

METHODIST BICENTENNIAL 1784-1984



**Love Joy  
United Methodist  
Church**

## PREFACE

It has been a privilege to serve as the Bicentennial Committee of the Lovejoy United Methodist Church. We feel like we know more now, not only about Lovejoy, but about the founding and the uniting of the Methodist Church.

We wish to express our thanks to our Minister, Tommy Privette, for his help. Also our gratitude goes to the many people from our church and community who have so graciously talked to us and answered all the questions we have asked. A special thanks goes to the Russell Family for letting us use Mr. Charlie's diaries.

May God grant that those who read this History will appreciate the dedication of our forefathers in their endeavors to make our church what it is today.

Joann Hamilton



Sara Atkins



Troy, N. C.  
September, 1984

## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

John Wesley was the founder and guiding force of Methodism. He was sent to school in London at the age of 11, and began studying at Oxford at 17. He was ordained a priest of the Church of England at age 25.

While at Oxford, John and his brother Charles and other students formed a religious society. They studied the Bible daily, fasted regularly and took Communion weekly. Other students teased them, calling them "Bible Moths" and "Methodists" - a name that stuck.

In 1784, Wesley began to ordain ministers for America. On Christmas Eve of 1784, 60 American Methodist preachers met in Baltimore, Md. to form the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In the 1800s there were divisions in the Methodist Episcopal Church. One of these branches established in 1845 was the Methodist Episcopal Church South. The Slavery issue led to this division. The Conference of 1784 had forbidden Methodists to own slaves. In many southern states it was illegal to free slaves. This inevitably led to conflict.

The Methodist Church was formed by the merger of 3 Churches in the early 1900s. The Evangelical United Brethren was formed by the union of two other churches. It was on April 23, 1968, in Dallas, Texas, that the 2 Churches joined to form THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

## THE HISTORY OF LOVEJOY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The earliest record found on Lovejoy Church was the book titled "History of the Wesleyan Methodist Church", written by Roy S. Nicholson and Ira Ford McLeister.

In the fall of 1850 a Reverend Jessie McBride was arrested for giving a book, "The Ten Commandments", to a white girl who lived near the village of Liberty. The charges stated that the defendant had "with force and arms, knowingly, wickedly and unlawfully, with intention to excite insurrection, conspiracy and resistance in the slaves" brought in the state and circulated this book, from which extracts were quoted which evidently made reference to some of the evils of the slavery system. Mr. Adam Crooks was also named in the charge. Mr. Crooks was acquitted, but Mr. McBride was found guilty.

On Sunday, June 15, 1851, Mr. Crooks was dragged from the pulpit of the Lovejoy Chapel in Montgomery County. He was carried to jail and refused bail. He stayed in jail from Sunday until Tuesday. He was released on the condition that he would leave the County and never preach again. His work was harassed by mobs and individuals so, near time for his conference, he had his carriage repaired and bid his friends goodbye.

Mr. Thoburn Freeman, a past community member, remembers Lovejoy Church through talk of his neighbors and parents. Mr. Freeman stated that it is believed that the church was founded around 1836. At that time the old log church was located across from the present cemetery. He said the land for the church was donated by the late Jacob Reynolds. The church was then Wesleyan, however, the original deed was never recorded. It was after the arrest of Adam Crooks in 1851, when the doors of the church were locked, that the original deed was torn up. Later, a new deed was drawn and someone rode horseback during the night to Asheboro to have it recorded at the courthouse in the Methodist Protestant Church name.

We had heard that there was a Lovejoy Academy and asked Mr. Freeman what he knew about this. He told us of the very dedicated William H. (Billy) Crowder, who attended Yadkin College, coming to Lovejoy to teach. It is believed it became known as an academy because a fee for boarding expenses had to be charged to students from Rowan and surrounding counties wanting to attend the school.

Mr. Freeman remembers talk of one very unusual campmeeting of the 1880's. It seems that several young men liked to get a little wild on weekends. After a 2:00 service, one man went out a little ways from the arbor and began praying about this. It seems he could be heard half the way to Shiloh. Others joined him after the night service and prayed until about two the next morning. Seven people



were converted on this night and went on to become preachers. It was told that during this prayer meeting that the tops of the trees lit up. There was no explanation for this and some of the young men fell to their knees, asking what it meant.

The lighting system for the Arbor was most unusual. At the corners of the arbor, rock walls were formed in a round circle. Pine knots were put in these and burned. They not only provided light but heat as well.

The cornerstone of the church states it was organized in 1868. It was destroyed by fire, along with all records, in 1925. The present church was built in 1928 with additions in 1953. The arbor, as it stands today, is supported by some of the hand-hewn posts from the original arbor.

No specific information can be obtained between the years 1928 and 1933. We have learned from Weitzel Vuncannon that Lovejoy's pastor in 1934-1935 was Rev. E. G. Cowan.

A most prominent member of Lovejoy Church was Mr. Charlie Russell. The following data and direct quotes are taken from his diaries.

1938

September 25 - Campmeeting begins. He records that they moved to the tents on September 24.

1939

July 23 - "Fair, we all went to Lovejoy. The airplane came."  
August 28 - "Cloudy, cleaned out the tent."  
September 6 - "Fair, I went to Lovejoy to clean off the graveyard."  
September 24 - "Campmeeting began."

1940

September 22 - "Fair, fine weather. Campmeeting, large crowd, big preaching by Rev. Grace."  
September 24 - "Colon Reynolds preached the 2:30 sermon. Rev. Grace preached at night." The meeting closed on October 1, 1940.

1941

September 19 - "I went to Lovejoy board meeting. The lights shined fine."  
September 26&27 - "Moving to campmeeting."  
September 28 - "The Rev. Joel Trogdon preached two big sermons at campmeeting." The children's day was observed this year on July 13th.

1942

September 18 - "Started cleaning tents."  
September 24 - "Moved to tents."  
September 27 - "Campmeeting began. Rev. Joel Trogdon preached a big sermon."  
September 29 - "Rev. Grant preached three big sermons."

1943

- August 22 - "Fair day and dusty. Campmeeting began today. Good crowd, Rev. Crawford doing the preaching. Good sermon."  
 August 31 - "Campmeeting closed."

1944

- September 24 - "Campmeeting began. Cold and raining. Had preaching in church, began services under arbor on Monday at 1:00."  
 October 3 - "Paid Rev. Revis \$155.00 on the closing service. Good crowd at night. We gave Rev. Worthing one hundred dollar bill at close of meeting."

NOTE: We have noticed that during the '40's more than one preacher preached the campmeeting services. Maybe this was because of services held in daytime as well as night.

1945

- September 23 - "Campmeeting began. Rev. Reavis held meeting. No one moved to the tents this year except the Atkins family and Lonnie and Clara Russell."  
 October 5 - Meeting closed.

1946

- September 22 - Meeting began.

The year 1947 is memorable to a lot of people from the Lovejoy and surrounding area. The campmeeting began on September 28 in the usual excitement. On Saturday night, October 4, while the Rev. C.G. Mitchum was preaching a very inspiring sermon, lightning struck one section of the tents, catching them on fire and destroying everything in them. In talking to some Lovejoy members who were teenagers at the time, they were sure it was the end of time. On Sunday morning, October 5, the last campmeeting service, a collection of \$300.84 was taken for the ones who lost possessions in the fire.

1948

- September 26 - "Campmeeting began. Rev. C.G. Mitchum preached."  
 October 3 - "Rev. Mitchum preached three sermons."  
 October 9 - "The arbor was over-full. Closed with no good results - Sad hearts."

Some tents were rebuilt in 1948 against the wishes of some Lovejoy members.

1949

- September 25 - "Campmeeting began. No one moved out to the tents this year. Rev. Paul Hopkins preached."  
 October 2 - "Campmeeting closed."

1950

- September 24 - "Campmeeting began. Rev. Paul Hopkins preached."

1951

September 19 - People began moving to campmeeting. Rev. Urig preached the 11:00 campmeeting service on September 23. Rev. Fred Love preached at 3 P.M. and for the rest of the campmeeting services.

1952

September 29 - Campmeeting began with Rev. Fred Love from Concord.  
October 3 - Campmeeting closed.

1953

September 27 - Campmeeting began with the Rev. Tom Shuler.

1954

September 26 - Campmeeting began. Rev. Tom Shuler preached again.

1955

September 25 - Campmeeting began. A preacher from Biscoe preached the campmeeting services.

NOTE: According to Mr. Russell's diary 1954 and 1955 were big softball years for the Lovejoy Church.

1956

September 23 - Rev. L.H. Marshall conducted the campmeeting services. They closed on Friday night.

1957

No recordings.

1958

On September 9, 1958 the job of cleaning tents was started. Campmeeting began on September 28 and closed on October 3. The Rev. Dewey Tyson was the guest preacher. Mr. Russell says, "Big preaching at campmeeting." When we think of the 1958 year we cannot help but feel a little sad. This was the last year any of the tents were used.

1959

- September 27 through October 2 campmeeting.

1960

- Campmeeting began on September 11.

1961

- Campmeeting began on September 10.

1962

- Campmeeting began on September 9.

1963

November 5 - Campmeeting began on September 8.  
- "Turn cloudy and sprinkle of rain. I helped Albert cut wood. I came by Lovejoy. I am tearing down the tents. I hate to take them down but they said they want them moved."

According to Mr. Russell's diary he hauled the last lumber from this group of tents on November 11, 1963.

On June 30, 1964, lightning struck the corner of the Lovejoy arbor setting it on fire. There was very little damage done.

1964

September 12 - Campmeeting began. Large crowd.



1966

September 11 - Campmeeting began.

1967

September 11 - Campmeeting began.

1968

August 27 - "Helped tear down W.L. and Lonnie's tents at Lovejoy."

September 8 - Campmeeting began.

1969

September 14 - Campmeeting began. "Large crowd and good preaching.

1970

- Mr. Russell passed away on April 14, 1970.

During the 1970's and '80's the camp meetings have been held on the 2nd. Sunday in September. If Mr. Russell had lived longer, I'm sure he would have recorded in his diary that we still have large crowds and good preaching. Some of the preachers serving our charge during this period of time were, William H. (Bill) Ruth, Lynwood Boyette, Vance Hardison and Jay E. Clark. Rev. Tommy G. Privette came to Lovejoy in 1983 and is now serving his second year.

The following listing is some of the accomplishments we have made:

- Early 1970's - Cement replaced the straw in the arbor.
- 1975 - Installed carpet in the sanctuary and vestibule of the church. Also pews refinished.
- 1976 - Kitchen in basement/Fellowship hall built & equipped.
- 1979 - Activity focused on the Charge parsonage. The improvement consisted of: New wall to wall carpet, installing a new heating/air conditioning unit, complete interior and exterior painting, new curtains and spreads, new washer & dryer, new dishwasher and overhead insulation installed. There was a lot of volunteer work on this. Since then the exterior has been bricked. We can be truly proud of our parsonage.
- 1981 - Church Van purchased.
- 1982 - New choir seats purchased. Aluminum put on church steeple, eaves and gables. New plastic canvas for arbor.
- 1983 - New chairs purchased for two front Sunday School rooms.
- 1984 - Bedroom and bath installed in parsonage basement.

Our church has grown in the last few years and we felt the need for more Sunday School rooms and a larger Fellowship hall. A Study committee was nominated in 1984 to consider these needs. At a recent church conference a building committee was approved. They have recently met with an architect and a representative from Duke.

We are now in the process of raising funds toward this building program. We feel that through our prayers and dedication, with God's help, we can go forward to meet the needs of Lovejoy United Methodist Church.





#### FRANK HURLEY'S BARREL HAS PROVIDED WATER FOR 31 YEARS

At top is the 100-foot picnic table of concrete and steel with real tablecloths on it that is a feature of historic Lovejoy Church near Troy. Frank Hurley, Troy businessman, has carted ice water for picnics at the church for more than 30 years. He is standing in front of the barrel, on which is an inscription, "Frank's Community Water Bel. Since 1828." The attractive church is seen in the lower picture.

## Lovejoy Church In Montgomery County Is Place Of Unusual Historic Events

BY CHARLIE MANNING

TROY, Oct. 8.—One of the most unusual picnic tables ever constructed stretches its 100-foot length of concrete and reinforced steel and rests its 12,000 pounds of weight on the historic grounds of Lovejoy Church, five miles north of Troy, as a gift from Frank Hurley, Troy businessman.

The tube-like openings that extend its length, through which children "telephone" to each other, is another of the table's unusual features.

Three miles to the east is the home of the only Negro family in the Lovejoy section, the McKees, who have long been loved and respected by their white neighbors. Many years ago, the family of three boys, four girls and their mother, Charlotte McKee, would come to the Lovejoy Camp Meeting and add enjoyment by singing spirituals accompanied by their brother, Giles, on his fiddle. Today, only one member of the family is living, Maudie, who lives alone in the old home, which has no accessible road. She has refused to enter the county home, and declines to sell Giles' fiddle, and, even though he has been dead 10 years, she holds to a belief that Giles will return once more to play the beloved instrument.

#### OLD ARBOR WAS BURNED

Facing the table is an old wooden arbor for outdoor worship and the wooden tents where people who drove their covered wagons here slept in burks during the progress of the week-long meeting. Behind the tents they stabled cows brought to furnish milk. To the right of the table and arbor is Lovejoy Church, a brick building—but once on the same spot stood a wooden church.

It was from this wooden church that a minister, who preached against the South's secession was taken from the pulpit and imprisoned in Troy. In the early morning hours of the late 1860's a father drove his wagon to the church doors and one by one carried into the church and placed upon the floor the bodies of his three sons. His sons, along with a neighbor, had been taken prisoner while hiding out along the banks of the Uwharrie River and refusing to fight on the side of the Confederacy. They had been imprisoned in an old mill on the river. The wife of one of the men pleaded with his captors to let her spend the night with her husband. She was permitted to stay in the old mill but in a room apart from her husband. At sunrise, the four men were taken to the side of Buck Mountain and shot to death. It was from that spot that the father had driven the wagon bearing his sons and neighbor. Their blood spilled out in a pool upon the floor of the old wooden church and formed a dark circle that water failed to wash away.

In the graveyard to the right of the present-day brick church there is a small four-sided shaft that marks the last resting place of the four men who were buried in one grave.

Behind the church, Cotton Stone Mountain looms in the east and Jenny Wright Mountain towers to the south. About one quarter of a mile from the church and deep in the woods is another shaft, an old stone some three feet high shaped like a giant Indian arrowhead. This stone marks the spot where a great man of God stood nearly three quarters of a century ago and offered up a prayer that is legendary in this county. This prayer began just before the evening service in the church, when Jake Reynolds, a giant of a man in stature and voice and a zeal for God, persuaded a dozen habitual drunkards and roughnecks who would not enter the church for worship to go with him into the woods for prayer. In his fervent prayer for these men's souls he grasped a sapling and pulled it up by the roots. So great was the carrying power of his voice that a throng gathered in the woods. This prayer began at 7:30 o'clock at night and ended at 2 o'clock in the morning. It marked Lovejoy's finest moment because the men who were saved that night turned from their drunkenness and brawling into regular church attendants.

The Frank Hurley picnic table is a great table. It should be. It rests in a great and well remembered spot.



# Remember Post Office Named Queen?

(Editor's note: Recently W. R. (Willie) Williams of Route 1, Troy recalled memories of things which occurred years ago in and around the Lovejoy Community. "I Remember" is a compilation of people and events of another time.)

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Did you know there was once a post office in Montgomery County named Queen? It was located in Lovejoy. The post office building is still there. The post office personnel also ran a small store in the same building. Some of the people who held the appointment of postmaster were: Sid Cox, Nute Allen, John Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, Lize Berry Hill, Ex Loftis, Walter Lindon, Earn Reynolds, Ulysses Deston, and Reed Morgan. Bessie and Oscar McQueen were the last two to run the post office. It closed while they were working there.

Years before, back in the 1870s and 80s, there was an academy of higher learning at Queen. Mr. and Mrs. William Self taught school and lived there for several years. William and Dora Self were well thought of by the people living there and Mr. Self said the Lovejoy community was the best community he had ever lived in. They were both committed to teaching. Willard Atkins attended school at this academy, and still lives in the Lovejoy Community.

There were students in this school from as far away as Mt. Gilead. Some of the male students "bached" in camps located at the school. Lightning struck the main building, destroying it, and it was not replaced.

Many years later there was a two-room school house built. There were seven grades taught in the new building. I remember some of the people, but please excuse errors in spelling names. Some of the teachers were: John Reynolds, Miss Grace Reynolds, Miss Vellie Suggs, Mrs. Beulah Harris, Billy Leach, Miss Lillian Monroe, Miss May Harper, Mrs. Millie B. Arcott, and Miss Mable Linke. The last teacher there was Herbert Reynolds. The school is no longer there, and the camps are all gone too.

I can't call all the names of the students, but some I can remember: The Williams family had Eldon, Mattie, Willie and Bertha. The Suggs family included Vellie, Homer, D. F. and Mildred. There were other families - the Freemans, the Reynolds, the Gillises, the Haltoms, the Saunders, the Atkins, the McGees, the Hamiltons, the Greens, and the Richardsons.

The Arbor is still there and is being used every fall for the revival. Back in the 70s and 80s, there was a week set aside for the revival. Many families simply moved to the campgrounds. There were at least 10 or 12 camps there for people. These "camps" were wooden buildings, with one or two rooms. Curtains were used to section off sleeping quarters. The people who stayed there brought all their belongings for a week, along with their cows and chickens. These were God-fearing people and were not play-acting. They were serious about revival. They came together for prayer at 10 in the morning, had preaching at 11, at noon they ate lunch, and at 2 were back in the

Arbor for the afternoon service. At 7:30 in the evening they had services again. Most of their waking hours were spent either in services or in prayer. It was a time of rejoicing, repentance and dedication. It was a joy to hear the choir sing. Orlando Reynolds was the song leader and Corrina Morgan was the organist. It was a time of sweet fellowship.

As I look back now at the days past and gone forever, I have some deep feelings of joy and sadness. We lived about one and one half miles from the school house. We left home, walking to school, about seven o'clock and school took us at 8:15. It was not unusual for us to see wild turkeys in the paths on the way to school.

We lived in a place where you could look to the east and see Cottonstone Mountain. In the late spring, buzzards made their nests in an area called Buzzard Rock on this mountain. There was a ledge of large rocks. Under the middle one of the three largest, you could look into these nests to see the young buzzards. There were usually two to the nest. This mountain was a beautiful sight from our place as the sun came up in the morning. Then there was Jenny Wright Mountain in the West. In the late evening as the sun set behind it, this mountain would be all red and gold. It was something to look forward to, and make a special effort to see.

In between these mountains was Denson Creek and Crooked Run Branch. The branch was a place of beauty in the spring. Ivy blooms in pink and white with dark green leaves. Lacy ferns and many other wild flowers grew along the banks of this branch. It was a sight to behold.

Denson Creek and Crooked Run Branch ran together for about two miles. Denson Creek ran in together with Denson Creek and Crooked Run Branch at the head of Johnson Mill Pond. The road ran across the pond about where Highway 134 crosses Denson Creek now. Then there was a covered bridge across the pond and a dam below. Thomas Wood ran a grist mill there. This mill was a place where people could get their wheat and corn waterground into flour and cornmeal.

The creeks and branch ran on down to Little River. They ran together with Little River into Smitherman's Mill Pond. This was approximately where the new bridge is now on the old Troy-Candor Road.

In July the men in the Lovejoy community would fasten two sacks together, and put a staff on each end, and trace chain on the bottom. They would take this homemade seine and go in the creek to seine for fish. The whole community would gather for a fish fry. It was enjoyed by young and old alike, and was the highlight of the summer holidays.

Life back then was a lot simpler than it is now. We had time to enjoy ourselves, not be continually rushing from one place to another like we do now.

I attended the Suggs reunion the first Sunday in May this year, and Lovejoy Church. I also attended the morning worship service. The Rev. Jay Clark is the pastor of this church. Attending this reunion and seeing many of the people mentioned here brought back a lot of old memories.

## THE MONTGOMERY HERALD

Thursday February 18, 1926

### QUEEN NEWS

Rev. D. I. Garner filled his regular appointment at Love Joy Sunday and preached an excellent sermon to a large congregation.

The young people met at D. W. Hamilton's Sunday night and had an old time singing, which was enjoyed by all present.

Mrs. Wiley Harris visited in the home of Mrs. A. H. Reynolds on Monday evening.

Miss Minnie Walster spent the week end here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Walster.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Hullin, of Shiloh, spent Saturday night with Hobart Reynolds and family.

Mr. E. V. Saunders and family visited in our community Sunday.

Mr. Grady Reynolds, of Queen, spent Saturday in Troy barbering.

W. A. Harris has purchased himself a new Chevrolet touring car.

Dan Hamilton, accompanied by his wife, visited Cgie D. Moore on Sunday.

Mrs. J. L. Shaw spent a short while Wednesday in Troy on business.

Hobart and Grady Reynolds have accepted a position with H. F. Hullin near this place.

Mrs. J. W. Saunders spent Saturday in Troy shopping.

Mr. Theodore Whitfield Hullin of near Shiloh visited Miss Ruby Harris Saturday night.

There will be Sunday School at Love Joy every Sunday at 10 o'clock.

Everybody is cordially invited to come and bring some one with you.

Thursday, June 3, 1926

### QUEEN NEWS

Rev. John Hollin of Midland, preached at Love Joy, last Sunday morning, a most excellent sermon. He held the audience spell bound, for he is a man that preaches with conviction and experience.

We were all glad to see Rev. J. H. Stowe one of our former pastors who had not been here in about 15 years who made a short talk which was enjoyed by all who heard him.

Wiley Harris and family, attended services Sunday at Chapel Hill and reported a nice time.

There were several families from around here attended the Reynolds reunion at Cross Roads Sunday.

Those visiting Hobart Reynolds and family Sunday were Misses Mae and Nettie Hullin Mrs. Pelyan Soggs and Gay Vancannon.

Eldridge Thompson and family visited Dan Hamilton one day last week.

Charlie Vancannon and family spent a short while Sunday as the guest of A. H. Reynolds.

Alfred Halton of Charlotte, was a welcome visitor in our community the past week.

Mrs. Everette Reynolds who has been spending some time visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Morris near Troy, has returned home.

Dessie Brown and family of Troy, attended the singing at Love Joy Sunday night.

Mr. C. B. Moore and family visited W. R. Sadere at Troy Saturday night.

D. M. Nordan of Troy was a Sunday visitor here.

Fred Hullin and family was week end visitors here.

There will be no services at Love Joy next Sunday June 6. The choir having received an invitation from Pleasant Hill church to sing for them at the memorial service.

Miss Vellie Soggs was a Sunday visitor in the home of D. W. Hamilton.

Dank Gillis spent one day last week in Troy on business.

Everybody remember the singing Thursday night.