

*Love Joy
United
Methodist
Church*



*Our History
Continued
October 1985
—
August 2000*

Preface

This is an account highlighting events of the church. I have strived to accurately report the events in order so that we may reminisce and have a guide of time past.

Sara Atkins, Historian

Appreciation

A special thanks to Elaine Reynolds for providing the newspaper articles and to Ann Suggs for providing the church membership roll.

Love Joy United Methodist Church

Pastors and Years Served

Rev. E. G. Cowan	1934-1938
Rev. J. L. Trolinger	
Rev. Warren Barfield	
Rev. J.K. Worthington	
Rev. J. R. Regan Sr.	1947-1949
Rev. Harold Austin	1949-1950
Rev. William Ray Bailey	1950-1954
Rev. Odell Walker	1954-1958
Rev. Reginald Ponder	1958-1962
Rev. Max W. Dulin	1962-1964
Rev. Lester C. Bissette	1964-1965
Rev. Robert B. Campbell	1965-1967
Rev. William Ruth	1967-1971
Rev. Lynwood C. Boyette	1971-1975
Rev. Riley Vance Hardison	1975-1979
Rev. Jay Clark	1979-1983
Rev. Tommy Privett	1983-1986
Rev. JoAnn Oulton	1986-1990
Rev. Tommy Evans	1990-1994
Rev. Alex Maultsby	1994-1997
Rev. Jack Page	1997-

2000 Membership Roll
Love Joy United Methodist Church

1. Atkins, Bobby Ray & Sara
2. Atkins, Doyle, Faye
Tina
3. Atkins, Ora
4. Atkins, Jeffrey & Denita
Jennifer & Kelsey
5. Atkins, Dereck
6. Atkins, John Charles & Sherry
Lauren & Bradley
7. Atkins, John Lewis & Edith
Leigh
8. Batten, Charles
9. Batten, Tod & Debra
Bradley
10. Blake, Dwayne
11. Blake, Donald & Shirley
12. Blake, Clad & Kim
Aaron & Stephanie
13. Britt, Howard
14. Britt, Angie
15. Brock, Phillip & Jo Ann
Phillip, Jr.
16. Brown, Larry & Donna
Matina & Kerton
17. Byrd, Douglas & Brenda
18. Byrd, Mark & Catherine
19. Byrd, Michael & Pebble
20. Cagle, Jack & Louise
21. Cagle, Jolene
Charles
22. Callicum, Todd & Fena
23. Cochran, Janelle
24. Cox, Howard, & Elaine
25. Cox, Sherman & Barbie
Cynthia, Ryan, & Kristen
26. Cranford, Erta
27. Deaton, Joyce
28. Evans, Gary & Linda
John
29. Gillis, Carey

30. Gillis, Sheila
31. Gillis, Chris
32. Gillis, Ruby
33. Greene, Mary Ann
34. Greene, Arnold & Mary
35. Greene, Jeanne
36. Hacker, Linda
37. Heyer, Tracy
38. Hamilton, Glynn & JoAnn
39. Hamilton, Deon & Charlotte
Emily & Daniel
40. Hannah, Rodney & Joy
41. Hulin, Bill
42. Hulin, Jerry
43. Hurley, Jimmy
Daniel & Tyler
44. Hurley, Kathy
45. Kearns, Carol & Dixie
Kevin
46. Lassiter, Betty
47. Lee, Janet
Tiffany Howell
48. Lemons, Burke
49. Lincoln, Jay & Gwinne
Trey & Patrick
50. Moore, Todd & Teresa
51. Maness, Theron
52. Morris, Bruce & Ann Lemons
53. Morris, Carlene
54. Maness, Eddie & Donna
Andrea
55. Page, Jack & Karen
56. Pigford, Benny & Linda
57. Pigford, Frances
58. Pigford, Linda Morris
59. Reynolds, Elaine
60. Reynolds, Myrtle Mildred
61. Reynolds, Ardele
62. Ricci, Harden & Lisa
63. Russell, Rebecca
64. Russell, Elvis
Bret & Brian
65. Smith, Clara Russell
66. Stafford, Tammy
67. Sasser, Harold

68. Saunders, Christopher
69. Shaw, Wayne & Janice
Stacy
70. Smith, Michael & Lisa
Ashley & Wesley
71. Staley, Will & Jean
72. Staley, Sheila
73. Suggs, Max & Ann
74. Suggs, Franklin
75. Suggs, Betty Jean
76. Taylor, Kerma
77. Thompson, Sadie
78. Thompson, Joseph Martin
79. Thompson, Dillon
80. Thompson-Sadler, Jacqueline
81. Thompson, J.D. & Vicki
82. Thompson, James Richardson
83. Thompson, Joseph & Jean
84. Thompson, Oren & Frances
85. Thompson, Daniel
86. Thompson, Renita
87. Thompson, Timothy & Angie
Brian & Joshua
88. Thompson, Warren & Cathy
Paige & Elizabeth
89. Vuncannon, Diane
James & Daniel
90. Vuncannon, Rachel
91. Wallace, Ben & Betty
Phillip, Stephanie, Daniel
92. Webb, Clarence & Shirley
93. Webb, Jeffrey & Tracey
94. Webb, Stephen
95. Wright, Melton & Lee
96. Zicarelli, Cynthia

June 1982

The Love Joy United Methodist Women received from Cookbook Publishers, Inc., 500 printed copies of *The Love and Joy of Cooking*, a cookbook they had compiled under the direction of Sara Atkins, President of the UMW. The book was well received and additional copies were ordered. The profits were used for various church projects. To our knowledge this was the first cookbook to be published by Love Joy Church.

October 1985

In October 1985, at the regular monthly meeting, the United Methodist Women discussed ways in which to help finance the new building and renovation of the church.

October 1985

In October 1985, with cooperation from the United Methodist women and men, the first, "Fall Bazaar and Bar-B-Que" was held at the Troy Elementary School Cafeteria. This was continued until 1988 when the event took place at the Fellowship Hall of the church. The barbecue was prepared by the UMM and the UMW along with the beans, slaw, rolls, tea, and desserts. An auctioneer was brought in to auction items, rather than sell them by price. Dixie Kearns was able to get an auctioneer who contributed his services to the fund raising event. This event will be a tradition as long as it is of significant benefit.

1985

During 1985, an architectural plan was drawn up and a fund raising campaign began. The Duke Endowment will contribute \$50,000.00 to our building. Approximately \$48,000.00 has been contributed to date locally for the building. The N.C. Conference contributed \$1,000.00 in December 1986. Duke Endowment \$19,500.00 in December 1986, \$15,000.00 in 1987, and \$15,000.00 in 1988. It was impossible to obtain actual figures of construction cost.

May 1986

This has been the driest spring in 100 years. Tonight we are having a good rain. Crops are very poor thus far. The rainfall is about 11 inches short of normal.

June 1986

The Love Joy- Macedonia preacher Tommy Privette will go to conference next week. He will move June 12, 1986 to Robbins after 3 years at Love Joy- Macedonia (June 1983- June 1986). Building plans were talked about with Rev. Jay E. Clark (1979- 1983) and decided a fellowship hall, pastor study, restrooms, and additional Sunday school rooms were needed. Renovation of the sanctuary was also discussed and plans made.

June 1986 – New Pastor

Jo Ann Oulton began as pastor June 12, 1986. Her first sermon was preached on Sunday, June 15, Father's Day. The first woman to ever pastor at Love Joy - Macedonia will be Rev. Oulton. She has two children, Sharmis and Mark.

August 3, 1986 – Ground Breaking

Ground breaking for the new fellowship building and renovation for the sanctuary was held following the 11 o'clock worship service on Sunday, August 3, 1986. District Superintendent, The Reverend Mr. James C. P. Brown brought the message after which the congregation along with the pastor, Reverend Ms. Oulton, went outside to the area of the new building site where Mr. Arnold Green, building chairman, Mrs. Betty Lassiter, UMW President, and Rev. Brown conducted the ground breaking ceremony. A large crowd was in attendance.

September 1986- construction

Corners for the education facility were staked the week of September 7, 1986. Construction will begin soon!

September 1986- Campmeeting

Campmeeting 1986 was a big success. An overflow crowd came for Homecoming Sunday. The weather was just perfect; temperatures were about 80 degrees with a low humidity. Everyone had a joyful day. Rev. Jo Ann Oulton preached the morning service. The trio "Heaven Bound" sang in the afternoon. The Rev. Jerry Juren of the First United Methodist Church in Mt. Gilead preached Monday and Friday evening service. Rev. Joe Forbes of Star United Methodist Church preached Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday night.

August 1987 – Construction Update

Construction of the education building moved at a snail's pace. The finishing touches were completed on Saturday, August 1, 1987 and worship service was held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 2, 1987 at 11 o'clock with Rev. Jo Ann Oulton. The sanctuary of the church was in the process of being renovated.

September 1987 – Homecoming

Campmeeting began on Sunday, September 13, 1987 with Rev. Vance Hardison preaching the morning message. A large crowd came despite the overcast and threatening weather. The rain did not come despite the heavy threat. The grounds were wet after nine days of rain or showers. The evangelist, Rev. Bobby Tyson of Raleigh was guest speaker Sunday, September 13 through Thursday evening, September 17.

The renovation continues on the sanctuary of the church with little progress being made.

November 1987- The Renovated Sanctuary

After months of waiting, the first worship service was held in the renovated sanctuary. It was a good, warm feeling to be back in the sanctuary for worship. A large crowd was in attendance for the cool, cloudy day. Rev. Jo Ann Oulton brought the morning message with Weitzel Vuncannon taking part in the moments of fellowship. Howard Britt spoke briefly on concerns of the congregation.

March 1988 – Dedication of the Gifts

Dedication of the gifts to the building renovation was held on Sunday, March 6, 1988. The gifts were as follows:

CROSS given by Glynn and Joann Hamilton

PULPIT given by Weitzel and Rachel Vuncannon in memory of their son, Jimmy

BAPTISMAL FONT given by Bobby Ray and Sara Atkins

Other gifts are listed elsewhere in the Church.

September 1988 – Homecoming

Homecoming and campmeeting began Sunday, September 12, 1988 with good weather and approximately 400 people in attendance to hear the Rev. Bill Ruth, a former pastor, bring the morning message. The Rev.

Haywood Smith was guest speaker for the service Monday through Friday evening.

November 1988 – Capital Funds Campaign

A Capital Funds Campaign to finance new Methodist churches across America was begun at Love Joy Church on November 1, 1988 with a luncheon in the fellowship hall and information presented about the endeavor. Our church is expected to raise, in excess of \$13,000, over a three-year period.

1989

The second cookbook published by CookBook Publishers, Inc. *The Love and Joy of Cooking II* was received during the year of 1989. President of UMW Jean Staley successfully inspired everyone to contribute his or her favorite recipe.

September 1989 – Homecoming

Homecoming and campmeeting began at 11:00 AM on Sunday, September 10, 1989 with Rev. Jo Ann Oulton bringing the morning message to a large crowd who came to renew acquaintances and fellowship with old friends. The weather was uncomfortably warm with temperatures around 90 degrees. Rev. Dr. Reginal Ponder will be the guest speaker Sunday through Friday evening.

September 1989 – Revival

A good crowd turned out each night to hear Rev. Dr. Ponder as he preached the revival. He was an outstanding speaker as he spoke of his childhood days, of the changing times, and how we need to be more prepared to meet God.

March 1990

On Saturday, March 9, the finance committee sponsored a covered dish congregational dinner in the fellowship hall of the church with approximately thirty-five people present. They used this opportunity to discuss the finance of the church. With attendance down, so are contributions. The weekly offerings are not meeting budget needs. Money from the building fund is being used to meet the budget. Jo Ann Hamilton, Chairperson of Finance, spoke on the dilemma. Mrs. Hamilton asked for suggestions to improve the finances. Pastor Jo Ann Oulton asked the group

to stand, join hands, and pray. The group closed the meeting by singing, "Bless".

March 1990

On Sunday March 10, 1990, a special communion service depicting the Lord's Last Supper was held. Twelve disciples dressed to look the part, and Jesus sitting at a prepared table, as Pastor Oulton introduced each disciple and told of their life in relation to Jesus. The congregation was then invited to break the bread of life, dip the blood of Jesus, eat, and go serve him. It was an inspiring service.

Sunday March 18, 1990

Bishop Carlton P. Minnick Jr. was the guest speaker. Also present, was our District Superintendent, Dr. Roger Elliott.

June 1990

Word from conference came that Rev. Oulton would be moved to Angier United Methodist Church. The Rev. Tommy Evans will be the new pastor at Love Joy- Macedonia. He will move on Tuesday, June 26. A covered dish dinner is planned on Saturday evening in the church fellowship hall to acquaint everyone with Rev. Evans, his wife Mary Beth, and children Leslie, 5 and Kyle, 2.

September 1990

A good crowd came in spite of the heavy overcast, warm day and the Rev. Evans preached the morning service as well as the Sunday evening and Monday through Friday services. The attendance was good each evening. The March offering was held on Friday evening. Following the service home made ice cream was made and served to all who wanted to stay.

During the fall of 1990 and the spring of 1991 a ball court was constructed and paid for by funds raised by the MYF and donations to the project.

September 1991

During the summer of 1991, Will Staley, cemetery supervisor, began a program of replacing old broken head stones with markers about twelve inches by sixteen inches in size. Montgomery Monument Works, working with Will, replaced several of the stones for about \$25.00 each. Money is being donated to help with the cost.

September 9, 1991

Camp meeting day was sunny and temperatures fairly nice. A large crowd was on hand, although, somewhat smaller than in years past. Rev. Privette, a former pastor came to bring the morning message. The choir was in fine form, under the direction of Jean Staley, and provided an interlude of great gospel music. Rev. Jimmy Tatum, of Smyrna United Methodist Church in Robbins, will preach the Revival service Sunday through Friday evening.

September 13, 1992

Homecoming was a beautiful, cool, and sunny day with temperatures in the low to mid seventy range. A large crowd came to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. Rev. Evans introduced Sanford District Superintendent Dr. Roger Elliott, who spoke at the Homecoming morning worship. Sunday evening, a singspiration will be held at 7:30 PM (this is the first time that I can remember not having a speaker on Sunday evening of the revival week). The Rev. Lancaster, pastor of Pine Valley United Methodist Church in Wilmington, will preach Monday through Friday evening.

March 28, 1993 - Note burning

A note burning was held on Sunday, March 28 at the 11:00 worship service with the minister Rev. Evans. The note was paid off, well in advance of its 1997 maturity. Thanks be to God! The note along with the Duke Endowment and local contribution were used to finance the contribution of the fellowship hall addition and renovation of the sanctuary.

Homecoming - September 12, 1993

An average size crowd came once again to worship and fellowship at annual homecoming at Love Joy. A very comfortable, sunny day greeted everyone as they renewed friendships. After the summer of record breaking high temperatures and disastrous floods in the midwest, the cooler weather was certainly welcome. The Rev. Paul Bunn of Southern Pines came to bring the morning message. Monday through Friday night, Rev. Berry Barbour of Hamlet will be guest speaker.

September 1993

During the summer, members of the congregation completed the barbecue kitchen construction that is located behind the Fellowship Hall.



MORTGAGE BURNING - Members of Love Joy United Methodist Church recently celebrated the retirement of debt on the church fellowship building by holding a mortgage burning ceremony during the morning worship service on March 28. Building Fund chairman Arnold Greene and Rev. Tommy Evans, church pastor, handle the honors while building committee members, Doug Byrd, Lorella Britt, and Don Blake look on. Other committee members, not pictured, are Janice Shaw, Weitzel Vuncannon, Bobby Ray Atkins, Joann Hamilton and Will Staley. Renovation of the church and the building project began in August of 1986. The \$201,000 debt was retired last August with the help of a \$43,000 grant from the Duke Endowment. This is well ahead of the projected retirement date in 1997.

From the *Montgomery Herald*, April 7, 1993.

March 1994

A tragic house fire, February 28, 1994, on Vestal Road in Troy took the lives of four small children and their mother. The children died instantly in the fire. They were Byron Hudson, 4 years old, Allison Lynthacum, 21 months old, and twins Rachel Denise and Richard Dennis Lynthacum, Jr. 8 months old. Their mother, Patricia Ann Lynthacum, 26, died on Sunday March 13, 1994 at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill, N.C. All are buried in the Love Joy Cemetery. Another child, Alex Lynthacum, survived. The father, Richard Lynthacum, was at work when the fire started.

June 1994

Rev. Tommy Evans will leave Love Joy on June 17, 1994. His new assignment is Concord United Methodist Church in Roxboro, N.C. We have learned Rev. Alex Maultsby will be the new minister at Love Joy-Macedonia churches. His wife, Nancy, and two children, Josiah and Mary Beth, will occupy the parsonage. We welcome them.

September 1994

The Rev. Alex Maultsby preached the homecoming message to a good crowd on a sunny and warm day. The Rev. Clarence Garner from the Robbins area spoke Sunday through Friday night.

September 1995

Homecoming was held on the second Sunday, September 10, 1995. A somewhat smaller crowd attended this year. The weather cooperated, with partly cloudy skies and cooler temperatures in the lower 80's. The Rev. Dr. Regional Ponder came to deliver the homecoming message. He spoke on the prodigal son, which was the best-delivered sermon on this subject that I've heard. It was truly outstanding. Reverend Ponder served Love Joy from 1958-1962. The Reverend Derald Smith, pastor of Eldorado Methodist Church, will be our guest preacher for Sunday through Thursday night, with no sermon on Friday night for the first time in my memory, possibly ever. The traditional March offering on Friday night was also eliminated. The March offering had been a tradition for as long as I have been attending camp meeting (since 1955-40 years). Previously, no offering was taken until the Friday night offering when everyone got up while the pianist played, "We are Marching to Zion", walked to the altar area and dropped their offering into large, old fashioned wash tubs. Many times down through the

years, the tubs, usually 2, were nearly filled with money. This is a tradition that will be missed.

August 1996

Weitzel Vuncannon was recognized during worship for his long years of serving as a Sunday school teacher. JoAnn Hamilton presented him a plaque from Class #6 and a covered dish lunch was served to all following worship.

September 8, 1996

Homecoming was a thankful event this year due to a hurricane named Fran, which came inland on Thursday night about bedtime. Power went off about 11:45 PM on Thursday and remained off until 10:30 AM on Saturday for most people. However, some of the members did not get power back until late Sunday. There was much wind damage to trees and to some homes from fallen trees. No serious injuries to individuals were reported in our community.

The Reverend Clay Morgan came from First United Methodist Church in Canton, NC to bring the 11:00 AM message. His sermon to his home church was outstanding. He spoke about "On the Road to Jericho", and about an old lady's diary where she had written on several consecutive days, "No one called today". Clay was raised at the intersection of Substation Road and Love Joy Road, about a half mile from Love Joy Church. Clay is the son of Bain and Alice Morgan.

Revival services were held Sunday through Thursday evening beginning at 7:30 PM. The Reverend Glenn Hancock, pastor of the Troy Circuit, where he is serving his seventh year, was our guest speaker.

June 22, 1997

After three years, 1994-1997, Rev. Alex Maulsby will be leaving Love Joy- Macedonia UM churches. Today is his last sermon. He has been assigned to the coastal area of N.C. near Wilmington. Rev. Jack Page will be the new minister to serve our churches. He is married to Karen and they have twin sons, Ben and Russ, who are college students at Appalachian State University and they have one daughter, Jordan age 11, a sixth grader. He will preach June 29 for the first time at Love Joy and Macedonia.

Sunday, June 29, 1997

Rev. Jack Page, our new minister, was greeted with enthusiasm at the morning worship service. Rev. Page, his wife, Karen, and daughter, Jordan, moved into the parsonage while renovation was still underway. Amid piles of boxes and furniture, they made themselves as comfortable as possible in the basement area until the newly refinished hardwood floors were dry enough to walk on. They are very pleased with the renovation, new rugs, and curtains.

Sunday, September 14, 1997

Homecoming was a special occasion. An average number turned out. In recent years many of the older people are being missed. Due to death and ill health the number of people attending is not as great as it once was. The weather was comfortably warm and clear. Rev. Jay Clark from Springfield, Va., a former pastor who was here 1979-1983, came as guest speaker on Sunday morning, as well as Sunday through Thursday night. The attendance was somewhat better than the past few years. It was good to have Rev. Clark and his family return. Jay was 27 years old when he first came to Love Joy-Macedonia as the pastor.

Sunday, October 5, 1997

Today was a very special occasion at Love Joy! Our District Superintendent, Dr. Jack L. Hunter, came for Charge Conference. He also came to preach our morning service under the old arbor. Since hearing of the special arbor at Love Joy, he said he had wanted to preach there. The weather could not have been any more perfect. Beautiful blue skies, mild temperatures, and a covered dish lunch in the fellowship hall followed Charge Conference. Macedonia and Love Joy was well represented as a good many came for this eventful time.

October 1997

The annual fall barbecue and auction was held at Love Joy on Saturday, Oct. 25. As usual, a large crowd turned out to support the Bar-B-Que from 4-6 PM. Many stayed for the auction that began at 7:00 PM. Many hand made items such as baskets, two quilts, decorative pillows, afghans, home made jelly, chow-chow, pickles, and numerous others contributed to a very successful event. The barbecue, cooked and chopped on the church grounds by the United Methodist Men and seasoned by the UMW, has earned a reputation of being the "Best I have ever had," by those

who return each year to enjoy it. This event each year has contributed a substantial amount to our budget.

September 1998

Sunday, September 13, 1998 dawned clear and mild in anticipation of homecoming, which proved to be warm with temperatures in the low 90's, but comfortable enough to bring a good crowd to hear our own Rev. Page bring the morning message. During the lunch and fellowship, Claude Morris, age 96, talked in private to individuals of times passed and showed the rope that was used in the last hanging that occurred in Montgomery County, (see appendix). Rev. Joe Wilbur of the Norman charge came for the evening services, which were held Sunday through Thursday. An ice cream social was held after the Thursday service in the church fellowship hall. The attendance for the services was small.

August 1999

Plans were made by the Administrative Council to put a new roof on the church. The new roof should be in place by late September. Discussions for new replacement windows in the sanctuary are going on. Three different companies have shown their products but no final decision has been made at this time.

September 1999

Homecoming was held on September 12, 1999. Rev. Clay Morgan of Canton, N.C., a native of Love Joy, came to speak at the 11:00 AM service and the 7:30 PM service. The day dawned clear and crisp. The weather was perfect for the good crowd who turned out to once again to renew their acquaintances and enjoy a bountiful meal spread on the tables beneath the huge oaks. Monday evening, Rev. Joel Guillemette, Senior Pastor of Wesley UNC in Concord, NH will speak through Thursday evening when, after the service, an ice cream social will be held.

Revival September 12-17, 1999 came at a time when hurricane Floyd, following Dennis, decided to pounce upon the eastern seaboard and wash inland bringing 3 inches of rain to our area and up to 20 inches on the N.C. coast. Revival services were conducted by Rev. Guillemette on Monday through Wednesday, but were cancelled Thursday night due to the storm.

July 2000

In late July 2000, the third cookbook *The Love and Joy of Cooking Old and New* was published under the direction of Janet Lee, president of the United Methodist Women.

August 2000

Installation of the stained glass windows and glass protector took place the week of August 7 and the total cost was \$25,773.37.

September 13, 1990

Troy's Lovejoy Church history dates back to early 17th century



The entrance way of Lovejoy United Methodist Church is framed in boughs of towering trees.
Photo by Larry Pace

By Jack G. Stratan

TROY—The earliest record of Troy's Lovejoy United Methodist Church was a book entitled "History of the Wesleyan Methodist Church," written by Roy Nicholson and Ira Ford McLeister.

The book has an interesting side: "In the fall of 1850, Rev. Jessie McBride was arrested for giving a book, "The Ten Commandments," to a girl who lived near the village of Liberty.

The authorities thought that book would incite insurrection amongst slaves.

A Mr. Adam Crooks was also named in the charge, though McBride was the only one found guilty.

In 1851, a year after the first incident, Crooks was dragged from the pulpit of the Lovejoy Chapel in Montgomery County, and jailed. He stayed in jail until released with the promise he would leave the county.

He repaired his carriage, according to the history, and left town.

Thoburn Freeman, a community member quoted in the history, remembers the church through talk of friends and parents.

He said he believed the church was founded around 1836, and, at that time, it was a log building across the street from the cemetery.

The land for the church was donated by the late Jacob Reynolds. The church was then Wesleyan, however, the original deed was not recorded.

It was after the arrest of Crooks, the doors of the church were locked and the original deed torn up.

Later a new deed was drawn and someone rode to Asheboro to have the church recorded in the name of the Methodist Protestant Church.

Freeman told the writer of the his-

tory that at that time there was a Lovejoy Academy. William H. Crowder, who attended Yadkin College, came to Lovejoy to teach.

In the 1800s, an unusual camp meeting was held.

After a 2 p.m. service, a young gentleman who was a member of a band of "wild men" went to the arbor to pray about his reckless ways.

The history says he could be heard half way to Shiloh.

Others joined him after the service and prayed until two the next morning.

Seven gave their lives to Christ that night and went on to become preachers.

The history states that during this prayer meeting "some said the tops of the trees lit up. There was no explanation for this, and some of the young fell to their knees asking what it meant."

Lighting for the arbor was 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.

The cornerstones of the church states it was organized in 1868. It was destroyed by fire in 1925.

The present church was constructed in 1928, with additions in 1953.

The arbor, which stands today, is supported by hand-hewn posts from the original arbor.

The history notes some interesting moments from the diary of Charlie Russell:

—"1940, Fair, fine weather. Camp meeting, large crowd, big preaching by Rev. Grace."

—"1941, I went to Lovejoy board meeting. The lights shined fine. The Rev. Joel Trogden preached two big

sermons at the campmeeting."

—"1942, Rev. Grant preached three big sermons."

"The year 1947 is memorable to lot of people from Lovejoy.

The camp meeting began on Sep. 28, in the usual excitement. A Rev. C.G. Mitchum was preaching an "inspiring sermon" when lightning struck a section of the tent, catching it on fire and destroying everything.

During the 70s and 80s the camp meetings were held on the second Sunday in September.

Other accomplishments: 1970, concrete replaced straw in the arbor; 1975, carpet installed in sanctuary; 1976, kitchen installed in fellowship hall; 1979, parsonage renovated; 1981, church van purchased; 198-bedroom and bath installed in parsonage basement; 1987, fellowship hall finished; 1987, sanctuary renovated.

Ministers at Lovejoy include: E.C. Cowan, J.L. Trolinger, Warren Bafield, J.K. Worthington; J.R. Rega Sr.; Harold Austin, William Baile Odell Walker, Reginald Ponder, M. Dulin, Lester Bessette, Rob Campbell, William Ruth, Lynwood Boyette, Riley Hardison, Jay Clat Tommy Privett, JoAnn Oulton or Tommy Evans.

Evans is the father of two. His wife is named Mary Beal.

The church is located on Route Troy, on Lovejoy Road.

When the community of Lovejoy is spoken of, one of the first things that comes to mind is the old arbor at Lovejoy United Methodist Church.

The arbor, now used for the church's annual homecoming the second Sunday in September, was once host to week-long camp meetings.

The first arbor was built in the early 1800s. The rough-hewn posts that served as the corner posts for the first arbor are still in use today.

In 1938, Clara Russell moved to the Lovejoy Community, in the northern part of the county between Troy and Flinn Hill, with her husband. Russell also joined the church that year and has been teaching Sunday school since.

"There have been a lot of changes since I joined the church," she said. "We don't have as large a congregation as we had at one time and the tents we camped in are gone."

When asked about the tents, she explained, "At that time, the arbor had a straw floor. There were a lot of little wooden tents all around the arbor and they all had little straw floors too.

"There were little ice refrigerators for people to keep their food. There wasn't any electricity until 1941 or 1942," she continued.

According to Russell and other members of the church, whole families would move their households to the church grounds to take part in the week-long revival. "We would bring our animals and just set up house," she said. "That way we could just devote our whole attention to God."

Services were held in the morning, in the afternoon, and in the late evening. "We had woods prayer meetings too," she recalled. "All the men would go one way and all the women would go the other way."

Of course, the tents were not always that segregated. Folks recall that many of the young people would pair up and sit together during services. They said that many marriages were started there under the arbor.

Some of the people coming to camp on the church grounds lived within walking distance of the church. Russell said that her family always camped close to the Willard Atkins family. "The tents were so close that you could hear people planning their day's menu early in the morning," she said. "We used to always remember hearing Mr. Willard sneeze. It was so loud . . . those were just the best memories."

"Some people would get under 'conviction' and they would go off to their tents and pray through the night," she said. "We had such good services back then that sometimes we would hold camp meeting over and stay an extra week."

Many residents of Lovejoy recalled preachers and other members who would come down the aisle to lead people to the altar when they gas under conviction. A written history of Lovejoy recalls one night when the spirit moved through the gathering.

"Behind the church, Conon 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 at night and ended at 2 in the morning. It marked Lovejoy's finest moment because the men who were saved that night turned from their drunkentits and brawling into regular church attendants."

Those kinds of services lent themselves to Lovejoy's claim to fame -- ministers. "We have sent out so many ministers," said Edna Cranford.

"And they always have such good ministers, too," quipped the Rev. Tommy Evans, current pastor of the church.

In 1947, some of the tents caught fire. The written history has it that lightning set them afire, but older residents say it wasn't lightning but an oil burner that caused the trouble.

History has it that it was silent in the arbor as the visiting minister was getting ready to give the altar call, when someone yelled out "Fire." They say that the teen-agers present thought it was the end of time.

The remaining tents were used for a short while after that but were torn down in 1963.

Way Cranford noted that while the camp meetings were spirit-filled, there were also a lot of high spirited pranksters at the camp.

"Some boys used to go up on top of the tents and lay a board across the flat. Slowly the tents would start smoking up and then they would move the board," he explained. "People would go out and look to see what the problem

was and it would be drawing fire. They never got caught, but one of those fellows used to always laugh about it when he got older."

Ever ready to believe a ghost story, some of the children growing up in Lovejoy were sure that the ghost of Jessie Hulin walked the grounds of the church yard where he was buried.

The death of the Hulin brothers, Jessie, John, and William, is one of the most often told stories in the community. The three brothers are buried in a common grave in the Lovejoy cemetery. Their headstone tells the story best. Underneath the names and the birthdates of the three brothers is one word -- "MURDERED."

An oral history of the times that led up to the murders and of the actual murders was handed down to Thoburn Freeman from his grandmother and aunt, Sarah Hulin and Caroline Hulin, who were actually participants in the drama. The history, now written, says:

"The church at Lovejoy was Wesleyan at this time (the opening of the Civil War,) and their ministers preached against slavery. One preacher, Adam Crooks, was arrested in the pulpit. This brought an end to the preaching for a while. The deed to the property was made to the church by Jacob Reynolds, but had not been registered. He simply made another deed to the Methodist Protestant church and one of the members rode on horseback to Ashboro during the night and registered the deed. Soon a Methodist Protestant minister took over and worship went on as before.

"Since most of the people in the area were opposed to slavery and not in sympathy with the Southern Cause, many men chose to hide out and were called 'Bushwhackers' by the Rebels. Among them were the three sons of Hiram and Nancy Hulin -- Jessie, John, and William. A fourth man, Elisha Moore, a brother-in-law of Jessie, hid with the men for many months.

"During the time the men were hiding out, the women suffered many cruelties at the hands of Rebel soldiers. At times, their hands were placed under a fence rail, while a soldier sat on the rail, in an effort to make them tell where the men were hiding. At other times, they would raid their homes and carry off all of the food supplies. Sometimes, they would play cruel tricks.

"One time, the Rebels came to Elisha's home and told his wife, Sarah, and his sister, Caroline (wife of Jessie), that they had shot Elisha about where his galluses crossed his back and had tracked him for a ways by the blood. The very next night Elisha came home and he had not been shot at all."

Near the end of the war, the three Hulin brothers were caught and taken prisoner. According to Cranford, they were dragged to an old mill house in Uwharrie and kept for several days.

Elaine Reynolds, one of the area's historians noted, "Caroline wanted to stay with her husband but they wouldn't let her. She stayed near him but not with him."

Early one morning they dragged the three men out and up on top of Buck Mountain. Once there, they shot them to death. Their father brought their bodies back to Lovejoy for burial.

They were placed in an outbuilding until they could be prepared for burial. Legend has it that their

blood can still be seen on the boards of the outbuilding floor, now part of a barn.

The Lovejoy area is rich in history. One fact that many people are not aware of is that Lovejoy hasn't always been Lovejoy. At one time, the community was known as Queen. "Queen Cox was the first post mistress," said Etta Cranford. "So I guess the post office was named after her."

Weizel Vuncannon recalled a friend talking about his parents' elopement. "He was saying that he always wondered where they got married. So, I asked him where it was and he said 'Queen.' You should have seen his face when I told him that he was in Queen," he said.

Doyle Atkins has lived in Lovejoy his whole life. For the past 28 years, he has farmed on land near his old home. Atkins said that Lovejoy was a quiet family community. He also remembered going to the camp meetings. When asked if he ever sat with his

favorite girl, he said, "No, I believe I was afraid of girls."

Phyllis Parks is one of the "implants" in the community, having lived there only 25 years. "It is pretty basically a quiet little community. Not very much happens up here. Nobody ever bothers you but if you ever need anybody all you have to do is ask."

Parks lives on top of Murdock Mountain beside Nellie Murdock. Murdock, a young 77-year-old, is the perennial grandmother. Countless Montgomery County children have grown up under the warmth and care of Miss Nellie's love.

"When Woodrow and I moved up here, we were the only non-Methodists in the community," she said. "People looked at us a little strange, but they are all so nice. The people here are so friendly; you can really count on them."

A few years back Murdock decided to quit baby-sitting but that wouldn't do. "I thought I was going to quit, but people keep asking and

the way I love children, I can't say no," she said.



NELLIE MURDOCK

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1902

WILLIAM HULIN

DEC. 27, 1842

JAN. 28, 1865

JOHN HULIN

MAY 5, 1840

JAN. 28, 1865

MURDERED

JESSIE HULIN

APR. 9, 1830

JAN. 28, 1865

THESE BROTHERS - the grave of the Hulin Brothers is located in the Lovessy Methodist Church cemetery. The men were killed for not being in sympathy with the Confederacy.