little wooden two room school house which is where I attended my first four years. A tree fell on the building and destroyed it, but consolidation was taking place at the same time and we were assigned to Bartlett Yancey. Where the school stood is not part of the graveyard. My first four years were very happy ones in that little school. We all walked, of course. My home was (and is) about a mile from school toward Rockingham County.[196]

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At one time the cemetery was referred to as the "Slade Cemetery" and more recently as the "Neal Cemetery". The latest Neal burials occupy an area offset from the original graves. The property is owned by Bernie Melchert, who is of German descent. Bernie purchased the property about 30+ years ago, possibly from Robert Neal.

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Beulah Association

"The Board of Managers of the Beulah Association will hold an adjourned meeting with the church at Trinity M. H. Caswell County, N.C. commencing on Friday before the second Sabbath in July next.

[196] Scott at 109-110.

"It is expected that a protracted meeting will be held in connection with the above, to which our Ministering brethren and others are affectionately invited to attend."

N. J. Palmer
Caswell Co., June 9th, 1846
Milton Chronicle will please copy.

The Biblical Recorder (Raleigh, NC), 1 August 1846

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For more on the history of Trinity Baptist Church see: Trinity Baptist Church History

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Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Trinity Baptist Church[197]



10615 NC Hwy 150
Locust Hill, Caswell County, NC

No church history is known. Do not confuse with the other Trinity churches listed herein.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave

[197] Photograph courtesy Carolina Caswell.

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church



9904 NC Hwy 150
Locust Hill, Caswell County, NC
Phone: (336) 634-0921

No written church history is known. However, a photograph of an earlier wooden church building is dated June 1860.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

True Gospel Baptist Church



True Gospel Baptist Church
75 Newman Road
Pelham, NC

True Gospel Baptist Church in the northwestern part of Caswell County near Pelham was established in an old store near Eden (in Rockingham County, North Carolina) in the spring of 1966. Later in the year, with a growing congregation, the church moved to its present location when one of the members gave some land. The congregation continued to grow, and the building was enlarged and improved several times, the most recent in 1970.[198]

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Building Photographs

[198] Powell at 454.

Union United Methodist Church



197 Union Church Road
Highway 119
Leasburg, Caswell County, NC[199]

Union United Methodist Church in the east central part of Caswell County was established in 1820 as a meetinghouse. The present church, erected in 1912, has been remodeled and modernized, and it serves an active congregation with a variety of programs. Its original record book dating from 1820 still survives and the nearby cemetery has been used since 1846.[200]

The church site is on land donated by the ancestors of Spencer T. Richmond in 1820. William Richmond, Sr., said, "The land was given for the natural love and affection which I bear to the Methodist Church. Adam Richmond gave use of the spring for water. Although the old building was torn down, the present church has the same grounds, the same pulpit, and the same altar as the old church. In the mid-1950s outdoor toilets were built on opposite corners of the land boundaries. The present church has been updated over the years with pews with name plates, carpeting, siding, memorial windows, vestibule, and steeple. A portion of the sanctuary was converted into Sunday school rooms. During 1978 and 1979 a fellowship hall was built beside the existing church. This included a kitchen, two bathrooms, and an all-purpose area.

The first person buried in the cemetery was a slave, buried by the Morton family between 1820 and 1846. The second person buried was William Peterson in 1848. Several Confederate soldiers and veterans rest there. In the early 1930s the county buried people who had no money. During the depression of the 1930s the county provided a pine box and W. P. Cook provided the truck to carry the deceased to the cemetery where neighbors performed the burial. There would be many people at the cemetery with shovels and pickaxes.

Several doctors are buried there, but no ministers. One person was killed by lightning and two people burned to death. Two people were buried on the same day: Nita Swann and Pearl Richmond. There are many graves for Stephens, Websters, Briggs, and Fuquas/Fuqays. The cemetery was upgraded in 1960. A trust fund was established in the early 1920s for perpetual care. The church has a log and map with plots purchased and the locations of grave sites.[201]

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While no complete list of pastors is known, in 1955 Reverend Rufus H. Stark served the church.

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[199] The church is located on Highway 119, just south of the intersection with Highway 158.
[200] Powell at 440.
[201] Scott at 111-112 (information provided by S. T. Richmond, Dixie Vernon, and church records, 1998).

DEEDS: Caswell County, December 14, 2022

"Bonnie McNair, Pamela Lynch, Joel Lynch Sr. and R. Keith Vernon, Trustees of the Hebron United Methodist Church, to Carol McIntyre, Jerry Yarbrough, Franklin Rudd and Donald Carver, Trustees of the Bethel United Methodist Church, and Sylvia Johnson, Paul Richmond, David Powell, H. Leon Richmond, John Berdine and Ron Richmond, Trustees of the Union United Methodist Church, a tract, beginning in the center of Hwy 119, in Hightowers Township."

The Caswell Messenger (Yanceyville, NC), 14 December 2022.

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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census

Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Warm Heart Fellowship

Warm Heart Fellowship may not qualify as a church. It began in 1999 with minister David Powell, apparently held services. The location of these services is not known but appears to have been in Yanceyville.[202]

[202] Scott at 113-114.

Warren's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church



14769 NC Hwy 86
Prospect Hill, Caswell County, NC

Warren's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church at Prospect Hill was established in 1909. The original building has now been brick veneered.[203]

However, another history tells a different story. The exact year is not known when this church was first initiated. We do know that the Warren's Chapel Baptist Church originated from a Community Prayer Meeting. The prayer meeting started in the home of the late Sister Wells Long, who was the only Christian at the time in her community. She invited the surrounding neighbors to attend. Some of the first followers were the late Sister Zelda Rone and sons Isaac, Thomas, Robert, and Ed. Eventually, the prayer service moved to the Old Crisp School. The late Rev. George Currie said he had been sent by God to minister to this gathering.

After having services there for a while, Rev. Currie and Sister Long were told they could build on the Old Crisp Road near the Crisp School. However, not long after, Mr. F. R. (Bud) Warren sent word for and told Rev. Currie that he could have the land where the church currently is located, plus an old barn that could be torn down for lumber. The condition was that the church be named after the Warren family.

After the land purchase and gift of lumber for the building, the prayer meeting group organized as Warren's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. This meeting originated in the home of the late Adolphus and Ida Hester, who were followers, helpers, and later became members. Meanwhile, a tent service was located nearby. Some of the first young converts from that meeting were the late Rochelle Long Rudd, Sara Bell Long Oates, and the late Adeline woods (who joined Allen's Chapel Baptist Church).

The land purchase from F. R. Warren and spouse E. J. Warren for $40 (two acres) was achieved in January 1909. The original trustees were Adolphus Hester, Henry Crawley, William Patilla, James Long, and Dock Terrell of Warren's Chapel of the Cedar Grove Association of the Missionary Baptist Church. Building of the church started later with the late Brothers George Murray and Rev. Spencer Woods (both teenagers at the time) hauling the first log to the site. The large round rock seen on the right side near the back of the church was the old church's cornerstone.

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[203] Powell at 454-455.

The first oldest members to join were the late Dock Terrell, and his spouse Maddie. The first deacon was the late Henry Crawley, with the late Ella W. Long helping perform the duties. The officers were the late Ella W. Long, Treasurer, and the late Dennis Burrow, Secretary. Trustees: Adolphus Hester, Henry Crawley, William Patilla, James Long, and Dock Terrell.

Some of the officers that followed were:

Secretaries: Dennis Burrows, Lattie Paylor, Ganoway, Eula Jacobs, George Murray, Eddie S. Day, and Odessa Daye.

Treasurers: Ella W. Long, Daniel Rudd, Roy Graves, Sylvester Thompson, James L. Nichols, and Rosa Cates.

Deacons: Henry Crawley, Charlie Rogers, Lattie Paylor, Willie Burton, Wyatt Villines, Nels Graves, Roy Graves, Daniel Rudd, George Murray, Harry Cates, Sylvester Thompson, James J. Nichols, Sr., Charlie Daye, Arthur Beasley, Gene Cates, James L. Nichols, Jr., George A. Daye, Odie Crisp, Rudolph Long, John E. Murray, Eddie S. Daye, James (Jimmy) Cotton, Loranger Fuller, Charlie Parker, Logan Miles, Charlie Cooper, James L. Graves, Joseph Long, Robert Bradsher, St. Clair Snipes, Gary Blackwell, and Gary Thompson.

Pastors and Some of Their Accomplishments

Rev. George Currie (1909-1921), approximately twelve years. Instrumental in the land purchase and construction of the original church.

Rev. John Wesley Wiley (1921-1945), approximately twenty-four years. Initiated the building of the second church building. Warren's and Sweet Gum Grove were built exactly alike, with Allen & Son as contractors. The Usher Board and the Missionary Society (1926) with President Cornelia Moore, were established. The church was heated with a coal stove, maintained by Will Jacobs.

Rev. Eli Thompson (1945-1955), ten years. The church purchased an additional acre of land from Joseph and Geneva Warren, deed recorded July 12, 1952. Trustees for this transaction were George Murray, Daniel Rudd, and Roy Graves, extending the acreage to 3.01. Central heat was installed. The Senior Choir was organized in 1947 with the support of Deacons James (Gene) Cates and James (Jimmy) J. Nichols. Annie Russell and Isabella Long were instrumental in the choir's beginning that started from the Usher Board members (President George Poole).

Rev. Joe C. Brown (July 1955-January 1981), twenty-four years. The original white church was bricked, and the choir loft added in 1956. Baptism was fulfilled in the Warren pond, the pond going to Allen's Chapel and the Morgan pond (to the left of the church). Baptism pool (outside) was built in April 1969 along with a well being dug and pump added. Railing around the outside pool was installed in 1971. The remodeling of the church, with the addition of a fellowship hall, bathrooms and basement were accomplished in 1961. New pews were purchased in 1972.

During his tenure, Rev. Joe C. Brown organized the Pastor's Aid Society (President Earl Terrell) and the Young Adult Choir (under the leadership of Gladys White and Mary E. Cooper). Rev. Linwood Daye was ordained as a minister, the first from this church (July 1956).

Rev James W. Brown (June 1981 – present). First sermon at Warren's was Mother's Day 1981. He was installed as pastor September 1981. New heating system installed November 1983. Anne Miles preached her initial sermon. Rev. Roy Williams was appointed as Assistant Pastor. We have gained two new ordained ministers, two associate ministers, and started a class for new ministers. Thomas Bolden, Jr., and Edward Miles preached their initial sermons in 1996 and were ordained in 1997. The Deacon Board has increased from seven to ten deacons, two deacons are assigned specific territories to care for the needs of the elderly and sick (since the church family extends into Orange, Alamance, Caswell, Durham, and Person Counties). Six new trustees have been added.

The following organizations have been established. Bible study, BTU, J. W. Brown Gospel Choir (1982), Gospel Angels Choir (1991), Youth Ensemble (1991), Brown's Unity in Christ (1997), Mass Choir (1985), Male Chorus. The Pastor's Aid Society was reorganized. A certified Emergency Aide Club has been initiated along with a Hospitality Club, Progressive Club, Youth Revival, Deacons and Trustees Day, Young Adults in Progress (YAP, and an annual church picnic.

The church has prospered from services once a month to twice a month with anticipation of full time. The membership has grown from approximately 200 to 400. The sanctuary has been remodeled, purchased a new electric piano (1997), installed a sound system, purchased additional acreage from the Warren family (1996), hired musicians for church service (1966).

Remembrances

When the church was painted white; had three rows of plank pews, with a wood heater in the middle of the floor. The floors were wood with no carpet.

When church services were only once a month and church conference was held the Saturday before the second Sunday in each month at 1:00 p.m. The preacher did not have a car. He would catch a bus to Hillsborough and ride to the church with the Nichols family.

When Brother Preston would walk from the Miles Community for church services.

When baptism was at the Warren's Pool, Rev. Wiley, pastor. The pool was surrounded with our white neighbors in attendance. A stick was used by the pastor for support and searching for sink holes.

When Neely Moore was president of the Missionary Circle with Ida Nichols as vice president. When the baptism pool was installed inside the church. The first draperies to cover the pool were made by Ida Nichols, who also made the first baptismal roes.

Lunch for Homecoming on Mother's Day in May and for Ally Day in October was served outside on a table built for such.

When Becky Thompson came to church she would starting when she entered the front door and shouted all the way to her seat.

When Duke Rogers was superintendent of the Church School and Ralph Long was the teacher.

When George Poole was president of the Usher Board with Linwood Daye, James L. Nichols, Eddie S. Daye, Juanita Murray, Charlie and Gladys Parker were ushers.

When Cora Wiley sang hymns, especially "I heard the voice of Jesus saying, Come unto Me and rest."

When Maj Johnson (Usher) tried to make sure everyone had a seat, even after she had retired from the Usher Board. We did not realize she was working out her soul salvation.

When the Mothers of the Church were appointed: Emma Bradsher, Ida Nichols, Daisy Beasley, who were responsible for Communion and for candidates for baptism.

Pastor: Rev. James W. Brown
Submitted by Deacon, Brother Loranger Fuller[204]



At some point after the above histories were written it appears that a new church building was constructed, with the steeple moved from the old church building.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[204] Scott at 115-117.

Welcome Baptist Church



Blanch, Caswell County, North Carolina

Located on Highway 62N just south of Milton.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find a Grave

In 1961, Elbert Webster Smith was pastor at Welcome Baptist Church.

Source: "Marriage of Miss Ada Annette Smith and Ernest Rudd Solemnized Saturday," *The Daily-Times News* (Burlington, NC), 28 November 1961.

Wolf Island Baptist Church[205]



64 James Motley Drive
Pelham, Caswell County, NC

Almost in Rockingham County.

No written history is known.

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Wolf Island Baptist Church
Cemetery on Find a Grave

[205] Photograph courtesy Carolina Caswell.

Word of Faith Apostolic Church[206]



123 Doll Branch Road
Milton, Caswell County, NC

Also has been called Bible Way Holiness Church.

No written history is known.

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Find a Grave

Yanceyville Missionary Baptist Church



364 Dillard School Drive
Yanceyville, Caswell County, NC

Yanceyville Missionary Baptist Church, located on Dillard School Drive, was established in 1884. In the fall of 1919, the church burned and was rebuilt in early 1920s by volunteers. Lightning struck the church on July 4, 1970, and it was consumed by the resulting fire. By March 1971, the present structure had been completed and was ready for use.

An adjacent cemetery has been used since 1899.[207]

"The second-place winner among the Negro churches also was organized about 1884. The present Yanceyville Baptist church building was built in 1922, after fire had destroyed the old structure. The church has a membership totaling 65 persons."

"Caswell County Church Beautification Contest," *The Herald-Sun* (Durham, North Carolina), 25 December 1949, Sunday, Page 33.

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[206] Photograph courtesy Carolina Caswell.
[207] Powell at 455.

Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find A Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Yanceyville Presbyterian Church



125 North Avenue
Yanceyville, Caswell County, NC

The Yanceyville Presbyterian Church is the first church organized in Yanceyville. It dates from 1838, but the origin can be traced to an older congregation – Rattlesnake or Bethany Church dating from 1759, which was located just outside Yanceyville on the road to Milton. There is a possibility that this older congregation occupied the building shown as a "chapel" on the John Collet map of 1770. When the old church split, some of the members helped form the new church in Yanceyville while others went to Gilead Presbyterian Church, five miles southwest of Milton.

A lot was acquired in Yanceyville in 1838 on Church Street (now Wall Street), and the new church was organized by Rev. Nehemiah Henry Harding from the Milton Presbyterian Church. Rev. Harding served the church until his death in 1848 and was succeeded in January of the next year by John Sharshall Grasty. Under Grasty a new church was built at a new site on Harvey Street. Grasty's diary for November 28, 1849, states: "I went to the new church," but it was not completed until the spring of 1851. It is the attractive brick church still in use and carefully preserved. It was also under Grasty's leadership that a Sabbath School was established on April 1, 1849. Blacks were members of the church, Grasty noted on June 10, 1849.

The grove of trees in which the Yanceyville Presbyterian Church is located was a convenient gathering place for crowds on public occasions when the courthouse was inadequate. Celebrations and commemorations of various kinds were held there, and public speakers found it a suitable place to address throngs of people. It apparently also was the campground of troops at various times – during the occupation at the end of the Civil War and at the time of the Kirk-Holden War. A cemetery adjacent to the church has been in use since 1851.[208]

In 1976, Yanceyville resident Katharine Kerr Kendall wrote *Yanceyville Presbyterian Church (Yanceyville, North Carolina): Early History of the Church with Sketches of the Founders*. It can

[208] Powell at 437-438.

be found online at: Yanceyville Presbyterian Church History The following, which is based upon Kendall's research was published in *In the Beginning – The churches of Caswell County* (2001):

The Yanceyville Presbyterian Church was organized by Orange Presbytery on June 16, 1838. The original church building was erected on present day Wall Street, then sold in 1854. The organizing minister was Dr. Nehemiah Henry Harding, and the organizing elders were Alexander McAlpine, George Williamson, and James Mebane.

The present sanctuary, located on the corner of North Avenue and Church Street, was built during 1849 and 1850, and was dedicated April 19, 1851. The architect was Dr. Nathaniel M. Roan, and the builder was Alfred Mitchell. In the early 1940s, the present education building was added to the sanctuary. A kitchen and dining area were later installed in the basement of this building. An electronic organ was placed in the sanctuary in 1953 much to the delight of a very active choir. The original paned windows were replaced with stained glass windows, adding to the interior and exterior beauty of the building. The stately interior of the sanctuary, with balconies for slaves, columns on the main level, regal chandelier, and lighting fixtures, and the mahogany cross behind the pulpit, make it a reverent place of worship.

On September 12, 1984, a dedication service was held for the impressive portico which added dignity to the church. And the copper steeple cross reaching toward the sky reminds one and all that the church stands to the service and worship of God. The first floor of the education building, including the pastor's office, a classroom, and the fellowship hall were redecorated and newly finished in 1992. Funds from a bequest by Mary Stokes Dailey and Percy Dailey and a gift honoring "Mr. Sam" and "Miss Marnie" Bason were used in this endeavor.

The cemetery is a part of the church property. The first to be buried in the cemetery were a two-year-old girl and a five-year-old boy in 1851. Elsie and Clyde Cole were instrumental in the early 1970s in establishing the Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund. In the mid-1900s, a wrought iron fence with brick columns was erected around the perimeter of the cemetery, in keeping with the church architecture. Appropriate planting of Leyland cypress, azaleas, nandinas, and crepe myrtles complete the border inside the fence. Records show that many of the former ministers are buried in the cemetery.

Reverend Nehemiah H. Harding, the founding minister of the Yanceyville Presbyterian Church was the stated supply at the Milton Presbyterian Church and also preached part time at Bethesda Presbyterian Church until his death in 1849. Reverend John S. Grasty became the minister at Yanceyville and Grier's, serving from 1850 until 1856. His great, great grandson, James L. Grasty, Jr., preached at Yanceyville on Joy Gift Sunday (December) 1986. He brought with him a copy of John S. Grasty's diary and other artifacts for members to see and read. The Ministerial Directory of Presbyterian Churches listed the following ministers who served this church from 1857 to 1932: Jacob Doll, Henry T. Darnell, Pleasant Hunter Dalton, Walter Raleigh Coppedge, J. M. Greenlee, Ned Burns Campbell, Samuel Hill Williamson, S. C. Smith, H. C. Cathy, H. H. Cassady, George W. Oldham. E. B. Thompson, and William Washington Warren McMorries.

Since 1932, Session Minutes show that the following served the Yanceyville Church: Roy F. Whitley, Herman J. Womeldorf, R. Murphy Williams, Cecil Callis, D. Lee Williamson, Ralph Dorman, William E. Lytch, William R. Goodman, Robert S. Ledbetter, Jr., Ben F. Williams, John M. Duncan, Herbert L. Underwood, Watt M. Cooper, Homer A. Spencer, James M. McDaniel, James Allen, Benjamin Kirkland III, Norris Fellows, Donald Boulton, Victor C. Scott, and Jack C. Ramsey. Marie P. Reed became pastor on March 1, 1992.

The Caswell Parish offices moved into the education building in 1985. Their growth over the next ten years and an opportunity to have more space for their operations were reasons to buy an available building and move. The Parish Development Center was in the church until 1991.

Yanceyville Presbyterian church presently has several programs that involve church members and members of the community. Music Director Dick Reed has for several years directed talented and interested singers from the area in performing a Christian program of songs and scriptures. Pastor Marie Reed was instrumental in starting the Young at Heart lunches for senior citizens. This once-a-month get together with a devotional, a program and lunch, is well attended. She also offers Bible classes that are open to all faiths. The congregation has a catered dinner once each quarter following the morning worship service, encouraging visitors to join us for the meal and fellowship. In cooperation with the Caswell Parish church members, we choose a white paper dove from the “dove tree,” and bring a Christmas gift for the individual whose need or wish is listed on the dove. The gifts are delivered to the recipients by the Parish staff.

In the 1930s, the church formally celebrated the 100th anniversary of the organization of the congregation with two services and a “dinner in the Grove.” In 1976, they celebrated their 125th anniversary of the formal dedication of the present church sanctuary. In October 1988 the 150th anniversary of the church’s founding was observed. At this time all living past ministers and members were invited to join in the celebration. Yanceyville Presbyterian church was incorporated in 1985.

The historical material used in this brief history of Yanceyville Presbyterian Church was taken from “Early History of the Church,” researched and written by a member, Katherine Kerr Kendall. Mrs. Kendall died in 1997, and she and her husband Harry E. Kendall are buried in the church cemetery.[209]

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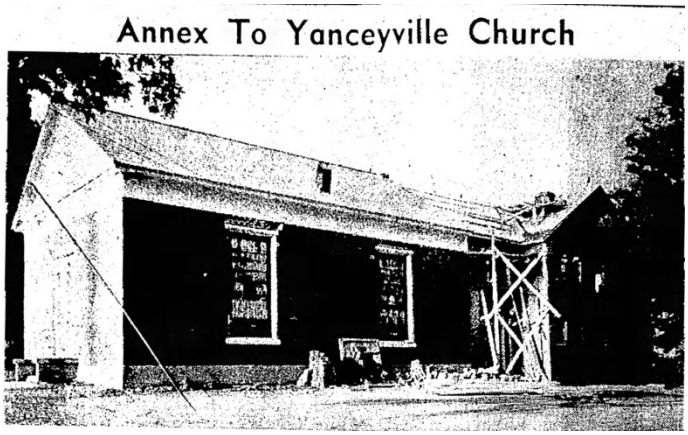
The News of Caswell: Our Yanceyville Scribe Has Store of News Items

"Rev. H. H. Cassaday, the Presbyterian minister who has recently moved to this place, is winning golden opinions from our people. Mr. Cassaday is an able, earnest and consecrated divine; also,

[209] Scott at 118-119.

he is energetically improving the condition of the manse, church and cemetery. We shall confidently expect great results from his labors among us."

The Reidsville Review (Reidsville, North Carolina), 7 Apr 1911, Fri, Page 1.



Annex to Yanceyville Church

The Religious Education Building at the Yanceyville Presbyterian Church which is now under construction and in which special services will be held next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, when it will be dedicated. Aubrey L. Brooks, Greensboro, N.C., attorney and prominent layman, who will make the principal address at the dedication services Sunday, which will mark the 109th year of service rendered the community by the church. The new building will have a large auditorium, full-length basement, and 10 classrooms.[210]

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Legislative Proceedings, Passed Third Reading: "H. B. [House Bill] 1,166, S. B. [Senate Bill] 307. Act to incorporate the Presbyterian church in Yanceyville, Caswell County."

Source: *The North Carolinian* (Raleigh, North Carolina), 23 February 1899, Thursday, Page 4.

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The church steeple was financed by Mrs. Ruby Neighbors Hodges[211] in honor of her husband Fielden Louis Hodges,[212] and dedicated May 1984. A bronze plaque on the church commemorates the gift. The portico was given by Mrs. Maud Florance Harrelson[213] in memory of the Florance family and dedicated February 1984. A bronze plaque on the exterior church wall commemorates the gift.

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Yanceyville Presbyterian Church Air Conditioned

The Yanceyville Presbyterian Church has completed installation of an air conditioning system. Two members, T. E. Steed and C. C. Cole, challenged the church officials and the membership by offering to pay half the cost of air conditioning the building if the church would pay the remainder. The challenge was accepted.

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[210] *The Bee* (Danville, Virginia), 11 September 1941.
[211] Ruby Claire Neighbors Hodges (1911-2006).
[212] Fielden Louis Hodges (1907-1980).
[213] Maud Florance Harrelson (1984-1982), wife of Frederick Graves Harrelson (1888-1956).

John Dailey, chairman of the board of deacons, expressed his appreciation to the church officials, members and friends of the church who cooperated in the successful completion of the project. He would receive any contribution toward the cost. Everyone is invited to attend worship services at the church.

Greensboro Record (Greensboro, NC) 20 July 1957.

Durham Guests Go to Yanceyville for Memorial Services

A number of Durham people attended an impressive memorial service Sunday in the Presbyterian church at Yanceyville. A memorial window was dedicated to the memory of the Williamson family formerly of Yanceyville.

Relatives of the Williamson family from here who attended the service and who were later luncheon guests at the old Williamson home "Melrose," which is now the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, were: Mr. and Mrs. Austin H. Carr, Austin H. Carr, Jr., Noel Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Buck Lyon, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Johnson, Miss Betty Johnson and the hosts, Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, of Durham and Yanceyville

Yanceyville Presbyterian Church Williamson Memorial Window, *The Herald-Sun* (Durham, NC), 10 Oct 1939.

Yanceyville Presbyterian Church 2007 Homecoming Program: 2007 Homecoming Program

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Building Photographs[214]
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find A Grave
Cemetery Photographs

[214] Additional photographs are in *The Heritage of Caswell County* (1985) at p. 679.

Yanceyville United Methodist Church



Final Methodist Church Building

West Main Street, Yanceyville, Caswell County, NC

The origins of the Yanceyville United Methodist Church are far from clear even though numerous references are found in the deed books at the Caswell County courthouse. A deed dated May 13, 1835, conveyed property for a parsonage to the trustees of the Yanceyville Methodist Church, but the precise location of the property has not been determined. On September 20, 1842, Elijah Roberts, Severn Roberts, Pleasant H. Roberts, William H. Hatchett, and Joel Gossett, as trustees for the church, received another lot, while in late December 1845, Dr. Allen Gunn, William H. Childs, William B. Bowe, James Gunn, Henry P. Womack, Elijah Roberts, and John Pinchback received another. The present cemetery lot was purchased in 1852. A brick church building as erected and used until 1910 when a new church was erected at another site. After four years the congregation became dissatisfied, bought the old church again, remodeled it, and moved back. In 1941 a new site was purchased, and a new building completed in 1943.[215]

This congregation has been disbanded and the church property purchased by Pinnacle Ministries. The cemetery, which was adjacent to the original church building, now is owned by the Town of Yanceyville and operated as a municipal cemetery. The original church lot, where the cemetery is located, was deeded to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church September 20, 1841.



This photograph is the church building, initially brick but concreted over or resurfaced with stucco, erected between 1841 and 1910. It was in 1910 that the congregation moved to a modest frame building on West Main Street (but moved back to the building in the photograph in 1915).

In *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) p. 41, John O. Gunn provided a history of the early Methodist Episcopalian Church:

[215] Powell at 440-441.

In 1845, a ¼ acre lot was deeded to the church by Abner Miles. The old brick church was later built here. In 1852 the church purchased a ½ acre lot adjoining the church and the Academy lot for use as a graveyard, which the members began using during 1852.

On March 1, 1941, the church purchased the Old Academy lot from Mr. B. S. Graves, and on April 18 in a special meeting of the members, after much discussion, a majority voted to build a new brick church on main street in Yanceyville. The last service in the old church was Easter Sunrise April 1943, conducted by Rev. J. V. Early. The first meeting in the new church was April 28, 1943, and was a session of the Durham District Conference, with the formal opening ceremonies May 2, 1943.

After moving from the old church, the members leveled it and made the old lot a part of the present perpetual care cemetery. Several stages were necessary to obtain this objective. On December 21, 1956, the church acquired fourteen 25-foot lots, which extended the area to Oak Tree Street westward.

Late in the 1950s, members began the back-breaking task of cleaning bushes and other debris from the old cemetery. Other areas had trees in addition to brush, but by 1961 it was ready to seed. In August of 1960 the following cemetery committee was in action: John O. Gunn, William Gunn, Mrs. T. J. Ham, Bill R. Murphy, Bobby Satterfield, and Mrs. Henry Hooper. Bill Watlington assisted with the driveway and layout of plots, and the County Agent's office assisted with seeding.

In 1962, engineers Alley, Williams, Carman and King of Burlington surveyed and mapped the grounds, which are laid out in eight sections. Each section is divided into eight grave plots, with a four-foot space between each plot. Graves measure 5 x 10 feet.

Regulations and specifications for reserving space were drawn up at this time, with blueprints available with each reservation of space. A trust was set up in 1963 whereby the funds collected for plots could be used to maintain the cemetery on a perpetual basis. A five-foot chain-link fence enclosed the cemetery grounds in 1966.
Names on Stones in Methodist Cemetery, Yanceyville 1852 - c.1900:

Bennett, Fannie New; Bennett, M. S.; Bennett, T. G.; Bowe, Elizabeth (Featherston); Bowe, John Rudd; Bowe, Marietta W; Bowe, Mary A; Bowe, Thomas C.; Bowe, William B.; Bowne, Willie; Campbell, Lizzie; Campbell, Mary B; Campbell, Rev. T. S.; Flintoff, John F.; Flintoff, Mary M.; Groom, Frances G.; Groom, John; Gunn, Dr. Allen; Gunn, Fannie; Gunn, James; Gunn, Mary; Gunn, Minerva A.; Gunn, Starling; Gunn, Willie Allen; Harrelson, Addie T.; Harrelson, Madison; Harrelson, Mary Emma; Henderson, Infant; Henderson, J. A.; Henderson, R. L.; Hooper, Barbara Evans; Hooper, Woodlief; Jackson, Taylor; Pinnix, Ella Joe; Pinnix, James Marshall; Pinnix, Joseph C.; Pinnix, Mary Elizabeth; Rainey, Alice S.; Rainey, Dumas; Rainey, Elizabeth; Roberts, Elizabeth; Roberts, J. L.; Siddle, Dr. Charles G.; Stephens, John Walter.

Sources: Church records, Minutes, Deeds, Old Programs, Personal Recollection.

Church History by Frances J. Murphy

In 1998, church historian Frances Murphy submitted an excellent church history for inclusion in In the Beginning: The Churches of Caswell County, Jean B. Scott, Editor (2001)., pp. 120-123:

A complete history of the Yanceyville Methodist Church is not known; however, a few facts are given. The original church lot, where the cemetery is now located, was deeded to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church September 20, 1841. A solid brick church was built, which was later concreted over on the exterior to preserve the soft brick. In 1910, under the leadership of Rev. J. E. Blaylock pastor, a modest frame church was erected on Main Street Extension, not far from the present parsonage. This structure was used for four years when the congregation grew dissatisfied, and in 1915 under the pastorship of Rev. S. F. Nicks, the old church was remodeled, and the congregation moved back. During the pastorate of Rev. I. T. Poole a log church hut was built for temporary housing of part of the Sunday School.

More than forty pastors served the church from 1841 to 1941, which was a century in the old church.

On April 18, 1941, the congregation voted to purchase the John O. Gunn lot on Main Street. Only three votes were recorded against this move. The lot purchased was formerly a part of the front yard of the Johnston estate, which was divided and sold at public auction in July 1940. H. N. Haines, architect for the Duke Endowment, Durham, drew the plans for the new church. Excavation began July 3, 1941. The building was enclosed by December 1941, and remained in that condition until March 1942, when a part of the interior was completed. Additional work was done as funds became available, and the task was completed in April 1943. The final service in the old church was an Easter sunrise service April 25, 1943. Holy Communion was administered, and the Doxology was sung.

The first service held in the new church was the session of the District Conference of the Durham District, which met April 28, 1943. The formal opening was Sunday, May 2, 1943, when the pastor, Rev. J. V. Early, preached upon the subject “The Church in Tomorrow’s World.” A week of formal opening services was held May 3-6, 1943.

This handsome brick-veneer church has a seating capacity of 200, seven classrooms, a large recreational room, modern heating system, and other conveniences. New furniture was installed throughout, including comfortable pews. The gothic design windows in the sanctuary are made of antique cathedral glass and were donated by members in memory of former members of the church. The two stained glass windows in the educational rooms were formerly located in the pulpit of the old church. The pulpit is English style, with a lectern, and an altar which takes the central place of attention. The pulpit was formally dedicated on May 6, 1943, in honor of John O. Gunn, Church School Superintendent and an untiring worker during the construction period. It was largely due to his zeal in the work and the encouragement and supervision that made the new building a reality. Mr. Gunn not only gave most liberally in a

financial way, but also gave a great deal of time to the actual supervision day-by-day during the two-year building period.

Other members of the congregation contributed funds, solicited funds, gave labor, and in various ways aided in bringing the work to a successful conclusion. The church and lot, valued at $20,000, was aided by a $3,000 donation from the Duke Endowment Fund for rural churches, and by a $300 donation from the Board of Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Church. The building committee consisted of eight members of the church. The finance committee consisted of four church members. This committee raised hundreds of dollars from outside the congregation by various means. These consisted of selling the Holland Magazine, knives, Fuller brush items, serving meals to civic groups, Monday court day, flavoring – vanilla and lemon. One unusual fund raiser the finance committee did was contacting several farmers, who donated bundles of tobacco. Twice a week, members arose at dawn to take their bright leaf gold to the Danville market where they personally sold it for top price.

Mr. Willie Reagan was the work supervisor, along with Mr. Glenn Reagan, son of Willie Reagan, a devoted church member and Sunday School teacher for many years. Baron Neal was an apprentice learning the trade. During the building, a scaffold broke, and Willie Reagan and Baron Neal fell to the ground, landing on a pile of bricks. The doctors stated that had Reagan not been such a strong man, he probably would not have survived the fall. Glenn Reagan loved the church. He went by the church every Saturday night until his death to turn on the heat for the next morning. The church at the time of the dedication had an enrollment of 65 members, and 31 non-resident members. The church school had an enrollment of 98.

The cornerstone of the church was formally laid March 5, 1944. At that time there were five churches on the Yanceyville charge: Bethel, Locust Hill, Prospect, Shady Grove, and Yanceyville. The parsonage was located in Yanceyville – in several different places within the town. There was a church bell in the old brick-stucco church that was rung each Sunday one hour before Sunday School was to begin. It could be heard all over the town area. It was not placed in the present church.

At the present time, two Brunswick stews and bake sales were held each year; one in October and one in February. This brings together members and friends of the church for good fellowship and, of course, a lot of hard work. No one complains, for it is a day everyone enjoys. It is one of the prime money-making projects. Yard sales are held from time to time. Note cards of the church and knives are also sold.

The years 1945-1955 were the years the church had the largest attendance for all ages. During the 1960s attendance was good. After that the membership started decreasing, and today church attendance is between 12 and 18 – no Sunday School, youth group, or choir.

In 1960, the church became a part of the Burlington District. Before that we were in the Durham District.
The Woman’s Missionary Society was organized in February 1938 with 29 members.

The first Christmas cantata was given in Yanceyville, rendered by the Methodist choir consisting of 24 voices, December 19, 1943. "The Chorus in the Skies" were sung.

Memorial windows placed in the church in the May 2, 1943 dedication service were: Thomas Oldham Jones, Cora Harrison Slade, Carrie Virginia Slade, Mary Elizabeth Graves, John F. Flintoff, Mary M. Flintoff, Dorabelle Graves Tucker, Hattie Smith Gunn, Bettie Slade Anderson, Lloyd Johnson, and R. Bruce Hatchett. They were given in memory of their families.

In 1951, the five churches divided in three on the Bethel charge: Bethel, Locust Hill, and Shady Grove. Yanceyville remained in the Yanceyville charge. In 1986, Yanceyville and Prospect separated as one church each.

Each Christmas a live cedar tree as tall as the ceiling is placed in the sanctuary – decorated with Chrsimons made by members of the church some years ago. One member remembers when lighted candles were used on a live tree.

In the old church a potbelly stove was used for heat. Hand fans were used to cool oneself in summer. A piano was used in the old church for music. In the present church an electric organ is used along with pianos. The church has had homecomings, dinner on the grounds, ice cream suppers, and games of all kinds.

In 1940, the union of three branches of the Methodist Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church North, The Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Protestant Church, became the United Methodist Church.
The Yanceyville United Methodist Church is located at 173 Main Street Street in Yanceyville at the corner of Cemetery Street and West Main Street.

You are invited to attend services each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Additional information can be found in *The Heritage of Caswell County, North Carolina* published by the Caswell County Historical Association in 1985.

Frances J. Murphy, Historian
Submitted January 23, 1998[216]

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Stained Glass Windows in New Church Dedicated

Yanceyville, N.C., May 8 (Special to *The Bee*) -- Yanceyville Methodists are proud of their new home -- the $20,000 structure recently completed on the Johnson [Johnston] estate facing the main street of the town. It will be formally dedicated after certain formalities have been

[216] Scott at 120-122.

dispensed with, but in the meantime the memorial windows are being dedicated. All of the windows in the church have been endowed as memorials.

Last night a window presented in memory of Mrs. John H. Gunn was formally dedicated with appropriate rites and on Thursday night the Anderson window was also dedicated. This was a stained-glass representation donated by George A. Anderson, veteran, former county clerk and educator, in memory of his wife and their son, John Quentin Anderson. Tom Henderson presided over the rites which were numerously attended.[217]

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In 1909 the following Methodist ministers were serving Caswell County, North Carolina:

Nicks: Pelham and Shady Grove
Ross, C. R.: Yanceyville
Usry: Milton
Yearby: Leasburg

The North Carolina Methodist Conference had a rule that required ministers to move to another church (called a charge) after four years.

Raleigh Christian Advocate (Raleigh, NC), 21 Oct 1909.

Yearby apparently was reassigned to Mt. Tirzah in Person County and was replaced by J. C. Humble.

S. F. Nicks apparently was reassigned to Hillsborough and was replaced by L. L. Nash.

Usry apparently was replaced by W. T. Nory.

Goldsboro Daily Argus (Goldsboro, NC), 30 Nov 1909.

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There has been uncertainty as to the Caswell County Methodist churches served by Reverend Samuel Freeman Nicks (1874-1946) and how long he was in Caswell County. The following helps. It appears he had served the Yanceyville circuit since 1915 and presumably served the Leasburg circuit until at least 1923.

The Caswell County Methodist churches associated with each circuit remains unclear.

Yanceyville, Dec. 27. -- Rev. S. F. Nicks and family left Saturday for their new home at Leasburg. Mr. Nicks served the Yanceyville [Methodist] circuit for four years. He and his family endeared themselves to the people of the town who have regretted to see them leave.

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[217] *The Bee* (Danville, Virginia), May 8, 1943.

Greensboro Daily News (Greensboro, NC), 28 December 1919.

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"The handsome residence of Mrs. Nannie W. Neal, which is located on West Main Street, has been recently purchased by the Yanceyville Methodist church, to be used for the parsonage. The house will be vacated this fall."

Greensboro Daily News (Greensboro, NC), 4 August 1920.

This is the home of Nancy Graves Womack Neal (1858-1926), who in 1890 married Yanceyville merchant Louis M. Neal (1853-1904). His store was in the building that became The Caswell Theatre.

The house was built by Dr. Allen M. Gunn, M.D. (1807-1884), and after serving as the Yanceyville Methodist Church parsonage, became the home of the Jones family.*

The photograph is not associated with the newspaper item. However, it is when the house was the Yanceyville Methodist Church parsonage.

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* A few years back this house was demolished, after being allowed to fall into substantial disrepair. It had a secret room under the front entrance. I (Richmond S. Frederick, Jr.) observed this room before the house came down. The purpose for which it was used is not known.

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For more on this church see: Yanceyville United Methodist Church History

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See also: Caswell County Methodist Church History

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Building Photographs
Cemetery on Cemetery Census
Cemetery on Find A Grave
Cemetery Photographs

Attachment I

Caswell County Churches

Many of the churches listed here have an associated cemetery. For information on those cemeteries see: Cemetery Census and Find A Grave

For images of many of the churches listed herein go to:
Caswell County Photograph Collection: Churches

Some churches are shown as links. Click on the link for additional information and/or photographs. Histories of some of the churches listed herein will be found in: *In the Beginning: The Churches of Caswell County*, Jean B. Scott, Editor (2001).

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* = No church history submitted for *In the Beginning: The Churches of Caswell County*
** = Church Building No Longer Standing (or never had a church building)

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Allen's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (5630 Ridgeville Road, Ridgeville)[218]
Allred New Mission Baptist Church (244 Kerr's Chapel Road, Anderson) *
Ashland Road Baptist Church (1744 Ashland Road, Ashland)

Baynes Baptist Church (1757 Baynes Road, Baynes) *
Bethany Methodist Episcopal Church (Solomon Lea Road, Leasburg) * **
Bethany Presbyterian Church (Highway 62N) * **
Bethel Christian Church (595 Baynes Road, Anderson)[219] *
Bethel United Methodist Church (2741 Ridgeville Road, Prospect Hill) *

Bethel United Methodist Church (6258 Park Springs Rd, Pelham)[220]
Bethesda Presbyterian Church (216 Bethesda Church Cemetery Road, Casville)[221]
Beulah Baptist Church (1834 US Hwy 158 E, Leasburg)[222]
Beulah Baptist Church (3027 NC Hwy 119, Leasburg) *
Blackwell Missionary Baptist Church (4777 Hwy 158 W, Locust Hill) *

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[218] An article by Deborah Evelyn Woods Fuller is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) p. 1.
[219] Also referred to as Bethel Christian Church.
[220] Caswell County Methodist Church History
[221] An article by Edna Harrelson Chance is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 2-3.
[222] Address also seen as 1780 US Hwy 158 E, Yanceyville, NC. An article by Clyde Everett is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 3-4.

Blanch Baptist Church (5931 Blanch Road, Blanch)[223]
Brown's Arbor Primitive Baptist Church (570 Underwood Road, Camp Springs) *
Brown's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (461 Brown's Chapel Road, Matkins) *[224]
Burton's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (5277 Burton Chapel Rd, Hightowers) *
Bush Arbor Primitive Baptist Church (101 Cherry Grove Road, Jericho) *[225]

Calvary Church (Halifax County, VA) * **
Camp Springs United Methodist Church (9168 Cherry Grove Road, Camp Springs)[226]
Camp Springs United Methodist Church (9502 Cherry Grove Road, Camp Springs) *[227]
Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church (4011 US Hwy 158, Locust Hill) *
Cherry Grove Baptist Church (412 Browns Chapel Road, Cherry Grove) *

Christ Episcopal Church (Milton) *
Church of Christ (237 Parkway St., Yanceyville, NC) *
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (1401 Rascoe Dameron Road, Anderson)
Church on the Square (43 West Main St., Yanceyville, NC) *
Community Baptist Church (3050 Old NC 86 Hwy N/Old State Hwy 86, Covington)[228]

Concord Christian Church (4908 Cherry Grove Road, Cherry Grove)
Connally United Methodist Church (1664 Snatchburg Road, Milton)[229]
Corbett Memorial Baptist Church (1694 Mineral Springs Road, Allison) *
Country Line Primitive Baptist Church * **[230]
Covenant Reformed Baptist Church *

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church (2901 Bertha Wilson Road, Providence) *[231]
Ebenezer Primitive Baptist Church (John Pleasant Road, Person County, NC) *
Ekklesia New Testament Church (Blanche, NC) *

First Baptist Church of Yanceyville (378 Church Street West, Yanceyville)[232]

Gatewood Baptist Church (182 Gatewood Rd, Providence)
Gilead Presbyterian Church (Highway 62N, Blanch) [233] **

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[223] An article by Lila Bradner Webster is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) p. 5
[224] An article by Arlene L. Pinnix-Morrow is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) p. 7.
[225] An article by D. O. Chandler is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) p.1
[226] An article by Mary Walker and Lugene Wright is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 7-8.
[227] An article by Mrs. Minnie B. Bowe and Mrs. Mattie Vincent is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) p. 8.
[228] An article by Mrs. Sandra E. Chilton is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) p. 17.
[229] See Also: Connally United Methodist Church History. An article by Jean Bradsher Scott is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 18-19.
[230] An article by J Burch Blaylock is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) p. 19.
[231] An article by Judy C. Adams is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) p. 19.
[232] First Baptist Church of Yanceyville Pastors
[233] Gilead Presbyterian Church Cemetery

God's Blessing Center Church (Highway 62N, Blanch - Murphey School Building)
God's Grace Baptist Church (US Hwy 158 at Bethesda Church Road, Casville) *
Grace Independent Missionary Baptist Church (630 Rascoe Dameron Road, Anderson) *

Graves Chapel Baptist Church (5373 Badgett Sisters Pkwy, Yanceyville) *[234]
Grier's Presbyterian Church (569 Grier's Church Road, Hightowers)[235]
Gwynn's Chapel Baptist Church (242 Gwynn's Chapel Road, Pelham)[236]

Hamer Missionary Baptist Church (4425 NC Hwy 62 N, Blanch)[237]
Harrison's Meeting House (Old Hwy 86N near Purley) * **
Hebron United Methodist Church (202 Hebron Church Road, Hightowers) *
High Rock Baptist Church (3330 High Rock School Road, Pleasant Grove)
High Street Baptist Church (11708 Academy St., Milton)
Holy Tabernacle of Jesus Christ *

Jones Cross Roads Baptist Church (3651 Stoney Creek School Road, Cherry Grove) *

Kerr's Chapel Southern Baptist Church (2980 Kerr's Chapel Road, Stoney Creek)
Kimes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (2027 NC Hwy 119N, Mebane) (in Alamance County)

Lea Bethel Baptist Church (1820 Ridgeville Road, Ridgeville)
Lea's Chapel United Methodist Church (Hwy 158)[238]
Leasburg United Methodist Church (7550 US-158, Leasburg)[239]
Lebanon Christian United Church of Christ (349 Cunningham Road, Semora)[240]
Lively Stones Baptist Church (2347 Chandlers Mill Road, Pelham) *

Locust Hill United Methodist Church (281 Stoney Creek School Road, Locust Hill)
Lynches Creek Primitive Baptist Church (Corbett Ridge Road, Corbett) * **

Macedonia AME Church (4164 Yarborough Mill Rd, Yarbro) *[241]
Martin's Chapel Baptist Church (5043 Martin Chapel Church Rd, Mebane) *

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[234] An article by Ethel Fuller, Doris Graves, Helen Graves, Sallie Sellars, and Pauline Brown is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 21-22.
[235] See Also: Grier's Presbyterian Church. An article by M. Q. Plumblee is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) p. 27.
[236] An article on this church is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 28-29.
[237] An article by Marreese A. Allen, Church Clerk, is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 31-32.
[238] Located in Person County but included here due to its early Caswell County importance.
[239] An article by Mary Linda Winstead Janke is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 37-38.
[240] An article on this church is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 38-39.
[241] An article by Mrs. Kate J. Hope is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 40-41.

Milton Baptist Church (Bridge Street, Milton)
Milton Presbyterian Church (11923 Broad St, Milton)[242]

Milton United Methodist Church (Fairview Drive, Milton)[243]
Mill Creek Primitive Baptist Church (Yarborough's Mill Road) * **
Mineral Springs Baptist Church (774 Mineral Springs Road, Allison) *
Moon's Creek Church (528 Park Springs Road, Providence)[244]
Mount Herman Baptist Church (350 Mt Herman Church Rd, Ruffin, Rockingham County) *

Mount Olive AME Church (may not be in Caswell County) *
Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church (2578 NC Hwy 119 N, Semora) *

New Ephesus Missionary Baptist Church (8939 US Hwy 158 W, Locust Hill) *[245]
New Haven Baptist Church (16 New Haven Baptist Church Road, Milton)
New Hope Baptist Church (351 New Hope Church Road, Leasburg) *
New Hope United Methodist Church (Long's Mill Road, Hamer)
New Zion Baptist Church (364 Old Satterfield Rd, Milton Township)
Nu-Life Baptist Church (near Camp Springs) *

Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church (Hodges Dairy Road) * **
Oak Level A.M.E. Church (722 Snatchburg Road, Milton)
Oakview Presbyterian Church (11 Oakview Loop Road [5811 NC Hwy 62 N], Fitch) *
Old Lea Bethel Baptist Church (6035 Ridgeville Road, Frogsboro)[246]
Olive Hill Baptist Church (643 Olive Hill Church Road, Leasburg) *

Page's Arbor Primitive Baptist Church (1917 Union Ridge Road, Anderson) *
Palmer Church (124 Simpson Brown Drive, Yarbro) *
Palmer's Chapel Presbyterian Church *
Park Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church (5181 Foster Road, Park Springs) *
Pearson Chapel AME Church (222 NC Hwy 62S, Yanceyville) *

Pelham United Methodist Church (594 Red Marshall Road, Pelham)[247]
Philippi Primitive Baptist Church (Locust Hill) *
Piney Grove Methodist Church * **
Pinnacle Ministries *
Pilgrim Chapel Baptist Church *

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[242] African American Members of Milton Presbyterian Church: Article I; Article II. An article by Mary McAden Satterfield is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) p. 44
[243] An article by Mary McAden Satterfield is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 43-44.
[244]An article by William Lewis Neal is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 45-46.
[245] An article by Ruth Simpson is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 47-48.
[246] An article by Mrs. Linda Pleasant is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) p. 49.
[247] An on this church is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 53-54.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church (85 Pleasant Grove Church Road, Topnot)
Pleasant Grove Primitive Baptist Church (2704 Ashland Road, Ashland) *[248]
Pleasant View Assembly of God (10792 Cherry Grove Road, Camp Springs) *
Prayer of Faith Ministry (3668 NC Hwy 57 N, Semora) *
Prospect Hill Primitive Baptist Church (Ridgeville Road at intersection with Highway 86)[249]

Prospect Methodist Church (Prospect Church Road, Baynes) *
Prospect United Methodist Church (1900 US Hwy 158 W, West Yanceyville)
Providence Baptist Church (5762 Walter's Mill Road, Providence)[250]
Providence Missionary Baptist Church (Hwy 86 at 185 Wilbur Webster Road) *
Purley United Methodist Church (4011 Old Hwy 86 N, Purley)[251]

Rattlesnake Church (Hwy 62N, Caswell County) * **[252]
Red Hill Baptist Church (6038 Park Springs Road, Bethel)
Red House Presbyterian House (13508 NC Hwy 119, Semora)[253]
Refuge Temple of Deliverance (1536 Main St., Yanceyville, NC) *
River Bend Pentecostal Holiness Church (5235 Mountain Hill Road, Milton) *
River Zion Baptist Church (5637 Blanch Road, Blanch)[254]

Sassafras Grove Baptist Church (3254 Old NC Hwy 86, Covington)[255]
Semora Baptist Church (14450 NC Hwy 119, Semora)[256]
Semora United Methodist Church (14515 NC Highway 119, Semora)[257]
Shady Grove Baptist Church (1588 Shady Grove Road, Gatewood) *[258]
Shady Grove United Methodist Church (Shady Grove Road, Gatewood)

Shady Oak Baptist Church (1739 Walters Mill Road, Gatewood)
Sheldon Baptist Church (2486 Old U.S. Hwy 29, Pelham)
Shiloh Baptist Church (1760 Yarbrough Mill Road, Yarbro)
Smith Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (94 Smith Chapel Road, Whitetown) *
Solid Rock Ark of Safety Holiness Church (Burton Chapel Road, Fitch) * **

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[248] An article by Edna H. Chance (granddaughter of Elder B. B. McKinney) is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 55-56.
[249] Closed and property being sold. An article by Henry F. Blalock and Agnes W. Nelson is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) p. 57.
[250] An article by Eunice Odell Neal Harrelson is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 57-58.
[251] An article by Frances A. Slade, Verna C. Rowland, and Henry Grant is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 58-59.
[252] See Bethany Church.
[253] See Also: Red House Presbyterian Church. An article by Mary McAden Satterfield is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 59-60.
[254] An article by Estella Jeffries is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 61-62.
[255] An article by Mrs. Estelle Warner is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) p. 63.
[256] An article by Mary McAden Satterfield is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 64-65.
[257] An article by Mary McAden Satterfield is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) p. 65.
[258] An article by Jacqueline B. Loftis is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 65-66.

Spirit and Truth Baptist Church (1301 Milesville Road, Milesville) *
Spiritual Baptist Church (Gatewood) *
St. Andrews AME (Milton) * **
St. James Baptist Church (1065 Solomon Lea Rd, Leasburg) *[259]
St. Luke's Episcopal Church (237 Parkway Dr, Yanceyville)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Milton) * **
Stokesland Baptist Church *
Stoney Creek AME Church (3769 Milesville Road, Stony Creek) *
Sweet Gum Grove Missionary Baptist Church (8609 Hwy 119 S, Baynes) *

Trinity Baptist Church **[260]
Trinity Baptist Church (10615 NC Hwy 150, Locust Hill) *
Trinity Missionary Baptist Church (9904 NC Hwy 150, Locust Hill) *
True Gospel Baptist Church (75 Newnam Rd, Pelham) *

Union United Methodist Church (197 Union Church Road, Pleasant Grove)[261]

Warm Heart Fellowship (may not have a building; associated with FBC of Yanceyville)
Warren's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (14769 NC Hwy 86, Prospect Hill)
Waterway Holiness Church (may be same as River Bend Pentecostal Holiness Church) *
Welcome Baptist Church (7502-7738 NC-62, Blanch) *
Wolf Island Baptist Church (64 James Motley Drive, Pelham) *
World of Faith Apostolic Church/Bible Way Holiness Church (123 Doll Branch Road, Milton) *

Yanceyville Missionary Baptist Church (364 Dillard School Road, Yanceyville) *[262]
Yanceyville Presbyterian Church (125 North Avenue, Yanceyville)[263]
Yanceyville United Methodist Church (West Main Street, Yanceyville)[264]

Zion Level Missionary Baptist Church (1780 Zion Level Church Rd, Semora) *

Total: 143 Churches

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* No church history submitted for *In the Beginning: The Churches of Caswell County*, Jean B. Scott, Editor (2001).

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[259] An article by Almond Evangeline Hughes is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 67-68.
[260] An article by Ella Thompson Hobbs is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 70-71.
[261] An article by S. T. Richmond and Alberta N. Lunsford is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 71-72.
[262] An article by Mrs. Dorothy Graves is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 77-78.
[263] An article by Katharine Kerr Kendall is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 78-79.
[264] An article by John O. Gunn is in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985) pp. 76-77. And, in the same volume is a history of the church cemetery authored by John O. Gunn (at p. 41).

** Church building no longer standing (or never had a church building).

Attachment II

The Heritage of Caswell County

The following churches have church histories in *The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina* (1985):

Allen's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
Bethany Anglican Methodist Church (Leasburg)
Bethesda Presbyterian Church
Beulah Baptist Church (Highway 158E, Leasburg)
Blackwell Missionary Baptist Church

Blanch Baptist Church
Brown's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
Bush Arbor Primitive Baptist Church
Camp Springs United Methodist Church
Camp Springs United Methodist Church (African American)

Community Baptist Church
Connally United Methodist Church
Country Line Primitive Baptist Church
Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church
Graves Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Griers Presbyterian Church
Gwynn's Chapel Baptist Church
Hamer Missionary Baptist Church
Leasburg United Methodist Church
Lebanon Christian Church

Macedonia A.M.E. Church
Milton Methodist Church
Milton Presbyterian Church
Moon's Creek Primitive Baptist Church
New Ephesus Missionary Baptist Church

Old Lea Bethel Baptist Church
Pelham United Methodist Church
Pleasant Grove Primitive Baptist Church
Prospect Hill Primitive Baptist Church
Providence Baptist Church

Purley United Methodist Church
Red House Presbyterian Church
River Zion Baptist Church
Sassafras Grove Baptist Church
Semora Baptist Church

Semora United Methodist Church
Shady Grove United Methodist Church
Shiloh Baptist Church
St. James Baptist Church
Trinity Baptist Church (old)

Union United Methodist Church
Yanceyville Missionary Baptist Church
Yanceyville Presbyterian Church
Yanceyville United Methodist Church

Attachment III

In the Beginning: The Churches of Caswell County

The following churches have church histories in Scott, Jean B., Compiler. *In the Beginning: The Churches of Caswell County*, Jean B. Scott, Editor (2001):

Allen's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
Ashland Road Baptist Church
Bethel United Methodist Church
Bethesda Presbyterian Church
Beulah Baptist Church

Blanch Baptist Church
Camp Springs United Methodist Church
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Community Baptist Church
Concord Christian Church

Connally United Methodist Church
Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church
First Baptist Church of Yanceyville
Gatewood Baptist Church
God's Blessing Center Church

Grier's Presbyterian Church
Gwynn's Chapel Baptist Church
Hamer Missionary Baptist Church
High Rock Baptist Church
High Street Baptist Church

Kerr's Chapel Baptist Church
Kimes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (Alamance County, NC)
Lea Bethel Baptist Church
Leasburg United Methodist Church
Lebanon Christian United Church

Locust Hill United Methodist Church
Milton Baptist Church
Milton Presbyterian Church
Milton United Methodist Church
Moon's Creek Church

New Haven Baptist Church

New Hope United Methodist Church
New Zion Baptist Church
Oak Level A.M.E. Church
Old Lea Bethel Baptist Church

Pelham United Methodist Church
Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Prospect Hill Primitive Baptist Church
Prospect United Methodist Church
Providence Baptist Church

Purley United Methodist Church
Red Hill Baptist Church
Red House Presbyterian Church
River Zion Baptist Church
Sassafras Grove Baptist Church

Semora Baptist Church
Semora United Methodist Church
Shady Grove United Methodist Church
Shady Oak Baptist Church
Sheldon Baptist Church

Shiloh Baptist Church
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Trinity Baptist Church
Union United Methodist Church
Warm Heart Fellowship

Warren's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
Yanceyville Presbyterian Church
Yanceyville United Methodist Church

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Forty-five Caswell County churches did not submit a history.

Attachment IV

Bibliography

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Attachment V

National Register of Historic Places

1. Grier's Presbyterian Church
2. Red House Presbyterian Church

Attachment VI

Notes (Miscellaneous)

Yanceyville, N.C., Oct 29 -- The Young People's Union of the fifteen Methodist churches of Caswell County participated in a county wide meeting held at the local Methodist church Friday evening. Subjects of general interest to the young people were discussed and concrete plans considered for the future work of the society.

The Bee (Danville, VA), 29 October 1936

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Yanceyville News of Social Import: 1938.

Yanceyville, Jan. 11 -- (Special) -- Circle number 2 of the women's auxiliary of the Presbyterian church met with Mrs. A. Y. Kerr, Monday afternoon with 14 members and two visitors present. Mrs. H. L. Seagrove, chairman presided. The devotional was conducted by Mrs. Holland McSwain. Phases of foreign missions were interestingly discussed by Mrs. Sadie Watkins and Mrs. Alvis Florance. The main feature of this program was a talk based on "Fresh Facts from the Foreign Fields" by Miss Cora Harrelson of Ruffin, who is foreign mission secretary of Orange Presbyterial. During the social hour the hostess, assisted by her daughter, Mary Frances, served a sweet course.

The Herald Sun (Durham, NC), 12 January 1938.

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In 1947, W. W. Snyder was pastor at Bethel Christian Church, Caswell County, North Carolina. *The Daily Times-News* (Burlington, NC), 18 Nov 1947.

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Methodist Minister John H. Shore: Died 1948 in the Concord area of Person County, NC

Born in Forsyth County, North Carolina, the Reverend John H. Shore was admitted to the North Carolina Methodist Conference in 1888 and subsequently served at

Leasburg, Milton, Yanceyville, Burlington, Franklinton, Smithfield, Greenville, Dunn, Fifth Avenue in Wilmington, Rockingham District, Hay Street in Fayetteville, Weldon, and Hamlet. He was assistant missionary secretary from 1935 to 1936, retired in the latter year, but was called to serve in the Fayetteville District again in 1937. He died February 3, 1948.

The Herald-Sun (Durham, NC), 5 February 1948.

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The Rev. Edward F. Smith and Mrs. Smith of Leasburg, announce the birth of a son, Edward Franklin Smith III, on Sunday, May 23 [1948] in Watts Hospital. Mrs. Smith is the former Miss Janet Wells, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. R. D. Wells of Pembroke.

The Herald-Sun (Durham, NC), 29 May 1948.

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Birth Announcement: Smith

The Rev. and Mrs. Edward F. Smith of Leasburg announce the birth of a son, David Alvin, on Nov. 26 at Watts Hospital. They also have a son, Edward F. Smith III, aged three and one-half years.

The Herald-Sun (Durham, North Carolina), 29 November 1951.

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Homecoming Planned

Roxboro, July 6. -- The Methodist Church of Leasburg will hold homecoming services Sunday, with the pastor, the Rev. E. F. Smith, bringing the message.

The News and Observer (Raleigh, NC), 7 July 1951.

Leasburg Methodist Church Homecoming Planned: 1949



Homecoming Planned By Leasburg Church

Leasburg, Oct. 22.—Homecoming day will be observed in the Leasburg Methodist Church Sunday, Oct. 30, beginning with the morning worship service at 11 o'clock.

A report on the church building program will be made in the course of the service. There will be special music as part of the worship service and the pastor, the Rev. Edward F. Smith, will deliver the morning sermon. Dinner on the grounds following this 11 o'clock service will give an opportunity for fellowship among all who attend this service.

Note the reference to a report on the church building program. A new church building was completed in 1953 to accommodate the substantial increase in membership. Query the church membership in 2022.

The News and Observer (Raleigh, NC), 22 October 1949.

Methodist Church Layman's Day Observance: 1951

Yanceyville, Feb. 16 -- Robert B. House, Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will be the featured speaker in the Layman's Day observance of the churches of the Leasburg Charge.

The five churches will hold a joint observance of this day in the church year in a service Sunday morning beginning at 11:00 A. M. in the Prospect Hill School. The presiding officer will be N. H. Hester, charge lay leader. House is a prominent layman in the Methodist Church in Chapel Hill, and a former associate lay leader for the Durham District.

The Herald-Sun (Durham, NC), 17 February 1951.

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Freak Accident Kills Man Near Yanceyville

Yanceyville, March 23 -- (AP) -- A man was killed yesterday when a hogshead of tobacco fell off a truck onto his car. This was reported today by the State Highway Patrol. The Patrol listed the victim of the freak accident as Edward Sapp, 31, of

Leasburg, Rt. 1. The wreck occurred on Highway 86 about 10 miles north of Yanceyville.

The News and Observer (Raleigh, North Carolina), 24 March 1951, Saturday, Page 13.

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Minister Killed

Yanceyville -- (U.P.) -- Rev. S. E. [Samuel Edwin] Sapp of Leasburg, a Presbyterian minister, was killed yesterday when a tobacco hogshead from a truck broke loose and crashed onto his auto. Sapp died in a Danville, Va., hospital shortly after the accident, officers said. The truck driver, identified as Leo Werry, 30, of Oxford, was charged with manslaughter.

Statesville Daily Record (Statesville, NC), 23 March 1951.

Freak Accident Kills Man Near Yanceyville

Yanceyville, March 23 -- (AP) -- A man was killed yesterday when a hogshead of tobacco fell off a truck onto his car. This was reported today by the State Highway Patrol. The Patrol listed the victim of the freak accident as Edward [Edwin] Sapp, 31, of Leasburg, Rt. 1. The wreck occurred on Highway 86 about 10 miles north of Yanceyville.

The News and Observer (Raleigh, North Carolina), 24 March 1951, Saturday, Page 13.

While Samuel Edwin Sapp (1920-1951) was described in the above newspaper item as a Presbyterian minister living in Leasburg, with what church he was associated has not been determined. However, based on the following it may have been Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church.

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When we drove to Danville on Old Highway 86 my mother occasionally would comment on this death as we passed the site. I believe it was at the bottom of the hill near Hogan's Creek. Rick Frederick Facebook Post 2022.

He left a wife and 4 children. I think about them often. Came up on right after it happened, we had to stay in the car. He preached at Pleasant Grove. Patsy Webster Stanley Facebook Post 2022.

The Rest of the Story

Not only was Reverend Samuel Edwin Sapp (1920-1951) killed when a tobacco hogshead fell on his car, he was robbed while dying at the scene of the accident. He apparently served at least two Caswell County Presbyterian Churches: Greer's Presbyterian Church; and Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church.

Why did Reverend Sapp have a $150 cashier's check made out to Greer's Presbyterian Church?

The Charlotte Observer (Charlotte, NC), 24 Mar 1951.

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In 1909 the following Methodist ministers were serving Caswell County, North Carolina:

Nicks: Pelham and Shady Grove
Ross, C. R.: Yanceyville
Usry: Milton
Yearby, N. C.: Leasburg

The North Carolina Methodist Conference had a rule that required ministers to move to another church (called a charge) after four years.

Raleigh Christian Advocate (Raleigh, NC), 21 Oct 1909.

N. C. Yearby was reassigned to Mt. Tirzah in Person County and was replaced by J. C. Humble. But, in 1910 after serving only four months Humble became ill and was replaced by Thomas McM. Grant.

S. F. Nicks apparently was reassigned to Hillsborough and was replaced by L. L. Nash.

Usry apparently was replaced by W. T. Nory.

Goldsboro Daily Argus (Goldsboro, NC), 30 Nov 1909.

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Of course, in 1909 there were other Methodist churches in Caswell County, but they were served by the minister in charge of a "circuit."

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Reverend Edward Franklin Smith served the Leasburg Methodist Church during the late 1940s-early 1950s.

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In 1922, the following Methodist ministers were serving Caswell County, North Carolina, which was part of the Durham District:

Leasburg: S. F. Nicks/Nix
Milton Circuit: J. Bascomb Hurley
Yanceyville Circuit: J. T. Stanford

J. M. Ormond was a professor at Southern Methodist University. He once served at the Leasburg Methodist Church (Leasburg, Caswell County, North Carolina).

Source: Robesonian (Lumberton, North Carolina, 23 November 1922.

In 1938, Reverend J. M. Ormond was a professor at Duke University (Durham, Durham County, North Carolina). Source: The Atlanta Constitution (Atlanta, GA), 24 February 1938.

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Meeting of 4th District of PTA Congress Held

Leasburg, Oct. 15 -- Representatives from the nine counties of District 4 of the North Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers met in Leasburg Tuesday for the annual district meeting. Mrs. Ray J. Reed of Winston-Salem, district director, presided.

The sessions, which started with registration at 10 a.m. were held in the Leasburg Methodist Church, with the Leasburg PTA as host group. Theme of the meeting was that of the national program, "Better Homes, Better Schools, Better Communities."

The group was greeted by Thomas H. Whitley, superintendent of Caswell County schools.

The Herald-Sun (Durham, North Carolina), 16 October 1953.

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Reverend Chancie De Shield Barclift served at Leasburg Methodist Church 1930-1931.

The Durham Sun (Durham, NC), 21 February 1953.

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The Methodist Episcopal Church (MEC) was the oldest and largest Methodist denomination in the United States from its founding in 1784 until 1939. It was also the first religious denomination in the US to organize itself on a national

basis.[4] In 1939, the MEC reunited with two breakaway Methodist denominations (the Methodist Protestant Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South) to form the Methodist Church. In 1968, the Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren Church to form the United Methodist Church.

Source: Wikipedia: Methodist Episcopal Church)https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methodist_Episcopal_Church)[accessed 27 December 2022]

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249 churches separate from the NC United Methodist Church over LGBTQIA+ guidelines

During a special conference, 957 church members voted to approve disaffiliations and while 165 members disapproved.

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Representatives from the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church met on Nov. 19 during a special conference to announce that dozens of churches are no longer affiliated with The United Methodist Church.

The 249 requests for disaffiliating arose after LGBTQIA policy concerns arose about same-sex marriages and other related guidelines.

As of right now, this slew of disaffiliations applies to some Methodist churches in Alamance and Caswell counties.

The process for disaffiliation was established in 2019 by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, according to the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church’s website.

957 church members voted to approve disaffiliations and 165 members disapproved. Before announcing the votes, Bishop Fairley asked those in attendance to do two things, hold hands and pray and not react to the reading of the vote.

Every four years elected delegates in the General Conference of The United Methodist Church hold a meeting to look over the Book of Discipline, which is sort of like a rule book.

During the meeting back in 2019, the topic of sexuality came into play which sparked a debate.

Director of Communications for The United Methodist Church, Derek Leek said, "The Book of Discipline states that everyone, all of us are individuals of sacred worth and that all are welcome in The United Methodist Church. There's another portion in the Book of Discipline that states that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching and that is where people are having this divide, and so some want that strengthened and left in there and some want it removed completely."

Typically, if a church decides to disaffiliate, they have to surrender its property back to The United Methodist Church, but a new provision was made to allow churches to keep their property.

The disaffiliations were ratified back on November 19th, but each church has a series of requirements they need to meet.

One step that was already met for the 249 churches was that two-thirds of the members of a church who voted for disaffiliation had to say they supported the split.

Now this, according to The United Methodist Church, has caused some division among congregations.

Leek explained, "Some of the votes who are unanimous, they want to all leave. Some only either passed or failed by a few votes. There's deep pain and deep hurt maybe even a sense of betrayal in some of our members."

Because of this, UMC has created something called United Methodist Collective, for people who feel displaced because of the disaffiliation.

The next meeting to talk about changes to the rules will be in April of 2024.

9 churches in Alamance and Caswell counties don't want to wait on the possibility that something could be changed relating to human sexuality.

More steps are being taken to meet the requirements for disaffiliation such as:

Taking down their signage that relates to United Methodist Church
Paying their apportionments for this year and for the next year.
Paying a pension liability as well as other steps about membership records, and archives and things like that
If steps are taken to disaffiliate, it will take effect on Dec. 31.

Some will choose another denomination, and some will choose to be independent or nondenominational.

We reached out to the Western Conference of UMC which includes Greensboro and Winston-Salem to see if there have been any disaffiliations in that area and haven't heard back.

About the North Carolina Conference

The North Carolina Conference is one of 54 conferences of The United Methodist Church in the United States. It encompasses 56 counties in eastern North Carolina, from Elon to the coast and from the South Carolina border to the Virginia border. The conference strives to create healthy congregations and effective leaders in every place, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Source: WFMY-TV News Website, November 28, 2022 [accessed 27 December 2022]

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Several churches are involved have caused confusion: St. Paul’s Episcopal Church (Milton); Christ Episcopal Church (Milton); St. Luke’s Episcopal Church (Yanceyville); and Church of Christ (Yanceyville).
1. St. Paul’s Episcopal Church (Milton): Incomplete records suggest that St. Paul’s Episcopal Church was organized in Milton in 1831. However, if so, it did not survive long.

2. Christ Episcopal Church (Milton): Deconsecrated and purchased by the Milton Woman's Club September 18, 1974. The building is now owned by the Milton Renaissance Foundation.

3. St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Yanceyville): St. Luke's Episcopal Church, an unorganized mission, was formed in Yanceyville in 1973 with nine baptized members. It had an attractive brick church building. Pews from Christ Episcopal Church (Milton) were moved to the church in Yanceyville. At some point this church ceased to operate, and at one time (possibly continuing), was occupied by the next church in this list.

4. Church of Christ (Yanceyville): Little is known about this church that may now occupy the building that once housed St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Yanceyville. The street address is the same: 237 Parkway Dr. The church apparently was active in 2020 as it placed a notice in the January 15, 2020, issue of "The Caswell Messenger."

Adding to the complication is that before St. Luke's Episcopal Church was built in Yanceyville, the small congregation met in the old Swicegood house just off the Square in Yanceyville.

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Yanceyville Ministers Plan Religious Census: 1953

Yanceyville, March 14 [1953] -- The ministers of Yanceyville have worked out plans for a religious census of the community. It is to be taken on Sunday March 22, 1953. The various churches are to provide teams of workers. All workers are asked to meet at the Methodist Church at 2:00 p.m. on the designated Sunday. The information resulting from the effort should be valuable to all the churches.

Greensboro Daily News (Greensboro, NC), 15 March 1953

Attachment VII

Caswell County Churches by Denomination (as of 2022)

Baptist and Primitive Baptist Churches

1. Allen's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (5630 Ridgeville Road, Ridgeville)
2. Allred New Mission Baptist Church (244 Kerr's Chapel Road, Anderson)
3. Baynes Baptist Church (1757 Baynes Road, Baynes)
4. Beulah Baptist Church (1834 US Hwy 158 E, Leasburg)
5. Beulah Baptist Church (3027 NC Hwy 119, Leasburg)

6. Blackwell Missionary Baptist Church (4777 Hwy 158 W, Locust Hill)
7. Blanch Baptist Church (5931 Blanch Road, Blanch)
8. Brown's Arbor Primitive Baptist Church (570 Underwood Road, Camp Springs)
9. Brown's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (461 Brown's Chapel Road, Matkins)
10. Burton's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (5277 Burton Chapel Rd, Hightowers)

11. Bush Arbor Primitive Baptist Church (101 Cherry Grove Road, Jericho)
12. Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church (4011 US Hwy 158, Locust Hill)
13. Cherry Grove Baptist Church (412 Browns Chapel Road, Cherry Grove)
14. Community Baptist Church (3050 Old NC 86 Hwy N/Old State Hwy 86, Covington)
15. Corbett Memorial Baptist Church (1694 Mineral Springs Road, Allison)

16. Covenant Reformed Baptist Church (6611 Old North Carolina Highway 86, Providence)
17. Cross Roads Baptist Church (1744 Ashland Road, Ashland)
18. Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church (2901 Bertha Wilson Road, Providence)
19. Ekklesia Baptist Church (4450 Blanch Road, Blanch)
20. First Baptist Church of Yanceyville (378 Church Street West, Yanceyville)

21. Gatewood Baptist Church (182 Gatewood Rd, Providence)
22. God's Grace Baptist Church (US Hwy 158 at Bethesda Church Road, Casville)
23. Graves Chapel Baptist Church (5373 Badgett Sisters Pkwy, Yanceyville)
24. Gwynn's Chapel Baptist Church (242 Gwynn's Chapel Road, Pelham)

25. Hamer Missionary Baptist Church (4425 NC Hwy 62 N, Blanch)

26. High Rock Baptist Church (3330 High Rock School Road, Pleasant Grove)
27. High Street Baptist Church (11708 Academy St., Milton)
28. Jones Cross Roads Baptist Church (3651 Stoney Creek School Road, Cherry Grove)
29. Kerr's Chapel Southern Baptist Church (2980 Kerr's Chapel Road, Stoney Creek)
30. Lea Bethel Baptist Church (1820 Ridgeville Road, Ridgeville)

31. Lively Stones Baptist Church (2347 Chandlers Mill Road, Pelham)
32. Lynches Creek Primitive Baptist Church (Corbett Ridge Road, Corbett)
33. Milton Baptist Church (Bridge Street, Milton)
34. Mill Creek Primitive Baptist Church (Yarborough's Mill Road)
35. Mineral Springs Baptist Church (774 Mineral Springs Road, Allison)

36. Moons Creek Primitive Baptist Church (528 Park Springs Road, Providence)
37. Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church (2578 NC Hwy 119 N, Semora)
38. New Ephesus Missionary Baptist Church (8939 US Hwy 158 W, Locust Hill)
39. New Haven Baptist Church (16 New Haven Baptist Church Road, Milton)
40. New Hope Baptist Church (351 New Hope Church Road, Leasburg)

41. Nu-Life Baptist Church (near Camp Springs)
42. Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church (Hodges Dairy Road)
43. Old Lea Bethel Baptist Church (6035 Ridgeville Road, Frogsboro)
44. Olive Hill Baptist Church (643 Olive Hill Church Road, Leasburg)
45. Page's Arbor Primitive Baptist Church (1917 Union Ridge Road, Anderson)

46. Pilgrim Chapel Baptist Church (9923 Kerr's Chapel Rd,)
47. Pleasant Grove Primitive Baptist Church (2704 Ashland Road, Ashland)
48. Prospect Hill Primitive Baptist Church (Ridgeville Road at Highway 86)
49. Providence Baptist Church (5762 Walter's Mill Road, Providence)
50. Providence Missionary Baptist Church (Hwy 86 at 185 Wilbur Webster Road)

51. Red Hill Baptist Church (6038 Park Springs Road, Bethel)
52. Sassafras Grove Baptist Church (3254 Old NC Hwy 86, Covington)
53. Semora Baptist Church (14450 NC Hwy 119, Semora)

54. Shady Grove Baptist Church (1588 Shady Grove Road, Gatewood)
55. Shady Oak Baptist Church (1739 Walters Mill Road, Gatewood)
56. Sheldon Baptist Church (2486 Old U.S. Hwy 29, Pelham)
57. Shiloh Baptist Church (1760 Yarbrough Mill Road, Yarbro)
58. Smith Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (94 Smith Chapel Road, Whitetown)
59. Spirit and Truth Baptist Church (1301 Milesville Road, Milesville
60. Spiritual Baptist Church (Gatewood)

61. St. James Baptist Church (1065 Solomon Lea Rd, Leasburg)
62. Sweet Gum Missionary Baptist Church (8609 Hwy 119 S, Baynes)
63. Trinity Baptist Church (10615 NC Hwy 150, Locust Hill)
64. Trinity Missionary Baptist Church (9904 NC Hwy 150, Locust Hill)
65. True Gospel Baptist Church (75 Newnam Rd, Pelham)

66. Warren's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (14769 NC Hwy 86, Prospect Hill)
67. Welcome Baptist Church (7502-7738 NC-62, Blanch)
68. Wolf Island Baptist Church (64 James Motley Drive, Pelham)
69. Yanceyville Missionary Baptist Church (364 Dillard School Road, Yanceyville)
70. Zion Level Missionary Baptist Church (1780 Zion Level Church Rd, Semora)

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<u>African Methodist Episcopal Churches</u>

1. Macedonia AME Church
2. Oak Level AME Church
3. Pearson Chapel AME Church
4. St. Andrews AME Church
5. Stoney Creek AME Church

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<u>Methodist Churches (united and otherwise)</u>

1. Bethany Methodist Episcopal Church
2. Bethel United Methodist Church (Prospect Hill)
3. Bethel United Methodist Church (Pelham)
4. Calvary United Methodist Church
5. Camp Springs United Methodist Church (9168 Cherry Grove Rd)

6. Camp Springs United Methodist Church (9502 Cherry Grove Road)
7. Connally United Methodist Church
8. Hebron United Methodist Church
9. Leasburg United Methodist Church
10. Locust Hill United Methodist Church

11. Milton Methodist Church
12. New Hope United Methodist Church
13. Pelham United Methodist Church
14. Piney Grove Methodist Church
15. Prospect Methodist Church

16. Prospect United Methodist Church
17. Purley United Methodist Church
18. Semora United Methodist Church
19. Shady Grove United Methodist Church
20. Union United Methodist Church

21. Yanceyville United Methodist Church

Presbyterian Churches

1. Bethany Presbyterian Church
2. Bethesda Presbyterian Church
3. Gilead Presbyterian Church
4. Grier's Presbyterian Church
5. Milton Presbyterian Church

6. Oakview Presbyterian Church
7. Palmer's Chapel Presbyterian Church
8. Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
9. Red House Presbyterian Church
10. Yanceyville Presbyterian Church

Other Churches

1. Christ Episcopal Church
2. Church of Christ
3. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
4. Church on the Square
5. God's Blessing Center Church

6. Harrison's Meeting House
7. Holy Tabernacle of Jesus Christ
8. Lebanon Christian Church
9. Palmer Church
10. Pinnacle Ministries

11. Pleasant View Assembly of God Church
12. Prayer of Faith Ministry
13. Rattlesnake Church
14. River Bend Pentecostal Holiness Church
15. Spirit and Truth Baptist Church

16. St. Luke's Episcopal Church
17. St. Paul's Episcopal Church
18. Warm Heart Fellowship
19. Word of Faith Apostolic Church

Religious Organizations About Which More information is Needed

1. Bible Way Holiness Church (Milton)(now Word of Faith Apostolic Church)
2. Bluestone Missionary Baptist Church (Pelham)
3. Christ Within Deliverance Ministries (Yanceyville)
4. Church of God (Yanceyville)
5. Cornerstone Apostolic Church (Yanceyville)

6. County Outreach Ministry
7. Deliverance Outreach Center (Yanceyville)
8. Faith Baptist Church (Leasburg)
9. Freedom for Living Ministries
10. God's Blessing Center (Milton)

11. Hickory Grove United Methodist Church (Pelham)[i265]
12. Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses (Blanch)
13. Park Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church (Providence)
14. Piedmont Christian Assembly (Providence)
15. Protestant Episcopal Church (Yanceyville)

16. River of Live Worship Center
17. Smith Chapel Baptist Church (Pelham)
18. United Holiness Church (Pelham)
19. Westover Hills Pentecostal Church (Pelham)

[265] In Rockingham County, about two miles from the Caswell County line on route 700. Address is 9983 NC-700, Pelham, NC 27311.