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### Bethel Jackson Church History

Bethel United Methodist Church, Jackson

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## BEYOND JUBILEE

FOR SIXTY YEARS BETHEL HAS SERVED  
THE NEEDS OF ALL WHO CAME.  
QUIETLY BUT EARNESTLY, FAITHFULLY SHARING  
LOVE IN JESUS NAME.

BEYOND ITS YEAR OF JUBILEE  
IS ITS CALL TO A GRANDER DAY,  
WHEN LOVE AND LIGHT WILL LEAD THE CHURCH  
IN ITS JOURNEY TO A HIGHER WAY.

SAINTS HAVE COME AND GONE THROUGH HERE  
AS A GATE TO HEAVEN ABOVE.  
THEIR TIME ON EARTH WAS BRIEF BUT FILLED  
WITH LIGHT AND HEAVENLY LOVE.

AND NOW THEIR CHILDREN CARRY THE TORCH  
THAT SHINES ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT,  
KNOWING THE TIME WILL SURELY COME  
WHEN THEIR CHILDREN CARRY THE LIGHT.

WHO WILL CARRY FOR THE NEXT SIXTY YEARS  
THIS TORCH WHICH IS HANDED DOWN?  
WHO WILL DELIVER THE PRECIOUS TRUTH  
WHEN WE ARE NOT AROUND?

LET US TRAIN OUR CHILDREN WELL  
TEACHING SALVATION'S PLAN  
SO THEY WILL KNOW THE LIVING CHRIST  
DIED FOR EVERY MAN.

MAY WE TEACH THE TRUTH OF GOD,  
AS A LOVING RELATIONSHIP.  
WITH GOD'S ONLY SON AS THE SAVIOUR  
CAN THEY MAKE THAT HEAVENLY TRIP.

James H. Goodman

BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
TEN MORE YEARS OF SERVICE

On February 24, 2002, Bethel United Methodist Church in Jackson, South Carolina, celebrated its “Jubilee” year. The theme of the celebration was “Victory in Jesus, Fifty Years of Service to God and Community“

Rev. Jerry Davis was the Pastor, having served since 2001. He remained at Bethel until 2008.

Among his many talents were those of playing the guitar and singing. Many Sunday evenings and other special occasions, we enjoyed a time of special music by the Pastor and his “thrown-together” band which included one of his friends from a former pastorate, Hyman Creamer, Jim Berry and sometimes James Goodman on his harmonica.

During his tenure, his wife Pat lost her battle with leukemia and passed away leaving a huge void in the church community and in the parsonage family. It was during this time the church became the minister to its pastor and fully supported him in his suffering with the medical problems and the loss of his wife.

During the months of absence by the pastor, Rev. Bob Clyburn graciously filled in for him and served exceptionally well as the interim pastor. He is a retired minister who is a member of St. Johns United Methodist Church in Aiken, South Carolina. He and his lovely wife Mary Ann were adored by the grateful congregation.

To help pay medical bills, the church family participated in fund raising events for Pat Davis and Emily Zimmerman at Hall’s auction barn in Beech Island, as well as another event at the Hippodrome in North Augusta. Emily Zimmerman is the daughter of Rev. Zimmerman. She had a brain tumor which left her blind. She is still living today and has maintained a wonderful Christian attitude and demeanor.

In 2008 Jerry Davis retired at Annual Conference.

In 2008 Rev. William F. (Bill) Farley was sent to Bethel as the new

Pastor. He also retired after serving Bethel until 2010.

He had served in the United States Air Force, and while our pastor, piloted his own airplane.

When he arrived in Jackson he graciously lived in a rented house for several months while the parsonage was being renovated.

He was a beekeeper, having bee hives at his mountain home. He donated jars of honey to the UMW and the UMM for their booth at the Hook and Cook Festival.

It was during his tenure that children returned to Bethel and a new Sunday school class was formed for small children by Robin Dennis.

In meetings with the District Superintendent, the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee indicated that the church would like to have a young minister, since it had had so many elderly retirement aged ministers. The youth of the church seemed to be dwindling down because of leaving for other larger churches who had more vibrant youth groups. The superintendent understood the wishes and promised to send a young man in whom he had great confidence.

In 2010 the new Pastor was Rev. Gene Aiken who is the current Pastor as we celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> year as a United Methodist Church. Although he is attending the Seminary, he still finds time to be a caring pastor to an aging and needy congregation. He also works toward restoring a growth pattern in membership and participation by all age groups.

On the day his family was supposed to move into the parsonage, his wife entered the hospital and delivered their first child. She was a beautiful little girl whom they named Ann Michelle. She is now walking, running, and has become the heart of many of the church members.

One of the highlights of our church family life was the Christening of Ann Michelle. The District Superintendent, Rev. John Hipp, Rev. Ken Nelson, the grandparents, Rev. and Mrs. Terry Fleming, Mr. and Mrs.

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William M. Aiken, and Will Aiken, (brother to Rev. Gene) were all present on that Sunday morning for the special occasion.

Rev. Aiken has brought back life to a UMYF and the tradition of a Christmas drop-in at the parsonage. Neither had been alive for many years.

## OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The congregation has continued its outreach programs in the community. The members bring a different can, box, or bag of food each month for the Jackson Food Program.

Coats and sweaters are collected annually for ACTS so that they may be distributed to needy persons.

Funds are collected throughout the year from donations, other fundraisers such as the Easter Lilly dedications, and the Christmas Poinsettias dedications, while pennies are saved and turned in to the Family Ministries Committee all for the purpose of purchasing Christmas toys and gifts for needy children in the Jackson school system.

The Church also has a drive each year before the beginning of the school year, to collect school supplies for the children at Redcliffe Elementary and the Jackson Middle School.

One of the favorite things the Family Ministries provides is the ice cream socials. They appear to be the favorite kind of Sunday evening family dinner. Other dinners, such as the lasagna and pizza dinners, were held as fundraisers for the children's Christmas fund.

Funds were donated by the members on "Souper Bowl" Sunday for the Golden Harvest Food Bank.

The United Methodist Men have contributed to the community by sponsoring the community breakfast in cooperation with First Baptist Church, Matlock Baptist Church, and First Christian Church.

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The men have built several ramps for handicapped or disabled persons. They also put on a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday each year. During the past year they donated a dishwasher for the "Habitat for Humanity" house in Jackson. The UMW provided meals for the workers.

They have a spring and fall Ladies Night each year. Entertainment is always included at the fall event which is held at Wesley Chapel. A steak supper is presented at these meetings. The spring program is held at Bethel.

The church still participates with First Baptist Church and First Christian Church, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night Song Service. The proceeds from the freewill offering goes to the Helping Hands organization for aid to the needy in the Jackson area.

The Sunday school has a joint breakfast each quarter, with each class taking turns providing the food and drink.

During Lent the Sunday school hour was used for a special study based on the book, "24 Hours that Changed the World" by Adam Hamilton. Every Sunday night during Lent the Pastor led a Bible study for all ages.

The UMW has sponsored two yard sales which were very successful. The proceeds were used for missions. It's second cookbook was published with over 500 recipes by church members.

The "Merry Christmas Dinner" for the widows of the town continues to be successful as a special project of the UMW.

Bethel UMW continues to be a "Five-Star Unit". In 2011 a very successful State UMW meeting was held at St. John United Methodist Church in Aiken, South Carolina. Approximately 500 ladies attended. Bethel UMW contributed to the success of this meeting.

The church family is committed to keeping adequate finances. It has always met its budget without any special fund raising campaign. It takes pride also in paying 100% of the Conference apportionments as well as funding its \$100,000.00 budget.

The Trustees have been busy fulfilling their duties. They put a new heating and cooling system in the fellowship hall, replaced the shrubbery at the parsonage, and have placed a handicap ramp at the fellowship hall.

The Worship Committee makes provisions for the monthly communion service which takes place on the first Sunday of each month.

### MEMBERS OF OTHER OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Phyllis Boyd is an officer of the Orangeburg District United Methodist Women.

Terri Goodman is a member and secretary of the Board of Directors of the Emmaus of the Midlands. "Walk to Emmaus" is a United Methodist Church program for spiritual renewal and growth.

James H. Goodman is a Certified Lay Speaker. He is a member and an instructor for the Orangeburg District Lay Speaking Committee.

Over the past ten years we have gained 27 new members and lost at least 25 by death. At the present time Bethel has approximately one hundred sixty-five members, with an average attendance each Sunday of about fifty-five.

### NEW MEMBERS

TODD ETHEREDGE	MATTHEW ROBERT DENNIS
JOHN BENJAMIN MARTIN	BEVERLY ELIZABETH MARTIN
KRYSTIN ASHLEY TUCKER	WALLACE (BO) CARTER
RAMONA CARTER	DOBBY ZIMMERMAN
MARIAN TERRY	SANDRA CAMPBELL
PATRICIA SEARS JOHNSON	DOROTHY BLISS
LARRY BLISS	
KENNETH ELLIS	ESTELLE ELLIS
ROBERT VANDERSLICE	DEL VANDERSLICE
CINDY STEED	KATHERINE FLEMING AIKEN

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PAT MASON	ROBERT HORACE STEED
MATTIE BATES STEED	CLAY HOLLEY
FLORENCE R. HADDEN	DAVID TONDU
JONATHON HILL	SHANNON GORDY

## SAINTS WHO ARE NOW HOME

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yea saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.” (Revelation 14:13)

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his Saints.  
(Psalms 116:15)

## DECEASED MEMBERS

Mary Maude Messer	2003	Roy Steed	2004
Patricia M. Deuel	2003	Melvane Scott	2005
Mary Messer Perdue	2005	Patricia A. Davis	2006
Harold Rhoad	2006	Larry Bliss	2007
Lee Williamson	2006	Douglas Boynton	2006
Abigail Mills	2007	Edna Overcash	2007
Elizabeth P Lott	2008	Thomas A. Grant	2008
Patricia Lindler	2009	Dianne Lord Hadden	2010
John Lewis	2011	Debbie Dennis	2011
Mary Mills	2010	Wallace (Bo) Carter	2010
Ernestine Martin	2011	Louis Phillips	2011
Chester Messer	2003		

Among those who passed away who were not members but attended our church were:

Gordon Brooks

Tommy Tucker

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## CHARTER MEMBERS

Mr. J. L. Steed  
Mrs. J.L. Steed  
Miss Ethel Steed

Mrs. Sarah Sullivan \*  
Mrs. Sam Patton  
Mr. Sam Patton



Mrs. L. B. Steed, Sr.  
Mr. C. W. Steed  
Mr. James C. Steed  
Mr. E. E. Steed  
Mrs. Edgar Foreman  
Mr. Joe Dale Hughes  
Mrs. Ruby Hughes  
Miss Dale Hughes \*  
Mr. C. A. Hill  
Mrs. Lorene Hill  
Mr. Robert Hill \*  
Mrs. Ida Brinkley  
Mr. J. E. Steed  
Mrs. J. E. Steed  
Mrs. Ralph Moore \*  
Mrs. John Franklin  
Mr. Harold Steed \*  
Mr. E. D. Risher  
Mrs. E. D. Risher  
Mr. L. B. Steed, Sr.  
Mrs. C. W. Steed  
Mrs. Jack Tipton

Mr. Lewis C. Haynes  
Mr. L. B. Steed, Jr. \*  
Mrs. Mack Bonner \*  
Mr. C. H. Hair  
Mrs. C. H. Hair  
Mr. Billy Hair \*  
Miss Jane Hair \*  
Mr. Donald Hair\*  
Mr. H. R. Harden  
Mrs. H. R. Harden  
Mrs. M. A. Hatchell \*  
Mr. Jack Harden \*  
Mrs. R. H. Dicks  
Mr. E. Donald Risher \*  
Mrs. E. Donald Risher \*  
Mrs. Hanson Peeples Lott  
    Mr. W. R. Moody  
Mrs. W. R. Moody  
Mrs. Don Reeves \*  
Mrs. W. D. Tisdale  
Mrs. Ronald E. Roundtree  
Mrs. Robert Thornton

\* Designates Charter members who are still alive

Any errors or omissions are not intentional. If you find a mistake Please notify James H. Goodman.

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## OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2012

PASTOR  
LAY LEADER  
CHM. ADM. BOARD  
LAY MEMBER TO A. CONF.  
LAY MEM TO AC (ALT)  
FINANCE CHAIRMAN  
CHURCH TREASURER

Rev. Eugene Aaron Aiken  
Lisa Holley  
George Boyd  
James H. Goodman  
Bill Dennis  
Art Hadden  
Bill Dennis

CHAIR. OUTREACH	Emily Goodman
CHAIR. MISSIONS	Tracy Sanford
HEALTH & WELFARE	Lee Bennett
HEALTH & WELFARE	Juanita Scott
CHAIR. EDUCATION	Chris Goodman
CHAIR. WORSHIP	Terri Goodman
CHAIR. WORSHIP	Cindy Steed
CHAIR. WORSHIP	Dobby Zimmerman
AGE LEVEL/FAMILY MIN.	Mary Beth Berry
RECORDING SECRETARY	Priscilla Polson
CHURCH HISTORIAN	James H. Goodman
SUPT. SUNDAY SCHOOL	Chris Goodman
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Joyce Creamer
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Terri Goodman
CHAIR. TRUSTEES	Diane Gattis
PRESIDENT UMW	Robin Dennis
PRESIDENT UMM	Chris Goodman

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS AT LARGE

Lee Bennett	Mary Beth Berry	Ramona Carter	Hyman Creamer
Hilda Dennis	Teal Etheredge	Todd Etheredge	Frances Gattis
Dan Gattis	Sherrill Gattis	Jim Goodman	Barbara Gordy
Wade Gordy	Joyce Grant	Lisa Holley	Clay Holley
Roy Howell	Margie Howell	Lou Ellen Lewis	Betty Martin
John Martin	Earl Northrup	Karl Overcash	Jerry Risher
Tracy Sanford	Juanita Scott	Gregg Steed	Margaret Steed
L.B. Steed, Jr.	Connie Steed	Lynn Sullivan	Dan Sullivan
Tina Sullivan	Jo Tondou	Robert Vanderslice	

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COM. ON NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Hilda Dennis	Lee Bennett	for 2012
Ray Martin	Del Vanderslice	for 2013
Margaret Steed	Pat Mason	for 2014

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (MEMBERS AT LARGE)

Joyce Creamer	Hilda Dennis	Wade Gordy	Pat Sullivan
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CHARGE COMMITTEE ON PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS

Phyllis Boyd	Barbara Martin	for 2012	
Todd Etheredge	Terri Goodman	Dobby Zimmerman	for 2013
Wade Gordy	Cindy Steed	for 2014	
Lay Member(s) to Annual Conference	Lay Leader		

TRUSTEES

Class of 2012	Robin Dennis	Ron Steed
Class of 2013	Emily Goodman	Art Hadden
Class of 2014	Hyman Creamer	Diane Gattis

JUST PASSING THROUGH

I wonder sometimes how this world will be  
In years to come, without me.  
Yet thousands of years have come and gone  
Before I arrived, it was not alone.

Like any other trip, life's journey will end,  
So endure the storms, the rain and wind.  
Cherish the good times and places, though few,

Knowing that you are just passing through.

Teach me to number my days, it was said,  
So more than knowledge may fill my head.  
And wisdom of mind, body, and soul  
Can create strength to reach life's goal.

Life's precious goal is life to be  
Enduring for eternity,  
And yet we know the fact is true,  
We're only here just passing through.

What poets have said is still sublime,  
"We're actors on the stage of time."  
The curtain goes up and our life begins,  
Down it goes, and life here ends.

So live and love while you can.  
Don't wait for some future plan.  
The hand of death may reach for you,  
Remember we're just passing through.

James H. Goodman

The primary goal of Bethel United Methodist Church for the coming years is to be a vibrant living church, presenting the unblemished truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. With special emphasis on:

1. Jesus saves
2. All are welcome to become a part of this church family
3. Setting an example of Christian living that shows a transformed life
4. Continuing to reach out to the community with encouragement and inspiration

5. Continuing to meet physical as well as spiritual needs of the community
6. Continuing to teach church doctrine and history of the United Methodist Church.
7. Becoming more committed to teaching our children the Bible and Biblical principles for living
8. Supporting The United Methodist Church in it's worldwide missions with our resources and prayers
9. Teaching our church family the importance of understanding and appreciating the universal Church
10. Loving and supporting each other in good times and bad

## 2015

Long time Bethel member, James H. Goodman, Sr. passed away on February 14, 2015.

Bethel received its first female pastor in June of 2015. Rev. Hope Avins and her husband, Tim Morris and their son Michael moved into the parsonage in late June. Hope and her family were welcomed into the Bethel church family. Our previous pastor, Rev. Gene Aiken, was moved to Central, SC.

Began Forward Focus process of analyzing the various aspects of the church including financial status, demographics, etc. in order to help the church to grow.

## 2016

A celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mrs. Elma Steed took place on Saturday, April 30, 2016 in the church fellowship hall. Many

family and friends attended. There were five generations present including the newest edition, Eli Caldwell, who is nine weeks old. Eli is the son of Eric Caldwell who is the son of Karen Polson Bunch. Karen is the daughter of Priscilla Steed Polson and Elma Steed is her mother. Several items of memorabilia depicting the life of Mrs. Elma were on display including some current items such as congratulatory letters from the Governor of South Carolina, Mrs. Nikki Haley, a card from the White House signed by President Barack Obama and the First Lady, Michelle, and a letter from the town of Jackson. A photographer from the Aiken Standard newspaper was present and an article was published in the paper the next day.

2017

2018

New organ was delivered in May. The church's organ fund was a few thousand dollars short of having enough to purchase a new organ but the church decided to go ahead and purchase a new organ. Shortly after it was installed some sizeable contributions were made to the organ fund and with about \$400 left to go the idea to make some custom ink pens from the maple foot pedals of the old organ was pursued. The shortfall in the organ fund was quickly eliminated and an over \$300 surplus was obtained.