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Lewis Chapel Sumter Records

Lewis Chapel United Methodist Church, Sumter

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Recommended Citation

Lewis Chapel United Methodist Church, Sumter, "Lewis Chapel Sumter Records" (2023). *Methodist Local Church Records*. 203.

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History of Lewis Chapel

During the early summer of 1851, a group of men, women and children assembled under the shade of some oak trees, for the purpose of making some plans, whereby, they might worship and glorify their God. Their wishes were made known to the Presiding Elder Samuel Wragg Capers of the Columbia district of the South Carolina Conference and Rev. Nicholas Talley and Rev. John Wesley North were appointed to preach to this group the remainder of the year.

After some discussion on the subject of providing a house of worship, it was unanimously agreed by the group to build one as soon as possible. Robert H. Tisdale and Isaac Reddin Brunson Sr. were elected the first trustees and bought two acres of land from Andrew J. Moses for the sum of two dollars for said plot. This transaction was made August 2, 1851, and the deed was secured and recorded in Sumterville Court House (now Sumter Court House) August 4, 1851, in Book 0, pages 177-178. The deed was written by G. W. Black and E. H. Jones and contained a Trust Clause. The plot at present assumes a rectangle shape, due to recent changes in the public road and a canal ditch.

After having secured the land upon which to build a House of Worship, these consecrated and God-loving people began to formulate plans and gather materials for the building. While preparations were in the making for the church building, this group continued to meet regularly under the Oak Tree for worship.

Robert H. Tisdale, a carpenter of his day, was made overseer of this building and with the help of the other men, work was soon begun. Records state that all work on the building was done by the group without any recompense.

During the South Carolina Annual Conference in session at Georgetown, South Carolina, December 10, 1851, this newly organized congregation was welcomed into the Sumter Circuit under the name of "Shelter". This name was chosen because a few boards had been secured to assist the

Oak Tree in protecting the congregation from the sun and rain until the church was finished. Bishop J.O. Andrews presided at the conference in Georgetown and Rev. Allan McCorquodale was appointed pastor for this group, with William Wynn Mood as assistant pastor.

Rev. Samuel Wragg Capers continued as Presiding Elder. These men of God were assisted by a local preacher by the name of William Lewis, who gave every assistance possible to the new family of God as they built their house of worship. He is credited with doing a great deal of the hard labor on the church.

The building was completed during the early part of May, 1852, and was dedicated to God, May 28, 1852, by the pastor, Rev. McCorquodale, using as a text the following scripture: "Lord, I love the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honor dwelleth." Psalm 26:8. On this occasion the name was changed from Shelter to Lewis Chapel in honor of the faithful services and keen interest shown by Rev. William Lewis. The membership of the church at this time was 41.

Mr. Tisdale, Isaac Reddin Brunson Sr. (born Dec. 25, 1811-died May 9, 1874), M.B. Brunson, and James S. Newman did much work to assist in the early organization of Lewis Chapel.

According to the "Watchman and Southron" 1903, Mr. Tisdale was one of the oldest citizens living in the Concord township where he spent his long life. He was a useful and valued citizen. He is buried in the Lewis Chapel Church Cemetery alongside his beloved wife, Sarah Elizabeth.

Some years later, the Rev. Henry A. Bass, Miss Kate Tisdale and Mrs. Euphrasia Newman Childers (1857-1949) worked exceedingly hard to keep the church organized. And because of their untiring efforts and splendid services these names shall ever be cherished and revered by the people of this church and community as well.

During the organization of Lewis Chapel a thriving Sunday School existed throughout the years, and special mention should be given to the splendid services rendered by the following

superintendents; Rev. Henry Bass, Miss Kate Tisdale, J. Dozier Newman, D.L. Smith, J. B. Gordon, Mr. James F. Prescott, who faithfully served for twenty-three years and Mr. A.B. Mooneyhan.

According to the Second Quarterly Conference April 26, 1931 of the Oswego Charge, a start had been made on remodeling Lewis Chapel. A plan was decided and logs for the framing were cut to improve the sanctuary and to add Sunday School rooms. The Rev. R.R. Tucker was the Preacher in charge during this time.

In 1957, Lewis Chapel and Zoar Churches formed a charge known as Lewis Chapel-Zoar. Plans were immediately formulated to build a parsonage. A two-acre lot was secured directly opposite Lewis Chapel on Highway 57, and work on the building was begun November 1, 1959. By February 25, 1960, the parsonage was completed at a cost of \$16,500.00 including furnishings. The Rev. T.L. Bryson was pastor during construction.

In late 1972, under the guidance of the Rev. Jerry Watson, plans were made and funds sought for the construction of an additional building adjacent to Lewis Chapel to provide more classrooms plus a fellowship hall and related facilities.

To give this building fund a substantial start, a long-time member and Sunday School teacher, Mrs. H. D. (Bessye) Brunson, offered to donate \$ 8,000 with a challenge to the congregation to equal that amount before construction began. The congregation met Mrs. Brunson's challenge and groundreading was held July 1, 1973. Much of the foundation and finishing work was done by members of the church. The completed building consisted of six classrooms plus a nursery, a pastor's study, kitchen and restroom facilities and a fellowship hall to accommodate related functions.

This new addition was dedicated on March 24, 1974, and named the Bessye Brunson Fellowship Hall.

In August, 1976, upon the death of A.B. Mooneyhan, a member and leader for nearly 25 years, memorial contributions made in his name to the church were designated by his family to be used to establish a church library. Again, the Rev. Watson extended much needed ideas, coaching,

assistance and encouragement in aiding a committee to complete this project.

The A.B. Mooneyhan Memorial Library was dedicated on March 20, 1977, and contained 126 books.

As attendance increased, the congregaton decided to renovate the sanctuary in 1987 to expand the seating capacity. This renovation was completed in the summer of 1987.

On September 22, 1989, Hurrícané Hugo roared through South Carolina and Sumter County was struck extremely hard. The sanctuary of Lewis Chapel feel victim to this indescribable tragedy. The congregation was disappointed but hopeful that God would guide us through this horrible experience. They chose seven members to guide us through the planning and building program. The Building Committee, Graham Tisdale, Chairman, Carson Prescott, Grace Prescott, Nancy Boykin, Christine Johnson, Clarence Huggins, and Wade Warr tirelessly pursued the vision of providing the best facility possible for this generation and those yet to come.

The present sanctuary was dedicated to the glory of God on November 24, 1991. This new facility should be a continual testimony of how God can work in a tragedy for the good of those who love Him. In His Hands the curse of Hurrícané Hugo has been turned into an unspeakable blessing for the congregation of Lewis Chapel. May His Name be praised in every generation allowed to worship in this lovely sanctuary.

Reverend William Lewis

Born: 1798

Died: April 21, 1869

In the town of Sumter, there lived William Lewis, a local preacher, who for many was the Ordinary (Judge of Probate) of the Sumter district, which included the county of Clarendon. Lewis Chapel was named in honor of him due to his faithful service and keen interest shown during the early days of its organization.

In Reverend Lewis's electioneering trips, he frequently preached at Oak Grove Church in Clarendon County. Rev. Lewis was deeply concerned in the temperance movement of the day and strongly aided by addresses and otherwise in the campaign led by Judge O'Neal against "King Alcohol".

The temperance meetings held in Oak Grove Church were addressed by Rev. Lewis, John S. Richardson, Dr. Joseph Gallvehat, and William T. B. Haynesworth, then a young man just beginning the practice of law.

William Lewis was born around 1798. He had 7 children by his first wife Louisa C., who died in 1849.

Lewis married Sarah Panthea Mellette on Sept. 5, 1850 of Sumterville by the Reverend E.L. King. Of this union one son was born in 1851, William Mellette Lewis. Sarah died at her residence in Sumterville on the 13th of February 1852.

Reverend Lewis married for the third time to Ms. Elizabeth T. Wilson on February 21, 1853 in Sumter, S.C. She was from Georgetown, S.C.

Rev. William Lewis died in 1869 at the age of 72 years old.

Excerpt from An Imaginary Tour of the City of Sumterville in 1855 it states:

"It is just about two hundred yards back to the bridge and those rails so nicely adjusted on the top of the fence, mark the place where Judge William Lewis, County Ordinary, gets over the fence. He frequently sits for hours and talks with people who pass along the road. That black man

coming round the path from his house is named Shady. He can make music on a tin horn as long as a rail, that'll bring all the raccoons in the creek out to dance.

This is the avenue leading to Judge Lewis' house. You see his house, two stories, four large columns, the roof painted red, the wide flower garden, well kept. One can see that he is in easy circumstances”.

Pastors Records from 1855-1877

It is unfortunate Lewis Chapel has no official Pastor records during the years 1855-1877 possibly because of the ravages from the Civil War and its aftermath. We do know that before 1855 and after 1877 our church charge was the Sumter Circuit until 1905. Also we know that services were not interrupted during these years. The list of ministers for the years before 1878 is sometimes a matter of educated guesswork because minutes from the annual conferences did not list which churches were part of each circuit before that time.

Below are the ministers who served Sumter or Sumterville Circuit during these years. Although I can't promise these ministers served Lewis Chapel Church, it is highly favorable .

Sumter Circuit's ministers:

1855 Julius J. Fleming, Robert W. Burgess
1856 Julius J. Fleming, James T. Munds
1857 Bond English
1858 Bond English
1859 Manning Brown, Robert B. Allston
1860 Manning Brown, Lindsay C. Weaver
1861 Alexander Smith, William Hodges
1862 Alexander Smith, John L. Sifly
1863 Paul F. Kistler and James P. DePass
1864 Paul F. Kistler
1865 John V. North
1866 Charles Taylor, Samuel J. Hill
1867 John W. Murray
1868 John W. Murray
1869 John W. Murray
1870 John W. Murray, Benjamin F. Dixon
1871 Samuel J. Hill
1872 Samuel J. Hill
1873 John A. Porter
1874 Lewis M. Little, William A. Rogers
1875 Lewis M. Little, William A. Rogers

1876 Lewis M. Little, John A. Stokes
1877 John C. Stoll, Felix Hartin

Lewis Chapel United Methodist Church Pastors 1851- Present

DISTRICT	CHARGE	YEAR	PASTOR
Sumter	Sumter Circuit	1851-1853	Allan McCorquodale
Sumter	Sumter Circuit	1854	Sidi H. Browne
No Record	No Record	1855-1877	No Record
Sumter	Sumter Circuit	1878-1883	J. Sidney Beasley
Sumter	Sumter Circuit	1884-1887	John A. Mood
Sumter	Oakdale Circuit	1888-1892	W. Eidson Barre
Sumter	Sumter Circuit	1893-1894	Thomas James White
Sumter	Sumter Circuit	1895-1896	Albert H. Best
Sumter	Sumter Circuit	1897-1898	Major M. Byrd
Sumter	Sumter Circuit	1899-1903	Samuel D. Bailey
Sumter	Sumter Circuit	1904-1905	William. C. Gleaton
Sumter	Oswego	1906-1910	David Hucks
Sumter	Oswego	1911-1913	J.P. Attaway
Sumter	Oswego	1914-1915	John P. Inabnit
Sumter	Oswego	1916-1917	Shula W. Henry
Sumter	Oswego	1918-1921	John W. Elkins
Sumter	Oswego	1922-1925	Charles S. Felder
Sumter	Oswego	1926-	William Raymond Jones
Sumter	Oswego	1927-	David N. Busbee
Sumter	Oswego	1928-1930	Samuel Eugene Ledbetter
Sumter	Oswego	1931-1932	Robert R. Tucker
Sumter	Oswego	1933-1934	J.F.M. Hoffmeyer
Sumter	Oswego	1935-1939	L. E. Pope
Sumter	Oswego	1940-1944	Thomas C. Shuler
Sumter	Oswego	1945(Supply)	J.P. Inabnit
Sumter	Oswego	1946-	J. Carsey Inabinet
Sumter	Oswego	1947-1948	Bob G. Murphy
Sumter	Oswego	1949-	W.T. Boggs
Sumter	Oswego	1950-1953	Laurie W. Smith
Sumter	Oswego	1954-1956	C.P. Chewning
Sumter	Lewis Chapel-Zoar	1957-1959	T. L. Bryson
Hartsville	Lewis Chapel-Zoar	1960-1963	Reginald C. Thames Jr.
Hartsville	Lewis Chapel-Zoar	1963-1964	Daniel A. Morrison
Lake City	Lewis Chapel-Zoar	1964-1965	John E. Goodwin
Lake City	Lewis Chapel-Zoar	1965-1967	Charles O. Tuttle
Lake City	Lewis Chapel-Zoar	1967-1968	J. M. Barrington
Lake City	Lewis Chapel-Zoar	1968-1970	Bob A. Wesley
Florence	Lewis Chapel-Zoar	1970-2002	Jerry M. Watson
Florence	Lewis Chapel-Zoar	2002-2006	Lee Phillips
Florence	Lewis Chapel-Zoar	2006-2008	Mike Morris
Florence	Lewis Chapel-Zoar	2008-2012	John M. Bauknight
Florence	Lewis Chapel-Zoar	2012-2016	Karen Starr

Last name	First name
Allen	April
Anderson	Amy
Beaudet	Chris
Beaudet	Shelby
Boykin	Johnny
Boykin	Nancy
Boykin	Wanda
Branch	Lori
Brogdon	Jeffrey
Brogdon	Dana
Brown	Jacob
Brown	Whitney
Brown	Lewis
Brown	Joanne
Brown	John
Brown	Missy
Brown	Dalton
Brown	Gavin
Brown	Ronald

Brown	Donna
Bryant	Olivia
Burns	Ronnie
Burns	Tony
Burns	Stephanie
Burns	Josh
Burns	Caleb
Campbell	Mark
Campbell	Tammy
Campbell	Jackson
Campbell	Davis
Carrigan	Vickie
Chandler	Pat
Chandler	Tona
Charles	Edward
Charles	Gayle
Chavis	Gloria
Christensen	Hannah
Coker	Clifton
Coker	Lisa
Daniels	Reese

Daniels	Rembert
Davis	Oscar
Davis	Betty Jean
Davis	Ozzie
Edge	Jim
Edge	Philissa
Faul	Ashton
Ferguson	Cynthia
Freeman	Myra
Fulton	Diane
Fulton	Will
Griffin	Trey
Griffin	Nicole
Hatfield	Betty
Hatfield	Don
Holliday	Barry
Holliday	Alice
Holliday	George
Huggins	Betty
Huggins	Le
Huggins	Misty

Kirby	Justin
McLeod	Lauren
Nero	Elaine
Newman	Margaret
Nobles	Tyler
Nobles	Meredith
Pearson	Ruth
Peebles	Haynes
Peebles	Rocky
Peebles	Shirley
Peyton	Jadin
Prescott	William (Billy)
Prescott	Grace
Prescott	Carson
Prescott	Dotsy
Prescott	Danny
Prescott	Dollee
Prescott	Larry
Prescott	Janet
Prescott	Chris
Prescott	LH

Prescott	Loretta
Prescott	Louise
Prescott	Phil
Prescott	Ray
Prescott	Sammy
Prescott	Ryan
Prescott	Landon
Prescott	Anna Gail
Prescott	Terry
Prescott	Anne
Prescott	Wendell
Proctor	Walt
Proctor	Lib
Rogers	Elvin
Rogers	Stella
Rogers	Gayle
Sandifer	Benji
Sandifer	Mindy
Sandifer	Eli
Sandifer	Bobby
Sandifer	Teresa

Saunders	Carl
Scott	Mitzy
Scott	Robert
Scott	Patricia
Smith	Billy Jean (BJ)
Smith	Ronnie
Smith	Diane
Squires	Monica
Squires	Leighton
Squires	Tommy
Stanfield	Allison
Stegner	Joe
Stegner	Georgana
Stewart	Elizabeth (Lib)
Still	David
Thompson	Sherry
Thompson	Jason
Timms	Valeta
Timmons	Megan
Timmons	John
Tisdale	Lisa

Trask	David
Trask	Debbie
Waters	Sandy
Watson	Betty
Watt	Patsy
Watt	Morgan
Watt	Sherri
Watts	Robbie
Watts	Robert (Bert)
Watts	Amy
Watts	Gerald
Watts	Kathy
Watts	Johnny Ray
Watts	Elizabeth (Beth)
Watts	Lynda
Watts	Robert
Watts	Darlene
Watts	Whitney
Watts	Ruby
Welch	Lance
Welch	Ashley

Welch

Ansley

Wilson

Mike

Yates

Joel

Yates

Dawn