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Bethel United Methodist Church, Jackson

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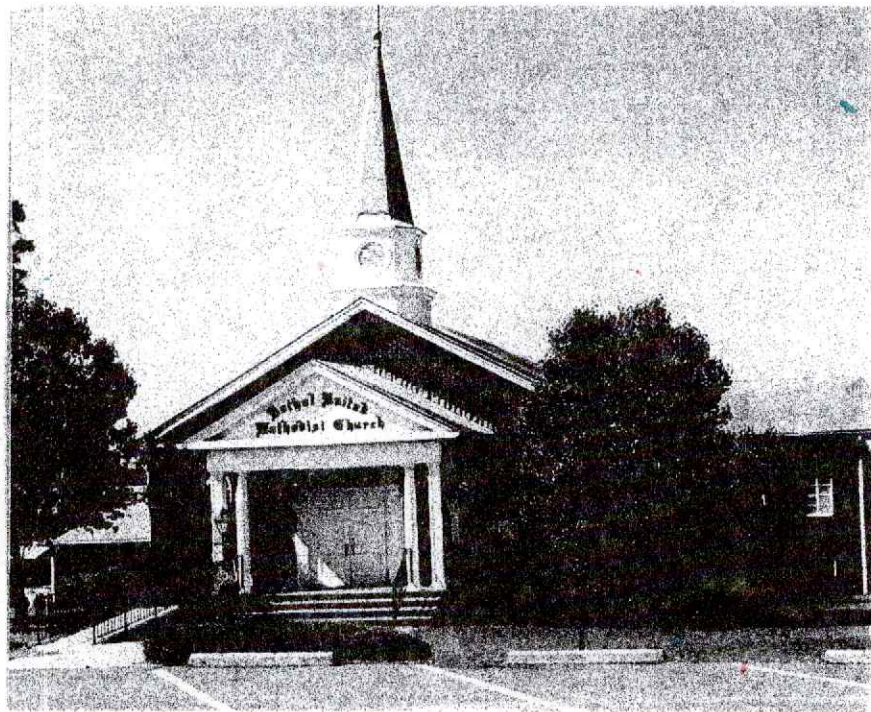
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VICTORY IN JESUS
FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE
TO GOD AND COMMUNITY



A HISTORY OF
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JACKSON, S. C. 29831

COMPILED BY DR. JAMES H. GOODMAN
CHURCH HISTORIAN

FEBRUARY 24, 2002

PRECIOUS MEMORIES

It used to be a sacred spot
When the church was there.
To all of us a blessed plot,
A place of love and prayer.

In my mind I still can see
The family gathered there.
We learned of peace and harmony,
To worship and to share.

When I was just a little lad
I sat upon the pew
With my mother and dad,
And older brother too.

It was yesterday it seems,
When life was young and pure.
We thought our hopes and youthful dreams
Forever would endure.

Those dangling feet above the floor,
Too short for a grown-up pew
Belonged to the pretty girl next door
Who changed my point of view.

I remember happy times and tears,
And our wedding day,
And other happy days and years,
As children came our way.

They followed in our steps it seems
We proudly now recall.
The church inspired their hopes and dreams
As they grew strong and tall.

There we buried mom and dad,
And my brother too,
Yet memories of the good we had
Outweigh the troubled few.

Now the little church is gone
And yet sweet peace I find,
For precious memories linger on
Within my grateful mind.

JAMES H. GOODMAN

(These are probably some of the thoughts which many of the Ellenton Church members had when they had to move out of the Savannah River Site area. The new building for the Ellenton Methodist Church had just been built when the announcement was made concerning the coming of the Atomic Energy Commissions' huge bomb plant.)

MINUTES OF FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Bishop Costen J. Harrell, The Methodist Church, Charlotte Area, at 10:00 A.M., February 15, 1952, in Jackson, S. C., at the home of Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Steed, to consider the organizational plans of the Church in the area and the sponsorship for the development of a social work program. Bishop Harrell presided, and opened the meeting with prayer. The Chairman thanked the host and hostess for their hospitality. Time of adjournment was set at 12:30, and Mr. Steed invited the group to a luncheon at the Home Folks Cafe as his guests. A secretary was appointed and instructed to forward copies of the minutes to those present, who were: Bishop Harrell, Rev. M. K. Medlock, District Superintendent, Columbia, S. C., Rev. J. L. Shingler, District Superintendent, Greenwood, S. C., Rev. T. F. Reed, District Superintendent, Aiken, S. C., Mrs. Helen Bourne, President, Women's Society of Christian Service, Greenwood, S.C., Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Steed, Jackson, S. C., Mrs. J. D. Hughes, Jackson, S.C., Mrs. Cubie Hill, Ellenton, S. C., Rev. J. L. Rogers, Williston, S. C., Mr. Johnnie Steed, Ellenton, S. C., and Miss Charlotte Stevenson, Social Worker, Columbia, South Carolina.

Upon the motion of the Rev. Mr. Reed, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Medlock, and unanimously carried, Bishop Harrell appointed a Committee on Methodist Work in the H-Bomb Project Area. Named to the committee were the three District Superintendents in the area involved, the Reverends Shingler, Medlock, and Reed; the pastors of the churches at Williston and Jackson; the Rev. Mr. Rogers and the Rev. Max Christopher; two representatives of the Women's Society of Christian Service, Mrs. Helen Bourne and Mrs. Paul Knox, North Augusta, S.C., Vice-President of the District WSCS. The committee functions as defined by Bishop Harrell are to have general oversight and supervision of the way to handle visitation and social services; to advise and set up general policies and administrative procedures for the social work program, without responsibility for day by day supervision. The Committee was to report quarterly to the Savannah River Atomic Project Area Council, but was constituted independently of that group. The general purpose would be to further development in the Jackson-Williston area, for though the problems in the rest of the area were critical, there were stronger and better-established churches there to handle them, and those problems should be referred to the churches in the community out of which they came.

The Chairman then announced the arrangements made for the salary of the social worker that had been worked out at the January meeting of the Board of Missions and Christian Education at Buck Hills Falls. The Women's Division was to pay \$2,000, \$500 of which was earmarked for equipment, the Conference Board of Missions was to pay \$2,000, plus allocation of \$500 from their equipment fund toward salary. Mileage within the area was to be submitted at the end of each month to Bishop Harrell, and reimbursed on the basis of five cents a mile. Mrs. Mabel G. Wagner, Director, Urban Work, WSCS, New York, offered to receive the money in her office and compute social security deductions and tax deductions, and Mrs. Bourne spoke for the Committee in asking to be relieved of this responsibility and placing it with Mrs. Wagner. Mrs. Bourne asked that the funds go through the Conference Treasurer of the WSCS, so as to be credited to it; but it appeared to the Chair that if this was done, it would duplicate the report of the Conference Board of Missions. It was decided a telegram would be sent to Mrs. Wagner. The Chair stated that he would send a check for the first month's salary direct to the worker, pending conclusion of arrangements to transfer his funds to Mrs. Wagner for this purpose.

The Chair raised the question of housing for the social worker, and since nothing was available in Jackson, the Kathwood School was deemed unsuitable by reason of its isolation, the worker and Mrs. Rogers were asked to go to Williston the following day to seek preacher would be available March 1. He had a wife and three daughters. Mr. J. L. Steed reported the apartment annex to the Eldon Risher home could be secured for \$2500, with the brick for veneering it, and Mr. Risher would give \$500 of the cost. It was decided to buy this house, which consisted of a living room, bedroom, kitchen and bath, with breezeway, place this on a lot opposite the church bought for the purpose, add two bedrooms as soon as possible. The house could be moved into as soon as it was placed on the site; the veneering and addition of the bedrooms could be done afterward. As it was so small, the Rev. Mr. Shingler was asked to write Mr. Christopher and suggest that his family visit relatives until the additional bedroom space was completed. It was thought that the church could readily sell this property when it was ready to build a more adequate parsonage on the lot adjoining the church.

The Chair requested a report on the Bethel Church, Jackson. Mr. J. L. Steed presented the deed to two lots he had donated, which he would have recorded at his own expense. The Chair directed that the deed have a trust clause, and name the trustees, J. E. Steed, J. D. Hughes, J. P. Sullivan, and their successors and assignees according to paragraph 247, page 79 of the Discipline. Mr. J. L. Steed reported that he had secured an option on a third lot, adjoining. The Ellenton Church equity, representing \$11,000 or \$12,000, would have to be divided at Quarterly Conference, as Mr. Sims and some three or four other families, representing fourteen members of the Ellenton church, joined Springs Church, New Ellenton area, and want part of the equity placed there. The members who moved to Aiken, Orangeburg, and Barnwell made no claim. Mr. Johnnie Steed reported moving the church may cost \$6000, but DuPont will not let the movers cross the bridges, and the deadline for moving is March 15. The Chair authorized the congregation to go ahead with moving the parsonage, making it habitable, and if any financial difficulty arose, the Conference would come to the rescue. Pastor's salary will be \$3,600, the local church paying \$100 per month, Wesley Chapel some, Bishop Harrell the rest. Unless Wesley Chapel helped more, it would be given only two services a month. The Chair asked that Church School begin the following Sunday in the School building, and the Rev. Mr. Shingler announced that religious services would begin immediately, with help from nearby pastors. Bishop Harrell promised to advance the Pastor's March salary on March 1, with the understanding Bethel Church would absorb their portion of this advance in April and May in order to reimburse the Bishop.

Mrs. Bourne instructed the representatives of the WSCS that they should assist with the project, but furnishing the parsonage should be a project of the entire membership. She advised the WSCS to go on faith and furnish the parsonage, if financial difficulties arose, it could be a matter to present to the Conference for Advance Specials as a Home Mission project. The new pastor had no household goods. Mrs. Hill reported \$225 was left in the treasury of the Ellenton WSCS, which consisted of 20 members. Appeal had been made by two members who had joined Springs Methodist Church for their share, and Mrs. Bourne authorized giving them \$25.00, the rest to be used for the parsonage. Other members of the Ellenton Society had gone to Walterboro, Orangeburg, and Aiken, and six would move to Jackson. A WSCS would have to be organized at once at Jackson.

The Chair asked the Committee on Methodist work to assume control at once, cooperate with the pastors, organize the Sunday school at Jackson, spend the next weeks in the area making contacts; begin religious instruction within the camps; with leaders reporting to the social

worker; find local help to visit in the camps, keep records, and turn over to regular pastors, in order to tie the families to local churches.

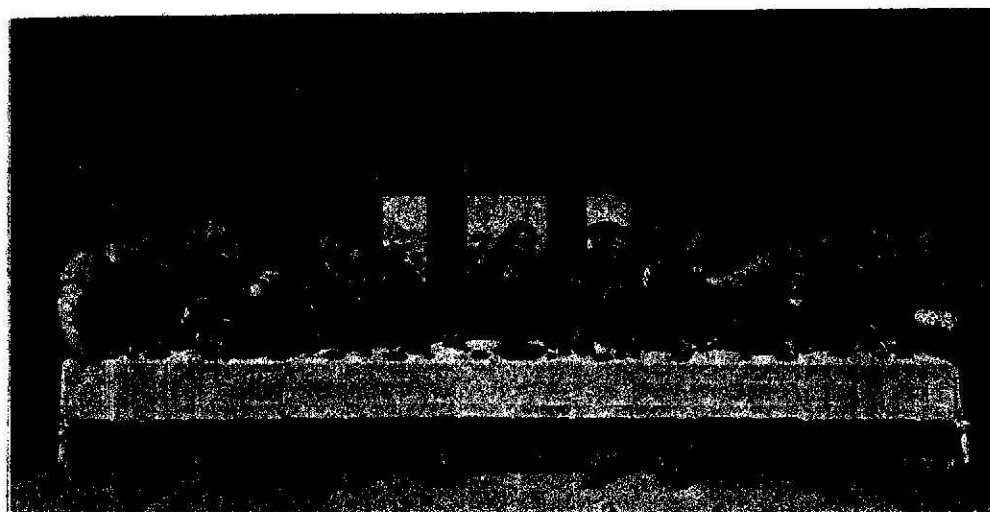
The Chairman asked that a lot be secured at Belvedere on the road between Trenton and North Augusta, as 900 permanent homes were to be built there in the next three years for sale. Baptists have asked for a lot. Likewise, the Bishop suggested that a lot be secured in the area being built by Mr. Calhoun Lemmon in Barnwell, free of his restrictive clause requiring erection of a church within twelve months.

The Rev. Mr. Rogers reported that the barracks for single men working at the H-bomb plant had no place for holding services, and a community center was needed.

The Chair concluded the meeting with the advice to proceed with the moving of the parsonage and church, with the help of the Ellenton people and assurance that the Conference was back of these plans. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 with prayer, to be followed by an inspection of the lots, and luncheon.

Respectfully submitted

Charlotte Stevenson, Secretary



HISTORY OF BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH JACKSON, S.C.

The history of Bethel United Methodist Church actually began in another place and at another time. That place was Ellenton, South Carolina, a town that no longer exists except in the minds and memories of those who were forced to leave it behind.

The Ellenton Methodist Church in Ellenton had worshipped in their new and beautiful sanctuary for only a short time when it was announced by the Federal Government in November of 1950, that a new defense installation would be built in the area and several small, but well-established towns, including Ellenton, would have to be moved to make way for this installation which was to be called the Savannah River Project. This area would encompass the area of Ellenton, Myers Mill, Dunbarton, and other communities in Aiken and Barnwell Counties.

Several members of the Methodist Church in Ellenton moved into the Jackson community. Mr. and Mrs. Eldon D. Risher, with their children, Mr. and Mrs. Cubie Hill and their children, Mrs. Ida Brinkley, the grandmother of Fred, Carlisle, and Marion Brinkley, and several others, which included Mr. and Mrs. Henry Risher and their son, Jerry.

Mr. Eldon D. Risher purchased the church building when it was determined that it had to be moved. He had a church building but did not know what to do with it. He soon found that his purchase had had a purpose.

The community of Jackson mushroomed into the Town of Jackson almost overnight with construction families, displaced persons from the government-taken areas, new plant operation families and others moving in by the hundreds. Among these people were many Methodists looking for a church... a place to worship.

About thirty years prior to the coming of this major project, a Methodist Church had been discontinued in the Jackson Community. Its name had been Bethel Methodist Church. The Methodists of the community had continued worshipping in other areas, some at Wesley Chapel with the Beech Island Methodists, and some in the larger churches of Augusta.

With the rapid changes taking place and the influx of new people in Jackson, it appeared that the time was right to organize a new Methodist Church. Upon request by several of the local prospective members, Bishop Costen J. Harrell and members of his cabinet came to Jackson and encouraged the small Methodist band to look anxiously and actively toward their own church.

The first group of Jackson Methodists met in the old Jackson Elementary School on January 11, 1952, to discuss plans for a new church. On the evening of January 21, 1952, in the same classroom of the Jackson Elementary School, (now the Silverton Agriculture Club) the Bethel Methodist Church of Jackson was constituted by a group of fifteen lay workers. The first Quarterly Conference followed this meeting. The first Sunday School service was held in the school on February 17, with forty-three present, and the first church service was held on February 24, with sixty present.

The first sermon of the new church was presented by the Reverend John Shingler, Greenwood District Superintendent. Reverend Shingler and the Reverend Carlisle Smith were instrumental in helping the group with the organization of the church. Reverend Smith was then pastor of the Grace Methodist Church of North Augusta, and the Wesley Chapel Church in Beech Island.

Officers elected by this group were as follows:

TRUSTEES: J. E. Steed, J. P. Sullivan, Jr. and J. D. Hughes
STEWARDS: C. A. Hill, E. D. Risher, and J. L. Steed

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: J. D. Hughes
TREASURER: J. E. Steed

Less than two weeks after the constituting of the Bethel Church, the Women's Division of the Church, upon the suggestion of Bishop Harrell, assigned Miss Charlotte Stevenson, a social worker whose home was in Columbia, South Carolina, to assist with the development of the Church. One month later, in March of 1952, the Reverend Max Christopher and his family moved to Jackson where they made their home and served the church for three years.

One of the most pressing needs facing the newly organized church was a parsonage for the new pastor and his family. A suitable house was found in the Myers Mill Community, which also had to be moved out of the Savannah River Project. It was purchased and moved to the lot where it was soon furnished and ready for use. In March 1952, the Women's Society of Christian Service, under the guidance of Mrs. J. D. Hughes, was organized and instrumental in the furnishing and decorating of the parsonage. To assist in the task of organizing the Society, Miss Kate Kilgo and Mrs. John Shingler of Greenwood, were very helpful. Other Women's Societies from throughout the state came to the aid of the local group with donations of money and parsonage furnishings.

From the Jackson Elementary School, (presently the Silverton Agricultural Building) the congregation moved to the Cassels Funeral Home, and with the increased membership, later moved to the Masonic Hall where services were held until the formal opening of the church on March 1, 1953.

Actual construction of the church building began in July 1952, with construction taking place under the supervision of the Building Committee which had been appointed soon after the Church's constituting. Members of the Building Committee were: J. L. Steed, C. A. Hill, and E. D. Risher.

The early history of the church would be incomplete without mentioning the finances, which have been more than adequate.

The lots for the parsonage and church were donated by Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Steed, whose financial aid and helpful guidance meant much to the church. The Steeds offered the Building Committee the choice of several spots so that the most ideal place for the Church could be selected.

Further assistance for the church and parsonage was given by the General and Conference Board of Missions, which donated \$15,000.00. From the sale of the Ellenton Church, about \$8,000.00 was realized in cash for the Bethel Church, and about \$5,000.00 worth of salvaged material from the same building was used in the new church. The altar rail and the windows are among the items used from the old building.

According to the testimony of several Charter Members, in only ten minutes the small congregation of this new church pledged \$12,000.00. Consequently, all debt of the Church and parsonage was paid in full by the **FIFTH ANNIVERSARY** which was celebrated on Dedication Day for the new building on March 3, 1957. The value of the church property was at least \$90,000.00.

During the same time that Bethel was being built, the people of the community were also having to build their homes, a new school, and new businesses. It was remarkable and to their credit that they had their priorities in order when they built Bethel and the other churches of the town.

The church was built to accommodate a membership of 450. The sanctuary will seat in excess of 225 persons and from the early days has been equipped with an organ and a piano. The first Connsonata organ was given to the church by the late Mrs. Ida Brinkley.

In 1957 the church was repainted and the aisles of the sanctuary were cushioned with carpeting.

The educational section of the church includes seven classrooms and the Pastor's study. In addition to these rooms there is a comfortable meeting room, called "the Brick Room". It had a piano and also kitchen facilities. During the early 1960's the church had to make use of a house across the street to take care of the growing Sunday School enrollment.

By 1957 the church had grown from the constituting fifteen, to membership of 202, and Sunday School enrollment of 192 over its first meeting with 42 present.

One of the most active organizations of the Church is the Women's Society of Christian Service, which was subsequently named the United Methodist Women. On Dedication Day in 1957, their report showed that Mrs. Roy Steed was President of this organization. She was referred to as a loyal and faithful church member. Mrs. Lorene Hill was elected to succeed her that year.

Other organizations of the church which had become active were the Junior and Senior MYFs, as well as a young adult fellowship. From the very beginning, the Official Board, which subsequently became the Administrative Council, has played an active role in the church organization, along with the many commissions and appointed personnel for service.

SUCCESSION OF PASTORS

In September of 1955, the Reverend C. Eugene Jones succeeded Reverend Max Christopher as Pastor. Under his leadership, fifty-six persons became new members of the church. The indebtedness was paid in full, and the Church Building and Parsonage were dedicated on March 3, 1957.

During the tenure of Reverend Albert S. Harvey, which lasted from 1959 to 1961, a new steeple was added to the church building and the membership increased to 339.

Even though the construction boom of the Savannah River Plant was over, there were still a large number of Methodists in the area. The membership and attendance grew so much that it was necessary to use a vacant house across the street to house several Sunday School classes.

The combined adult, youth, and children's choirs exceeded a hundred. The choirs were directed by Mrs. H. G. Turner and Mr. Paul Whittle, and attracted the attention of the Methodist Advocate. A picture of this group appeared on the front cover of the January 21, 1960, issue of that magazine.

Reverend Robert C. O'Donnell served the church from 1961 to 1964. During this time 106 new members were added to the church roll, and the Men's Club was chartered.

The sixties brought race relations to the forefront. It was during this period that the first talks were held concerning the merging of the white and black conferences of the United Methodist Church. It was decided that the hierarchy of the church would be merged. Dissention arose in the church and Reverend O'Donnell resigned at the Annual Conference. That dissention had a long lasting affect on the congregation.

Reverend Ted R. Morton, Jr., was sent to the church to ensure stability in the growing congregation. He served from 1964 to 1968, receiving 58 new members. During his tenure a new four bedroom brick parsonage was built. The building committee consisted of Mrs. Henry Risher, Melvane Scott, J. D. Rhodes, and E. E. Steed, Chairman.

The Jackson Charge received the coveted Town and Country Development Award from the conference for outstanding development by a Church or Charge and was written up graciously in the Advocate. The organ was also replaced with a new one in 1967.

The Morton family was the first parsonage family to live in the new brick parsonage that presently serves the charge.

After the General Conference of 1968, Bethel Methodist Church became Bethel United Methodist Church as a result of the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Church.

Reverend James O. Gilliam, Jr., served the charge from 1968 to 1973. During this time 30 new members were accepted and the church roll was purged of the names of those who had left the church, died, or moved away.

March 7, 1971, the new parsonage was dedicated. Bishop Paul Hardin, Jr. and Dr. LeGrande Moody, the District Superintendent, officiated.

It was also during Reverend Gilliam's tenure that plans were made for a new fellowship hall. Reverend Gilliam is the only pastor that remained at Bethel more than four years. It was during his time that the men of the church competed with the other churches in baseball. The church had an excellent team.

Reverend Donald F. Funderburk was pastor from 1973 to 1977. On May 19, 1974, the conference gave Bethel permission to build the fellowship hall. The building committee members were: E. E. Steed, Chairman, Lucy Coleman, Hilda Dennis, Hyman Creamer, Tom Grant, E. D. Risher, Melvane Scott, and James H. Goodman.

In 1974 the church hosted its first, highly successful Lay Witness Mission and had good membership participation.

The new fellowship hall was completed in October of 1974. The church celebrated its 25th Anniversary on April 24, 1977, and at the same time dedicated the fellowship hall. Dr. E. Wannamaker Hardin officiated.

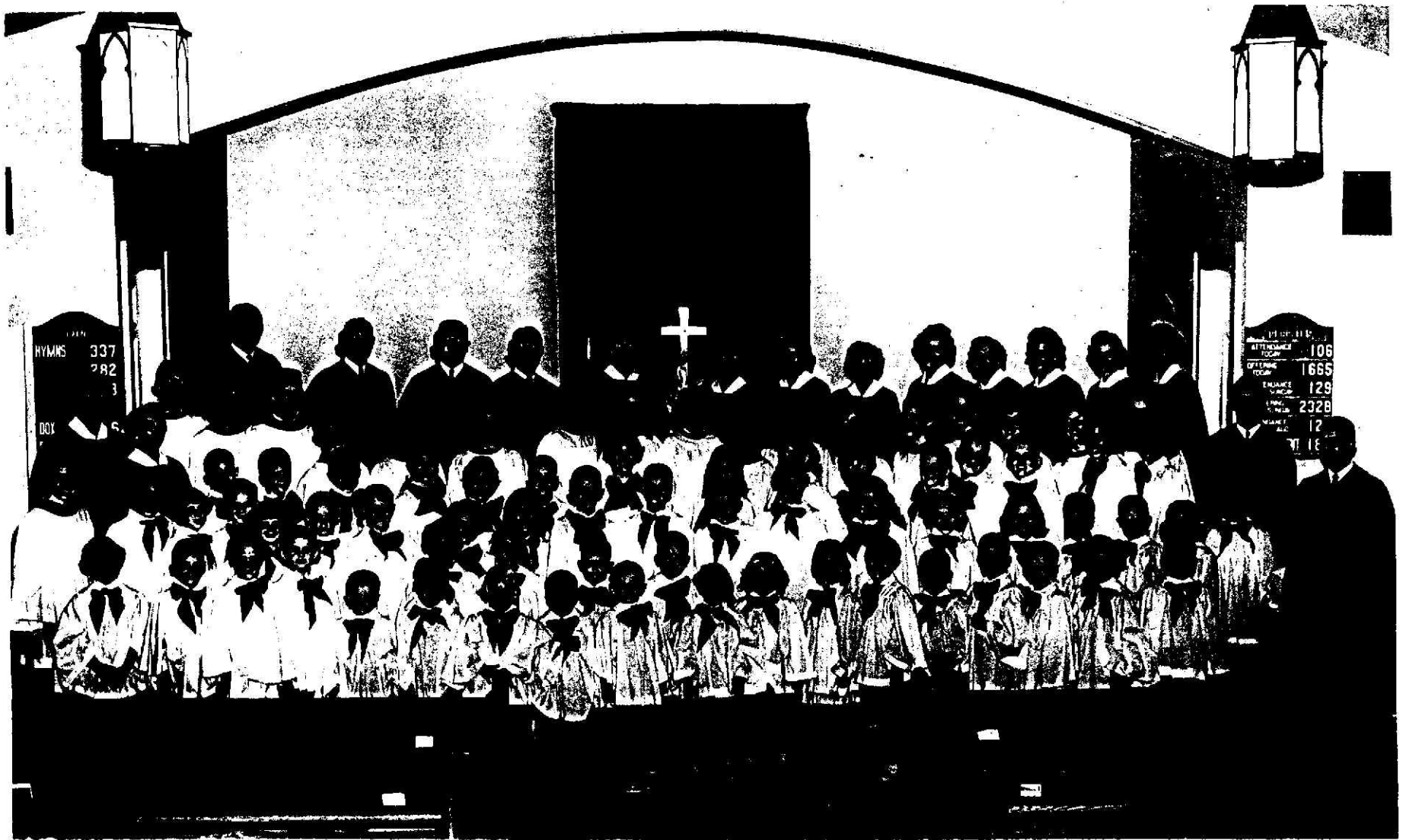
Reverend James H. Williams came to Bethel in 1977 and stayed until 1981. During his ministry we continued to go to the church camp at Asbury Hills, an annual custom which had been started when Reverend Ted Morton was pastor.

One of the most significant additions to the ministry of the church under his leadership was the "Powerline". The church had a telephone line dedicated to a recording machine and a new message of approximately one or two minutes was recorded each day. Reverend Williams made the recording at times, and laypersons made it at other times. It became a popular thing in Jackson, especially for the senior citizens and shut-ins, who called the Powerline to find out who had recorded the message, and of course, to hear the message itself. It was usually an uplifting biblical message. During these four years 33 persons were added to the church roll, and the finances of the church continued to be strong, with all apportionments being fully paid. Sixteen baptisms were administered during Reverend Williams' tenure.

Reverend Ralph Lowrimore came in 1981 and stayed to 1983. At the beginning of his second year he suffered a heart attack and was incapacitated for most of the year. Layspeakers of the church filled in for him many Sundays and made provisions to have guest speakers from other Methodist Churches and institutions to fill in on the other Sundays. That year the Layleader made provisions for more than thirty Sundays while the pastor recuperated. During Reverend Lowrimore's two years, 7 persons were added to the roll of the church, and 3 baptisms were administered.

The church sent Roy Howell and Paul Whittle on a Lay Missionary trip to St. Vincent in February 1983. They lived with the native people and helped them build a church. This was a cooperative program of the S. C. Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Reverend Ben E Locklair, Jr., was sent to serve the church in 1983. He retired in 1984 after serving for a year. During this year as well as during the two years of Reverend Lowrimore, a strong laity kept the church on course. The finances remained good and all apportionments were paid into the conference. During Reverend Locklair's tenure, 3 persons were added to the church.



During 1959, as the construction boom started dwindling away, Bethel had approximately 100 members in the combined Choirs. Mrs. Lillian Turner was Director of the Adult Choir. Paul Whittle was Director of the Youth Choirs. Reverend Buck Harvey was the Pastor. Pictured here are 87 members. Lorene Hill, Organist, and Lillian Turner, Choir Director, are pictured on the left side. Paul Whittle, Youth Choir Director, and Reverend Albert S. (Buck) Harvey are pictured on the right side.

Reverend Dennis R. Lee served the church from 1984 to 1988. During his years Lorene Hill retired as church organist after more than thirty years of faithful service. The church hired Barbara Rhoad to take her place.

Reverend Lee and his wife, Jana, worked well with the youth of the church. They made many of the traditional holidays something special for the youth. One of the special memories of many of the youth is the Halloween Carnival extravaganza they helped to put together. Jana also directed the children's choir.

During his years the church had a new pictorial directory made. Thirty persons were added to the church during his term, and 20 baptisms were administered.

In 1988 Reverend Dwight Mims came to serve Bethel. Due to ill health he remained only one year. Again, because of a strong laity, the church continued financially strong, keeping all its commitments and making all its apportionments to the conference.

Dr. Paul Harmon was sent to our charge in 1989 and remained until 1993. During his time the church celebrated its fortieth anniversary as a church.

About three months after Dr. Harmon arrived in Jackson, Hurricane Hugo hit the coast of South Carolina and one of the places which suffered great damage was Goose Creek. This town was where he had served prior to coming to Jackson. He led our laymen in the efforts to help the hurricane victims there. Several of our laymen spent several Saturdays cutting trees and helping the people of that area clear up debris and put their homes back together. During his pastorate the men of the church presented the Last Supper drama in each of several years.

Reverend Harmon continued his education and received his Doctorate from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, while serving Bethel.

Mrs. Harmon (Jan) originated a clown ministry for the church and also directed the choir at Wesley Chapel. She also directed the Bethel Choir when Paul Whittle was away.

Reverend Harmon had a special talent for playing the guitar and singing. He conducted several musical concerts for the Bethel congregation. Although his singing talent was special, his moving and inspirational sermons were his trademark. He made these sermons available in writing to everyone.

During his time of service, 31 persons were added to the church. The church continued to be strong financially, meeting all its obligations and making all of its apportionments to the conference. He administered 12 baptisms and 7 marriages.

Jan was instrumental in having our church sponsor a Brownie and Junior Girl Scout troop.

Paul completed a two-year course of study with the "Upper Room" Academy for Spiritual Formation, in Gadsen, Al., was active in the local PTO, and served as its President.

On Saturday, September 21, 1991, the "Brown Bag" program was started in Jackson. South Carolina Electric and Gas Company sponsored it. Subsequently, they decided that they had to stop the program. The Upper Room Sunday School Class took it over and kept the free food for the elderly coming to Jackson for several years.

On December 2, 1991, as had been the custom, the United Methodist Women gave a Merry Christmas Dinner for the elderly widows of the community.

The United Methodist Men began serving a pancake and sausage breakfast during the Lent Season and after the Sunrise Service on Easter.

On January 19, 1992, Roy and Connie Steed celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary

in the fellowship hall and shared the occasion with the church, family, and friends.

On March 3, 1992, The Upper Room Class sponsored a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.

On Tuesday, March 17, 1992, while plans were underway for an April or May celebration of the Church's 40th Anniversary, the ceiling in the sanctuary fell. It was a disaster and had it happened on Sunday, many in the congregation could have been severely injured, or worse. Thanks be to God, not one person was harmed. The celebration had to be postponed; however, since the fellowship hall had to serve as the sanctuary as well as its other functions. Several bids were taken which ranged from \$10,000 to \$30,000. The trustees exercised good judgment and the damage was fully repaired for approximately \$11,000. The church membership was notified and contributions were made promptly to pay for these repairs. Before the workers were finished, all funds necessary were raised and the members were notified that we had all the funds necessary.

The plans for the 40th Anniversary Celebration were once again resumed and took place on September 27, 1992.

During Dr. Harmon's time, he conducted two Disciple Classes which covered a 34 week period of in-depth Bible study.

Reverend Jim Davis was sent to us in 1993 and he stayed until 1997. His wife, Judy, sang in the choirs at Bethel and at Wesley Chapel

The men of the church performed "The Last Supper" on April 13, 1995, under the direction of Robin Dennis.

It was during 1995 that Paul Whittle retired from directing the Choir, after many years of faithful service. Barbara Rhoad took on this extra duty and began serving as Organist and Choir Director. At the same time, the church hired Lynn Martin to be pianist.

On January 14, 1996, the stained glass window box in the Choir area was dedicated to Lorene and Cubie Hill. It was provided by their children, Dr. Robert Hill and Charles Hill. The following poem was written and presented by James H. Goodman at the dedication:

THERE'S MUCH TO DO

Before you die there's much to do,
So start your working now.
Don't wait until your time is through
To think of when and how.
So listen now to those who know
The way that you should go.

Once we were young and life was sweet,
The sunlight warmed and brought a glow,
Making every day complete
With love and strength we came to know.
With much to do, we tried to live,
Giving what we had to give.

Then years, like fast flowing streams,
Wearing down and making frail,



HILL, LORENE

And memories came like fading dreams,
 Confining the soul, as if in jail.
We knew our time was short at best
 When we would enter that long rest.

And so we worked and played our parts
 While we were on life's stage.
We gave our best while beating hearts
 Beat toward our final age.
We gave our time, was faithful too,
 Now we leave the work to you.

We know that you can better still
 Be of service when you find
That you are better fit to fill,
 The worn work shoes we leave behind.
So take the torch and lift it high
 There's much to do before you die.

James H. Goodman
1/14/96

In April of 1996, the local community began a "Seven Sunday Nights" revival among the churches. It took place as follows:

Bethel United Methodist Church, 4/14/96, speaker-Reverend Don Lumpkin
Jackson Bible Church, 4/21/96, speaker Reverend Richard Martin
Church of God, 4/28/96, speaker Reverend James Davis
Calvary Baptist, 5/5/96, speaker Reverend Allen Cantrell
Jackson First Baptist, 5/19/96, speaker Reverend Dr. Robert Collum
Matlock Baptist, 5/26/96, speaker Reverend Donald Prosser
Wesley Chapel 6/9/96, speaker- Rev. Don Lumpkin

The United Methodist Women published a cookbook during 1997, and it became available in August of that year.

It was during the tenure of Jim Davis that the drive to replace the old windows with stained glass windows took place. Emily Goodman headed up the effort which consisted of volunteer contributions from the membership families. Each window cost about \$1800.00, and there were enough families purchasing a window to complete the job. The completion of the installation was on July 14, 1998, and the dedication was held on August 30th, 1998.

Reverend Phil Watry was sent to Bethel in 1997 and stayed until June of 2001. His wife, Betty, sang in the Bethel and Wesley Chapel Choirs. The Jackson Ministerial Association sponsored a tent revival for several years, and Bethel and Wesley Chapel participated. Reverend Watry preached one of the nights during the revival week. This had been the custom for our ministers ever since the Tent Revival began. During Reverend Watry's time at Bethel, he started a Sunday night Bible Study. This lasted for many months and had a great influence on several of

the membership. It was during his time that the first meeting was held to plan for the FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

During 1999, the United Methodist Men took on the project of assisting God's Love Mission in Augusta. Money, furniture, and appliances were donated. Much time was donated for work at the site, and the planting of a garden for those who are helped there, was done by several of our men.

Reverend Jerry Davis came to Bethel in June of 2001. On August 19, 2001, the plaster ceiling in one of the Sunday School rooms came crashing down right after the worship service. The trustees immediately began meeting and taking action to replace every plaster ceiling in the halls, Sunday school rooms, and offices. The trustees who took charge were: Diane Hadden, Chairperson, Terri Goodman, Lee Bennett, James H. Goodman, Jimmy Mills, Lynn Sullivan, Jerry Risher, and Dan Sullivan.

The trustees also took on several other projects during the same period of time. A new roof for the fellowship hall, new paving around church and fellowship hall, and several other smaller repair and clean up jobs.

Plans continued to be made for the 50th Anniversary Celebration which was to be held on February 24, 2002. The Celebration Committee consisted of: Lee Bennett, Chairperson, James H. Goodman, Church Historian, Emily Goodman, George Boyd, Phyllis Boyd, Barbara Rhoad, Hilda Dennis, Margaret Steed, Sarah Sullivan, Juanita Scott, Tracy Northrup, Priscilla Polson, Joyce Creamer, Lynn Martin, and Reverend Jerry Davis.

In the history report, by Sarah Sullivan, for the Fifth Anniversary of Bethel, the following paragraph was included:

"May we pray that on the 50th anniversary of our Church in 2002, that the history of the Church will bear witness to the continued interest, loyalty, and support of the lay people, and the conference and pray that we may all remember to keep our Church as its name reminds us, "The House of the Lord".

The picture below was made around the time of the 40th Anniversary celebration.



Back Row: (L to R) Jeremy Gattis, Darren Hadden, Leslie Hadden, Cheryl Gattis
Second Row: (L to R) Sarah McCann, Angie Gibson, Rebekah Steed
Front Row: (L to R) Laurel Johnson and Jeffrey Gattis

BETHEL CONTRIBUTES TO WORLD PEACE

Not only has Bethel United Methodist Church always paid 100% of its apportionments, a part of which is designated for World Service and International programs, but we have called special prayer services during times of crisis. During the Desert Storm war in which Iraq forces were removed from Kuwait, one of our members Jerry Risher was involved. He was a fighter pilot who was in the second wave of bombardments which took place on the first night of the conflict. The church met in a special prayer service which was profound and emotional. The conflict ended in 100 days with all Iraqi forces being expelled from Kuwait. Jerry returned home without a scratch. **Praise be to God.**

When foreign terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners on September 11, 2001, and flew two of them into the World Trade Center twin towers, causing a loss of billions of dollars and over 3000 lives, with a third plane crashing into the Pentagon, and a fourth crashing in a field in Pennsylvania, Bethel membership rallied in prayer. Several weeks later when our government began striking back in Afganistan against the Taliban and the Al Qaeda terrorists, headed up by Osama bin Laden, we devoted special prayers for our nation and those who had suffered loss of loved ones. We prayed for our military as they invaded hostile territory.

Some of our loved ones are, or may be, involved in this War against Terrorism, and those above the age of service in the military are prayer warriors for a successful conclusion.

There will probably be other attempts at terrorism in our nation before we can stamp the evil out, however, we depend on God as our refuge.

**"SAFETY IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF DANGER,
IT IS THE PRESENCE OF GOD".**



Jerry & Deanne Risher

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

- The new Methodist Church in Ellenton, which became a part of Bethel, had been completed only a month before the Department of Energy (formerly AEC) announcement was made.
- Land for the Church and Parsonage was given by Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Steed.
- L. B. Steed, Jr., dug the basement for the new Church building with his heavy equipment.
- The first parsonage was moved from Meyers Mill (one of the towns which had to move).
- Mrs. Ida Brinkley gave the first organ; windows, light fixtures and communion rail came from the Methodist Church in Ellenton.
- The solid brass cross and candlesticks for the altar were given in honor of Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Steed by their children.
- Mrs. Lorene Hill was the first Church organist. She continued in that capacity, without pay, for more than thirty years.
- Sheron Sullivan Steed was the first child born to a member on May 30, 1952.
- Doris Steed and John Franklin were married at Bethel on Aril 26, 1953. They were the first couple married in the Church.
- Juanita Lusk and Melvane Scott had the first wedding in the Church November 19, 1954.
- Paul Whittle began as Director of Youth Choirs before 1960 and continued as the Chancel Choir Director for more than 30 years without pay.
- The steeple was added to the Church in 1961.
- The United Methodist Men's Club was chartered in 1961.
- The dedication of the new parsonage was held on March 7, 1965.
- In June of 1965, Bethel and Wesley Chapel Churches received the Town and Country Development Award. Reverend Ted Morton was the Pastor.
- The old organ was replaced in 1967.
- The Fellowship Hall was completed in October of 1974.
- The celebration of the 25th Anniversary and dedication of the New Fellowship Hall was held on April 24, 1977 while Donald Funderburk was the Pastor. The Reverend John M. Shingler delivered the sermon.
- On March 17, 1992, the ceiling in the sanctuary fell.
- On August 19, 2001, the plaster ceiling in one of the Sunday School rooms came crashing down right after the worship service.

**CHARTER MEMBERS OF
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JACKSON, S. C.**

Mr. J. L. Steed	Mrs. John P. Sullivan *
Mrs. J. L. Steed	Mrs. Sam Patton
Miss Ethel Steed	Mr. Sam Patton
Mrs. L. B. Steed, Sr.	Mr. Lewis C. Hanes
Mr. C. W. Steed	Mr. L. B. Steed, Jr. *
Mr. James C. Steed*	Mrs. Mack Bonner *
Mr. E. E. Steed	Mr. C. H. Hair
Mrs. Edgar Foreman	Mrs. C. H. Hair
Mr. Joe Dale Hughes	Mr. Billy Hair *
Mrs. Ruby Hughes*	Miss Jane Hair *
Miss. Dale Hughes*	Mr. Donald Hair *
Mr. C. A. Hill	Mr. H. R. Harden
Mrs. Lorene Hill	Mrs. H. R. Harden
Mr. Robert Hill *	Mrs. M. A. Hatchell *
Mrs. Ida Brinkley	Mr. Jack Harden *
Mr. J. E. Steed	Mrs. R. H. Dicks
Mrs. J. E. Steed	Mr. E. Donald Risher *
Mrs. Ralph Moore *	Mrs. E. Donald Risher*
Mrs. John Franklin *	Mrs. Hanson Peeples Lott *
Mr. Harold Steed *	Mr. W. R. Moody
Mr. E. D. Risher	Mrs. W. R. Moody
Mrs. E. D. Risher	Mrs. Don Reeves *
Mr. L. B. Steed, Sr	Mrs. W. D. Tisdale
Mrs. C. W. Steed	Mrs. Ronald E. Roundtree
Mrs. Jack Tipton *	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.

THOUGHTS FROM CHARTER MEMBERS

JOANNE STEED MOORE

I am proud to have been a Charter Member of Bethel United Methodist Church in Jackson, South Carolina. When we had to move out of Ellenton, I was delighted that we would be able to make our home in Jackson. I had a lot of relatives and friends who were natives of Jackson so I felt right at home.

Since there was no Methodist Church in Jackson (although there was Wesley Chapel Methodist Church a few miles away), it was decided that we needed to build a church in the immediate vicinity. So those of the Methodist Denomination (which included some Jackson natives, other families from Ellenton and many wonderful people that were moving into the area from all parts of the country) banded together with the Conference and under the great leadership of the reverend Max Christopher, built the church. We were so proud of it. I was single, working and still living at home with my parents. I received so many blessings, much love, and guidance from God and from the wonderful people there.

Ralph Moore and I were married in this church in 1957 by the Reverend C. Eugene Jones and then we made our home in New Ellenton, South Carolina.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this celebration.

DORIS STEED FRANKLIN

I want to thank you for asking me to participate in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Bethel United Methodist Church.

When we moved to Jackson from Ellenton, there was no Methodist Church (only Wesley Chapel Methodist Church) about 4 miles away from Jackson. We, along with other families in Jackson met in Cassels Funeral Home. Finally, it was decided to build a church in the vicinity. This began with the leadership of Reverend Max Christopher. I brought my little Sunday School Class with me, consisting of Charles Hill and my son David, and I am sorry to say I can't remember others. I still have a butterfly pin that Charles Hill gave me one Christmas. I kept the class until John Franklin and I were married in Bethel United Methodist Church on April 26, 1953.

After marriage I joined the First Baptist Church with John.

HANSON PEEPLES LOTT

Although I was living in Meyers Mill, I worshipped at Speedwell Methodist Church in Millett. It was at Speedwell that I professed my faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized into the Methodist Church.

When I moved to Ellenton, my church membership was moved from Speedwell Methodist Church to Ellenton Methodist Church.



Hanson Lott

Upon my relocation to Jackson, I sought and received the fellowship of those promoting the growth of Bethel Methodist Church.

THOUGHTS OF OTHER LONG TIME MEMBERS

PRISCILLA STEED POLSON

It would be very hard to look back on the last fifty years without thinking of how much my Bethel church family has meant to me. When my family lived in the Savannah River Site area we attended the Baptist Church, but all joined Bethel when we moved to Jackson in 1951. During my teenage years we had a very active MYP which meant a lot to me and my friends. Later I enjoyed the association of the youth choir when I played the piano for the group and then taught Sunday School for many years. Our United Methodist Women have always played an important role in our church and I continue to enjoy the many activities and projects with the wonderful ladies of our church. Bethel members are such a loving and giving extended family and I feel fortunate to be a part of this membership.



Priscilla Polson

JAMES H. GOODMAN

My little family moved to Jackson on December 15, 1959. E. E. (Doc) Steed was there to help us move our furniture in. The first thing he did was to invite us to become a part of Bethel Methodist Church. We visited the church on our first Sunday here and subsequently became members. The church owes Doc Steed a debt of gratitude for his enthusiastic promotion. My family and I owe him a great deal more for being the person who led us into the Bethel Family.

I have served in every capacity of the church at one time or the other. From Sunday School teacher to Chairman of the Board and all in between. I appreciate the honor of being a member and for having been among the leadership of the church for the past forty two years. May God continue to bless our church with his life changing spirit, and may peace and harmony become our greatest church family asset.



James & Emily Goodman

ANNE BARSH

... there are a goodly number of yarns one could tell about our children, or our grandchildren, but one of my favorites took place at Bethel United Methodist Church children's Christmas party. As a previous co-ordinator for the ministries of children, I well remember the unscheduled event whenever Brother Jim and Mary Williams ended supper. Santa arrived with a request to form a circle and pass a lighted candle from one to the other. Jennifer, one of my grandchildren, said "Let's sing happy birthday to Jesus". (She was 3 years old.) We did, and to the shining reflections of so many candles. The warmth and the spirit of Christ was very

moving. What a spontaneous simple request made through an Angel. I, like everyone else, have many good memories with my family at Bethel.

FRANCES GATTIS

I am the oldest member of this church now. I was not a charter member, but I was teaching at Jackson Elementary at the time, and knew a lot of people here.

We moved here from Tennessee, via Augusta, in 1956. Shirley, Judy, and I moved our membership from First Presbyterian, in Augusta. We joined here because Ruth Lusk and Mrs. Munch came to see me. (Visitation does help.) My husband joined soon after by profession of faith, his first church membership.

Five of my children grew up here, and (Margaret was already in college) still have their membership here. They have helped with Sunday School, Bible School, MYF, Choir, Scouts and various committees. Also their in-laws have helped in the church. Nine of my grandchildren grew up here.

I thank God, and my church friends, for enriching my life here at Bethel United Methodist Church.



Frances Gattis

CONNIE RISHR STEED ROY A. STEED

Roy and I moved from North Augusta to Jackson in August of 1952 with our two children. Roy Jr. was 18 months old and Barbara was 8 years old. It was like coming home for me because my parents, Eldon and Geraldine Risher had moved their house to Jackson in February of 1952 and were charter members. Of course, to Roy it was coming home as his parents had lived in Jackson many years.

We first attended Church in the Funeral Home and then in the Masonic Lodge, while the present church building was being built. Roy was Sunday School Superintendent, Choir member and Sunday School teacher of the Adult Class for many years, as well as held many other offices. I was active in the Children's Department, was President of the W. S. C. S. for three years and held other offices.

Bethel has meant so very much to us. Spiritually, it has deepened our faith. We have made friends that are very dear to us and being a member of Bethel has greatly enriched our lives.



Roy & Connie Steed

PAT SAAB

FOURTH CLASS
RECEIVED BY MAIL
TEXAS

November 10, 2001

Dear Mr. Goodman,

Each month, rain or shine, I read the news of Bethel and Wesley. Over the years the friendly names have reminded me of the youth at Bethel. The memories I have are a thoughtful reminder of fellowship.

The name that comes to me is Paul Whittle. Mr. Whittle helped the youth of Bethel during that awkward passage from child through teen. Mr. Whittle was a brilliant choirmaster. The only training in vocal form that was available to me was of the very best in music. My voice is a gift from Bethel that I used from 1980-1985. As part of the Pan American Airlines Chorus Angelorum, I sang in England, Italy, Poland, Yugoslavia, Argentina, Venezuela, and New York. As an ambassador of song, I visited great cathedrals and holy sites. I am forever grateful to Bethel for such good training, as the other mezzo-sopranos were from the New York opera scene.

Mr. Whittle, the Goodman's, the Gattis's, the O'Donnell's provided for an energetic youth group. Skating, ping-pong, picnics, and sing-alongs made Wednesday nights, Friday nights, and Sundays the best part of my youth in Jackson. I learned to have wholesome fun and to enjoy going to church.

Lastly, one year for the Nativity, I was chosen as Mary and managed to keep the mantle of blue from sliding off my hair. Inside myself, the child, Jane Rollison has never been away from Bethel. Each event of the liturgical calendar that I celebrate at Trinity Lutheran Church on Staten Island is filled with the same familiar songs, the same text, and the memories of MYF that I carry fondly in my heart.

Sincere and best regards to all my old friends at Bethel,


Pat Saab

Aka: Jane Rollison, Jane O'Donnell

PS: Kay Louise Rollison is a lawyer in Anchorage, Alaska. Joe (Edward Joseph) Rollison is in Georgia and builds golf courses. He mentioned that he might go to China to build one. I am a recreation therapist and an artist. I received an Encore Grant from the S. I. Council on the Arts and Humanities last year to work in Staten Island cretaceous and glacial drift clays. My son, Michael Joseph, is eleven and in fifth grade. He plays basketball and is a Boy Scout.

1964 - Jackson High School Graduate

Current Membership

Akins, Jennifer	Gattis, Jeffrey	Lewis, Erika
Aldridge, Sandra	Gattis, Laura	Lewis, John
Bennett, Lee	Gattis, Trey	Lewis, Johnny
Bennett, Robert	Gattis, Sherrill	Lewis, Lou Ellen
Bergaus, Robert	Godowns, Elton	Lewis, Robert
Berry, Mary Beth	Godowns, mark	Lindler, Patti
Blassingame, Delores	Goodman, Chris	Looney, William
Blodgett, Carolyn	Goodman, Christopher	Lott, Hanson
Boyd, George	Goodman, Eddie	Lybrand, Ted
Boyd, Phyllis	Goodman, Emily	Martin, Barbara
Boynton, Doug	Goodman, James	Martin, Barry
Boynton, Elizabeth	Goodman, Jimmy	Martin, Ben
Boynton, Phillip	Goodman, Terri	Martin, Betty
Boynton, Sandra	Goodsell, James	Martin, Beverly
Brookshire, Virginia	Gordy, Barbara	Martin, Brandon
Bulfinch, Clyde	Gordy, Wade	Martin, Ernest
Bulfinch, Lynn	Gordy, Wade Jr.	Martin, Ernestine
Cantwell, Cynthia	Grant, Austin	Martin, Johnny
Creamer, Chip	Grant, Joyce	Martin, Lynn
Creamer, Hyman	Grant, Ronnie	Martin, Ray
Creamer, Joyce	Grant, Sheila	Martin, Ronnie
Cunningham, Benjamin	Grant, Thomas	Mason, Patricia
Cunningham, Joanne	Hadden, Arthur	Messer, Chester
Curtis, Debbie	Hadden, Darren	Messer, Freddie
Dean, Ann	Hadden, Dianne	Messer, Maude
Dennis, Ashlyn	Hill, Deborah	Mills, Abigail
Dennis, Bill	Howard, Mary Lou	Mills, James
Dennis, Deborah	Howard, Vickie	Mills, Jeanine
Dennis, Hilda	Howell, Jeffrey	Mills, Mary
Dennis, Matthew	Howell, Margorie	Moore, Elaine
Dennis, Pete	Howell, Roy	Narvoichik, Sharon
Dennis, Robin	Johnson, Gwendolyn	Neal, Tonya
Duele, Patricia	Johnson, Ann	Neal, Willie
Etheredge, Teal	Johnson, Thomas	Newby, Diane
Etheredge, William	Kale, Boyce	Northrup, Earl
Fergus, Leslie	Key, Aimee	Northrup, Tracey
Franklin, Jeannie	Key, Gail	Ormond, Angie
Franklin, John	Key, Jennifer	Ormond, Tripp
Franklin, Rod	Key, Lois	Overcash, Edna
Garrett, James	Knosky, Donna	Overcash, Karl
Gattis, Carol	Kwiatkowski, Bill	Overcash, Stephen
Gattis, Dan	Kwiatkowski, Billy	Owens, Nancy
Gattis, Diane	Kwiatkowski, Holly	Patterson, Roxanne
Gattis, Frances	Kwiatkowski, Lisa	Phillips, Ethel

Phillips, Louis
Polson, Pricilla
Polson, William
Portanova, Judy
Prather, Frances
Pryor, Laurel
Redd, Amy
Redd, Gene
Rhoad, Barbara
Rhoad, Harold
Risher, Jerry
Risher, Rusty
Roberts, Mary Lo
Rollison, Edward
Rollison, Kay
Roundtree, Ronald
Saab, Jane
Scott, Juanita
Scott, Melvane
Sherman, Beverly

Snyder, Heather
Snyder, Jay
Snyder, Justin
Snyder, Pamela
Spratt, Christie
Steed, Connie
Steed, Daniel
Steed, Elma
Steed, Gregory
Steed, Kim
Steed, Leonard Jr.
Steed, Margaret
Steed, Mark
Steed, Roy
Steed, Ronald
Steed, Sheila
Stegman, Jannel
Stephens, Cynthia
Sullivan, Adam
Sullivan, Daniel

Sullivan, Lynn
Sullivan, Patrick
Sullivan, Ross
Sullivan, Sarah
Sullivan, Tina
Summers, Cheyenne
Tollison, Jeannie
Tondu, Josephine
Tucker, Florence
Tucker, Jessica
Tucker, Kristen
Turner, David
Weathersbee, Jimmy
Weathersbee, Shirley
Wheaton, Betty
Williamson, Lcc
Wise, Betty
Yates, Nancy

In Loving Memory

Those listed in this section are members, pastors, pastor's wives who died in the faith. They are listed here in honor of their lives and contributions to God and the Church.



Active Members at Time of Death

Dempsey Barsh
Ida Brinkley
Howard Buford
Louise Buford
Mrs. W. E. Crosson
Nell Curton
Robert Curton
Robert Dicks
Emmie Eubanks
Ira Evans
Wilmuth Evans
Ralph Garland
Sherrill Gattis, Sr.
Agnes Hair
Charles Hair
Herbert Harden
Oveta Harden
Cubie Hill
Lorene Hill
Frances Kale
Florence Kofford
Caroline Little
Lenna Lucas
Ruth Lusk
Doris Lybrand
Arthur Maxwell
Margaret Maxwell
Camille Meeker
Johnny Mills

Audrey Moody
Willie Moody
Alice Risher
Eldon Risher
Geraldine Risher
Henry Risher
Margaret Roundtree
Charles Steed
Ethel Steed
Eugene Steed
James L. Steed
Johnny Steed
L. B. Steed, Sr.
Lillie Mae Steed
Margoese Steed
Susie Steed
Mildred Stewart
Robert Stewart
Curtis Stripling
Anne Tisdale
Billy Tisdale
Lillian Turner
Harriette Vann
Eddie Vann
William Vann
Edna Walters
Marie Williams
Mary Williams
Ocie Williamson
Bessie Youmans

Former Clergy and Wives

Rev. Max Christopher
Rev. A. S. "Buck" Harvey
Rev. Eugene Jones

Barber Locklair
Betty Jo Lowrimore
Eunice O'Donnell

"BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHO DIED IN CHRIST"

Blessed are the living who have prepared themselves to fill the vacancies left by passing Christian giants, in the church, which is a part of the body of Christ.

Blessed is the church when there are maturing Christians to carry on the work of the Kingdom of God.

BLESSED IS BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.



ANY ERRORS IN THIS BOOKLET ARE PURELY UNINTENTIONAL. IF YOU FIND AN ERROR IN THE FACTS, PLEASE NOTIFY JAMES H. GOODMAN, P.O. BOX 677, JACKSON, S. C. 29831 OR 1-803-827-0987

BEYOND JUBILEE

FOR FIFTY 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 THE 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 MUST CARRY THE LIGHT.

WHO WILL CARRY FOR THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS
THIS TORCH WHICH IS HANDED DOWN?
WHO WILL DELIVER THE PRECIOUS TRUTH
WHEN YOU AND I 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 THEY TEACH THE TRUTH OF GOD,
NOT RELIGION, BUT A RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD'S ONLY SON AS THE SAVIOUR
CAN THEY MAKE THAT HEAVENLY TRIP.

JAMES H. GOODMAN

12/27/01

