Cox, Evelyn W. Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church, 1886-1986

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By Evelyn W. Cox

Mrs. Cox has been a Member of Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church for over sixty years. She has studied the history of Randolph County and has taught courses in Randolph County history at Randolph Technical College.

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Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church Main Street Ramseur, North Carolina

Introduction

Jordan Memorial history was written at the insistence of younger members who wished to know about earlier days in our church.

Since a lot of our past has been lost or had to rely on oral history in many burned we Mr. V.C. Marley was very interested instances. our church people and history. No doubt he in working on our church history when a fire was completely destroyed his store. Many of our church records were there; so the remaining are not enough to make a continuous story books from the beginning.

Mrs. Alice Burgess Euliss attended the first church at the Masonic Hall. She remembered many things, but all she told us was not written, so we have no way of getting a complete history now.

I have tried to write the happenings for children to read and be proud of their church forebears. In looking over our church rolls we should be very humble to realize the great heritage we have received. So many of the workers are unnamed, yet they contributed with their time, money and presence.

Mistakes have been made and names omitted but maybe someone can add more and we can have a later edition with real history.

Thanks for the help you have given. Special thanks to the Bill Johnson family. They have interpreted the writing so that the printer could complete.

The Town of Columbia

In 1840 a sawmill was built near Deep River in what is now Ramseur. The settlement was called Allen's Falls, believed to be named for an early settler by that name. His home was located near where the Gospel Chapel Church now stands just off Coleridge Road.

1850 other families were Bv building. homes near the curve in the river. And that a small church was erected on the hilltop vear the place where the First Christian Church near This was called stands. church the ກດພ Missionary Baptist Church of Columbia.

dam was built on the river, a Later a company was formed, and a small factory was 1850 the town was Soon after built. named Columbia. At that time fewer than а dozen houses were scattered between the river crossing and the newly formed church. A union Sunday school met at the church each Sunday.

Reverend Brantly York notes in his in 1872, "I preached autobiography that and lectured at Columbia Factory and formed а class." He said at another time. "I grammar preached on the Sabbath at several places, viz: Franklinville, Giles Chapel and Cool Columbia. Springs."

Reverend York probably preached in the old log school building and could have been trying to form a Methodist church here at that time.

Born near Sandy Creek, Reverend York was quite an organizer. Together he and Reverend Braxton Craven founded Trinity College at the sight of where Trinity School now stands. Trinity College was later moved to Durham and renamed Duke University in honor of the family that placed a huge sum of money in its endowment fund.

Reverend Craven grew up in the home of Nathan Cox, Great Grandfather of Cecil Cox. The sight of the home is on the farm now owned by Bill and Emily Johnson. Materials from the Nathan Cox house, which was torn down in 1897, were used to build the house the Johnsons now occupy.

Although both these men were strong Methodists and good organizers they obviously didn't get a church organized in our town. It was not until 1886 that the first Methodist church bagan here.

Reverend J. C. Thomas, resident Pastor of Asheboro Methodist formally organized our church in 1886. The new congregation met in the old log school building until a new church could be built on Liberty Street. It was a tall rectangular one-story building, with a balcony that reached across three sides. The front had an open porch.

The building was used as a church for just a few years. The congregation grew so quickly that more room was needed. That building which has been remodeled is now the Masonic Hall on Liberty Street. It was sold to the Masons in 1896.

The reason the church on Liberty Street could not be made larger to accomodate the growing congregation was because it was too rough and rocky. In those days bulldozers and back hoes had not been invented. It was easier for the people to move to a new sight up on Main Street and build a new church than to try and deal with rocky land with mules and bare hands.

Methodism in Ramseur

Legend has it that John Wesley once traveled in Randolph County along the Trading Path and saw a deer stand in the mountains west of Asheboro. "What an appropriate place to put a brush arbor and preach," he thought. The place is now one of the historic spots in Randolph County.

Methodism in America and in North Carolina began with the Wesleys and Asburys. Daniel Asbury traveled in Randolph and helped spread Methodist ideals among the settlers here. Brantley York was the first Methodist to preach in our town.

Quakers, Baptists, Lutherans, and Presbyterians all predated the Methodist in this county. The first churches of each of these denominations were located as follows: Quakers at Holly Springs; Baptists at Sandy Ridge; Presbyterians at Sandy Creek and Lutherans at Barton's Meeting House and later at Melanchton.

In Brantley York's autobiography we find camp meetings were being held in the southern

part of Randolph County as early as 1824. One meeting was held at the sight of Old Salem Church. This area is on old Highway 64 between Ramseur and Franklinville. He claims to have preached in 1824 at a camp meeting held at Salem Other early Methodist churches included Concord, and Giles Franklinville. Rehobeth. Chapel. Early Christian churches were Pleasant Ridge, Parks Crossroads, and Shiloh. Α Presbyterian church named Caylor was located near Buffalo Ford in 1853.

So, there were plenty of churches in southern Randolph for early settlers to attend. And a lot of the social life of those first inhabitants must have been centered around their churches and camp meetings.

Records show that some slaves attended church with their masters until after the Civil War. Sometimes church services were held in the slave quarters.

In 1877 Cox's Chapel was built near Parks Croasroads Christian Church. Then in 1871 Stouts Chapel was built. Both of these churches were built by and attended by blacks with help from white congregations.



Before 1958 Renovation



After 1958 Renovation



Before 1958 Renovation



After 1958 Renovation



Mr. Thomas E. West's young women's Sunday School Class. Known members of the class Nannie Ferree Marley (left front), Alice Burgess Euliss (right front), and Lula West Craven (right second row). The photo was made around 1900.

Our Church on Main Street

Sometime after January 1897 the congregation moved into a new church building on Main Street. The construction of this rectangularly shaped church was supervised by W. C. Jones, father of W. I. Jones.

The sanctuary is still the same size today as when it was built in 1897. A small vestibule has been added on the right front and numerous renovations have changed it looks considerably, however.

The inside walls of the original sanctuary were dark oak and windows were painted white.

In the pulpit sat a heavy oak lecturn and three tall chairs upholstered in red velvet. A mahogoney altar railing was surrounded by a red velvet kneeling cushion. On each side of the pulpit was a square oak table used to place flowers.

Two huge pot-bellied stoves seemed to overwhelm the front of the sanctuary. Men fed heavy sticks of wood into these stoves sometimes even during worship services. Pipes from these stoves reached upward for several feet, then ran together for several feet and again turned upward and out through a flue in the ceiling near the center of the church. The pipes were

held in place by wires.

Even with these bulky stoves, there was more room in the sanctuary than now. That's mainly because the pulpit area was smaller. There were some short pews down front that formed the Amen corner. On the right side down front were some theater-like chairs for the choir.

Four Sunday School rooms reached across the back of the church building and protruded on each side. A small chimney was built between each two classrooms so a stove could be placed in each.

Classes also met in the sanctuary. They were separated by red flannel curtains suspended on wires. Those who remember, say the classes may have been phyically separated but the sounds certainly weren't. You could often hear two or more other classes in session at the same time.

The old pump organ which had been installed at the first church on Liberty Street was moved to the new location on Main Street. Miss Pearle Ferree remained as organist until she married H. F. Brady and moved her membership to the Christian Church. Then Miss Lizzie(Mrs. N. F. Phillips) served as organist.

Oil lamps lit the church until electricity was installed in 1914. Electricity was installed at Ramseur School and at Columbia Manufacturing about this same time. The source of power was a generator owned by Columbia

Manufacturing Co. Its owners were generous enough to furnish electricity to the school and church. A few homes were later added to the system.

Around 1915, through the generosity of W. H. Watkins, Sr. a pipe organ was secured. This was considered a great addition to the music program and visitors flocked in from all over the country to have a look at it. Many attended services just to hear this magnificent instrument. They marveled as Miss Lizzie belted those glorious hymns on that giant pipe organ.

The first major addition to the church building on Main Street was the placing of some much needed space in front of the protruding Sunday School class rooms. This was easily done by taking out the front window on each room that protruded past the main building and converting it into a door. Then a new classroom was built in front of each of these rooms. This gave more class room and enlarged the area for the choir to use. The top of the old window is still visible in the sanctuary today.

The next additon was made around 1919. This was built on the south side of the sanctuary and was called the annex. The area inside this building could be separated by folding doors. It could be made into six classrooms. Two chimneys carried away the smoke from large stoves.

The old pump organ which was no longer being used in the sanctuary was moved to this

building. In this department the children held their opening exercises for Sunday School.

Things remained the same until 1936 when couple of indoor restrooms were built in the а space between the older building and the annex. One of these back in the rear of the area used for the children's department had two comodes side. So privacy must not have been side be а A sewage and concern in those days. water system for the town made these bathrooms а posibility.

Tn 1946 two more classrooms were added to the front of the annex. No chimneys were built because master heating plant had been а installed by this time. However, use of the master heating plant was delayed until the fall Minutes of the Board meeting held of 1949. November 20, 1949 authorized the treasurer to dispose of all heaters except for two which were to be used when a small group met.

Stained glass memorial windows were used in the latest addition. Prior to this time there were no memorial windows except one which had been placed in honor of Mrs. Elfleta Watkins Cole. She was the first woman married in the new church. The others were regular windows with the glass in them painted white.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy F. Lane donated land to the north and east of the church building on Main Street in 1955. This made it possible to build the educational building now used for most of the church school classes. Open house was held for the educational building on June 10, 1956. The three story byuilding housed the church office, Pastor's study, fifteen classrooms, bathrooms, a chapel, kitchen, and a large fellowship hall.

Only a small amount of space in the part of the building was given up to make older educational building expansion. the One classroom from the old building was converted hallway. into а Later this large hallway was into a library. It has now been converted made а large commons area and is used as an into entryway to the church offices and the sanctuary and an area to hang coats.

In 1958 the sanctuary was completely renovated. At that time new pulpit furnishings and new white pews were added. Blue carpet was added and the walls painted a soft color similar to that used today. Kneeling cushions were made of soft blue velvet. And altar chairs in matching colors were added to the pulpit area.

A few small improvements were made in later years. In 1967 central air conditioning was installed in the sanctuary, the choir loft enlarged, and a workroom added. A new Baldwin electric organ replaced the pipe organ.

In recent years the parking lot has been paved. This is in great contrast to the same area where horses once stood tied to hitching posts or trees in the shaded areas. Those horses stood hitched to the surrys with the

fringe on top and stomped at horseflies until thev created mudholes and left other objectionable signs while their families attended Sunday School and Church. For several years even after members owned cars most of them them on trips during the week and walked drove to church on Sundays. They just didn't consider church an appropriate place to drive their automobiles.

After the 1967 building changes no other major renovation or repairs had been done. In June 1982 the church retained the services of architect, Carl Myatt of High Point to draw plans to renovate the entire church. His plans were shown to the congregation in November 1982.

Church Conference At. а the building chaired by Mrs. Sam Rankin, Sr. committee. presented the renovation projects, plans which were approved. The committee was authorized to procure bids for the complete renovation of the building. However, when the bids were opened, the building committee felt that the total cost of the project was so high that the job should in done in two or more phases.

On February 18, 1984 the congregation authorized the buiding of phase one of the renovation. Work began in May 1984 and was completed later that year.

Included in this phase of the renovation was the relocation of the church office and Pastor's study. Major changes were made in the side and

front entrances, bathrooms, the choir work area, and the addition of a conference room just outside the Pastor's study. New carpet was installed in the entire area.

At the time of the renovation a new organ was purchased to replace the Baldwin which haad been installed earleir to in place of the pipe organ. The new organ which is much more powerful than the one it replaced adds much to our music program.

The new carpet and interior paint beautifully matches our kneeling pads at the altar which were placed there in 1979. These blue velvet cushions have suitable Christian symbols and were designed by Sam Rankin, Jr. put on the cushions in The symbols were needlepoint by Elzie Watkins, Bette Lee Craven, and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Rankin, Jr.

The exterior was changed as little as possible during the renovation. The wooden weatherboarding which was beginning to look a little shabby in places from decay and replaced with vinvl siding. weathering was Insulation was added to all the areas that were in this first phase of the project. renovated The steeple which was leaning slightly had to be straightened and reinforced. The Celtic cross which had been added a few years earleir was replaced with the a replica of the original design. This was done at the urging of historic The Celtic cross which was given as societies. memorial to Leo Rich was temporarily placed in а garden area in the church's sideyard. It is а

scheduled to be placed in an attractive permanent landscaped area in the next renovation phase.

one of the renovation cost over Phase \$300,000. Members and freinds of the church have been quite generous in paying for this part of the renovation. Special help was received Randolph Area Mission Society and the from the Duke Endowment. For this the members of Jordan Α Memorial grateful. loan from First are Citizens Bank and Trust Co. helped make the whole project possible.

February 1986 Joe Hardin, treasurer, Tn that the church owed just \$40,000 on announced to the bank, a remarkable feat for a its loan small congregation in such a short time. Also February 1986 meeting the Administrative at its Board urged the congregation to set a goal of the debt entirely paid off by the end of having 1986.

It is hoped that the next phase of the renovation can begin soon after the debt is paid and a the building fund is allowed to accumulate a reasonable amount of money.

First Church Funeral

From oral history we find that the first funeral in our church must have been a morning funeral for H. B. Carter in September 1914.

Someone may ask, "Didn't any Methodists die from the time the church started until is had been established 14 years?" The answer would be, yes many died, but this was before the time of the motorized hearse.

Formerly the funeral cortege was driven by Mr. J.O. Forrestor who was owner of Crescent Furniture. Mr. Forrestor had two beautiful white horses to pull the hearse which was a large glass cart. Green drapery hid the casket from the public view.

Before the time of the motorized hearse all funerals were held at the Christian Church which was convenient to the cemetery. The reason was that the horses would have to be tied at the church. They would become impatient while waiting for the service to be over, and then become unruly when the time came to proceed to the cemetery.

Since this was so inconvenient, the service was held at the Christian Church. Then the horses were taken home.

One explanation of why Mr. Carter's funeral was the first to be held in our church was this. He lived across the street from the Methodist Church (where Pell's Parking lot is) so his casket was carried to church by pallbearers and the horses were not used until they pulled the funeral

cortege to the cemetery.

Mr. Carter had been manager of Carter Merchantile for many years and was a very faithful member of the church. So it was no surprise that the church was overflowing for his funeral on this humid September morning.

Church Grounds

Care of the church yard and building is the responsibility of our Buildings and Grounds Committee. A special landscape committee takes care of our yard and shrubbery.

The area south of the sanctuary was given to the churh by Mr. and Mrs. E.C. Watkins, Jr. A house on the property was torn down and the small building once used as the town's post office was moved to a special sight behind the city library.

Park benches, trees, flowers, and walkways make this an inviting place for townsfolk to rest a spell while in the downtown area. The Celtic Cross which stood on top of the chruch steeple before the recent renovation project, is now temporarily mounted in this little park area. It will be relocated and permanently placed in a garden area when the later renovation phases are complete.

Many of our church members give of their time to help maintain the church and grounds. Weekly cleaning of the church building is done by a person who works on contract with the church. Mowing of the lawn is also done by special hired workers part of the time.

Organizations in the Church

early days probably the most important Tn organization was the Sunday School. Our Methodists have started a Sunday School soon after the must Church was organized. The Ramseur Baptist history records that a Union Sunday School was held until 1885. Tn first pastor, Rev. 1890 the Thomas reported that there were three Sunday Schools in his churches. It is assumed that one of these was Ramseur Methodist.

Sunday School was a very important phase of the new church. Leaders have been listed at the first church. In 1898 the Superintendent was I.F. Craven, Secretary J.E. Cole. Teachers were listed as H.B. Carter, W.H. Watkins, Sr., Mrs. England (wife of pastor), T.E. West, Mrs. Carter, Miss Lou Elliot, Miss Mag Womble, Miss Etta Watkins. Miss England must have been preacher's daughter, J.B. Dixon and Mattie Burgess.

On January 7, 1900 there were 84 present and the collection was 87 cents. This really was a penny collection!

least collection listed was 50 cents The \$1.38. The Sunday School must largest was and care of many of the expenses. The have taken for three months or \$1.50 paid \$4.50 sexton was Literature cost was \$5.95 and State month. per Sunday School work \$1.50. The record County and in a beautiful handwriting. Since J. was written Ed Cole was Secretary he must have done the writing.

Later records were more like modern day just blanks were filled in. The weather each Sunday was recorded. I suppose they thought this would explain the attendance, collection etc.

Teachers in later years were U.C. Marley, J.W. Dixon, W.E. Marley, J.P. Cox, D.E. Highfill, Mrs. C.A. Marley, J.R. Wilson, W.P. White, Mrs. J.R. Wilson, Madge Craven Kivette, Miss Ida West, Mrs. J.P. Cox. Sunday School Superintendents were I.F. Craven, V.C. Marley, W.E. Marley, Charles Dorsett, J.O. King, C.A. Cox, G.W. Allen, C.T. Hardin, Jr., Vaughn Hampten Dorsett, and others.

In recent years since classes go directly to their rooms, rather than have an opening ceremony the School Superintendent visits class rooms rather than lead the whole group.

Fanny Cox sees that class literature is in classroom each quarter.

Also more recent teachers were Mrs. Carrie C. Craven, Miss Linnie Cox, Martha White, Mary Slaughter, Bryte Lane, Madge Kivette, Evelyn Cox, Zerfoss, Harvey Burgess, India Cecil Cox, Dave Craven, Jackie Craven, Betty and Bob Armfield, Sarah and Jerry Reynolds, Betty Armfield, Doris Allen, Colum Watkins, Ray Albright, Jerry and Betty Shackleford, Charles Dorsett, Vaugh Hampton Edna Hudson, Nellie Canoy, Vivian Dorsett. Culbreth, J.C. Gilliland, Karen Zerfoss, Claudia Ihme, Chris Cox, Susan Allen, Nancy Brackett, Bill Johnson, Katherine Hodgin and many others. Many classes alternate teachers on a monthly basis so that nearly everyone in the class gets a turn at teaching.

Special musical training has been part of our children's program from time to time for several years. Ruth Hodgin, Betty Jo Armfield, Jackie Craven, Mary Tate Blake Joann Luck and others have helped with the music programs in

recent years.

The Sunday School is still an important phase of church work. It is a real learning and training period for all ages.

After the Sunday School the next organizaton in the church was the Epworth League. This young people's group is now called the UMYF or United Methodist Youth Fellowship. The group was first organized in 1895 for it was reported to the Quarterly Conference September 1895 that the enrollment was 22. No leaders were mentioned.

In later years Mrs. J.P. Cox worked with the League. Others directed for a short while. After the name was changed to M.Y.F.(and later UMYF) and in the 1950's two leaders met with the group on each Sunday Night. These were: Bea Anderson, Frances Craven, Winnie Hicks, Rebecca Wright, Ruth Moffitt, Bryte Lane Evelyn Cox, Elva Craven, Julia Teague and others.

More recently Tony Marley, David and Karen Zerfoss, Tony and Janice Sucky and Bill and Emily Johnson have been leaders. Present leaders are Richard and Billie Thomas and Mrs. Kay Houston. Ray Albright is currently Youth Coordinator.

One important event occurred on June 20, 1984 when two Time capsules were sealed by the youth at a regular church service. One is to be opened in the year 2000. The other will be opened in 2025. Church news and pictures were enclosed.

The youth program is a training period and an important phase of our Religious education.

Prayer meeting was not an organization of the church, but was an important phase. Here,

members told of their personal experiences which were really heartwarming.

Methodists met on each Thursday night for the Baptists already had a monopoly on Wednesday nights.

Part time visitors from other churches came to prayer meeting. When there was no service at their own church, citizens visited other churches especially on Sunday. The word ecumenical was unknown but ecumenism was practiced in the first quarter of this century in our town of Ramseur.

Women's Organizations

The very first organization of the women was probably a missionary society, but we have no records of this. From oral history we found that studies were made of the mission field; so this must have been done in a group.

Members told of the Ladies have Aid Society. This was a group that did practically the same work as our United Methodist Women. The Ladies Aid met on the first Wednesday of each They met in homes of members. month at 3 P.M. 5 cent dues, had a short program, made paid their plans for helping the church and for making money.

After business and program the hostess served refreshments which were usually cake and ice cream in the summer months, cake and peaches with real whipped cream in the cool months.

The big project of the Ladies was a Fall Flower Show and Bazaar which was usually held the second Saturday in November. Chicken Salad and Oyster stew were great attractions. This event was first held upstairs at the old hardware store (this building burned in the early 1900's). Later it was held at the Masonic Hall and school.

The brick three-story school was built in 1921-22; so in 1922 the great occasion was held in the school basement. Former church members, college students and others made this event a real homecoming.

In 1939 the Ladies Aid became the Woman's Society of Christian Service and today the United Methodist Women are doing practically the same work that our foremothers did nearly one hundred years ago.

If names were used for special services practically the whole membership would be listed. We have had very dedicated women.

In recent years a chicken pie supper and bazaar have been popular. We have many good cooks, many excellent leaders and officers. Today's officers are: President - Henrietta Dorsett, Vice- President - Dot Watkins, Secretary - Linda Williams, Treasurer - Madge Kivett.

Ministers

Ramseur Methodists have had 32 ministers vears 1886-1986. The first during the six of these were really Circuit Riders for they served from three to nine point charges. We have a record of eight churches and also names of their members that were on Ramseur Circuit in the early 1890's. The list with numbers of members are: 183. Franklinville 200. Ramseur Concord 147. Staley 14, Mt. Olivet 81, Mt. Zion Rehobeth 97. Whites Chapel 35. 57, and The ministers who served these churches were Rev. J.C. Thomas, Rev. J.E. Woosley and Rev. R.S. Abernathy.

Rev. J.C. Thomas was resident pastor of Asheboro Methodist from 1886 to 1890. Historian W.A. Underwood says that Rev. Thomas was 57 years old when he came to their church, but he had much drive. This must have been true for and energy he not only served Asheboro church but also Cedar Falls and Central Falls, and came to Columbia and church group in the Old Log School started a in the vicinity of the Ram Building which was Furniture Company. Rev. Thomas stayed for the usual four years and was followed by Rev. J.E. Woosley who was also pastor of Asheboro Methodist Church.

In the meantime (1889) the town's name Columbia was changed to Ramseur.

Rev. Woosley was also a circuit rider. He must have moved to Ramseur in 1891 for he was pastor of Asheboro Methodist for only one year, but stayed another year at Ramseur. His salary was \$150 for serving our church. Ramseur Circuit consisted of the eight churches already named.

Rev. R.S. Abernathy came to Ramseur church in 1892, but stayed only two years. He was followed by Rev. H.H. Jordan, who was one of our most beloved pastors. He was very enthusiastic and loved to sing. A former member said that his favorite song was "Unclouded Day". She also said that he marched across the front of the church with his long black coat flapping as he sang. (Ministers wore long-tailed black coats at that time).

Rev. Jordan must have had an enticing personality for soon there was not space to the crowds. More room were neded in accommodate the sanctuary and Sunday School, During Rev. Jordan's tenure the new church was built. He added his strength to collect money for the new Miss Vanna Burgess, a Baptist told me sanctuary. that when Rev. Jordan came to their home, her Grandmother Burgess went to the teacup and got change to donate to the new church.

It was therefore very appropriated that the church should later be named for him.

Rev. J. F. England came in 1898 but served only two years. He was followed by Rev. T. S. Ellington. He wrote the beautiful obituary for the beloved Judith Elfleta Watkins Cole which appears later in this book.

Rev. C.A. Wood, who had been born in China came to serve our church in 1904. He must have made a great success in his four years here in our small church for his next appointment was Asheboro Methodist.

Rev. J.E. Woosley returned to our church as pastor in 1908. This time he stayed only three years. During Rev. Woosley's pastorate in 1910, a woman would probably have been turned out of the church if she had not withdrawn her membership. Her sin or sins were not listed, but she was called for a church trial; which was the custom at the time. To avoid a trial you could withdraw your membership.

Rev. Woosley left that year so the question is: Was he too strict, disgusted or why didn't he stay the usual term?

Rev. Ader came in 1911 and was a great church visitor even though his wife was sick and they had five children.

Rev. R.J. Rogers came in 1915. He had several teen-agers and they made for more merriment at church socials. No record of why he stayed only one year is given.

Rev. H.C. Byrum followed. Four of his six children were in the grammar grades. At that time Methodist kids liked for their pastor to have several children. Since then I have heard that the question, "How many children does the new preacher have?" is important only to the parsonage committee.

Rev. W.M. Smith came in 1919 and was really back at home for he was from Rehobeth community, had attended Ramseur High School and had also taught here. He had only one child, Anette.

Rev. W.L. Scott was next. This was one of his first pastorates after being a High School Principal. He became very upset if his listeners did not pay close attention. Some members are still attending church who were reprimanded for looking out the window, whispering or acting

disinterested. Madge Kivett, who was a teenager at the time, remembers having her name called during the service for not paying attention to the sermon. He also was a teacher and helped two pre-college girls in the summer; so they would be able to pass Biology at N.C.C.W. which is now U.N.C.G.

Rev. J.W. Hoyle served from 1926 to 1930 and was a very concerned pastor. The Hoyles were the first family to live in the new parsonage on Main Street. Their first son was born here.

From 1930 to 1936 we did not follow the Methodist tradition with four years for each pastor for we had four in six years. This was soon after the stock market crash and times were hard during those depression years. Money was scarce; so both pastors and parishoners were probably struggling to make ends meet. The four who served were" G.W. Williams, A.C. Tippett, J.W. Barber and J.W. Williams.

In 1937 Rev. R.M. Hauss came and added much to the town as well as the church. Next was Rev. J.E. Pritchard who had been a Presiding Elder in the Methodist Protestant Church. The Methodist Protestant(MP) and Methodist Episcopal(ME) had united in 1939 and we were fortunate to get one of their best leaders. He was a Randolph County native and very interested in the community.

Rev. J.T. Shackford stayed only two years. He spent much time in study and was a real academician, but many could not understand his sermons. In his second year it is recorded in the minutes that it would be better for him to go to another charge.

Rev. Fred H. Shinn stayed only two years

and was followed by Rev. J.W. Vestal, another one of the seven preachers sent out by nearby Rehobeth Church. He also attended Ramseur High School and taught here too; so he was back home. He had several relatives in our church.

Rev. D. D. Broome came in 1953. He was already crippled with arthritis and had to have his work load reduced during the year and took a leave of absence after one year.

Rev. Ernest Page, an energetic young man came, in 1954 and was a real mover. When a new preacher from another denomination Rev. Garland Bennett came to town he inquired about where the Ramseur citizens went to the hospital. The response was that he would have to be fast for that Methodist preacher beat the ambulance there!

Rev. Worth Sweet served five years. During his pastorate, Ramseur Methodist became a one station charge. He was a great leader.

Rev. M.P. Hughes followed Rev. Sweet. He could spend his entire time with our church and people. He did this in a very dedicated manner.

Rev. Robert E. Early followed. He was sick for awhile but continued with the help of his wife who had worked in Conference Sunday School work before her marriage.

Rev. Dale Groh stayed only one year. He was unhappy with our parsonage location. Since it was so near the business section he didn't think it was a suitable location for his two children.

Our next pastor Rev. George B. Culbreth really stayed with us! He was our beloved pastor for 8 years and he and his wife Vivian then

retired in Ramseur. He is now Pastor Emeritus of our church, sings in the choir, visits, preaches and is ready when needed. The visitation program beign carried on by the Culbreths is one of our most valuable ministries, expecially since our churchs has a large number of shut-ins.

Rev. Eugene Johnston stayed only 3 years for he wished to be near his parents in Asheville.

Rev. Steve McLain has been our pastor for the past 4 years. He has had to work under pressure because of the building program which was going on. He has brought many new members into the church. With the completion of the first phase of the renovation project he moved into his new office which has plenty of space for him to work. He has been very helpful in planning for our 100th Anniversary.

Jordan Memorial has been blessed with dedicated pastors. Even though the four-year tenure tradition has long been abandoned we have had ten ministers to serve the traditional four years. Three served five years, and Rev. Culbreth served eight years.

We haven't sent many along the way to become preachers, but we have kept one, for Rev. Culbreth retired in our town.

high school principals became Two Methodist preachers after they left Ramseur. Rev. E.J. Harbison already had his license and was a N.C. Conference. member of the Western He our church, taught classes and helped in attended he could. After two years at our local anv wav he became pastor of Calvary Methodist school Church in High Point.

A.W. Lynch was principal of Ramseur school from 1919-1921. His mother said that he started preaching when he was only a boy. For a while he stayed at home and helped his mother who was a widow.

The following was copied from the N.C. Conference Memorial service June 8. 1974: "But call to preach became more insistent than ever the answered the call by requesting that the and he Methodists recommend him for a local Ramseur This request was gladly given preacher's license. and in due time he was recommended for admission the Western N.C. Conference admitted on trial to October 17, 1923 in Winston-Salem."

Rev. Lynch served our Methodist churches for over thirty-five years.

We have had several summer youth directors who have become preachers. These received much training here.

Many of our pastors may have felt like the preacher in the story that Bishop Jones told at Conference in 1985. He said that this preacher said he would have been a great preacher if it had not been for two people, his predecessor and his successor.

Probably some of our pastors have felt this way and we could also be blamed for successes or failures, but we should really appreciate those who have come and labored with us. We have received blessings many fold!

Outreach

Methodists in the Ramseur area have shown concern for others ever since the church was orgnized in 1886. In the earliest minutes we find that this question was asked at a board meeting: "What is being done for the needy?" And in answer to the question a report was given.

Support of missions has always been a major concern of the church. One of the church's first ministers Reverend C. A Wood, was born in China. He obviously had a strong influence on the early membership of our church, because mission study courses were held often.

Children's groups named Light Bearers and Willing Workers met on Sunday afternoons. They heard stories about missionaries and gave their pennies for sending missionaries to foreign lands.

Another special interest was The Methodist Orphanage at Winston Salem. Two superintendents at the home had been previously connected with Ramseur in some way. This relationship helped spark a special interest in the orphanage from our early church members.

Our church also helped serve the early educational needs of the people of Ramseur. People from the town were invited to use the church library. This library was beleived to have

been started before the turn of the century. Board minutes in 1899 showed that Mr. C. B. Smith was librarian.

The books were kept on shelves in the right rear of the sanctuary. Huge panels stained church walls the color of the kept the congregation from seeing the books during worship service. The church librarian went to each distributing and collecting books. This classroom was a valuable and much appreciated service. At that time there were few books in circulation and treat to have them. Alton Craven, Sr. it was а served as church librarian for many years.

church's books have now been Many of the completion of the renovation stored waiting for library to display them. project and new а The our books have been donated over the majority of fairly large number of books were vears. Α C. B. Smith family members. Elizabeth donated bv and Frances.

Many of our books have been classified and librarians. cataloged by expereinced town Mrs. Ruth Moffit spent many hours working on this classification earlier and more recently Crandall great deal of work Ellison has done а in cataloging them. The public librarv located directly across the street from our church now serves many of the needs of local people that were once served by our church library.

Scouting is another strong outreach a responsibility of our that has been program church for many years. For many decades both Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops have met at our church. And Jordan Memorial still sponsors scout troops.

The fellowship hall in our educational building has served as the crossroads of our community ever since it was completed. It is used regularly for meetings of the Lions Club and is often used by other civic clubs. Family reunions, holiday gatherings, religious gatherings, and senior citizens groups meet here often. It is also used for meetings of our United Methodist Youth Fellowship, an adult Church School class, parties, bloodmobile stops, and even for teaching clases sponsored by Randolph Technical College.

Each year special Lenten Services are held at Jordan Memorial the week before Easter. People from many other churches in town participate. Services start at noon and last 25 minutes. This allows workers in the area to leave their jobs duing lunch hour, attend the service, have a light lunch and return to their jobs on time. These unique and inspirational servcices serve a special ecumenical purpose in our small town.

Music

Methodists have always been noted for their singing. In fact when the denomination was new in America it was said that they (the Methodist) were heard long before they were seen.

From the early years certain families really carried the tune. One of these families was the Dixons. Composed of J.B. Dixon, son John and later his daughters. Also the Smith family added much to the musical program.

A special men's quartet was composed of C.B. Smith, V.C. Marley, N.F. Marsh, John W. Dixon and I.F. Craven. Miss Lizzie could get four of these men together for most any service. They enjoyed singing and were often asked to perform.

Margaret Rheim, Margaret Craven, Frances Craven, and Mary Tate Graham were soloists in the choir for many years.

In later years Madge Moffitt Whitesell helped with music and another men's quartet sang often. This quartet was composed of V.C. Marley, J.O. King, J. Preston Cox and Cecil A. Cox.

Mrs. Elizabeth Smith Phillips (Miss Lizzie) was church organist for nearly fifty years. She taught many younger students and they played for services. Carolyn Albright became our church organist in 1963 and also directs the choir.

Special programs are given each year at Christmas and at Easter. We still have musical families, the Hodgins, Allens, Albrights, Zerfosses Lucks, Blakes, and others that have more than on member in the chior. Also we have many individuals who really "Sing Unto the Lord" and inspire us in our church services.

Jordan Memorial is noted for a good music program. Visiting speakers often recognize this and comment on these performances in our services.



Church Outings

Today's church youth go to the beach, to skiing for their special trips. Washington or Τn days the entertainment for church members earlier social. an ice cream was a church supper or to Franklinville's Faith Rock with walking а lunch, visiting and riding Dicnic home on the train at 5 o'clock.

Special train trips were made to the Guilford Battleground on the 4th of July or an excursion to Wilmington and the seashore.

After Children's Day in the summer the women of the church took all the participants in the program to Holland's Creek for an outing and picnic. Everyone walked, then waded in the creek, played games, picked wild flowers and drank from the spring which was supposed to have medicinal qualities. The name was Mineral Spring but is not now in use since the road changed the picnic area and the spring lost its aura.

The Sunday School usually had one picnic summer. One especially remembered was at per Springs. It rained and dampened both Holly spirits and food. After shower. food was the spread on the porch of the Meeting House.

Another memorable trip was on a Tuesday in the Sunday School May 1925 when went to the Children's Methodist Home at Winston Salem. week-day trip would be impossible for a Today, а whole congregaton. Cars were the mode of transportation, and there was plenty of room. We took our lunch and a whole truck filled with watermelons. The truck was driven by Exton

Kivett.

It took a long time to get to Winston for the cars did not travel as fast then. Also we had through several towns. High Point was the to go notable problem. A four-track railroad first High Point. Luther and Main Street in crossed Ollie Craven had 4 eleven year old girls (Nellie Nellie Kivette, Maxine Corrington, and Wylie. Sarah Williams) in their car. Just as they crossing the tracks the old Ford stalled. started A train was coming and the warning bars were already down. The girls jumped out of the car and Fortunately the bars were manually operated ran. so they were raised and the car was pushed off the tracks.

Another incident happened in Winston group tried to stay as In fact all the Salem. lead cars as possible. The E.C. close to the Watkins Sr. family had two cars in the procession. a very young teen-ager and his mother Ashlev was to drive right behind her. told him had Ashlev following directions when they came to stop was lights. So, whether the light was red or green he continued right behind her. After arriving at the orphanage the group delighted in telling how many red lights Ashley crossed. Rev. W.L. Scott's car had trouble but Fletcher Cox got it working; so they too arrived safely.

After all had arrived the lunch was spread, and in the Blessing, thanks were given for safe trip. In the afternoon members visited our cottages, school and other buildings. Then a the game was played. Our younger men played baseball the High School team of the Home. Later the to eat watermelon with our children were invited group.

The Winston Salem Children's Home had always been a special project for our church. One of our parsonage children O.V. Woosley later became Superintendent where he served for many years. Fifth Sunday offerings, plus a work-day offering at Thanksgiving made our congregation a great contributor to the home. (This was before the unified budget system).

Christmas

Christmas eve was one of the biggest events of the year for our church members in the earlv days. Events centered around а big Christmas tree. Α program of songs, speeches, dialogues. and pantomimes were all part stories. Usually everyone was of the program. we11 prepared for the program because Miss Lizzie spend much of the month of December rehearsing with us.

To the children it seemed like forever. but the day would finally arrive and a big holly would be placed in the sanctuary to the left tree of the pulpit. The giant tree with its red berries would reach to the ceiling. Candle made of tin would be clipped to each limb. holders Gifts would also be tied to the branches. These would be distributed after the program.

During the program the candles on the tree flickered and burned brightly. Sometimes one of the gifts would catch on fire. One of the men would quickly stomp it out and the program would continue. It was a miracle that the church didn't burn during those early years.

During the program Santa Claus always paid a visit but he never stayed long. He had to move on quickly so he could visit the other churches in town. Treats were given to all Sunday School members. This treat consisted of an orange, apple, raisins, candy and other goodies in a brown paper bag.

We still have special programs at Chtistmas time but they are quite different from those of the early days. We keep an artificial Christmas tree in the sanctuary most of the month of December. It is decorated with Chrismons(special Christian symbols). And our minister conducts a special Advent candle lighting service each Sunday during this special season.

Special Christmas celebrations usually include a music program by our chior, a service for all church members conducted by the Womens Society of Christian Service, a Christmas program during Church service by the childrens' Church School and others.

Parsonages

The first parsonage was built on Liberty Street beside the first church in the early 1890's. The J.W. Woosley family lived here first. This house is now occupied by Mrs. Floyd Moffitt. The last minister to live here was Rev. W. L. Scott. Several parsonage babies were born here. One was Senator Everett Jordan.

The second home for our minister's family was on Main Street near the church. This parsonage was larger and built according to the style of the 20's since it was built in 1927. The J.W. Hoyles lived here first and had the first baby born there. The Rev. George Culbreth was the last parsonage family to live there. Rick and Nancy Frazier bought this home.

The third parsonage is at 204 Holly Hill in East Ramseur and is not as convenient to the church as the other two. It was first occupied by the Eugene Johnston Family in June 1979.

Doorkeepers of the Lord

At the funeral of a church member who had looked after the cleaning of our church the minister said, "He was really a doorkeeper of the Lord, for he actually opened the doors for Sunday Services". This statement would apply to many faithful servants.

In the early minutes and list of expenses no names of sextons are listed. Sexton was the title in those days, but now it is church custodian. It was listed that \$4.00 was paid the sexton for 3 months.

Some of those faithful stewards were: T.E. West, W.M. Williams, Holyrod Wilson, Luther and Ollie Craven, Floyd and Ruth Moffitt, Otis Burns and Maxton Hudson.

Floyd and Ruth Moffitt continued to look after the kitchen from 1956 until they were unable to come to church. This was done for love of church and not pay. Mrs. Texie Mace continues this with loving care.

Today, we have an industrial cleaning service to take care of our church. This does not include the kitchen utensils, etc. Mrs. Mace gives her service each Monday morning.

This church cleaning was a sacred service when we children helped. We were not allowed to run or be noisy in the church even while the building was being cleaned. So when we came with our father to help clean we had a long stay, for the whole church had to be swept with a broom,

The Capel House

Our church history would be incomplete without mentioning this old home across the street from the church. Mr. A.W.E. Capel came to Columbia to help with Columbia Manufacturing Company and built his home in the 1880's. He was a class leader in our early church.

A.W.E. are initials for Arron William Elijah, an unusual name.

The Capel home was almost a part of the church for the church yard was very small. Any activity, other than regular services had to take place at another spot; so many games and church socials were held here.

of the Saturday night One summer entertainments of earlier times was an ice cream supper which was always announced to be at the Capel House. This beautiful yard was really made fairyland. Japanese lanterns were strung а into tree to tree. At dusk candles were burning from in them and gave light for the group. Tables were arranged on one side of the walkway. Party games were played on the porch and side yard. Also much music was heard as the ice cream and cake was eaten.

During colder months the socials were held inside in the parlor which was a large room on the right. A huge fire burned in the fireplace and many indoor games were enjoyed.

After the Capels moved away the house was used for a boarding house for awhile, so it continued to be a gathering place for both young and old.

Then about 1915 Methodist families were renting the house and continuing the hospitality for our church and others. Some of these families were the Charles Reeces, the N.F. Marshs and J.R. Wilsons.

Later we had our Fellowship Hall and the need of a "place to meet" was not as great. The Capel House is now owned by Kermit Pell and has been made into apartments.

Church Secretaries

Mrs. Pearl Floyd (Mrs. J.W. Wallace) served as our first church secretary for 4 years beginning in February 1961. She was also church visitor and practically an associate pastor.

Mrs. Wallace was well-fitted for these jobs for she was born in a Methodist parsonage, the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. J.P. Rodgers and was well-acquainted with needs of church people. During this period "The Link" our church paper was printed and sent to members.

Mrs. Wallace resigned in 1964 and Alton W. Craven Sr. became Secretary and served until his death in May 1982. Alton was very effecient. He knew all the church people and kept us informed.

"The Link" continued to be a real link between our church and the community, but it was being sent weekly to about 800. In March 1982 the Administrative Board voted to print "The Link" only one time per month and send it to members.

After Alton's death, Charles Dorsett was interim Secretary until our new pastor Rev. Steve McLain got adjusted to his new assignment. Charlie was very knowledgeable about the church and membership so this was very beneficial.

Elizabeth Jones Brown was hired as Secretary in November 1982. She was formerly secretary at the Ramseur Baptist Church and was familiar with church work. She lives on Ramseur Route and works at our church part time. She does her work well and is very reliable.

War Years

War affects churches as well as homes and Jordan Memorial has certainly been influenced by wars. Many of our young people have been called upon over the years to help defend our freedom.

Quite a few young men in Randolph County were members of Company K of the National Guard which was pressed into service in World War I. They participated in heavy fighting in France and were part of the force that finally broke the Hindenburg Line on November 11, 1918.

Many young men were killed in October and November of that year fighting the battles that led up to this final victory. Among them was Orren Forrester, the son of one of our church founders, James O. Forrester.

Each of the soldiers from our church was represented by a blue star on a red and white silk banner. After Orren Forrester was killed in battle his blue star was replaced by a gold star. His young war bride came to visit the Forrester family often and attended our church when she visited.

Another church member, Ferree Trogdon gassed and wounded in the same war. He was recovered and came back to live a good life and was a faithful church member. His wife Mary still attends Jordan Memorial. His grandson Michael has loaned us 1886 Methodist an Discipline to display during our centennial celebration. Rules for the formation of our

chruch are contained in this book.

During the war years all members were given a chance to help their nation, not just the young men who joined the armed forces. Members were asked to buy war bonds, join the Red Cross, knit, and make bandages for use at home and abroad. Ministers of Randolph County churches helped present the Red Cross story to thier members.

Each community had fund leaders to help raise a Red Cross quota. Our own Mrs. I. F. Craven(Miss Etta) was fund leader for Ramseur.

Dr. F. C. Craven from our church was appointed chairman of the Randolph Civilian Releif.

A big "Welcome Home celebration" was given for the boys of Company K by the Red Cross following the 1919 victory. Some of the boys returning home for the celebration had family members in our church but names are not available.

When World War II broke out in 1941 our church was again disrupted. Rev. J. E. Pritchard wrote in his August 1943 quarterly conference report, "Considering the drain on the communities by those going into the armed forces and others going into defense work we are doing fairly well."

During those bleak war year special services were held to honor soldiers, their

parents and wives. Reports from those troubled times say that it was hard to keep local church organizations functioning because so many young people were away at war, doing defense work, or in college.

Ouarter1v Conference The report of October 15. 1943 shows that a plaque bearing the names of all soldiers from our church was by Society of Christian presented our Woman's "In Sevice. The inscription read: honor of those who reprsent our church in the service of God and country."

The men whose names appeared on that plaque included the following:

- 1. Clifford Trogdon
- 2. Mont Gilmore
- 3. Curtis Lineberry, Jr.
- 4. Robert Henley
- 5. Tate Parks
- ó. Charles York
- 7. Claude Hardin
- 8. Tate Kirkman
- 9. Bob White, Jr.
- 10. Jimmy Chisholm
- 11. Arnold Davis
- 12. Morris Midkiff
- 13. Dwight Kimrey
- 14. W.I.Jones, Jr.
- 15. Allen Graham, Jr.
- ló. Ray Kirkman
- 17. Clifton Brown
- 18. Kermit Kimrey
- 19. C.T. Hardin, Jr.
- 20. Wendell Jones

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21. Bobby Marley
22. Billy Marley
23. Kenneth Kivett
24. William Watkins, III
25. Glenn Highfill
26. Gordon Trogdon
27. Clay Thomas Kinney
28. Tate Welch
29. Ward Trogdon
30. Walter Clark
31. Arthur Gant
32. Leo Rich
33. Marvin Luther
34. Charles Dorsett
35. Joe Harris Marlev
36. Edward Parks
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Our men in service who went away to serve their country weren't forgotten by the church or its members. At one time 21 letters mailed to the men who were away in service. were judging from the replies to those letters And the men who received them were obviously grateful that the chruch remembered them.

The listed above are the ones 36 men chruch at the time connected with the thev served during the war years. Some of the others served their country in the armed services who later joined our church include: Sam Rankin, and James Rains, Ray Gilliland, and James Sr., Also, Charles Lambert was Sunday School Allred. superintendent and resigned to join the army.

Remarkably none of the men connected with our church who joined in the World War II

effort were killed. Only two were wonunded. Robert Henley was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge. In December 1985 he received a Bronze Medal in recognition of his service to his country. After returning home he served on the Randolph County Draft Board for many years.

James Allred was wounded on the Island of Palawon in 1945. This island is located in the Pacific between the Phillipines and Borneo.

Dewey Barber, son of one of our parsonage families was killed in the war. He was the son of Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Barber. Rev. Barber served as our minister in 1934 and 1935.

How great it would have been if World War II could have lived up to its slogan-the war to end all wars. But that wasn't to be. For only a few years passed until our country was again fighting, first in Korea and then Vietmam.

Again our young men were involved. Col. Harold Luck served tours of duty in both Korea and Vietnam. He has been remembered by one who took reserve officer training with him at North Carolina State University as a brave young officer who was always willing to do more than his part. Harold passed way recently and his family now lives in Ramseur. They are active members of Jordan Memorial.

Mack Clark was killed soon after arriving in Vietnam. He had attended our Sunday School and youth activities at our church. Mack was an Eagle Scout.

For several years following the Vietnam war the draft continued and our young men served in the armed forces either on active duty or in the reserves. Many served in foreign countries.

draft ended several years Although the of our young people have voluntarily back some serve their country in our armed enlisted to Deborah Luck Goldsberry completed her forces. duty in 1985. tour of She is the daughter of Joanne Luck and the late Col. Harold Luck. Deborah and her husband now live in Greensboro Currently one of our young men is in the Air Force. Richard Gilliland is serving stationed at Beale Air Force Base in now

California. Richard was active in church activities and served as President of the United Methodist Youth Fellowship while in high school.

From Cradle Roll to the Rocking Chair

From the founding of our church our members have been concerned with and about each

other. In fact, the strong Christian spirit found in our many churches is the real strength of our Ramseur community.

At Jordan Memorial, to encourage this strong Christian concern, groups have been formed over the years to help members grow spiritually and in the knowledge of the Bible. We've always followed the belief that no age is too young to learn about God and the Christian life.

An active Cradle Roll Department was maintained in our church as early as 1910. The certificate below shows the record of one our current members on the Cradle Roll. Mrs. Nannie Marley was superintendent of this department at that time.

After leaving the Cradle Roll Department children moved to the Primary Class taught by Each Sunday every student was Ida West. Miss a card with a picture of the lesson for given Sunday on it. There was a large the following poster with the same picture and lesson on it. This poster was in the form of a chart that had showing parts of the lesson each Sunday. pages teacher flipped the pages showing the The held the attention of pictures. This the children because it was the nearest thing to seeing a movie that they knew in those days.

Around 1912 small chairs were bought so the small children could sit with their feet touching the floor while in Sunday School. This resulted in less wiggling and it's beleived

603. DAVID C. COOK PUBLISHING CO., ELGIN, HL. Hame entered on Cradle Roll this 20" day of Department of the. born on the 20 bay of Calobar 1910, Residing at Pauleur narth Carolina "Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." ***** This is to Certify that_ ¥. ĸ Cradle Roll Certificate 0.0 Varenie Williams 10 Mar S. J. T. C. Marthe Kir very strand I. J. Craulor ; such of the School E. Sunday is now a member of the Cradle Roll 28 K School 19/0.

they paid better attention to their teachers.

To get the attention of students the leader would begin Sunday School service with this responsive reading: Leader: Whose day is this? Children: This is God's day. Leader: Whose house is this? Children: This is God's house. Leader: Who's Sunday School is this? Children: This is God's Sunday School. All: This is God's day, This is God's house, This is God's Sunday School, Then Let us be careful, Then let us be still. And listen to the message Of God's word and will.

Along with Sunday School came the mission groups for children. The Light Bearers and Willing Workers(young people's groups) met monthly on Sunday afternoons.

Boy scouts were organized and Fred Burgess, Sr. was their leader after he returned from World War I.

The children attended the 11:00 worship services and unless they were "lap babies" sat on the middle front pews. If the children misbehaved enough to disturb the service the minister would reprimand them, even his own children.

The older ladies sat on the right side

(facing the pulpit) and the men sat on the left. They even entered the sanctuary this way. That was probably the reason that for many years there was only one door to enter the sanctuary and that was on the men's side of the church. The men had to have a place to hang their hats so they left them in the entry way on their side of the sanctuary.

Many of the men sat in the same pews every Sunday. Some of these men were very faithful, and never missed a Sunday. But they always contributed their time and money to keep the church going. Some of these faithfuls included; William O. Cox, W.D. Lane, J.S. Wylie, Will King, Lee Reece, Dr. C. S. Tate(when he was not on call), and Will Craven.

In the 1920's our Sunday School sponsored a daily Vacation Bible School for our children and youth. The Sunday School teachers and college students worked with the students for one or two weeks at a time.

Rev. Joe Shackford reported to the Quarterly Conference on September 23, 1945 that Duke Student C. Roy Everett, Jr. had been at Ramseur helping with the church's work for 10 weeks. This included two Vacation Bible Schools (Ramseur and Franklinville). He also helped with a week of youth training and a home visitation for one and a half weeks.

As far as we know Mr. Everett was our first Duke student. Since that time several

other Duke students have served temporary assignments at our church as part of their training. These included; Danny Arichea, Rod Brown, Tom and Jean Richichi, Bill Ragsdale, Jim Trollinger, Debbie Lewis Fox, Jay Kowalski, and others.

In the early part of the century, as our young ladies matured they began to join in special church work sponsored by Ladies Aid and Mission groups. They were almost intimidated by the capabilities of some of the older women. They thought they would never be able to make the chicken pies as well as Miss Maggie(Mrs. W. D. Lane) or lead and give programs like Mrs. Anna Leonard.

Our congregation has been fortunate over the years to have pastors who were good leaders and who could attract good speakers to help with our educational and inspirational endeavors. One of these great speakers was Bishop Kilgo who gave the dedication address for our new church building in the fall of 1898.

Other noted outside speakers have been Dr. Clovis Chaappell, Dr. Gilbert Rowe, Rev. A. W. Plyer, Bishop Paul Hardin, Jr., Rev Jack Waldrep, Bishop Nolan B. Harmon, Rev. John Bergland, Rev. Al Fisher, Revivalist Browing and singer Mrs. Stucky, and many others.

Jordan Memorial continues to open its doors to people from foreign lands. During the 1983-84 school year the Robert Thomas family hosted an exchange student Miren Pozueta from

Spain. Miren attended Eastern Randolph High School and graduated there. Her host, Amy Thomas, then lived with Miren's family in Spain for several months as part of the exchange program.

Another year one of our church youths tutored three students from Ethiopia in English. The three brothers graduated from Eastern Randolph High School and are now living in Texas. They still visit in our community occasionally.

Marie Ott, an exchange teacher from Brazil spent a week in the home of Cecil and Evelyn Cox. She visited schools in Randolph County and other parts of the country as part of her exchange program. She was on scholarship to study schools in America.

For the past four years our church has given financial help to Miriam Arichea who graduates from Duke University in 1986. Miriam is the daughter of Danny Arichea, one of our Duke Divinity summer students of several years ago. She and her Brother Stephen, visit Ramseur on holidays and week-ends occasionally and stay at the home of Toni Marley. They usually attend our church when they're here on week-ends. Miriam and Stephen are both talented musicians and have performed in our worship service. Our church will continue to help Stephen financially after Miriam graduates in the spring of 1986.

Our church does not have its own senior

citizens organizataion but several members of our church are active in the Ramseur Senior Citizens group. The group often meets at our church. Many or our members have served as leaders in the group.

One active couple in the senior citizens group is Ernest and Lucy Zerfoss. They moved to our community from Pennsylvania to retire and grow fruit. The Zerfoss family, including their son David, wife Karen, and children, Wendy, Stacie, Mark, and Brent, have donated the use of part of their farm to grow strawberries. This is known as God's Acre and is the focal point of an annual Strawberry Festival held each May by our church. Money raised at this Strawberry Festival goes to the church's building fund.

The Strawberry Festival was started by the Womans Society of Christian Service and has now become a churchwide project. Members help grow the strawberries and then hold a celebration in May each year when berries are ripe. At the festival crafts are sold and strawberry cake and ice cream are served. The members use this day as a time of fun and fellowship as well as a fund-raising project.

Our Steeples

The steeple on our first church was not very tall. No one living today is able to

describe it.

When the church on Main Street the steeple was topped with a widow's walk. This must have been typical church style of that day because it was not built to serve any symbolic or practical purpose, that we can tell. In fact, there are few other churches that have or ever had that style of architecture on their steeples.

The widow's walk atop our steeple is more the style that one would expect in a coastal fishing village. This would be a high place with a hand rail where the wife would stand and hold while looking to see if her husband was returning from his fishing trips. And since many stood and looked for days after their husbands were due to return it became known as the widow's walk.

No date can be found to tell us when the original widow's walk on our first steeple was replaced by a tall spire. It must have been around 1930, though. In 1978 the tall spire on our steeple was replaced with a Celtic Cross.

The Celtic Cross was a memorial to Leo Rich. He had been impressed by this type cross during his three years of Army duty in the British Isles. The cross symbolizes the love of God as revealed by Christ on the cross and the circle symbolizes the endless nature of this love and eternity. The Celtic cross can be found displayed prominantly in such historic places in this country as Savannah, Georgia where some

very old churches now stand.

When the latest renovation was being planned the church decided to restore as much of the historic value to the building as possible. Thus it was decided to replace the Celtic Cross with design of the original steeple(widow's walk).

The Celtic Cross was moved to а temporary location in the mini park in the sideyard of the church. It will be kept here until the next phase of the renovation. At that time it is to be moved and mounted in а garden area that will be landscaped. beautiful should be one of the real beauty spots of our It entire curch ground when the project is completed in a few years.

The replacement of the widow's walk quite an event as many townspeople design was gathered round that morning of July 25, 1984. They watched the big crane swing the new steeple place and all breathed a sigh of relief. into sturcture of the tower had to be reinforced The before the new steeple could be put on it. Over years it had leaned a few inches and workmen the had to push back into its level verticle it place and shore up the structure with heavy timbers to hold it in place.

So, over the years we've had two churches and four steeples. The symbolism is an important of our Christian belief. Our steeple can be seen all over town because it stands on one of the highest points in the area. Being

located directly across the street from the town's only post office and the public library, it is seen daily by a high percentage of the people who live in town and in the surrounding rural areas. We hope our church and it's beautiful steeple serve as a Christian inspiration to all who see it daily.

At night the steeple is lighted. It also has two lighted stained glass windows on the second story level. One of these was given by friends and family in memory of Nina Tate Foust. The other was given by Mrs. Verna Goldston in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil A. Cox.

Our First Hundred Years

For one hundred years this Methodist church bell has called people to worship. We have no way of evaluating the blessings that people have received over these years. Many descendants of the first members are still worshipping here.

Changes have come about. Formerly we heard shouting and exhorting coming from our pews. Since we hear these no more this does not mean we are not worshipping God. It only means we are doing it in a different way.

The bell calling people to church has rung from different steeples, but has been a vigilant reminder that we still need to have"our hearts strangely warmed".

We have many older members in our church but we also have alert young people who are aware of their rich heritage. We have many newcomers to Ramseur and to Jordan Memorial and they are adding their time and talents and financial support toward the continuity of a strong and united church.

Recently, all our Church School classes seemed to be more responsive to the needs of the community and have been visiting and having fellowship with many older people and shut-ins.

We have class Leaders no more, but we have strong individuals with leadership ability. The future will be taken care of if we continue with worship as the central theme at Jordan Memorial.

He Picked Them From The Fence And Took Them To Church

One big reason our church grew like a mushroom in its early years was the fact that those first members recruited hard and took the unchurched with them to worship on Sunday mornings. Many recall the way I. F. Craven did it.

Mr. Craven, who grew up in the Coleridge area, had attended Trinity College. In 1892 when Trinity College moved to Durham and became Duke University, he must have taken a job at Columbia Manufacturing Company. He joined the church in 1894.

On Sunday mornings as he walked to church he would pass by the rail fence which separated the gardens and pastures from Main Street. There he would find several boys lined up along the fence with nothing to do but watch the people walking to church.

So, Mr. Craven began bringing the boys to Sundsy School. Some say he actually took boys off the fence to get them headed in the direction of the church.

His ability to get the boys to attend might have been influenced by the fact that he roomed at the Capel House nearby. He was also known to have a strong personality and an enticing manner about him. What's more he had authority down at the

mill and the boys knew it. He may have even been the boss of some of these young men. And the boys who didn't work at the mill may have wanted a job there. But however he did it he got them to church. And many of them are beleived to have become good regular members.

They Gave Long and Tirelessly of Themselves

Over the years many members have given freely of their time and efforts to make the church experience meaningful to all members and guests. Many have done it quietly and with little fanfare. They just chose to do their jobs well and they never found an excuse to quit. Some of these have worked for over a half a century in the church.

Ever since she was a teenager Fannie Cox has held some position of leadership in our church or Church School. She has been a teacher in kindergarten, primary, and older childrens' classes. For years she was in charge of the church Easter egg hunt and shared her yard for the event.

For many years now she has ordered and distributed the literature used by all of the Church School classes.

Another long-time Church School worker is Madge Kivett. She has taught a class for more than ó0 years. She has taught at many different levels and currently works with the Senior High class.

Madge has visited the Holy Land and brought back a very interesting program on what she saw there. Her pictures of biblical sights from that part of the world have inspired many teachers and workers in our church. She has held many other jobs in the church over the years. She is a Lay Speaker and takes part in many connectional church activities. She is much in demand as a speaker at other churches and at civic clubs.

Many other members currently in our church have given several decades of service. We could mention many others who have worked long years in our church but space will not permit us to mention all of them.

Mount Shepherd Retreat Center

Our church is fortunate to have access to camps and other facilities. Many of our young people have taken advantage of the facilities offered at Camp Tekoa at Hendersonville.

The High Point District has its own camp located West of Asheboro, Called Mount Shepherd Center, it has facilities for overnight Retreat and has supervised camping summer camping programs. supervised bv Pat The camp is McPherson. The UMYF from our church takes advantage of the fact that the camp is located only a 45 minute drive away. It's coincidence, of course, that Mount Shepherd is located near where John Wesley supposedly saw the deer stand and make it into a brush arbor for wanted to preaching.

These news clippings appeared in one of our county newspapers. The first two tell a story of one of our early members who was loved by all. The third tells of happenings in our community during the early days of our church.

A Beautiful Marriage.

"In the Methodist church in Ramsuer, N.C. at 11:30 o'clock Wednesday morning May 19th 1897 Mr. J. Ed. Cole and Miss Fleta Watkins were united in holy ties of wedlock by the Rev. H. H. Jordan in a most graceful manner. The wedding march was beautifully played by Miss Jessie Spencer of Charlotte. The altar and chancel were most tastefully decorated for the occasion. The bride was dressed in a brown traveling suit and never looked sweeter and the groom was as handsome as a Upon leaving the church they Chesterfield. received the congratulations and good wishes of their friends after which they were driven to Liberty where they took the north bound train for bridal trip. Among the many visitors were а Messers. J. A. Cole, of Coleridge, father of the groom, T.C. Russell, Dr. and Mrs. R.L. Caviness, Mr. and Mrs. John Caviness of Coleridge, Miss Minnie Smitherman and Clyde Capel of Troy, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Patterson, of Liberty, Miss Lula Asheboro, Prof. O. W. Carr, of Morris. of Greensboro and many others."

"Coleridge - Mrs. Judith Elfleeta Cole was born May 12th, 1872, and departed this life December 24th, 1900, aged 28 years, 7 months and 12 days. She joined the M.E. Church, South, at 12 years of age, and lived a consistent Christian life to the She was so noble and kind to every one, that end. every heart feels a pain of grief and sorrow at her death, and bathe her grave with tears of love. was married to Mr. J.E. Cole May 19th, 1897. She She has one sweet little daughter, Sarah, father, mother, husband, sister, brothers, and a host of friends to mourn their loss, but their loss is her eternal gain, for she has now met her sweet infant who preceded her to the realms of joy and happiness in the bright world of bliss and glory. May God comfort the bereaved ones, heal the broken hearts, and bring them at last home to heaven." T.S. Ellington.

Ramseur Items.

"Country produce is getting scarce consequently our merchants have not been very busy for the last two weeks.

Miss Minnie Smitherman and Mr. Clyde Capel of Troy were in town last week.

Rev. A. A. Crater and Miss Lula Morris of Asheboro were in town on Wednesday last.

The quarterly meeting at Holly Springs on last Sabbath was attended by a large number of our young folks.

We were glad to see Messrs. I.F. Craven of Trinity, R.E. Patterson Jr., of Maxton and Dr. Dennis L. Fox, of Worthville here on Wednesday last. The firm of Copeland & Marsh has been changed to Marsh Bros.

Messrs. A. B. Covington and Julius Bowden went to Richmond county on Monday last.

Mrs. W. H. Elwell and little Johnnie of Maxton are spending some time with her parents Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Covington.

Mr. Wm. Covington of Roberdel spent last Saturday and Sunday with his brother Mr. A. B. Covington."

Ministers Who Have Served Our Church During The Last Century

J.	С.	Thomas	1886–1889			
J.	Ε.	Woosley	1890–1891			
R.	S.	Abernathy	1892-1893			
		Jordan	1894–1897			
J.	F.	England	1898-1899			
Τ.	S.	Ellington	1900-1902			
C.	A.	Wood	1903-1907			
J.	Ε.	Woosley	1908-1910			
0.		Ader	1911–1914			
Τ.	J.	Rogers	1915			
H.	C.	Byrum	1916–1918			
W.		Smith	1919–1921			
Ε.	J.	Harbison,Jr.				
W.	Μ.	Smith	1922			
		Scott	1923–1925			
		Hoyle, Jr.	1926–1929			
		Harris				
		Williams	1930			
A.	С.	Tippett	1931–1932			
J.	Μ.	Barber	1933–1935			
J.	W.	Williams	1936			
R.	Μ.	Hauss	1937–1940			
J.	Ε.	Hauss Pritchard	1941–1944			
J.	Τ.	Shackford	1945–1946			
F.	Η.	Shinn	1947–1948			
		Vestal	1949–1952			
D.	D.	Broome	1953			
Er	nes	t D. Page	1954–1958			
Worth Sweet			1959–1963			
Μ.	\Pr	eston Hughes,Jr	1964–1966			
	ber	1967–1970				
Dale G. Groh 1971						
	org	1972–1979				
	gen	1980–1982				
T. Steven McLain 1983						

Name Changes

- 1886-1939 Ramseur Methodist Episcopal Church South
- 1939-1954 Ramseur Methodist Church (The Northern Methodists and southern had separated because of Civil War. In 1939 they reunited)
- 1954- Jordan Memorial Methodist Church (In 1954 church members approved a \$10,000 gift from the family of the first pastor of the church after it moved to the present location on Main Street Rev. H. H. Jordan). The church later became Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church following a merger of our denomination.

It was voted to change the name to Jordan Memorial Methodist in memory of this beloved pastor.

Along with these changes we have also had changes in circuits and Districts circuits:

> 1886-1891 - Asheboro Circuit 1891-1904 - Ramseur Circuit 1904-1958 - Ramseur - Franklinville Charge 1958-1985 - Ramseur - Jordan Memorial

Districts:

Greensboro - 1886-1940 High Point - 1940-1944 Thomasville- 1944-1960 High Point - 1960-1986

Members Who Joined Over 60 Years Ago

1.	Dixie Gant 1907
2.	Mary C. Lambert 1910
3.	Fletcher Cox 1912
4.	Elise Grimes 1913
	Ben Smith 1916
б.	Margaret Lane 1918
7.	
8.	Evelyn W. Cox 1919
9.	
10.	Ashley Watkins 1922
11.	Verna W. Goldston 1922
	Madge C. Kivett 1922
	Ruth C. Moffitt 1922
	Charles Dorsett 1923
	Edna Highfill 1923
	Fannie Čox 1924

Early Methodist Churches in Randolph County

Year	Formed	Church	Township
1780 1790 1792 1825 1830 1831 1831 1833 1834 1833 1834 1839 1848 1848 1848	rormed	Old Union Hopewell Shiloh Ebenezer Concord Rehobeth Randolph Grays Chapel Giles Chapel Giles Chapel Asheboro Flag Springs Browers Chapel Mt. Shepherd Mt. Lebanon	New Market Trinity Providence New Market Coleridge Columbia Liberty Providence Asheboro Grant Grant Tabernacle Randleman
1850 1855 1859		Pleasant Grove St. Paul Fair Grove	Tabernacle Randleman Richland

About Our History

In this story of Methodism in our town, now called Ramseur, we've tried to piece together the history as best we can. Much of the information came from recollections by members who have been in our congregation for several decades.

Unfortunatley many of the records from our early church years were destroyed in a fire when Marley's store burned several years ago.

Thus, we hope our account of the church given in this booklet is fairly accurate. We ask anyone who recalls additional stories or anecdotes about the early church to report them to some member of the heritage committee so they can be recorded as part of our history in later years.

Since we had to depend on memory rather than records we choose not to write a chronological history of the church. Instead we've put many different stories together on several different subjects. Each of these individual stories may cover part or all of the 100 years that our church has been in existence.

In this booklet we've tried to convey the fact that United Methodists have always been a caring and loving group of people. Our primary mission is that of spreading the word of God in our community and throughout the world.

Our methods may differ from those of other churches. But we recognize and acknowledge that we are all part of the same divine brotherhood regardless of our denomination.

As United Methodists we represent more than a single group of people who attend Jordan Memorial at Ramseur, North Carolina. We strongly beleive in the concept of living our religious commitments rather than just speaking them in public.

Jesus taught his early followers, "When you refuse to help the least of these, my brothers, you refuse to help me." Thus, we believe that helping our fellow man regardless of nationality, social creed, race or worldly standing is a priviledge and responsibility afforded all Christian people.

One of our major strengths as United Methodists is the connectional church. Through this highly organized church connection we have access to leadership and resources that wouldn't be possible otherwise.

From our bishops, district superintendents, ministers, and other staff people of the connectional church we draw leadership and strength. And although this high degree of organization may seem awkward to outsiders at times, it works well to keep our denomination strong and viable.

In our local church we also have a high degree of organization. This gives a large percentage of the members of our congregation a chance to be part of its leadership.

A century seems like such a long time for any

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organization to exist. Thousands of clubs, companies, organizations, families and individuals have come and gone during this time.

Even more amazing is the fact that for 20 centuries a strong belief in Christ the Son of God has been passed to each succeeding generation. While each generation has slightly altered the way it choses to worship, the sprit of God continues to guide us and shape our civilization.

We the people of Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church are fortunate to live where freedom to Worship God as we see fit is guranteed by government. Not all people on Planet Earth are so lucky.

May God continue to grant this priviledge to the generations that follow us. And may succeeding generations find the strength to cary the torch of Christianity for centuries to come. Budget For 1986

Conference & District	1986
One Figure Apportionment District Expense Fund District Missions Lake Junaluska Fund District Camp Fund Missional Priorities Duke Fund	\$12,400. 810. 473. 158. 473. 203. 95.
Total Conference & District Expense	\$14 , ó12.
Local Expenses	
Pastor's Salary	\$18,744.
Pastor's Travel	2,000.
Pastor's Hospital	
	900.
Pastor's Dependent's Insurance	960.
Secretary's Salary	3,300.
Organist/Choir	.,
Director's Salary	3,600.
Janitorial Service	3,000.
Lawn Maintenance	650.
FICA Taxes	486.
Christmas Gifts	257.

Bulk Mail & Postage Choir Expense Commissions Electricity Fuel Oil Insurance Literature MYF & Youth Camp Vacation Bible School Randolph Hospital Chaplaincy Flowers Supplies & Printing Capital Savings Telephone Upper Room & Christian Home Water/Sewer Boy Scout Troop 508 Cub Scouts Girl Scouts Speakers Repairs Parsonage Fund Capital Expenditures Centennial Celebration & History Publication (To be reimbursed by sale of books)	600. 300. 400. 4,000. 1,000. 2,227. 2,200. 450. 250. 100. 300. 3,000. 650. 300. 80. 100. 50. 50. 250. 1,500. 750. 400. 2,500.
TOTAL LOCAL EXPENSE	\$57,354.
GRAND TOTAL	\$71,966.
ount Needed Each Sunday To Meet Budget	\$1,383.

Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church Church Officers For 1986

Lay Leader Jerry Boyd Delegate to Annual Conference Mrs. Toni G. Marley Alternate Delegates W. Harvey Burgess Vaughn H. Dorsett Mrs. Henrietta H. Dorsett Chairperson Council on Ministries Mrs. Emily C. Johnson Work Area Chairpersons: Education Mrs. Claudia H. Ihme Evangelism Ernest E. Zerfoss Ecumencial & Interreligious Concerns Mrs. Toni G. Marley Missions Mrs. Henrietta H. Dorsett Church Society and Religion & Race Mrs. Wilma D. Hardin Stewardship D. Bruce Ihme Worship Mrs. Carolyn J. Albright Higher Education & Campus Ministry Mrs. Barbara C. Rains Social Concerns Mrs. Pat A. Vincent Age Level Coordinators: Children Mrs. Chris J. Cox Youth J. Ray Albright

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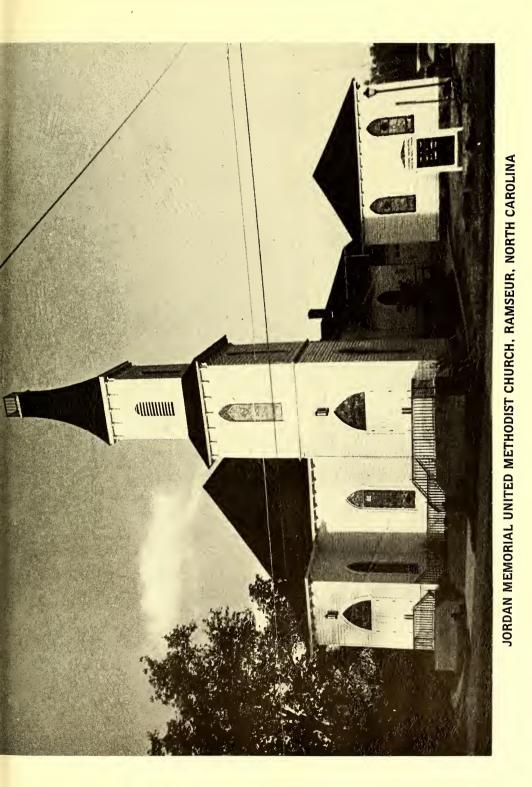
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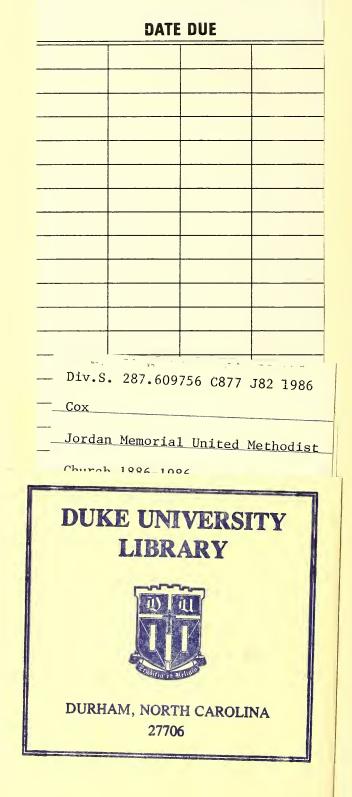
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