



1861

Celebrating 150 Years

2011

MACEDONIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

Macedonia United Methodist Church
150th Anniversary History
by
Earl Parks

The following information was gathered in part from a written history of Macedonia Church compiled by its members on Nov. 12, 1961 (100th Anniversary) and from transcripts of the official membership and church record, also by newspaper articles from the Lexington Dispatch and the Hometown News, Denton. Oral interviews with several long time church members were also used.

Time Line of Macedonia's 150 Years in Ministry

1860, Early: An organization was formed to worship in an arbor which stood on the present church ground. The first pastor was Rev. John Lewis. Some members about that time were Joseph Fitzgerald, Mr. and Mrs. William Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. W.R. McCuiston, Mr. and Mrs. John Williams and the Cornelius family. The record shows that two members were added to the church roll at this time. They were Ruben L. Holmes who joined by profession and his wife, Jane Holmes, admitted by letter. Sometime in late 1860 - early 1861 the arbor burned.

1861 WORLD NEWS:

JANUARY 29: KANSAS BECOMES THE 34th STATE.

APRIL 12: THE CIVIL WAR BEGINS.

MAY 20: NORTH CAROLINA SECEDES FROM THE UNION.

1861, October: First sanctuary is built on two acres of land just a few feet north of the present building. This land was deeded to the church trustees by John and Angeline Williams. William Rowe was contractor for the new church and people from the community assisted in construction. Trustees of the church were, Ruben L. Holmes, William W. Hicks, W.R. McCuiston, Marshall Patterson, Joseph W. Fitzgerald, Henry Hicks, Henry M. Heitman, James P. Stimpson and Bennett Nooe.

1861, November: Macedonia becomes a member of the Davidson Circuit consisting of Lexington, Bethel, Mount Olive, Good Hope, Wesley Chapel, Midway, and Macedonia.

1864, OCTOBER 31, WORLD NEWS: NEVADA BECOMES THE 36th STATE.

1865, APRIL 14, WORLD NEWS: THE CIVIL WAR ENDS.

1867, MARCH 1, WORLD NEWS: NEBRASKA BECOMES THE 37th STATE.

1876, AUGUST 1, WORLD NEWS: COLORADO BECOMES THE 38th STATE.

1885: S.M. Peacock purchased land adjoining the Sanctuary.

1889 WORLD NEWS:

NOVEMBER 2: NORTH DAKOTA AND SOUTH DAKOTA BECOME THE 39th AND 40th STATES.

NOVEMBER 8: MONTANA BECOMES THE 41st STATE.

NOVEMBER 11: WASHINGTON BECOMES THE 42nd STATE.

1890 WORLD NEWS:

JULY 3: IDAHO BECOMES THE 43rd STATE.

JULY 10: WYOMING BECOMES THE 44th STATE.

1892: The Davidson Circuit was divided and Macedonia became a member of the Linwood Circuit along with Welcome, Linwood, Wesley Chapel, Bethel, Yadkin College and Ebenezer.

1896, JANUARY 4, WORLD NEWS: UTAH BECOMES THE 45th STATE

1900 WORLD NEWS: WORLD WELCOMES IN A NEW CENTURY!!!

1900: S.M. Peacock donated land for the church and cemetery. The present church was constructed and the old structure was torn down. Mr. Peacock was chairman of the building committee and a Mr. Cornelius from Greensboro was the contractor.

We have no record of just when the first Sunday School was organized but early in the history of the church, W.R. McCuiston was superintendent and had a school of about twenty members. Another superintendent was Ruben L. Holmes.

1902: S.L. Hedrick was elected superintendent of Sunday School. S.M. Peacock was elected treasurer and Miss Allie Peacock was secretary. Enrollment was 98 with an average attendance of 45.

1907, NOVEMBER 16, WORLD NEWS: OKLAHOMA BECOMES THE 46th STATE.

1911: The railroad comes through Southmont and with it comes many new people.

1912 WORLD NEWS:

JANUARY 6: NEW MEXICO BECOMES THE 47th STATE

FEBRUARY 14: ARIZONA BECOMES THE 48th STATE

1914 WORLD NEWS: WORLD WAR I BEGINS.

1917: Steady growth made for another division with Macedonia joining the Linwood Charge along with Linwood, Cotton Grove, and Tyro.

1919 WORLD NEWS: WORLD WAR I ENDS.

1919: Macedonia lost two of her fine young men to World War I. They were Pearlle Surratt who often conducted prayer meeting and Fred Lookabill another fine Christian.

1919: A Missionary Society was organized by Mrs. Shank. This Society, consisting mostly of young people, was quite active but declined as many of its members moved to other areas.

1922: A classroom was added on the north side of the sanctuary.

1923: Under the direction of Rev. J.W. Campbell, an Epworth League was organized. Its members consisted of both Methodist and Baptist young people of the community.

1924: A room, designed and built by Causey Surratt and Cling Morris, was added to the rear of the altar. This room was used as the men's class, known as the Baraca Class, with Lindsay Morris serving as president. For years the men of the church met in this room until the choir took it over and the choir still uses it to this day.

1926: The dam was built and High Rock Lake was created. It seemed for a while that we were becoming a small city.

1929 WORLD NEWS: STOCK MARKET CRASHES --- GREAT DEPRESSION BEGINS.

1930: There were extremely hard financial times in the 1930's. Some weeks the collections were less than \$3.00! At times the elders had to canvas the membership to ask for money to meet our needs.

1933: The Epworth League with a membership of 90 was reorganized under the directorship of Dr. and Mrs. P.L. Feezor. The name of this organization was changed to Youth Fellowship.

1934: Church membership had grown to 250 and Sunday School enrollment was 168.

1934: Missionary Society was re-formed with 20 members and called the Society of Christian Service. Miss Lottie Myers was its president. It grew under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Palmer, Mrs. L. Cleveland Clark and Mrs. Fred Copley.

1936: We needed more space and still there was little money. Pine poles were donated and labor was volunteered and a log hut for a Sunday School class was constructed under supervision of Rev. M.A. Osbourne. Dr. P.L. Feezor taught a large class in the hut for over twenty years.

Stewards in the early years of the church were: A.F. Hall, S.L. Hedrick, Charles Peeler, G.A. Peacock, Chester Michael, M.S.A. Michael, D.L. Crowell, McCager Surratt, Cicero Surratt, Curtis Hedrick and S.M. Peacock who served as steward for a record 40 years.

1939 WORLD NEWS: THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH, AND THE METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH REUNITE TO FORM THE METHODIST CHURCH.

1941, DEC. 7, WORLD NEWS: JAPAN BOMBS PEARL HARBOR, U.S. ENTERS WORLD WAR II.

1945 WORLD NEWS: WORLD WAR II ENDS.

1945: Macedonia lost two of her beloved sons to the war, Hubert Crowell and Lewis Foster.

1948-1949: After World War II attendance again improved and we felt it was time to make our place of worship more beautiful and comfortable. In 1948-49 we held services in the old Southmont School auditorium while re-modeling went on. Rev. W.B. Thompson was our pastor. He was more than a preacher and pastor. While he served a five point charge with Macedonia and four other churches, he still found time to be our sawmill hand, carpenter, mortar mixer and architect. He was a man of action and few words. If he were here today he could take a lot of credit for this beautiful sanctuary.....but he wouldn't. He'd just say, "Enough talk, let's get to work." He was assisted in the remodeling by Roy Surratt and Cling Morris.

1949: Men's and Women's Sunday School classes merged.

1950, JUNE, WORLD NEWS: KOREAN WAR BEGINS

1950, July 22: Dedication of remodeled sanctuary. (The following account was taken from the official membership and church record of Macedonia Church.)

“Macedonia Methodist Church was dedicated July 22, 1950 by Dr. Clemmer, Presiding Elder or rather District Superintendent. Rev. Ernest Younts, a former member, preached the Dedicatory Sermon at 11:00 A.M. He was born and raised in Southmont and his wife is the former Miss Jonsie Lookabill also a former member. A picnic lunch was served on the church grounds at 12:30. Mr. Bridger returned thanks. In the afternoon Rev. W.B. Thompson preached at 2:30. Mr. Thompson was pastor when the church was remodeled. He came to the charge in 1944 and stayed until 1949. At the morning service Miss Francis Fitzgerald of Lexington sang, also Mr. Allan Godwin sang “Goin’ Home.” At the afternoon service Mr. Clemmer burned the mortgage. Mrs. John Ford sang “Bless This House.” Mr. Bruton, Supt. of the Junior Order Home, sang with Mrs. Bruton. Misses Zona Lee Surratt, Betty Wrenn and Letha Surratt sang a trio.”

1950: Chimes donated to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Feezor.

1951: Macedonia’s first Youth Fellowship organized by Rev. Donald Bridger with Ralph Surratt as leader.

1952, January: By the end of 1951, Frank Tucker made a grant to the church which was matched by the members and an organ was purchased.

1952, March 30: (Taken from the official membership and church record of Macedonia Church): “The new Hammond Organ was dedicated March 30, 1952 by Mr. R.S. Barber, Pastor. Organ cost \$1200.00. Money was subscribed and collected in about six weeks. Organ was purchased January 1, 1952.”

1953, JULY 27, WORLD NEWS: KOREAN WAR ENDS.

1954: The charge was divided three ways. Bethany/Cotton Grove and Linwood/Tyro becoming two point charges and Macedonia being served by student and supply pastors.

1955: Brick parsonage erected by the church membership on a lot donated by Mrs. Helen Perlman and her children, Mrs. Martha Hedrick Godwin and Tommy Hedrick. The Rev. Frank Jeffers and his family were the first occupants.

1958: R.J. Crowell donated $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre of land for an addition to the church cemetery.

1959 WORLD NEWS:

JANUARY 3: ALASKA BECOMES THE 49th STATE.

AUGUST 21: HAWAII BECOMES THE 50th STATE.

1959, Nov 8: John Crowell presented plans for a 44 x 110 ft. Education Building for an estimated cost of \$15,000.

1960's, EARLY, WORLD NEWS: U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM ESCALATES, U.S. COMBAT UNITS DEPLOYED BEGINNING IN 1965.

1960: Mrs. J.B. Feezor donated 1.62 acres of land for the education building and for enlarging the cemetery.

1961: Fellowship/Educational Building completed by contractor John Crowell at a cost of \$40,000. Church membership at this time is 160 with an average attendance of 115.

1961: Old log Sunday School building known as "The Hut" hut torn down by Ed and Curt Shirley.

1963, NOV. 2, WORLD NEWS: PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATED.

1966: Final payment made on the Education Building with help from the Duke Endowment of \$3000.

1967, Dec. 10: Dedication of Educational Building by Bishop Hunt. Rev. Beaman, Superintendent of the Thomasville District was on hand and service was conducted by Rev. Alvin Pope.

1968, APRIL 4, WORLD NEWS: REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING ASSASSINATED.

1968 WORLD NEWS: THE METHODIST CHURCH AND THE EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN MERGE TO FORM THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

1969, June: The charge was again divided and Macedonia joined Bethany in a two-point charge under Rev. Don Conrad.

1969, JULY 20, WORLD NEWS: U.S.A. LANDS MEN ON THE MOON. NEIL ARMSTRONG WALKS ON THE LUNAR SURFACE.

1971: Methodist Men's Club formed. Jim Wade Surratt prepared the first meal. Doughnuts and coffee were served with 14 men in attendance.

1973, AUGUST 15, WORLD NEWS: U.S. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT ENDS IN VIETNAM.

1973: Carillon Chimes for the organ were purchased by children and friends in memory of Helen Hedrick Perlman.

1975, APRIL, WORLD NEWS: FALL OF SAIGON, END OF VIETNAM WAR.

1979, January: Land south of the Educational Building was purchased for the price of \$3500. This added 100 feet along NC Hwy. 8 and went back to the railroad tracks.

1980, Summer: Two octaves of handbells were given to Macedonia in loving memory of Virginia Austin by family and friends.

1980: Macedonia member and master carpenter, Percy Swing, crafted the large cross located at the back of the choir loft from wood of original church pew from Macedonia's 1900 church.

1982, Sept.: Macedonia received a bequest of \$22,500 from the estate of Mrs. Claytie Hedrick Feezor. This money was used to purchase a new steeple, enclose the foyer with glass doors, build roof covers and add a handicap ramp at sanctuary side entrance.

1984, March: Installation of the glass enclosures in the archways at the front of the sanctuary was completed.

1984, Sept.: A chandelier was installed in the sanctuary entrance in memory of Mrs. D.L. Crowell.

1985, Feb.: A weekly church newsletter is started with Evelyn Parks as editor. (This was begun as a joint newsletter with Macedonia and Bethany.)

1986, May: Work was completed, new steeple installed in honor of Mrs. Claytie Hedrick Feezor.

1987, April-May: Macedonia/Bethany Churches participated in a pulpit exchange with St. Andrews Church in Golspie, Scotland. Our pastor, Robert (Buzz) Scott, and family will travel to Scotland and we will have Rev. Edward Thompson and his family from St. Andrews Church for a two month exchange.

1989, August: Congregation sells parsonage on Owen Road for the price of \$37,000.

1990, Feb.: Macedonia purchased the property on the north of the Sanctuary between the church and Speedy's BBQ from R.J. Crowell.

1990, July: Plexiglas covers were installed to protect stained glass windows in sanctuary. (This was in response to one window being damaged by lawnmower.) New hymnals were also purchased at this time.

1992, Dec. 6: Jim Surratt suggested we borrow money to add two classrooms to the education building, this planted the seed and was the beginning of talks and more talks over the next few years of remodeling and expanding our church, which would eventually grow and culminate with the Dec. 7, 2008 ground breaking for our new addition.

1992, Fall: Macedonia front parking lot was paved and striped for a cost of \$25,823. Project supervised by Andy Leonard.

1994, Fall: Another octave of handbells has been purchased with memorial funds and a memorial plaque installed.

1996, Fall: Tommy Hedrick discussed the possibility of Macedonia going Station and getting its own pastor with District Superintendent Dr. Bob Ralls. Although we met none of the criteria for going station, Dr. Ralls was impressed with our dedication and desire to grow. After visiting with Macedonia and seeing the potential for growth in this area, he agreed to speak to the bishop on our behalf. Dr. Ralls' faith and the faith of Macedonia's members began the process of us getting our own pastor.

1997, Jan.: A new organ for the Sanctuary was purchased. It is an Allen Digital Computer Organ. Our organist, Martha Godwin, has now worn out two organs in her long career of playing for us.

1997, Jan: District Superintendent Dr. Bob Ralls plead our case with the bishop in Charlotte. He received permission to "Get the best young graduating pastor at Duke and send him to Macedonia as their full time pastor."

1997, June: Macedonia goes Station! For the first time we will have a full time pastor, the Rev. Randy Tingle.

1999, March 11: A playground, at a cost of \$20,000 was built on the south side of the education building and dedicated.

1999, Sept.: A new early casual worship service began, starting at 9:00 A.M. Rev. Tingle will pastor both services.

2000, JANUARY, WORLD NEWS: WORLD WELCOMES IN A NEW CENTURY!!!

2000, Fall: Macedonia purchased a 15 passenger church van with help from Junie Michael, son of Marie Michael, for the price of \$23,000.

2001, SEPT. 11: WORLD NEWS: TERRORISTS FROM THE ISLAMIC MILITANT GROUP AL-QAEDA HIGHJACK 4 PASSENGER JETS. THE HIJACKERS INTENTIONALLY CRASH 2 PLANES INTO THE TWIN TOWERS OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER IN NEW YORK CITY, BOTH TOWERS COLLAPSE WITHIN 2 HOURS. HIJACKERS CRASH ANOTHER OF THE JETS INTO THE PENTAGON IN WASHINGTON, DC. THE 4TH JET CRASHES IN A FIELD NEAR SHANKSVILLE, PA AFTER PASSENGERS ATTEMPT TO TAKE CONTROL BEFORE IT COULD REACH THE HIJACKER'S INTENDED TARGET IN WASHINGTON, DC. NEARLY 3,000 DIE IN THE ATTACKS.

2002: "Praise Singers" choir, under the direction of Cindy Timberlake, is formed for the early casual worship service.

2002, Oct.: A building committee was elected to handle the plans and work with the architect for the new addition to Macedonia. Committee members are: Tommy Hedrick, Andy Leonard, Tripp Timberlake, Bill Woodburn, Lee Burch, Angela Hartley, Tony Daniels, Tom Stokum, Cynthia Hammock, Jim Noonan, Harold Gorham and Phil Vining.

2003, March: Andy Leonard is elected Chairperson of the Building Committee, Tom Stokum is elected Fundraising Chairperson.

2004, Feb. 29: The building committee, along with architect Paul Briggs, presented a proposed building plan for the new addition. A motion was passed to proceed with the building plan as presented.

2004, March: A Prayer Shawl Ministry was begun under the leadership of Miriam Austin and the United Methodist Women.

2004, Oct. 17: New bell chimes were dedicated. The chimes were donated by Tommy and Betty Hedrick in honor of their children and grandchildren.

2004, December: Marie Michael was presented with a plaque honoring her **46 years of unblemished service** as Church Treasurer.

2006, August: A Cub Scout Troop was chartered at Macedonia. Dave Ettman will be the Scoutmaster

2007, Feb.: A Boy Scout Troop was chartered at Macedonia.

2007: A Girl Scout Troop was chartered at Macedonia, Brandy Shoaf will be in charge.

2008, Sept.: First meeting to organize a Community Food Pantry along with other area churches.

2008, Nov. 9: Charge Conference votes to build new addition to church.

2008, Dec. 7: Ground breaking ceremony for new addition to Macedonia Church is held.

2009, March: Food Pantry opens upstairs in the old Southmont Fire Department building and is named the Upper Room Food Pantry.

2009, April: Macedonia joins American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Chuck Melton heads Macedonia Team.

2009, June: Macedonia's Relay for Life Team places #1 in Davidson County, raising over \$12,000 and winning many awards.

2009, Nov.: Jim Surratt and Allan Godwin are awarded Lifetime Membership in United Methodist Men.

2009, Nov.: 12,000 square feet addition to Macedonia is completed. Eleven months after starting work, A.L. Miller Construction completed the job and turned the keys over to the church. The church now has a commercial grade kitchen, a pastor's study, offices for two additional ministers, a secretary's office and workroom, a welcoming lobby, conference room, two new adult Sunday School classrooms, practice choir room, two new bathrooms, a sitting area and Spirit Hall, a multi-purpose fellowship and worship center that can seat more than 200 people.

2010, Feb. 7: Macedonia's new addition is formally dedicated. Rev. Burt Williams preached the 8:45 A.M. service and Bishop Larry Goodpaster lead the celebration with a Consecration Service at 10:00 A.M. Bishop Goodpaster also led the 11:00 A.M. service in the sanctuary. The service was followed with a covered dish lunch in Spirit Hall.

2010, April 25: Martha Godwin is honored at a reception for her **70 years of devoted service** as Organist at Macedonia. Pastor Burt Williams said the inscription should read "***70 years and beyond***" as Martha is still playing that beautiful organ music for us.

2011, June: Pastor Burt Williams, our Pastor for the past 7 years and a leader of our building project, was assigned to a new charge. We welcomed our new Pastor, Rev. Randy Blanton and his family to our church. We now have had 50 Pastors serving this charge for the past 150 years!

2011, September 25: Macedonia celebrates 150 years in ministry with a special Homecoming Service combining the congregations of the 8:45 and 11:00 services.

50 PASTORS FOR 150 YEARS OF SERVICE

1. John W. Lewis
2. Fletcher Reid
3. Charles H. Phillips
4. W.M. Meacham
5. Limmen Shell
6. R.G. Barrett
7. M.G. Thomas
8. D.L. Eanedhast
9. M.W. Boyles
10. R.M. Hoyle
11. G.H. Pegram
12. L.L. Johnson
13. J.H. Nelson
14. S.S. Gasque
15. D.P. Tate
16. Rev. McGhee
17. W.M. Barber
18. J.W. Clegg
19. Roby Surratt
20. W.F. Elliott
21. J.W. Ingle
22. D.C. Ballard
23. W.R. Jenkins
24. J.W. Campbell
25. G.W. Fink
26. J.C. Keever
27. M.A. Osbourne 1933-1936
28. R.O. Honeycutt
29. O.E. Croy 1939-1943
30. W.B. Thompson 1943-1949
31. O.C. Loy 1949-1950
32. Donald Bridger 1950-1951
33. Fred Barber 1951-1954
34. Fred Jeffers 1954-1956
35. Charles Sisk 1956-1959
36. Merle Frank 1959-1960
37. Rowland Mullinex 1960-1961
38. Robert Clanton Jr. 1961-1962
39. R.G. McClamrock 1962-1965
40. M.G. Ervin 1965 (briefly)
41. Alvin B. Pope 1965-1969
42. Don Conrad 1969-1977
43. Norman Beck 1977-1981
44. Grady Burgin 1981-1984
45. Robert "Buzz" Scott 1984-1989
46. Carl W. Lindquist 1989-1990
47. John H. Deyton 1990-1997
48. Randy Tingle 1997-2004
49. Burt Williams 2004-2011
50. Randy Blanton 2011– 2016
51. Tammy Talbert 2016—

MACEDONIA SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

Sunday School Superintendents over the years have included: Lee VonCannon, John VonCannon, S.L. Hedrick, McCager Surratt, Cicero Surratt, S.M. Peacock, A.F. Hall, D.L. Crowell, Curtis Hedrick, Dr. P.L. Feezor, Frank Stoner, R.J. Crowell, Claude Copley, Archie Surratt , Tommy Hedrick, Allan Godwin, John Fowler, Beulah Morgan, Jimmy Burger, Lee Burch, Glenna Dysinger, Joan Boyd

LAITY SERVICE AWARD HISTORY

- 2000 -- Marie Michael
- 2001 -- Martha Godwin
- 2002 -- Miriam Austin
- 2003 -- Virginia Owens
- 2004 -- June Miller
- 2005 -- (no one-District Sect. sick and Pastoral transition)
- 2006 -- Jim Surratt
- 2007-- Tommy Hedrick
- 2008 -- Jurlean Thompson
- 2009 -- Jane Kearns / John Fowler
- 2010 -- Jackie White / Allan Godwin
- 2011-- Cleo Owens / Frank Austin
- 2012— Paul Fuller
- 2013— Beulah Morgan
- 2014 - Earl & Evelyn Parks

HISTORY OF MACEDONIA HANDBELLS

by

Miriam Austin, Choir Director

In the summer of 1980 two octaves of hand bells were given to Macedonia in memory of Virginia Austin by family and friends. At that time many workshops were attended in order to learn about bells, techniques of playing bells, kinds of music, etc.

Over the years there have been many persons from Macedonia who have participated in the playing of hand bells and have performed not only at Macedonia but at other churches in our area.

Since 1980 we have expanded to a three octave choir plus have purchased and use three octaves of hand chimes and a children's set of hand bells. Also, with the help of donations, new tables, covers and a banner have been purchased.

Macedonia is now proud to say it has two hand bell choirs which perform at various times of the year. We hope this ministry continues being a part of this church for many years to come.

HISTORY OF THE MACEDONIA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

**by
Miriam Austin**

This ministry at Macedonia was started in March of 2004 with the first shawl being presented to Ruth Wrenn, a Macedonia member fighting cancer. Since then **560** shawls and lap robes have been given to many individuals or groups including new-borns and others up to 90 plus years of age. They have gone to nursing homes, hospitals, bereaved families, cancer centers, soldier's angels and many other organizations. Prayer Shawls have been sent to many other states plus the countries of Great Britain and Iraq.

Macedonia was instrumental in helping two other area churches begin a Prayer Shawl Ministry and material has been sent to other churches outside our area.

This ministry has increased our prayer life because, as shawls are knitted or crocheted, silent prayers are woven into the stitches for the recipient of the shawl. After the shawls are completed an "Order of Blessing" is prayed at an altar by friends of the recipient.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been a great source of strength and comfort to everyone involved and we hope it will be for many years to come. The Ministry is funded primarily by the United Methodist Women of Macedonia plus donations by other church groups and individuals.

About the Shawls...

In 1998, Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of the 1997 Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut gave birth to a ministry as a result of their experience in this program of applied Feminist Spirituality under the direction of Professor Miriam Therese Winter, MMS.

Compassion and the love of knitting/crocheting have been combined into a prayerful ministry and spiritual practice which reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy. Many blessings are prayed into every shawl.

Whether they are called Prayer Shawls, Comfort Shawls, Peace Shawls, or Mantles, etc., the shawl maker begins with prayers and blessings for the recipient. The intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. Upon completion, a final blessing is offered before the shawl is sent on its way. Some recipients have continued the kindness by making a shawl and passing it onto someone in need. Thus, the blessing ripples from person-to-person, with both the giver and receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of a sheltering God!

HISTORY OF THE MACEDONIA METHODIST MEN

**by
Frank Austin**

The Macedonia Methodist Men's Club was formed in 1971. Some of the early members were M.L. Martin, Harold Stutts, Percy Swing, Allan Godwin, Jim Wade Surratt, Frank Austin, David Owen, Cleveland Owens, Ken Truell, Raeford Hunt, Fred Owens, Willie Edwards, Harley Thompson, Ed Thompson, Pete Thompson and Rev. Don Conrad.

Frank Austin recalls some of his memories of this group. "Our church has always provided many opportunities for all members to be involved with church activities. One good example is the Men's Club. Attending this meeting you can always look forward to a delicious breakfast and good fellowship. We have always been a group ready to help when anything needs doing around the church but our group also reaches out to the community. The Men's Club accomplished many wonderful things over the years. I can remember many times when we provided assistance to those less fortunate. To do this we did many fund raisers, at one time we collected and sold scrap paper and another time it was aluminum cans. These were big projects and we all participated. As a result of these and many more fund raisers, we were able to help many people in our community during difficult times. Also, by working together on these projects, we developed a fellowship and friendship for each other that was very special. Our Men's Club has been and always will be a very important group within our church and the community."

Former Methodist Men's Club President Jim Noonan recalled one meeting with fondness. "Well, we were getting ready to elect officers. Lee Burch noticed that the trash cans needed emptying. He rolled them outside to the dumpster just as a long train started up the tracks right behind the church. It was really noisy, slowly rumbling along and blowing the whistle for the road crossing nearby. It took about 3 minutes for the train to pass. When Lee returned to the fellowship hall he learned that he had been elected President for the coming year. Sometimes he still wonders about that election and he has never taken the trash out during a meeting again."

MEMORIES OF MACEDONIA

Virginia Owens:

I came to Macedonia Church in 1945. I was 8 years old. My mama and I would walk about 2 miles to church on Sunday for services. The church was a small, white frame building. In cold weather the church was heated with two black wood burning stoves, one on each side of the church. In warm weather the windows would be raised. We had hand fans that the funeral homes donated. Insects would fly through the open windows so we children had to watch out for them. My Sunday School teacher was Mrs. Claytie Feezor. She would take us outside when the weather was warm and have class under the trees. As I got older (young teenager) we had Sunday School in the log building we called "The Hut." All ages were in this class. Dr. Peter Lee Feezor was our teacher, he was Mrs. Claytie's husband. We had an active youth fellowship (M.Y.F.). Kids from our community churches came. Our leader was Ralph Surratt who was very dedicated to the youth. In 1955 I was married in the church. Rev. Fred Barber performed the wedding ceremony after the worship service. He had five charges and rotated services. Our Education Building was built, adding classrooms and a Fellowship Hall. The men and women had Bar-B-Que and chicken pie suppers as fund raisers. I cherish my fond memories of my church and long time friends that I love and fellowship with. Praise and Glory to God for our beautiful Spirit Church and Church Family. Give God the Glory. Jenny Owens/Jan 18, 2008

Tommy Hedrick:

I have been at Macedonia all my life and I am 76 years old now. My parents were members here. My grandparents on both sides of the family were members here. My great-grandfather on my mother's side was a part of the beginning of the church. I remember as a youth going to Sunday School in the sanctuary. At that time the church was a wooden structure and had two front doors and had two aisles and the center had the wide benches and on each side there were narrow benches. They heated the church with an old coal stove and I only remember one stove being there and that was as you go in the church and down the aisle it was on the left. It was over where the choir comes in now. In the winter time everybody met in different sections of the church. My aunt, Claytie Feezor, taught my class. In the summertime we would meet outside under the trees. Then they built the log hut and the young folks, the young married age, they went there. But when they started in that class they never left. Dr. Feezor was such a wonderful teacher that no one ever left his class. Now I

will tell this story, back then there was no air conditioning, we had these big cardboard fans supplied by the funeral homes that everybody waved back and forth, fanning themselves, to keep cool. Those fans had a vine type handle that was porous and went up, curved and was stapled to the cardboard. Bobby Crowell and myself saw they were porous and we took all the handles off the fans and made pipes out of them. We smoked up all the handles on the fans! People had to be up in church fanning with just the cardboard part of the fan! As I grew older, into a teenager, the church still had a five point charge, Macedonia, Linwood, Tyro, Cotton Grove and Bethany. Tyro wanted to go station so that put Linwood and Cotton Grove together and Bethany and Macedonia together. For a while Bethany and Macedonia were together on a two point charge. Bethany finally grew enough to go station and have a preacher of their own. This left us with supply pastors and at last we got a retired pastor who worked hard for us, Rev. John Deyton. 15 years ago I went to District Superintendent Dr. Bob Ralls and suggested the idea of Macedonia going station. At that time we met none of the criteria for a church going on its own. This was a bold move on our part. It was felt that because of the nearness of the resort property on High Rock Lake that Southmont had a high potential for growth and if we here at Macedonia had our own pastor living and working in our community, we could really begin to grow. Dr. Ralls came down to Macedonia and was given a tour of the Southmont area and shown all the new growth around the lake. Dr. Ralls was impressed enough to go to bat for Macedonia and he went down to Charlotte to see the Bishop and the Cabinet hoping to get them to agree to send us a preacher and make us a one point charge. The Bishop was impressed that Macedonia was working so hard to help itself grow and he told Dr. Ralls to go to Duke and get the best young graduating preacher they could get and appoint him to Macedonia. That's when Randy Tingle came here. We had to triple our budget that year and we had to almost double our attendance, something Dr. Ralls said he had never seen a church do in one year. In April of that year, before Randy got to us, we organized a visitation committee and began knocking on a lot of doors. Randy Tingle came in June and at long last we had our own preacher. By the end of the year we had 111 average attendance and we were meeting the budget, something I considered phenomenal. So that's what happened and it brings us to where we are today. Randy was with us 7 years, Burt Williams was with us 7 years and now we have another Randy. That's the history as I remember it of Macedonia.

Jim Wade Surratt

I joined the church when I was about 7 or 8 years old and that was about 80 years ago. My daddy brought me to Macedonia when I was just an infant. He was always a strong church going man. I had a brother and 5 sisters. I have never been a member of any church besides Macedonia. The Surratts were known as musical people and I have had many people tell me that my father had a fine tenor voice. I remember all of us singing in the choir. I also remember us gathering on our big front porch on Sunday evenings and the whole family singing, no string music to accompany us, just us singing. The neighbors would come from nearby and stand in the front yard and listen so I guess they must have liked it. We had two wood stoves in the old church, one on each side of the pulpit and we had to get those stoves going in the winter before services could be held. We would take turns with the other boys and some weeks my brother Ralph and I would be in charge of heating up the church. Later on when we had the log hut it also had a wood stove so we had to get it going or we would have a cold class. Dr. P.L. Feezor was a great Sunday school teacher and most of the church members young and old, went to that class in what everyone called "The Hut." My brother and I were drafted when war broke out (WWII) and this was a hard time for our family. Our father had died earlier (1939) and it was just us children and Mom. Mom worried herself sick every day while my brother and I were in service and she never got over it. Her health was ruined by war's end. During the war I received many letters from church members and each letter made me feel special. I thought of home and my church often during those hard times overseas in the European Theatre. I was wounded once and hit three times by shrapnel so I am lucky to be here at all. Many of my friends didn't make it. I almost froze during the Battle of the Bulge. It was such a cold time and we were lying on the hard frozen ground every day and night, fighting for so long without proper clothing or a warm meal. Even now some of these things are difficult to think about. I still remember the wonderful feeling I got when we first heard that the war would be over in 2 days. My outfit was pulled back from the front to do routine maintenance and at long last I felt I was going to live and return home. I was so happy I wanted to shout. Then, when the war really was over and I got back home, Ruth and I were married and settled down in Southmont, raising our family and going back to Macedonia, the church I was raised in. My new family would be raised in it also. My brother Ralph, also a Macedonia member, survived the war and came back to Southmont. He worked in the furniture factory and he worked with the youth at Macedonia on the weekends. He later felt a calling to preach the Gospel and went back to school and became a Methodist minister, preaching in the Wilkesboro area. He came back home many times and preached at Macedonia on several occasions. Southmont is my home and Macedonia is my church and I have had a blessed life. I was blessed with 3 boys and 4 grandchildren.

My wife Ruth was a beautiful person, a wonderful wife, and everything that goes with it. I have just been a lucky man to have had her, my children, my friends and my church. Over the years I have served in many offices of the church from Superintendent to mowing the lawn and at each job I always tried to do my best. I always felt that where people are willing to lend a hand great things can happen. Now I am living in the Veterans Home in Salisbury and I am enjoying my life over there. I miss my friends here in Southmont and I get back as often as I can, I consider everyone here my friends and people that I admire and love.

Martha Hedrick Godwin and Allan Godwin:

My earliest memories of Macedonia are about Bible School - we always had a good time there. My mother and father were always members of the church, they both sang in the choir. You won't want this but I remember two times when my brother Tommy (Hedrick) and I misbehaved in church. Once I got my head stuck in the banisters at the altar rail! I don't remember how I did it but I did. The banisters were round and were spaced just right so that I was able to twist around and stick my head in between them but once in couldn't get my head back out! It caused quite a stir and as you can imagine it brought preaching to a halt until I was rescued! My poor mother, she was so embarrassed! Another time Tommy was about 2 years old and we were having a revival service in the old wooden church with two doors. Mother took Tommy outside for acting up but he got away from her and ran in the other door, back down the aisle, across by the altar and up the other side and out the other door! When he came outside Mother grabbed him but he twisted away from her again and ran back in the other door. Once more, down the aisle he ran, head back and laughing all the while. The revival Preacher finally said "Somebody catch that child!" My grandfather stepped out, grabbed Tommy and took him out to Mother. She was too embarrassed to come in and get him! The old wooden church had two doors and wooden benches inside. There were two wood stoves one on each side and Ralph Surratt (Jim Wade's brother) was in charge of heating up the church. During preaching the men and women did not usually sit together but were separated, women on one side and men on the other. When the Sunday School Classes were held in the winter we had classes in different sections of the sanctuary. I think one group met in the choir, another in the back of the church. We had curtains we could pull across. Mrs. Myers was our pianist then and my mother played piano when Mrs. Myers was out. Then Mrs. Myers got sick with cancer and I began to take her place when I was 13 years old. I was very scared to get up before the congregation and play. I remember one time I messed up on "The Wonderful Words of Jesus." It repeated the chorus for a first and second ending and I went back the third time and left everybody hanging. I was so embarrassed! There were often some very hard financial times in our church. Many of our members were very

poor. I remember on several occasions my father and several others would have to go door to door among our members and take up a special collection just so we could pay our church apportionment for the year. After I began playing the piano that job was pretty much expected of me every Sunday. Later on, when I went off to Greensboro College, Mother would fill in for me. It was after that Macedonia got the first organ, a little spinet. Now, 71 years later, I am on our third organ! I don't remember us having any formal choir or choir practice or anything until Rev. Don Conrad came. He started putting anthems in the bulletin so we had to start having choir practice and we have continued with that. Allan was from Silver Hill and went to Bethany Church when we started dating. We had been friends at the old Southmont School and he sat right behind me in class. My father ran the Hardware/Grocery Store here in Southmont and it was a real gathering place for all the men in the community. The old store carried everything from shoes to motor oil, minnows to pinto beans, to ladies hats! Anything you needed you could get at Hedrick's Store. The men would gather there and play checkers, shoot pool, discuss politics, and listen to the big radio that Daddy had. Hardly anyone had a radio in their homes in those days. "Lum and Abner" and "Amos and Andy" were two of the most popular programs and, of course, the world news. Mr. Beckner sometimes played his banjo and his son would clog dance. The store was located the last time, right at the corner of Owen Road and Hwy. 8, sort of where the post office is now. Mother rented rooms above the store and also

In our house up on the hill. These boarders were mostly school teachers at the Southmont School. I was out behind the store playing tennis one day when Allan drove up and asked me for a date. We got married on Jan 2, 1944. He was home on leave from the Merchant Marines and I was home from Greensboro College for Christmas vacation and we ran away! We got married in York, South Carolina because you didn't have to wait 3 days. World War II was going on and he wasn't going to be home long. Mother was upset at first because I got married so young, I was 17 at the time. Later on Mother was happy with Allan. When Allan and I married, I remember us coming to church for the first time. Mr. Max Myers met us at the door and took Allan on up in the choir and he has been there ever since. We raised our family in Macedonia and later on I was to have embarrassing moments of my own when our children misbehaved in church. Down through the years I have played for a lot of weddings and a lot of funerals in addition to Sunday mornings. I still love to play the organ and believe it or not I still get nervous before each time! I had a wonderful childhood growing up in Southmont and Macedonia Church and its members have always been a central, loving, caring, part of my life.

A note from Pastor Randy Blanton

I feel blessed and honored to share this momentous occasion with Macedonia UMC. Although I have been here three short months I have been overwhelmed by the spirit of love and hospitality that exists in within this body of Christ. This love and hospitality began the moment I was appointed to Macedonia UMC. Phone call after phone call was made to me as Macedonia did everything possible to make the pastoral transition a smooth one. Trucks and empty trailers arrived at our house. When those trailers were full, they disappeared from my house and reappeared at the new house where dozens of people willingly unloaded them. And the food...we were inundated with wonderful food of all kinds.

In the months that have followed myself and my family continue to be blessed by this love and hospitality. In Spirit Hall you will find a saying painted on the wall: You Are No Stranger Here. Truer words have not been spoken. No one is a stranger at Macedonia UMC.

I am convinced that this spirit of love and hospitality existed 150 years ago, and is part of Macedonia UMC's DNA. I see the people's names in roll books and on tombstones and am filled with gratitude for dedicated service to Christ. I am also thankful for their courage, faithfulness, and vision. It is the same courage, faithfulness, and vision that led to the new building that beautifully ties our historic sanctuary to Spirit Hall; a building that links old to new; a building that links past to present. We celebrate those who have gone before us.

We draw inspiration from those who have gone before us, and we turn to God for a new vision. We turn to God with renewed courage and renewed faithfulness knowing that God is always doing something new; knowing that God has much planned for Macedonia UMC; knowing that God is going before us and preparing the way. I feel blessed to be part of the journey, and cannot wait to see what's next for the Kingdom of God here at Macedonia UMC. Whatever is next, there is no doubt that it will be bathed in hospitality and love.

Blessings,

Randy

September 22, 2011

Editor's comments:

In researching the information for this History of Macedonia I had to dig through piles and piles of old bulletins, church records, files and newspaper articles. Thank goodness our church historian, Allan Godwin, has saved a wealth of information over the years. This document could not have been as complete or as accurate without him. In some cases personal interviews were conducted with some of our longtime members. In the process of doing all this I gained a new insight and appreciation into the long and wonderful history of our church. I learned many new names that I had not heard before of people who were real leaders in the early years of our church. Anytime I could put a name with a certain accomplishment I was pleased to do so. Most of the dates concerning events or achievements came from church records or old bulletins so they should be accurate. The most important thing I learned from our 150 years of existence was something I had already suspected. God has been with us always and has always sent us just the right pastor at just the right time or just the right church member to step up and help us along. His Word has kept us strong for the past 150 years and will be good for as much time in the future as we have left. May the knowledge of our wonderful past encourage us to always be good stewards of Macedonia United Methodist Church and to step out in Faith, just as those early members in 1861, taking God's Word and the Gospel of Jesus Christ boldly into the future.

Yours in Christ,

*Earl Parks
September 25, 2011*



2011

Pastor, Randy Blanton ~ Pastor's Administrative Assistant, Karen Rhodes
Director of Youth and Children Ministries, Pat McKim ~ Financial Secretary, Marsha Burch
Business Administrator, Paul Fuller ~ Praise Singers Director, Cindy Timberlake
Chancel Choir Director, Miriam Austin ~ Organist, Martha Godwin ~ Asst. Organist, Jane Kearns
Preschool Program Director: Tammy Roller