



175th Anniversary

**Bethany United Methodist
Church
Liberty, NC**

1834 - 2009

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Liberty, North Carolina

December 31, 2009

Dear Friends,

We have again attempted to put together some facts about our church. Much of the information in this booklet was also in the 1999 issue, but ten years have passed and we promised you an update. And we continue to learn.

One source of information was the pastors' reports to Conference on what was going on in the church. Some of our pastors kept much better records than others, and the available records only go back to 1950.

We appreciate the write-ups that Mrs. Cora Williams had in the past, and we thank Mrs. Ada Williams for sharing a report that her son Doug wrote about Bethany when he was in Vacation Bible School in the early 1950s. Doug's sources of information for his history of the church were Mrs. Fannie Troy (1884-1971), Mrs. Nora Williams (1889-1970), and Mrs. Mary Jane Kivett (1873-1954).

We thank Mr. Guy Troy for sharing with us the minutes of the Troy Family Cemetery Improvement Committee of 1907.

We thank Ms. Francine H. Swaim for sharing information she has gathered about our church and cemetery.

We thank Archie and Faye Saunders for our cover photographs.

Thanks also go to Ms. Nancy Spain, of Commission on Archives and History, Western NC Conference-UMC, in Charlotte, and to Ms. Annette Harper, in the UMC Greensboro District Office. They added much to our earlier information on former pastors at Bethany.

There's no way to be through with "History." We would welcome any bit of knowledge, memorabilia, or old pictures that you may have of the church or its members, so that we can add to our collection here. Anything that you can share can be given to any of us at Bethany, or you can send to me at 2116 Huntington Road, Burlington, NC 27215, Telephone (336) 227-4478.

Sincerely,



DANNER FERGUSON
Chairman, Administrative Council

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HISTORY OF BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bethany Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1834. The church was in the High Point District of North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church—South. On August 1, 1837, John Balfour Troy gave the land on which the church was built, one and one-half miles west of Liberty, North Carolina. Actually, Mr. Troy sold the land to Bethany for the sum of one dollar, but he asked to be compensated for the amount that had been expended by him in the erection of a house of worship on this property. Secondly, the Trustees of Bethany had to agree to finish the house of worship according to the rules and Discipline of the General Conference.

Both John Troy and his wife, Nancy Lane Troy, were active members in the church and were principal factors in the establishment of the church. The church was small and plain in design. The front door of the old church was on the east side, and there was another door on the south side near the pulpit.

There was a schoolhouse just south of the church, near the spring that was the water supply for the old church and the school. When the schoolhouse burned down, classes were held in the church. The Reverend Thaddeus Lebbeus Troy and his wife Jane Troy were teachers at the school and for the classes that were held in the church. Reverend Troy was a philanthropist and also one of the ministers of the old church.

There is a “story” about the location of the church. The old church was not on the exact spot our church is today. It seems that the Troy and Kirkman families started the church. The Troys wanted the church built at the upper end of the tract of land, and the Kirkmans wanted the church built at the lower end where the cemetery is located. The Troys evidently won out, if there is anything to the story, because our present church is also built at the upper end and the cemetery is behind. If you walk through the cemetery today, you will see the Troys are buried at the upper end and the Kirkmans are buried at the lower end.

In addition to the Troys and Kirkmans, some of the members of the old church were Mr. and Mrs. Luther S. Routh, Mr. and Mrs. Gurden F. Butler, Mr. P. C. Kivett, Mrs. Dosie Burgess, Mr. Alfred Kimrey, Mr. Alfred Troy, and Mrs. Mary Jane Kivett. Messrs. Jim McAdams and John Lane were two of the superintendents of the old church and served for 21 or 22 years.

Some of the ministers of the old church were the Reverends John Tillet, James R. Scroggs, James DeLayette Carpenter, Maxwell Humphrey Hoyle, Pinkney L Groome, Eves, Thaddeus Lebbeus Troy, Melvin Chafin Field, Jeremiah F. Craven, and Bob Grettor. A Reverend Wrenn acted as substitute. The Bethany Trustees in 1837 were George Brown, Archibald Ferguson, James Hutton, Thomas Kirkman, Robert Kirkman, Edwin Miller, John Miller, John Balfour Troy, and Leonard P. Wren.

In 1890, the North Carolina Conference was divided to add the Western North Carolina Conference. Bethany at that time went into the Western Conference and is now in the Greensboro District.

The old church was torn down in the very early 1900s. Only bits of information are available about our present church. The one-room structure was built in 1901, but not in the same spot as the old church. The Reverend Barber was pastor when the new church was built. He was also instrumental in the building of Liberty and Randolph churches around this same time. Reverend Bob Grettor preached the first sermon in the present church.

Mrs. Mary Jane Kivett (who died in 1954) told that her husband was one of several who helped haul the lumber to build the new church. She thought it came from near Ramseur from a Mr. Hinshaw. It is told that Mr. Thad Kimrey, when just a boy, was hauling sills for the new church. Night was approaching and he had no one to help him unload, so he hitched his horses to the sills and let them pull off the sills. In 1971, Mr. Tom Kimrey (Thad's brother), of High Point, said he helped to put the rafters on Bethany Church in 1901. Mrs. J. Cleve Williams (Nora Pickett) told that when she was a little girl, she carried lunch to her dad while he was helping with work on the church.

The first record of infant baptisms was in 1904 for the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kivett: Fleta Kivett Lane and Maude Kivett McMasters, both now deceased.

Mrs. Hassie Lineberry Kivett remembered that one of the Messrs. Kirkman regularly came to visit them. She shared that her Dad (Mr. Rue Lineberry) said you could always tell when it was time to pay the preacher because Mr. Kirkman would come around collecting from the church members. The preacher was paid with whatever the members could give, whether it was money or food.

Others remember when Riley Shoe would tie up his buggy in front of the church, where it remained until time to go back home.

Four classrooms for Sunday School were added to the church in 1926. (This area is now used as part of the sanctuary.) The Reverend Joe Brendall was pastor at that time. The church was heated by wood heaters. Danner Ferguson, Jr., remembers going early on worship days to start the fires to heat up the sanctuary and the Sunday School rooms. He also remembers lighting the oil lamps for night services. In 1938, electricity replaced the oil lamps in the church.

In the mid-1950s, a heating system was installed to replace the wood heater that was in the front of the church, a well was drilled, restrooms were added, the basement to the church was dug, five more classrooms were added at the sides and back of the church, the pulpit area was made larger, and cast iron railings were added to the side of the front steps. Danner Ferguson, Sr., planted shrubbery along the walk and around the church.

Also in 1950, the interior of Bethany church was remodeled and the church was underpinned. The Reverend Ernest Fitzgerald was the pastor then. The vestibule and steeple were added in 1951 when the Reverend K. W. Bedenbaugh was pastor. Cement steps and walkway were then added. The estimated value of the church building in 1952 was \$6,200.

In late 1950s, after the basement and classrooms were added, steel reinforcements were required to prevent a collapse from the weight of the flat roof. The flat roof was later covered with an A roof.

On September 10, 1950, Bethany and the three other churches on the Liberty Circuit (Randolph, Staley, and Whites Chapel) dedicated the parsonage of the Circuit. This parsonage was used until 1975, when Bethany left the Circuit and the parsonage was sold.

In 1960, two Sunday School classes purchased new pews for the sanctuary. Some of the old slatted pews are now in the basement. The rest of the slatted pews were sold to Cool Springs Baptist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Williams donated the lectern in the pulpit in 1969. In 1970, Mr. J. Cleve Williams had John Henry Kivett build the brick columns at the end of the walkway in front of the church in memory of his wife, Nora.

There was a clock in the church that was donated by Mr. Walt Thomas. The clock, which was broken and not in use, was sold at auction at one of Bethany's fall festivals. Mr. John Henry Kivett purchased the clock. The clock in the sanctuary now was placed there by Linville, Louise, and Mark Allred in 1979, in memory of their son and brother, Warren Hal Allred, who died November 1978.

There have been numerous improvements to the church building in recent years. All pews have been upholstered, and carpet was added. A new well was drilled (the church's third) and a new pump was added. In 1998, all windows were replaced, new outside doors were installed, and canopies were added over the entrance doors. Stained glass windows that were added to the sanctuary and vestibule were dedicated on April 18, 1999.

FELLOWSHIP HALL

While the church basement was already being used as a fellowship area, in 1973 the basement was improved to make it even more useful. There were additions of a stove, refrigerator, cabinets, benches, tables, and chairs so the basement could be used more. The basement was not only used by the church for fellowship, it served the community as well. The church used the area for various fellowship meetings, but also for youth gatherings and the youth choir. The local Alcoholics Anonymous meetings were held here, and there were many bridal and baby showers, family reunions, and birthday and anniversary celebrations. One Sunday, when there was no power because of an ice storm, we had the entire worship service and Sunday School in the basement, because it was warmer there and it had lots of windows for light. The one thing lacking, however, was handicap access. --- The basement no longer served the needs of the elderly in our congregation and community.

We began dreaming and planning for a space that would be on one level, with handicap access. A building fund for a fellowship hall had been established many years ago with money donated specifically to that cause, but no action had been taken. This was our start! It was a long time coming, but with Fall festivals, Brunswick stews, hotdog suppers, spaghetti suppers, and yard sales, we kept going. Providing concessions at auction sales added to the pot.

For such a project, there has to be somebody to step up and get started, and Archie Saunders and Roscoe Poe came to the rescue. Tony Lineberry, with Lineberry Architectural Group, drew the plans, and Roscoe brought in his construction crew and went to work. He did have some assistance from men at the church. Our dream was now a reality, with special thanks to Archie and Roscoe. The building was completed, and in October, 1999, the Consecration Service was held. A baby grand piano was also purchased and placed in the fellowship hall. And one of the best parts, with help by the Duke Endowment, all construction and additions were paid for by the time everything was completed. The Hall is now used for even more events than the basement was.

MUSIC

Very little is recorded regarding the music in the church. There seems to have been no musical instruments in the church for several years. A small pump organ was bought and used until it was sold to Cool Springs Baptist Church. Mrs. Lucy Williams Kivett served as pianist/organist from 1943 until shortly before her death in 1992. On April 18, 1999, the stained glass mural of The Lord's Supper was dedicated in memory of Lucy and her father, F. C. Williams. Mrs. Faye Williams Saunders served as pianist from 1965 until 1993.

Bethany has a choir that could perhaps be described as "a joyful noise." The group has sung for special services at other churches, sunrise services, Fifth-Sunday Singing, and other song services. Ed Stevens, our past pianist/organist, and Stacey Fisher McDonald, full-time, then part-time pianist since 1993, helped the choir to learn new music and to improve on the older songs. We had help from Ray Thompson and Lynn Bridges, from Staley UMC, and Myrna Nixon. Stacey is still with us and we're still singing!

During the years that we had classrooms filled, we also had a Children's Choir. They met in the basement, and the children enjoyed the singing and even sang in the sanctuary for the adults. When Art and Nancy Allen were our pastors, they worked with the children's choir, teaching them songs that Reverend Allen had written.

Bethany had a tape ministry for many years. This served the elderly and shut-ins of the church and community. Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Williams donated a sound system, and United Methodist Women donated \$100 to enhance the system. The choir microphone was added in memory of Texie Reitzel, one of the choir members, who died in 1995.

Some of the Sunday School Superintendents have been P. C. Kivett, A. C. Pickett, R. C. Palmer, J. C. Williams, Larkin Kivett, Paul Stevenson, Walt Thomas, Charlie Butler, Arthur M. Smith (20 years), J. C. Stevenson, Ray McMasters, and Danner Ferguson, Jr. At the present time, there are several individuals serving as superintendent.

Bethany congregations have long taken pride in the appearance of the church and the grounds. For many years the women in the church took turns cleaning and the men looked after the grounds. Linville and Louise Allred and their sons, Hal and Mark, cleaned the church and cared for the grounds from 1969 to 1978. In 1978, Franklin and Margie Lednum and Emogene Daniel took on the responsibilities. After Margie's death in 2006, Franklin and Emogene continue to look after the church.

In the interest of Christian growth, Bethany withdrew from the Liberty Circuit in 1975. Our first pastor was Reverend Raymond Himes, who was with us for two years. Then came Reverend Okel Evans, who was the pastor for eight years, and Reverend Marilyn Cirrulis, for one year. These were good years for Bethany, but when the District did not locate a pastor for the next year, Bethany was forced to return to the Circuit in June 1986. We are still in the Circuit, and we are enjoying services every Sunday.

YOUTH GROUPS

Mrs. Mabel Pickett Callahan and Mrs. J. F. Willard organized the first young people's organization in 1913, the Epworth League. This group gave the chairs that are now in the pastor's study to the church. In 1957 Bethany had two Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) groups—Junior and Senior groups. Both were large and active. They enjoyed many activities and were a significant part of the church. The two groups raised money and gave the church a new altar set—cross, candleholders, and vases. Because of the exodus of the young people, the MYF no longer exists.

METHODIST WOMEN

The first Ladies Aid Society was organized in 1923. Reverend A. L. Lucas organized this society of five women: Mrs. A. C. Pickett (who was 96 years old when she died), Mrs. J. Cleve Williams (Nora), Mrs. R. H. Lineberry, Mrs. S. L. Routh, and Miss Margaret Isley. According to Mrs. Nora Williams, Reverend Lucas gave each of the women a little bag of stick candy for refreshments at that first meeting.

The Ladies Aid Society was changed in 1933 to Bethany Missionary Society. Reverend L. P. Barnett, whose wife was in the Society, was pastor and was influential in the reorganization. In 1940, the Society was changed to Woman's Society of Christian Service. In October 1968, the name was changed again – this time to Women's Society of Christian Service – with 21 becoming charter members: *Jackie Bullard, *Loucina Brower, *Lola Coltrane, Shirley Clark, *Ila Stevenson, Maxine Stevenson, Grace Voncannon (wife of the pastor, Howard Voncannon), Donna Lee Holt, Ellen Lineberry, Shirley Farmer, *Mary McMasters, Clara McMasters, *Cleo Kivett, *Donnie Ferguson, *Ruby Turner, *Ada Thomas, and *Cora Williams. *Denotes deceased.

The name of the organization was changed again in 1973--This time to United Methodist Women. Mrs. Cora Williams joined the Society in 1935, held numerous offices, and was faithful until the group disbanded in 1993—58 years.

Throughout Bethany's history, the Women's groups have made big contributions to their work in missions and benevolences and to the church. In 1959, WSCS members purchased the electric organ that is still in use. This group bought new pulpit furniture in 1969—altar table, flower stands, and chairs. The matching lectern was donated by Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Williams. Archie and Faye Saunders drove to Franklin, Tennessee, to pick up the furniture. In March 1972, a library was established and a bookcase was placed in the vestibule in honor of Mrs. Nora Pickett Williams. The Society established memorial gardens in memory of deceased members of the United Methodist Women.

METHODIST MEN

The first men's group to be organized at Bethany was April 25, 1958, under the direction of Reverend Jim Singleton. There were 17 members. This group disbanded September 1961. The Methodist Men started again February 11, 1990, when Wesley McLeod was pastor. This group met once each month for breakfast, meditation, and planning and was active in projects for the church, the community, and various benevolences. By October 2005, several members had died or moved away and the Methodist Men disbanded.

CEMETERY

The cemetery is as old as the church. The earliest date of death on any monument is February 15, 1834, for Tommy Kirkman. Next were Madison Lowe - June 26, 1835, and Jesse Carter - August 3, 1835. Isabella Balfour Troy, mother of John Balfour Troy, was February 22, 1837.

In 1963, the cemetery was made larger by having some of the trees pushed back and clearing the land. In 1967-68, the graves were leveled and grass was sown in the cemetery. In 1972, the brick columns were built at the entrance of the cemetery in memory of Messrs. Harvey Brower and Cecil Turner, for their faithful interest in beautifying the cemetery.

In 1999, Guy and Winifred Troy donated additional land for the cemetery. (Yes, Guy Troy is a descendent of John Balfour Troy, who gave the land in 1837 for our church and cemetery.) This additional land will add approximately 300 grave plots. The tract has been landscaped and is ready and available for use.

Bethany's name has been changed twice since the church was organized. Bethany Methodist Episcopal became simply Bethany Methodist, and then became Bethany United Methodist Church. Of course, there were many other changes and there will be many more. We can only hope and pray that, as the surrounding area is more thickly populated, the church will grow. We hope to see all that Bethany has to offer is used to the fullest.

Compiled by Shirley Ferguson - December 2009

BETHANY MEMORIES

Danner Ferguson

Since Bethany has been my only church my entire life, this seems to be an appropriate time to reminisce. I can remember, and maybe you can too:

- 1) We used all the classrooms and had regular promotion schedules.
- 2) All the Sunday School teachers loom large in my memories, e.g. Harvey Brower, Donnie Ferguson, Gracie Ferguson, and Hassie Kivett; and the ones who taught our children—Lin and Louise Allred, Margie Lednum, Ray and Hilda McMasters. In our children, we see the fruits of their labor.
- 3) We looked forward to over-flowing crowds on Memorial Day, and I would stay outside during preaching (to make room for others in the church!). Some of us would then go to the spring for water and end up playing in the woods.
- 4) Daddy brought ice (from Arthur Smith's store) and water in a wooden barrel for the Memorial Day lunch, and the barrel remains in the storage building behind the church.
- 5) The large Memorial Day dinners were outside where we used a long table made just for that purpose. About everyone participated.
- 6) We also had large ice cream suppers outside.
- 7) Daddy would take me over to the church early and leave me to build the fires in the tin heaters to get the church warm. I almost over-did it one Sunday when I got the wall so hot in one of the Sunday School rooms that resin was running out of the walls. Needless to say, I didn't repeat that.
- 8) The gas lamps hanging from the ceiling required numerous adjustments during revivals, because the flames were reaching for the ceiling.
- 9) Our hopes and prayers were answered in October, 1999, when we completed the Fellowship Hall. This solved the problems we had in using the basement for social functions.
- 10) During my time in Korea, I carried a picture of Bethany that Mom and Dad sent to me. It was very meaningful for me and helped sustain me during this time.

BETHANY MEMORIES

Emogene Daniel

I remember years ago when just before Memorial in May, most of the women gathered flowers from everywhere to put on the graves. Every grave had flowers. Some may have been wild flowers, but no grave was left empty.

Christmas brings to mind many memories:

We at Bethany always remember the shut-ins and elderly with fruit baskets. One night is designated for a meal, then we assemble the baskets. Of course, there is a homemade touch with baked goods and candies.

The real treat is delivering the baskets and talking with the ones that are so happy to have someone visit them.

For a very long time, we have had breakfast at the church the Sunday before Christmas. We missed this year because of icy weather.

I have wonderful memories of the traditions in the past. The Christmas program was a big event at the church. Almost everyone in the community attended. It was really a fun time with Mr. Harvey Brower playing the part of a shepherd or wise man. He could play the part of a wise man so well, because he was one of the wisest men I ever knew. And I can say the same thing for Mr. Otis Lineberry.

Lights have always been an important part of Bethany's Christmas tradition. The candlelight services were very meaningful and so were the luminaries that lit the way to our little country church.

Many times we got together for caroling. I remember one really cold night we went to Mr. Cleve Williams. Rev. Okel Evans played the guitar and we sang while Mr. Cleve sat on the porch wrapped in a quilt.

For us at Bethany, Christmas is a time to remember God's gift to us. If God so loved the world that He gave us His Son, we are to share His love with others.

Showing kindness to orphans and widows are Biblical teachings from Old and New Testament times. We sponsored an orphan girl (Tina) at the Children's Home. She spent many week-ends and holidays at the home of different members. We gave her special love at Christmas. We did this kind of thing a lot because we remembered Jesus teaching that things done for others are things done for Him. And these are the things that make precious memories.

BETHANY MEMORIES

Darlene S. Kimrey

I am a new member in Bethany United Methodist Church. I started attending in 2008. My friend “Shorty” Williams had invited me to Bethany. I went with her and started going on a regular basis. I had been visiting various churches for several years, and when I went to Bethany I knew this was IT. I felt like I was coming home to the churches of my childhood. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming to a stranger.

It was the best decision I ever made. I’m more involved in the church than I ever thought I would be. We are small but have a lot of spirit.

Coincidentally, my husband’s great grandparents were members in Bethany’s early church, and they are buried in the church cemetery—Alfred B. Kimrey (1846 - 1926) and Phoebe Ann Moser Kimrey (1846 – 1927).

Jean Ingold, Rutherfordton, NC

I remember when I was a little girl I used to play up and down that road by the church. And I remember it was always so pretty and the shrubs were always trimmed so pretty. I love that church and all of my family and my Dad’s family are buried there. I love that church and all the people that make it up. They have been so good to me and I love every one of you. I pray that Bethany will be going strong for another 175 years.

Shirley Ferguson

All of us at Bethany a long time have many memories—some good, some bad, and some just trying-- but all lasting. I’m going to share one in each of the last two categories.

When I was involved with the class for young children, we had two teachers—Louise Allred and I worked together. She usually taught the lesson, and I tried to teach the little ones to be still, be quiet, and listen. We had one little boy who found that quite difficult to do. One Sunday, I simply took one of the little chairs and sat beside him. He was furious. He didn’t wait long to pull on my sleeve to get my attention. When I looked at him, he said, “I hope a bumble bee gets up your dress.” While I was trying hard not to laugh, he was getting angrier with me. Again he tugged at my sleeve. This time he very seriously said, “I hope that bumble bee gets under your girdle.”

Years later, J. C. Stevenson was the Sunday School Superintendent and was having trouble getting a teacher for the Young Adults Class. He asked me to do it and I knew I couldn’t. My only experience with teaching was with children and that’s quite different. I assured J. C. that I was not qualified. But J. C. was desperate. He looked at me and with a dejected sigh he said, “Shirley, you would be better than nothing.” I tried it and I was better than nothing.

You have no idea how many things I’ve done in the last forty years just because I remember that whatever I accomplish will be better than nothing.

BETHANY PASTORS

SERVED			BORN	DIED
	Thaddeus Lebbeus	Troy	1829	1906
	Jacob E. B.	Houser		1873
	John	Tillett	1812	1890
	James D.	Carpenter	1836	1904
	Maxwell H.	Hoyle	1841	1908
	Pinkney L.	Groome	1853	1907
	Melvin Chafin	Fields	1851	1919
1874	Jeremiah	Craven	1838	1907
1888	James R.	Scroggs	1848	1917
1894	Bob	Grettor		
1894 & 1901	Samuel T.	Barber	1868	1929
	Cicero Harris	Hill	1870	1954
1899	F. W.	Ward		
1904	Paul Jones	Carroway	1824	1907
1908	William Flynt	Ashburn	1862	1948
1911	James R.	Betts		
1912	W. R.	Ware	1859	1932
1912-1914	Pinkney L.	Terrell	1853	1926
	Joseph A.	Sharp	1882	1955
	Marvin S.	Kencheloe		
	James Samuel	Gibbs, Sr.	1895	1985
1923-24	A. L.	Lucas		
1924-25	Joe H.	Brendall, Sr.	1863	1941
1925-26	Joe H.	Brendall, Jr.	1898	1984
	Paul R.	Taylor	1913	1998
	C. F.	Loftin		
1931	M. F.	Kriclelee (or Kinclelis)		
1932-33	L. P. (Lee)	Barnett	1901	?
	A. G.	Lofton	1872	1933
	Edward J.	Poe	1864	1935
	James Sylvester	Higgins	1909	1988
	D. A.	Bailey		Deceased
	Henry	Ridenhour	1921	1982
	James Samuel	Gibbs, Jr.	1924	L

BETHANY PASTORS

SERVED			BORN	DIED	
1946	Lonnie	King			
1946-48	Edwin	Bailey			
1946-48	Dewey	Bailey			
1948-50	Ernest A.	Fitzgerald	1925	L	Bish
1950-53	Kenneth W.	Bedenbaugh			
1953-54	George Edwin	Smith	1922	1995	
1954-55	W. Ray	McDougle			
1955-57	J. E. (Johnny)	Hawkins	1931	2001	
1957-59	J. C. (Jim)	Singleton		L	
1959-61	Gary H.	Brown		L	
1961-62	Douglas	Cannon			
1962-63	Roby	Evans			
1963-66	William M.	Spake, Jr.			
1966-71	W. Howard	Voncannon	1918	1996	
1971-72	Ronald	Mann			
1972-74	Arthur L. & Nancy	Allen			
1973-	John	Norris	Associate)		
1974-	Jeff & Debbie	Hemingway	Associate)		
1974-75	Walton C.	Dunbar			
1974-75	Susan	Padgett	Associate)		
1975-77	Raymond	Himes	1932	1992	
1977-85	Okel	Evans	1905	1993	
1985-86	Marilyn	Cirrulis		L	
1986-88	John Franklin	Howard, Sr.		L	
1988-93	R. Wesley	McLeod, Jr.		L	
1993-95	Edna	Riggs		L	
1995-2000	David	Edinger		L	
2000-01	Jeff	Moran		L	
2001-02	Larry	Scott		L	
2002-03	Larry	Clark		L	
2003-to Present	William Alexander	Miles		L	

CEMETERY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

MES. L. JANE TROY,
MES. ELLA TROY SMITH,
MES. MAYME I. SMITH.

Liberty, N. C., April 10, 1907.

This circular letter is addressed to the descendants of John Balfour Troy, who lived and died in Randolph County, North Carolina. The object in sending the letter is to call the attention of the numerous and widely scattered descendants of John B. Troy to the honorable source of their name and to extend to each one of them an opportunity of contributing to a fund to be used exclusively for the purpose of improving the plot in which our distinguished grandfather and a number of his immediate family are buried.

This burying ground is situated two miles from Liberty, N. C., in the cemetery of Bethany Church, South, and on land that was probably donated by John B. Troy, since the cemetery is on the old Troy homestead, and grandfather and grandmother Troy were not only the most prominent members of Bethany church, but the principal factors in the establishment of the church.

In the Troy plot are buried John B. Troy and his wife Nancy Lane Troy, and six of their children—Nancy Margaret (Long) Patterson, Alfred L. Troy, Thaddeus L. Troy, Thomas S. Troy, James A. Troy and Albert Clay Troy; also, Jesse B. Julian, Albert Julian, Mary Alice Julian, Henry Clay Troy, James T. Troy, Alpha Balfour Troy, Thaddeus Samuel Troy and an unnamed infant of William Troy. And last but not least, Isabella Troy. This makes seventeen of the family buried in the old church yard.

Each of the graves has a suitable stone except that of the infant of William Troy. The stone over the grave of Isabella Troy is of soapstone and is rapidly falling to pieces. It should be replaced by a substantial marble stone.

The Troy burying plot has no enclosure, indeed the graveyard itself is entirely unprotected. After consultation among a number of the family connection it has been decided to put a substantial railing about the plot; also to put a marble stone over the grave of old grandmother Isabella Troy. The cost of doing this will be about One Hundred and Twenty-five (\$125.00) Dollars. The plot when enclosed will contain room for about twenty more graves.

A word as to Isabella Troy. She was the daughter of Col. Andrew Balfour, a Scotchman who came to this country, espoused the cause of the Colonies, was the first member elected to the legislature from Randolph county, and was brutally murdered in his own house on a Sabbath morning in the presence of his ten-year-old daughter, Isabella, and his maiden sister, by the notorious Tory, David Fanning. Isabella, whose nick name was "Tibbie," and whose history is celebrated in the records of the State (see Caruthers' History of North Carolina) married John Troy of Salisbury, N. C., and became the mother of John Balfour Troy, with whom she spent the latter years of her life, dying at the ripe old age of seventy-four.

The Committee purposes having the soap-stone over her grave cut into pieces and to send a piece to each member of the family who contributes to this fund, as a sacred memento from the grave of our historic ancestor—Tibbie Balfour.

The Committee whose names appear at the head of this letter have the matter in hand and will acknowledge the receipt of any monies sent to either of them.

CEMETERY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE.

DEED TO BETHANY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

There are two deeds to Bethany Methodist Episcopal Church registered in Randolph County. The first deed is registered in Deed Book 21, Page 144. It was deeded by John B. TROY in 1837. The second deed is for the same property, by T. L. and Jane TROY, at the request of the trustees, not named, who say the deed has been lost and was never registered. (They must not have checked very closely.) At the time of the second deed in 1900, the property adjoined the lands of T. L. TROY. (Deed Book 104, Page 238)

Besides the genealogical information that appears in some of the old deeds, including trustees who were members, the conditions of the grant often make interesting reading. For those two reasons the deed to Bethany is copied below.

From DEED BOOK 21, Page 144

This Indenture made and Entered into this first day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven— between John B. TROY of the County of Randolph and State of North Carolina of the one part and Thomas KIRKMAN, Archibald FORGASON, John MILLER, Robert KIRKMAN, Edwin MILLER, Leonard P. WREN, George BROWN, John B. TROY and James HUTTON Trustees of the Methodist E. Church at Bethany in the County and State aforesaid of the other part— Witnesseth that the said John B. TROY for and in consideration of the sum of one Dollar to him in hand paid by the said Trustees the right whereof he doth hereby acknowledge hath given Granted bargained & sold and by these presents doth give grant bargain & sell unto the said Thomas KIRKMAN, Archibald FORGASON, John MILLER, Robert KIRKMAN, Edwin MILLER, Leonard P. WREN, George BROWN, John B. TROY & James HUTTON Trustees as aforesaid and to their Successors in office of the estate right title Interest or Claim of the s^d. John B. TROY into or upon the following lot or portion of Land Situate lying & being in the County & State aforesaid on the waters of Sandy Creek beginning and bounded as follows—

Beginning at a white oak in said TROYs line and running thence South 80° East 13½ chains to a pine near the road, thence N^o 5 C. to a stone thence west 9½ C. to a white oak thence S^o 4 C. to a stone thence N^o 85° W. 4 C. to a stone thence to the Beginning Containing four acres more or less together with all woods waters & Improvements unto the said land Belonging to or in anywise appertaining to have and to hold all the above Mentioned lot or parcel of Land unto the said Thomas KIRKMAN, Archibald FORGASON, John MILLER, Robert KIRKMAN, Edwin MILLER, Leonard P. WREN, George BROWN, John B. TROY, & James HUTTON trustees as aforesaid and their successors in office forever upon this Issued trust and Confidence

Nevertheless first the said Trustees shall pay or cause to be paid to the said John B. TROY the amount that has been Expended by him in the erection of a house of Worship on the said lot of land and Secondly shall cause the said house to be finished for a house of worship for the use of Members of the Methodist Episcopal church according to the rules and Disciplin which from time to time may be agreed upon and adopted by the General Conference of the said Church in the United States of America and in further trust and Confidence that they shall at all times forever hereafter permit such Ministers & preachers belonging to said Church as shall from time to time be duly Authorized by the same to preach or expound God's holy word therein and in further trust and Confidence that as often as one or more of the trustees herein before mentioned shall Cease to Act as such a successor shall be appointed according to the rules & disciplin of said church in such case Made and provided so as to keep up forever the number of nine trustees provided Nevertheless that if the said trustees or any of them or their successors in office have advanced or shall advance any sum or sums of money

Bethany Deed (Continued)

or shall be liable or responsible for any sum or sums of money on account of the Said premises the said trustees or a majority of them shall be Authorized to raise said sum or sums of money by Mortgage on the premises or by selling the same after Notice given to the pastor or preacher who has the oversight of the Congregation attending Divine Worship on the said premises if the money due be not paid to the said trustees or to their successors within twelve months after such Notice given and if such sale take place the said trustees or their successors after having paid the debt and other expenses which are due from the money arising from the sale aforesaid shall depute the remainder /if any/ of the money produced by the sale upon said in the hands of the stuard or Stuards of the said Church which surplus so deposited shall be appropriated to the use of the Society belonging to or attending divine Service on said premises by the next anual Conference of s^d Church—

And the said John B. TROY doth by these presents Warrant and forever Defend all and singular the before Mentioned and described lot or parcel of Land unto the said Thomas KIRKMAN, Archabald FERGASON, John MILLER, Robert KIRKMAN, Edwin MILLER, Leonard P. WREN, George BROWN, John B. TROY & James HUTTON as aforesaid & to their successors chosen & appointed as aforesaid against the claim or claims of him the said John B. TROY his heirs or assigns & against the claim or Claims of all and every other person or persons whatsoever— In witness whereof the said John B. TROY hath hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal the day and date above Written

Signed Sealed and Dclivered in the presence of
Geo. HOOVER

J^{no} B. TROY



State of North Carolina) Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions
Randolph County } August Term 1837

The execution of this deed was duly Acknowledged in open Court and Ordered to be registered.

Hugh McCAIN C.C.C.

By

Marie ALLRED SMITH and Francine H. SWAIM

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL



October, 1999