



# *History of the Blowing Rock Methodist Church*

*1900-2010*

Originally Compiled for the  
Anniversary/Heritage celebration  
August 6, 2006

**Revised for the  
110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Church  
August 1, 2010**

Blowing Rock Methodist Church  
Po Box 352  
1314. Main Street  
Blowing Rock, North Carolina

## *Preface and Acknowledgements*

The work that follows has been written by me to serve as a starting point for future researchers and authors. Consequently, it is titled "A History of Blowing Rock Methodist Church." It is not *the* history of the church. As the latest minister to have the pleasure of serving and being served by the wonderful people who worship in this unique mountain church, I have met few of the many people mentioned in the following pages. My sole qualifications for having attempted this rather impossible task are that I love the people of the church and I have taken the time and made the effort to do it. Please know that any omissions or errors were not intentional and are entirely my fault. The attempt to complete this writing and have it in hand prior to the church's celebration of over 100 years of its existence, August 6, 2006, made for a rushed job and many late-night hours. Hopefully, some future author with more time and resources will be able to expand and complete this initial effort.

The anniversary committee of Charles and Betty Brown, Bill and Betsy Collins, and Wayne Bass were aided by Bob Dixon, Gerrie and Hurshell Keener, Charo Berry, Shirley Blackwell, Jean Moberg and a host of others. My wife, Diane, labored long and hard with me.

Jerry Burns and Crystal Owens allowed me to read and look through all issues of the town newspapers, *The Blowing Rock Journal* and *The Blowing Rocket*, 1932-2006. This effort took many, many hours and they kindly gave me a place to work and copying assistance. Jerry himself is a walking repository of information about the church and the town. I thank him for permission to use material directly from newspaper reports.

I also need to acknowledge the valuable assistance of the following: Kinneth

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Shannon LeFever, Coordinator of Chapel Programs, High Point University

Interviewees: Guy & Sadie Byerly; Frances Fitzgerald; Bishop Thomas B. Stockton; Bob Dixon; Charles L. Fonville; Hurshell Keener; Jean Moberg; Shirley Blackwell, Jane Wolf and others.

Larry Shaw and Sir Speedy Printing, High Point, North Carolina

Authors of obituaries of the mentioned ministers in the *Journal of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference*: Robert E. Cushman for H.E. Spence; Martha Thompson Eakes for Wilson Weldon; Joe Hale for Lee F. Tuttle; Orin N. Hutchison for James G. Huggin; Ernest A. Fitzgerald for Mark Depp.

Thanks especially to the worshippers of Blowing Rock Methodist Church.

Sincerely,  
*Hal Warlick, Summer 2006,*

***Contents Updated and Revised Summer 2009***

# *A History of Blowing Rock Methodist Church*

Compiled and written by Hal Warlick

## *1.) The founding and early years, 1900-1947*

By deed dated July 11, 1900, **Charles D. Waller** and his wife, **Marie Dell Waller**, conveyed a tract of land in Blowing Rock, on the west side of the turnpike road, 35 yards wide and 70 yards long, being one-half acre, more or less, to C.J. Coffey, W. L. Holshouser, S.M. Clarke, J.H. Taylor, and J.F. Hardin as Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church-South "for a church to be erected on the lot herein conveyed." Waller bought the same lot from W.M. Morris and wife in September of the year 1888, who bought 210 acres, of which this one-half acre was a part, from Elijah Greene in the year 1873.

Erected on this one-half acre of land on the west side of the turnpike road in 1901-1902, and still standing, was a simple church building, covered with chestnut bark. One unique feature of the church is that it is built on a principle of one-half of its width in feet equals its height, and one and one-half times its width equals its length. It is presumed this may be according to an old rule designed to accomplish the most nearly perfect acoustics. The church was furnished with 24 old-fashioned straight-back wooden benches, each 11 feet long.

The little church valiantly tried to serve the community but with poor success. In 1919, a consecrated layman, **Mr. C.W. Hunt** of Charlotte, acted as janitor, Sunday School Superintendent and general manager. He preached each Sunday to less than a dozen people.

According to old records available, this church was used with varying membership under the supervision of local and circuit riding ministers until the early part of the year 1930. For much of the period, the church had been a part of the Boone circuit with services being held every other Sunday in the summer months. In 1932, **Reverend Stafford**, District Superintendent of the North Wilkesboro district, began the services June 27 and continued them through August on a twice monthly basis.

From 1931-1934, the **Reverend Joseph Henry Brendall, Jr.**, served the Boone circuit. Brendall opened the Blowing Rock Methodist Church July 2, 1933 and attempted to keep the services going until the end of August on a weekly basis. He was not successful, and the little church was abandoned by the Boone circuit.

Sometime in the early 1940's, after the church had been abandoned for eight years, the building was leased to the members of another denomination, the Christian Science congregation, for a period of five years. They used the building during the summer for the five years, and then from year to year for the next two years.

An attempt was made to reopen the church as a Methodist church in 1947. Services were held infrequently in the summer months by **Dr. John G. Barden**. Dr. Barden, a member of the Boone Methodist Church, was a former missionary to Africa. He was Professor of Education at

Appalachian State Teachers College and an excellent speaker. The attempt to develop a sustaining attendance was not successful, and the church was again closed. In spite of the best efforts of the church leaders, the membership had either died or moved away, and there was no one there to serve. Much of the early history of the church is lost in oblivion.

## ***2.) The Turning Point -H.E. Spence, 1948-1963***

In 1948, two of the supporters of the church, **Dr. Harry C. Schmeisser** and **Mr. L. M. Rask**, still dreamed of a meaningful future for the Blowing Rock Church and worked to that end. That same spring, **Mr. and Mrs. L.M. Smith** proposed to the Reverend J.W. Hagley, Jr., who was at the time the District Superintendent, that they would underwrite an honorarium and furnish living quarters for the minister and his wife if a suitable preacher could be secured. **Professor H.E. Spence of Duke University** was approached. He gladly accepted for this was a challenge he had waited for all the years.

Dr. Hersey Everett Spence (1882-1973) held student appointments in Chicago and regular appointments in Durham, Raleigh and Sanford in North Carolina. From the last-named charge, he was appointed to be the Executive Field Secretary of the educational work of the North Carolina Conference, with special attention to be given to the work of the Sunday School in the Conference. At the end of two years, he was sent to head up a modern department of religious studies. He was the first professor of Religious Education to hold a chair in a Southern college. He and his wife **Bessie** had no children. The couple consecrated themselves to the religious training of youth with the hope of extending their influence in that way. For a combined tenure of more than sixty years, they both taught religion at Duke University. At the time of his retirement, Dr. Spence was said to have taught two out of every three Methodist ministers then serving the North Carolina pulpits.

Neither he nor his wife Bessie could have envisioned what was about to happen to their lives and the life of the Blowing Rock Methodist Church. H.E. at the age of 66 became the summer resident pastor of the church.

The church was opened the first Sunday in June of 1948, for the summer only, largely for the benefit of the Methodist cottagers and tourists. There were 8 people present at that first service. The piano was out of tune and the carpet was threadbare. The windows were cracked and the walls musty. There were only two hymn books and no pulpit Bible. It was truly a dismal situation. But the small group of attendees and the leadership of Dr. Spence began to attract a following.

In just a few short years, the formerly abandoned church took on a new life. Those who were interested in the success of the church had refurbished it completely. The washed out, tumbled-down underpinning was replaced with concrete blocks. Modern gas heaters were installed, which furnished almost instantaneous heat in cold weather. A good piano was secured, books were purchased and a pulpit Bible was donated. A rich red carpet was placed on the floor, not only covering the aisle but the entire front of the church, including the pulpit. A lovely dossal, of the same color, covered the wall behind the pulpit. The windows were repaired. The congregation greatly increased. While much of the credit goes to the Smiths, it must also be shared. Mr. Smith was chairman of the official board for several years. He was succeeded by **Mr. L.M. Rash** of Lenoir, **Mr. Cecil H. Jarrett, Sr.**, of Newton, and **Mrs. L.S. Ivey** of Hickory in turn. Each of these contributed greatly to the development of the church and was instrumental in the ever-increasing furnishing of the sanctuary.

By the 1949 season, the church had extended its services through the first Sunday of September, and the

Blowing Rock Methodist Church was fully established in the community. The church became so successful that it was decided in August of 1949 to establish it as a permanent institution with services each Sunday morning during the summer season. The church was made a separate unit, and the pastor secured by the District Superintendent of the Marion District, and approved by the Bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference, Rev. Costen J. Harrell of Charlotte. The local affairs of the church were under the supervision of its pastor, with the assistance of a Board of Governors.

On August 27, 1950, a two-fold service celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Blowing Rock Methodist Church was held. Following the morning worship service, an evening program was designed to bring back something of the spirit and customs of Methodism a century ago. Dr. H.E. Spence delivered the morning sermon, and Miss Estelle Pardue sang a special offertory selection, "The Lord Is My Light." In the evening, a series of three scenes was presented re-enacting the old-time class meeting and camp meeting, and showing the work of a Methodist circuit rider. The program began at 7:30 p.m. in the Yonahlossee Theatre. Those who dressed in period costumes and played parts in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary pageant were, in order of their appearance in a photo in the town newspaper, were: **Grady Rankin, Grover Robbins, Mrs. Charles Brown, Mrs. H.P. Holshouser, Dennis Rash, Mrs. J.F. Schenck, Sr., Dr. H.E. Spence, Mrs. L. H. Smith, Sr., Miss Emily Pardue, Mrs. Irene Coffey, Mrs. Hal Hartley, Mrs. Ernest Banner, Miss Lucille Lett, Mrs. Margaret Reinking, Clarence Grider, Dr. Schmeisser, George Sudderth, Lawrence Rankin, Fuller Sams, L.H. Smith, Sr., Mr. Jones, Mrs. H.E. Spence, W.E. Boger, Marvin Culberth, Mrs. Alice Guyton, Mrs. Clarence Grider, Mrs. Ella Bess Schmeisser, and Mrs. Fuller Sams.**

Dr. H.E. Spence served the church 16 years, from 1948 to 1963. It is difficult to overstate his contribution to the town of Blowing Rock in general and to the Methodist Church in particular. In addition to his work as preacher and pastor, Dr. Spence served for many years as chaplain to the hospital, engaged in civic work, wrote for the local paper and found time also to write three or four books.

By the mid-1950's, the church was comfortably full on most Sundays and packed on special days such as Independence Day and Labor Day weekends. In the summer of 1956, the ground was leveled and a wide stone walk was extended to the street. The pews in the sanctuary were rearranged to provide a spacious aisle and the space at the front and the pulpit platform was covered in "divine red carpet." Gas heaters were also installed.

In 1963, a special service took the form of a drama built around the central theme of the church's beloved deceased members. Choruses, hymns, solos, litanies and readings were all directed to this central idea. The Farm House Singers provided wonderful music. The sermon dealt with "Memories of the Just."

**A window, Christ in Gethsemane, was presented by Mr. Abner McGehee, the son-in-law of Mrs. Schmeisser. The window Christ and the Children was presented by Mr. J. Luther Snyder II, the namesake of his grandfather, Mr. J. Luther Snyder. The first was in memory of Mrs. Ella Bess Schmeisser and was donated by friends and loved ones. The second was in honor of Mrs. Alfretha and Mr. J. Luther Snyder and donated by Mr. George Snyder and his two sisters, Mrs. Norman Bisanar and Mrs. W.B. Garrison. Mr. Lawrence S. Rankin, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Blowing Rock Methodist Church, received the gifts on behalf of the church. The memorials were dedicated by the pastor, Dr. H.E. Spence.**

So popular was Dr. Spence in Blowing Rock, that the town newspaper, *The Blowing Rock Journal*, ran a photo of Dr. Spence on the front page of its June 30, 1962, issue with the headline, "The Shepherd of the Mountains." Beloved and revered by the entire town, Dr. Spence and Bessie were presented a trip to Europe by the citizens of Blowing Rock. The mayor of the town came to the Methodist Church to hand the check for several thousand dollars to **Rabbi Morris Lazon**, who made a speech and gave the gift to the couple.

Dr. H.E. Spence, at the age of 81, finally relinquished his position as pastor of Blowing Rock Methodist

Church in 1963. Perhaps the legacy he left behind was best expressed by the *Blowing Rock Journal* in the summer of his last season as pastor:

"In many respects this is the most unique church in the world. It has no local membership. Those affiliated with it hold their membership elsewhere. It has no budget, no subscription list, no assessments. Money has not been mentioned in the church in these fifteen years. The only suggestion that money is ever used in religion is to be found in a simple statement in the bulletin which reads: 'This church is supported entirely by voluntary contributions.' Yet there is never a shortage of money. The services begin promptly at 11:00 o'clock and are usually over by a few minutes to twelve. The congregation lingers around the door and chats happily in a friendly fashion. The old 'socializing' of the country churches long ago is reproduced here in an attractive manner."

Dr. Spence in 1963 noted that he believed the only future for Methodism in Blowing Rock was for this church to "always remain a summer church just like it is now. So long as we let the fine people of Blowing Rock keep it up, they'll see the church is continued." (from the town newspaper}.

H. E. Spence died in 1973 at the age of 91. His wife Bessie died a week later. Their remains rest in the old section of Maplewood Cemetery in Durham, North Carolina.

### 3.) *Rabbi Morris Lazaron and the Inter-faith Movement*

The theological foundation of the Blowing Rock Methodist Church was decidedly inter-faith. If the church had an unofficial "associate" pastor during the Spence years, it was Dr. Morris Lazaron. From 1948 through 1964, a **Lazaron Day** worship service was observed at the church. When Dr. Spence was ill or had to be away for speaking engagements, Rabbi Lazaron occupied the pulpit in the Methodist church, once for four consecutive Sundays.

Rabbi Lazaron was in charge of the Baltimore Temple for 35 years. He retired from its pulpit in 1949. He was a chaplain in World War I and was one of four chaplains chosen to officiate at the Burial of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery on November 11, 1921. He traveled extensively for various organizations in the early days of the National Conference of Christians and Jews as a member of the first trio of ministers who toured the country in behalf of inter-faith understanding. He was accompanied by Dr. Everett R. Clinchy and Father John Eliot Ross. The three religious leaders were called the "Tolerance Trio" and the "Flying Ministerial Trio" by *Time Magazine*. The strange trio, a Jewish rabbi, a Catholic priest and a Protestant minister brainstormed the country beginning in 1933, discussing the differences between religions, superstitions and prejudices. Lazaron, Ross and Clinchy delivered their messages of tolerance to 129 American audiences in a single year. Rabbi Lazaron was also the founder of the anti-Zionist American Council of Judaism in 1942. In a time when prejudice was extremely high, Lazaron crossed America calling on people to enhance inter-faith understanding. Lazaron was one of 90 Reform rabbis and lay leaders who signed a statement reflecting anxieties over political Zionism at the beginning of the Second World War. He feared that a Jewish state would confuse humankind about the place of Judaism in society and would divert the attention of the Jews away from their historic role to live as a religious community wherever they may dwell. In the early 1950's, Lazaron and his American Council for Judaism provided aid to Christian and Muslim refugees from Palestine.

When Rabbi Lazaron retired, his taking up residence in Blowing Rock, coupled with his abiding friendship with and love for H.E. and Bessie Spence, proved a godsend for the Methodist Church. The fit was a natural one. H. E. Spence was a creative writer of drama and the Lazaron family members were gifted musicians and artists. Together they performed many of the plays in Spence's popular book, *Old Testament Dramas*.

In August of 1948, Spence's play, "The Sacrifice of Isaac" was presented in both the Baptist and Presbyterian churches in Blowing Rock. Spence wrote and directed the play, and the cast was as

ecumenical as one could be. Rabbi Lazaron played Abraham. **Reverend Robert Earnest** of the Presbyterian church played a Canaanite priest, and the Baptist church minister, **Reverend Oscar Harris** played a Canaanite man. Mrs. Lazaron was in charge of the music and also played the violin.

The summer inter-faith movement really took off in 1949. The central piece in the movement was the July 17, 1949 performance of the H.E. Spence play, "Mission of Moses." Rabbi Lazaron played Moses. Reverend Earnest (Presbyterian) played Aaron, the brother of Moses. **Mrs. Ruth Forbes** played Miriam, the sister of Moses, and **Mrs. Marion Cannon** played Jochebed, the mother of Moses. In perhaps the best-cast part of all, **Bishop Thomas L. Wright** played the Pharaoh!

At most of the services in which Dr. Lazaron preached in the Blowing Rock Methodist Church, he included his talented family. Usually his wife, an accomplished violinist and singer, his son, **Harold Lazaron**, and his son-in-law, **Mr. Samuel Thavin** played and sang for the services. Harold Lazaron was a graduate of Peabody Institute of Music at Johns Hopkins University and the Boston Conservatory of Music. Samuel Thavin was concert master of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Often, the Lazaron performances in the Methodist Church featured original compositions by the talented artists. Needless to say, all the citizens of Blowing Rock, permanent or temporary, who loved great music and good preaching would eagerly await the Sundays when Rabbi Lazaron would occupy the pulpit of Blowing Rock Methodist Church.

A prolific and prominent writer, Rabbi Lazaron's titles for some of his books reflect the measure of the man and his incessant pursuit of tolerance and justice: *Common Ground; Palestine and Jewish Nationalism; Olive Trees in the Storm; and Bridges - Not Walls*. For his tremendous presence and contribution to the establishment of Blowing Rock Methodist Church, this writer has chosen to list him among those who served as ministers and staff of the people of Blowing Rock through the little church at 1314 South Main Street. The last record available of Rabbi Lazaron preaching in the Blowing Rock Methodist Church is the August 4, 1974, bulletin, which announces that he would be the preacher on August 11, of that year.

#### ***4) Expanding the Legacy: 1964-1993***

##### **W. Mark Depp 1964-1974**

When feeble health forced H.E. Spence to vacate his position as minister of Blowing Rock Methodist Church, fortune smiled again on the little church in the mountains. One of America's outstanding preachers, **W. Mark Depp**, was living in Winston-Salem following his 1961 retirement from Centenary Church there, which he had served since 1945. Simply put, Mark Depp was without peer in the pulpit. In writing his obituary, Ernest Fitzgerald would contend that, "This man was a preacher and became a legend in his time." His sermons challenged both young and old. College students throughout the country clamored to hear him. So significant were his contributions that Allegheny College and Wake Forest University bestowed upon him honorary degrees.

Mark Depp was born in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, on November 13, 1893. He was educated at Allegheny College and Boston University. He was ordained deacon in 1916, and in 1918 he joined the Baltimore Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church on trial and was ordained elder. Admission into full connection followed in 1920. While a member of the Baltimore Conference, he served churches in Sykesville, Maryland; Baltimore, Maryland; Winchester, Virginia; and Towson, Maryland. In 1927, he was appointed to Calvary Church in Washington, D.C., where he stayed until 1932. In that year, he became pastor of St. Mark's Church in Baltimore. From St. Mark's, he transferred to the Pittsburgh Conference and for nine years was pastor of the famed Christ Church in Pittsburgh.

In 1945, Centenary Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, was looking for one of the nation's outstanding preachers to fill its pulpit. Upon the recommendation of numerous church leaders, Mark Depp was selected and appointed. He came to Winston-Salem in the fall of 1945 and remained as pastor of Centenary until he retired in 1961.

In 1964, he accepted the pastorate of Blowing Rock Methodist Church. He and Mrs. Depp continued to winter in Winston-Salem and summer in Blowing Rock until 1972 when they moved to St. Petersburg, Florida. Dr. Depp expanded the legacy he was handed from H. E. Spence and Morris Lazaron. Widely known across America as a talented preacher, he was according to Ernest A. Fitzgerald, "always on the cutting edge, addressing contemporary issues with profound insights from the gospel."

On October 7, 1966, worshippers at the church formed the **Blowing Rock Civic and Religious Association, Incorporated**. As stated in its articles of incorporation, the purpose of the organization is "To promote and encourage civic and religious activities in the town of Blowing Rock and elsewhere." The only condition is that "There are to be no members (of the Association)." The initial Board of the Association had three members: **Thomas L. Dysard, Jr.** of Statesville, NC; **Cecil H. Jarrett, Sr.** of Newton, NC; **Louis H. Smith, Sr.** of Blowing Rock, NC. This Association leased the church from the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church for one dollar a year until 2002. This was done to continue into the future the legacy of ministry to the seasonal community that was the church's past. The steady flow of meaningful and inspiring worship services coming from the church during the Depp years was so popular that on **August 18, 1974, it was decided to extend the summer worship services two Sundays**. Now, the "little brown church in the wildwood" was open June through the third Sunday in September. 1974 also marked the last season that the Depps were in Blowing Rock. They remained in St. Petersburg where Mark Depp died on January 27, 1986 at the age of 92.

### **Dr. James G. Huggin 1975**

In 1974, as Mark Depp retired from being the minister of Blowing Rock Methodist Church, **Dr. James G. Huggin, Jr.**, was retiring after 46 years of pastoral ministry. Dr. Huggin had come to the church in midsummer that year to preach due to the illness of Dr. Depp. Jim Huggin and Mark Depp were close friends and kindred scholars. A builder and shaper of some of Methodism's outstanding churches, Dr. Huggin, who had presided over the building of High Point North Carolina's Wesley Memorial Church, as fine a physical sanctuary and campus as any in America, now found himself presiding over one of the Conference's smaller edifices. He brought the same appreciation and dignity to both places.

In 1925 James G. Huggin received his A.B. degree from Wofford College and was licensed to preach the same year. A native South Carolinian, he graduated from Duke Divinity School in 1929 and united with the Western North Carolina Conference. His first pastorate was in Matthews, 1929-1930. He took a new bride, **Elizabeth Price Hamlin** of Spartanburg, South Carolina, with him to his second appointment in 1930, Asbury Memorial in Asheville. His long and productive ministry in North Carolina included pastorates at: Mount Holly, 1933-37 ; Waynesville, 1937-41; Trinity, Durham , 1941-45 ; Myers Park, Charlotte, 1945-52; Central, Shelby, 1952-56; Gastonia District Superintendent, 1956-58; Gastonia, First, 1958-63; Wesley Memorial, High Point, 1963-70; High Point District Superintendent, 1971-72; Sharon, Charlotte, 1972-74.

Dr. Huggin served the Blowing Rock Methodist Church the summer of 1975. The Conference called him out of retirement in December 1975 to the Matthews church upon the death of that church's minister. He served there until June 1976, thus coming full circle with his last appointment being in the same place as his first appointment. Dr. Huggin died at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem on December 20, 1982, at the age of 77. The influence of Jim and Elizabeth Huggin continues in the church through the active work of their daughter and son-in-law, **Betsy and Bill Collins** on its official Board and on numerous church committees.



### **Dr. Lee Foy Tuttle 1976-1979**

In the summer of 1976, **Dr. Lee Foy Tuttle** retired from his position as staff executive of the World Methodist Council from 1961-1976. The Blowing Rock Methodist Church eagerly brought him on board as its resident minister. Lee was a native of Lenoir, North Carolina, and held degrees from Duke University (A.B. 1927),

Yale University (B.D. 1934) and Elon College (D.D. 1955).

He joined the Western North Carolina Conference on trial in 1929, was admitted to full connection and ordained deacon in 1931 and was ordained elder in 1936. He began his ministry as a junior preacher at Wesley Memorial in High Point from 1929 to 1932. Lee and **Lula Mae Simpson** were married on November 12, 1930. While a student at Yale, he served as pastor at Humphrey Street Congregational Church in New Haven, Connecticut, 1932-35. When he returned from Yale, he served the following pastorates: Charlotte: Brevard Street, 1935-37; Concord: Forest Hill, 1937-39; Thomasville: Main Street, 1939-44; Asheville: Central, 1944-49; and Charlotte: First, 1949-56. From 1956 to 1961, he served as superintendent of the Winston-Salem District.

Lee played on the varsity football team to carry the name of Duke University and is thought have been the only former varsity football player to preach in the university services in Duke Chapel. During his days as pastor of Central Church in Asheville, Lee was the first to see and suggest the purchase of land now known as Camp Tekoa.

In 1961, he was elected general secretary of the World Methodist Council, a position he held for 15 years. The council is comprised of Methodist denominations found on all continents of the world. The impact of his leadership was felt worldwide as he, with Mae at his side, traveled into 99 countries in connection with this work. Under his leadership, the World Methodist Council established the World Methodist Peace Award to recognize "courage, creativity and consistency" in seeking international peace and reconciliation. The award has been presented to 22 individuals, including Anwar Sadat, Mikhail Gorbachev, Jimmy Carter and Nelson Mandela.

At Lake Junaluska, N.C., Tuttle enlarged the headquarters building, added significantly to the World Methodist Museum and created the Susannah Wesley Garden, which is widely used for group meetings and weddings. The museum contains a Wesley Window given by Tuttle in honor of his wife.

In the summers that he pastored Blowing Rock Methodist Church, 1976-79, Lee Foy Tuttle brought forth from the mountain pulpit sermons woven from a world vision laced with abundant doses of humor. The latter can easily be seen in the titles of two of his books: *Name Dropping - By An Expert* and *It Happened in Church, But Everybody Survived*. Dr. Lee Foy Tuttle died September 10, 2000, at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem at the age of 95.

### **Mrs. Claus (Jean) Moberg and the Hymn Sing 1976-present**

**During 1975-1976, the church hymn sing was started by Mrs. Jean Moberg and became an ever expanding success.** Some in the church did not want a hymn sing, so Mrs. Moberg paid the organist, **Ethel Henley**, out of her personal funds to come early, work with her, and play for the hymn session. Ethel Henley summered in Hound Ears. She was the choir director of The North Palm Beach Chapel in Palm Beach, Florida. This was the church that **Jean and Claus Moberg** attended. Ethel and Jean also sang

together in the Lost Tree Village Choir in Palm Beach. During the summer, residents of Blowing Rock and Hound Ears often gathered at the Moberg home (now Crestwood Inn) on Shulls Mill Road to sing hymns with Jean and Ethel. When the crowd in the Moberg home grew quite large, **Colin Stokes**, president of RJ Reynolds in Winston-Salem, suggested that some sort of hymn singing be tried at the Methodist church. The 10:30-11:00 am congregational hymn singing session soon became one of the identifying marks of the church's pattern of worship. In the early days of the hymn sing, choir members from the Farm House came and participated in the event when they were available. Then as now, people would call in their requests to Jean during the

week or write them on the bulletin or church attendance register on Sundays. The same hymnbook, *The Cokesbury Worship Hymnal*, affectionately called "the little blue book" by worshippers has been used 1976-2006. Initially, **Katherine Ogburn** purchased 150 of the books for the church. Through the years as the books would disappear or be sold to the worshippers, various individuals including the **Newtons**, the **Dysarts**, the **Foys** and **Lucy Crater**, helped replace the books. The spontaneous and passionate approach to the hymn sing created many memorable moments as Jean would often call to the front special assistants such as **Claude Armfield**, **Dan Wolf**, **Dick Brown**, and **Virginia Shuford Hall** to do "special requests." The dedication of Jean Moberg to leading the congregational hymn sing has been a thirty-year labor of love. When her husband, Claus Moberg, was being treated for cancer in Sloan-Kittering Hospital in New York City, he insisted that Jean commute from being with him to Blowing Rock on the weekend to lead the hymn sing. When she complained that it was "so expensive" he would insist that she go. Consequently, she would leave a car at the Greensboro airport, fly there from New York, drive to Blowing Rock and then retrace her steps back to New York on Sunday evening.

Mrs. Moberg continued to lead the hymn sing capably and graciously from her wheelchair each Sunday through 2007 and "looked forward to it all winter." Currently, she attends the church when able and such appearances are valued and loved by the entire congregation. On Sunday, June 22, 2008, upon a motion from Resident Minister Hal Warlick and Church Board Chairman, Charles Fonville, the Hymn Sing was named for Mrs. Moberg. Church Bulletins now have at the top of the worship schedule this heading:

***10:30 a.m. Hymn Sing-- Founded by Mrs. Jean Moberg;  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service-Led by Choral Director, Mrs.  
Shirley Blackwell and Organist, Ms. Hollie Lacy.***

### **Dr. Lewis N. Head 1980-1983**

June 1, 1980, **Dr. Lewis N. Head** began his service as Resident Minister of the Blowing Rock Methodist Church. Dr. Head had retired from the Florida Conference six years earlier and knew a number of the summer worshippers from his work throughout that state and his 33 years of maintaining a residence at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, prior to coming to Blowing Rock. A native of Kentucky, he received his degrees from McKendric College in Illinois, Garnett Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, and Florida Southern College (D.D.).

He transferred from the Southern Illinois Conference to the Florida Conference in 1929. Among his pastorates were: Melbourne, 1934-40; Haines City, 1941-42; Community, Daytona Beach, 1943-49; Coral Gables, 1950-60; Park Temple, Fort Lauderdale, 1961-65. An outstanding preacher, he led the Coral Gables Methodist Church to build a 1,400-seat sanctuary and saw the church grow from 1500 to over 3700 members during his pastorate. In 1966-69 he served as District Superintendent of the Sarasota District and in 1969-71 he served as District Superintendent of the West Palm Beach District. He concluded his long and productive career as Director of the Board of Church, 1972-74, for the West Palm Beach District.

At the time of this writing, little additional information is available relative to Dr. Head. Dr. Kenneth L. Minton, Conference Secretary of the Florida Annual Conference reports that the scarcity of detailed record keeping at the Conference and general church level during the period in question, and the nearly constant need of the Conference staff to go into hurricane relief mode has made for great gaps in locating historical records. Hopefully, future researchers and authors can bring a greater abundance of information to our efforts. We do know that Dr. Head retired from the Blowing Rock Church after the season of 1983 and returned to Lake Wales, Florida.

### **Dr. Wilson O. Weldon 1984-1993**

In early May of 1984, it was announced by **Dan Wolf**, chairperson of the Board of the church, that **Dr. Wilson O. Weldon**, age 73, Assistant to the Dean of Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina, would be the pastor for the 1984 season.

Dr. Weldon was a native of Camden, South Carolina and received his B.A. at the University of South Carolina in 1931, his B.D. from Duke University in 1934 and his Doctorate from High Point College in 1952. He was married to the former **Margaret Hammond Lyles** of Darlington, South Carolina.

He served as Director of the Wesley Foundation in Columbia, S.C. prior to becoming the director of Christian Education and Associate Minister at Centenary Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in 1938.

Since 1938, he had served pastorates at the Methodist Church in China Grove, the First Methodist Church in High Point, Memorial Methodist Church in Thomasville, First Methodist in Gastonia, Myers Park Methodist Church in Charlotte and West Market Street Methodist Church in Greensboro. From 1967 until 1975 he was editor of the Upper Room, which was published from offices in Nashville, Tennessee. From 1975 until 1981 he was District Superintendent of the Charlotte District. He assumed his position as Assistant to the Dean, Duke Divinity School in 1982.

Dr. Weldon was known for his carefully prepared pulpit utterances and his bold and highly competent leadership. He emanated tremendous physical and spiritual energy. The church in the mountains thrived under his leadership.

A significant moment in the church's life and physical appearance occurred August 19, 1991. On that date, the proposal and purchase agreement were signed for the two stained glass windows that are in the front of the church. These windows were the "Christ and Mary" window given in loving memory of Elizabeth Parks Duncan and the window entitled "My Lord and My God-John 20:28, Christ and Thomas, given in loving memory of Thomas Lee Dysard, Jr.-1909-1970. These windows have timed spotlights that shine on them each evening and are lasting symbols of the faith and Christian legacy of worshipper's past and present.

Dr. and Mrs. Weldon served and loved the church long and well. He was the first minister of the church to have his service at Blowing Rock Methodist Church mentioned prominently in his obituary in the *Journal of Proceedings of the Western North Carolina Conference*. A prolific writer, among the books he authored were *The Thrill of Christian Living*; *A Plain Man Faces Trouble*; *Beyond The Obvious*; *Sometimes Lonely But Never Alone*; and *Christmas: More Than A Season*. Dr. Weldon resigned from both his position at Duke and the Blowing Rock Methodist Church in 1993. He died March 15, 1998, at the age of 87, and was buried in Gastonia, North Carolina.

## ***5.) Bishops and Transitions - 1994-2006***

### **Bishop Ernest Fitzgerald 1994-2001**

By 1994, the Blowing Rock Methodist Church had achieved notoriety among Methodists as an outstanding preaching and worship station. Its music was unsurpassed in quality and consistency, and its viability as

an ongoing church seemed certain. Its stellar reputation had ministers, professors and denominational executives clamoring for a chance to fill its pulpit. Perhaps the attitude of the times was best expressed to the author in an interview with **Guy and Sadie Byerly** of Charlotte. The Byerlys were close social friends with the preachers and their spouses and Guy served as Chair of the Official Board of the Church 1990-2000. Says Byerly (July 2006): "We played it by ear and appreciated the Lord letting us be where we were." Small wonder, then, that the next minister of the church was one of Methodism's most nationally recognized pulpiteers, **Bishop Ernest A. Fitzgerald**. Bishop Fitzgerald had retired in 1992, as Bishop of the Atlanta area of the United Methodist Church, and he and his wife, the former **Sarah Frances Perry** of Wingate, North Carolina, came to Blowing Rock in 1994.

Bishop Fitzgerald's credentials were truly impressive. Born in the Methodist parsonage of Reverend and Mrs. James B. Fitzgerald in Crouse (Lincoln County), North Carolina, he attended public schools in the state prior to his college experience. Ernest earned the AB. degree from Western Carolina University (1947). He earned the B.D. degree from Duke Divinity School (1951). He held honorary doctorates from High Point College (1969), Pfeiffer College (1986), Greensboro College (1993) and Union College (1994). In addition, he received Distinguished Alumni Awards from Western Carolina (1981) and Duke Divinity School (1983).

He joined the Western North Carolina Methodist Conference in 1946 and served the Webster Circuit 1944-47; the Liberty Circuit (Randolph County) 1947-50; Calvary Church, Asheboro 1950-55; Abernethy Church, Asheville 1955-59; Purcell Church, Charlotte 1959-64; Grace Church, Greensboro 1964-66; Centenary Church, Winston-Salem 1966-82; WestMarket Street Church, Greensboro 1982-84. In 1984, Dr. Fitzgerald was elected Bishop and assigned to the Atlanta area of the United Methodist Church.

To call Bishop Fitzgerald a preacher and author without a peer would be an understatement. He was a regular contributor to the Piedmont Airlines In-flight Magazine and AMTRAK. In 1983 he was

the preacher for the Methodist series of the radio program, "The Protestant Hour." Having served the Western North Carolina Conference as Chairman of the Television, Radio, and Film Commission, he was a venerated, experienced and polished speaker from the pulpit of Blowing Rock Methodist Church.

Bishop Fitzgerald wrote the following books: *There's No Other Way*; *The Structures of Inner Peace*; *You Can Believe*; *Living Under Pressure*; *A Time to Cross the River*; *How To Be A Successful Failure*; and *God Writes Straight With Crooked Lines*.

His catchy sermon titles, the ease and clarity of his prose, and his abundant practical illustrations drew sizeable crowds to the little mountain church each season of his ministry there. The lighthearted but pointed illustrations, most of them firsthand, did not dodge touchy contemporary issues. Instead, Ernest Fitzgerald often used his own experience in the struggle for meaning to enlighten his hearers about the vital aspects of a growing faith in God. A biblical, lucid and helpful preacher, he was a master of his craft. Consequently, he was very much in demand throughout Methodism. In 1996 Bishop Fitzgerald notified Guy Byerly that he was so loaded down he could not keep coming back to the Blowing Rock church every weekend from Winston-Salem. Dan Wolf and Guy Byerly went to the Fitzgerald home to talk to Ernest. They got nowhere. As they were leaving, Guy Byerly walked back into the house and said, "Ernest, we have a plaque on the wall in the back of the church with the years of service on it and you don't want your name there for just three years." The next day Bishop Fitzgerald called the church leaders and informed them he was coming back. For five more years, the church was privileged to benefit from the presence of Ernest and Frances Fitzgerald.

As of this writing, 2006, the church has had 59 consecutive seasons (June- September) of weekly worship under 9 ministers. Four of those ministers, Spence, Depp, Weldon, and Fitzgerald, served 45 of those

seasons.

The year 2000 marked a change in the administration of the church as Guy Byerly resigned his position as Chair of the Official Board, and he and Sadie sold their home in Blowing Rock. Frances Fitzgerald remarks that Sadie and Guy had so much fun with the ministerial families. Frances remembers that she and Bishop Fitzgerald went to Kilwin's Chocolates and Ice Cream on Main Street with the Byerlys one night during the last week before the Byerlys left. Frances relates that she cried a lot that night with Sadie. That also turned out to be the last full summer the Fitzgeralds spent in Blowing Rock as Bishop Fitzgerald's health deteriorated considerably at the beginning of the 2001 season, and he was unable to continue past the third week in June as the church's pastor. When Guy Byerly resigned as Chair of the church's Board, **Charles L. Fonville** of Charlotte, became the new Chair. The Board had never had a Vice-Chairperson until **Buell Duncan** became chair of the nominating committee and asked Charles Fonville to serve in that capacity under Guy Byerly. Consequently, the transition was a smooth one and quite providential for what was to come for the church as Mr. Fonville is an excellent fund-raiser.

### **Bishop Thomas B. Stockton 2001-2003**

With Bishop Fitzgerald's health quite poor, his fellow bishop and good friend, **Bishop Thomas B. Stockton** began the fourth Sunday of June to fill in for him in the Blowing Rock Methodist Church. When Bishop Fitzgerald died in 2001, his legacy firmly established in Methodism and beyond, the worshippers of the little mountain church lost a great friend. September 30, 2001, a memorial service was held for him in Centenary United Methodist Church, where he had served as senior minister for sixteen years, 1956-1982. Over 1200 people attended the service, including a number of people from

the Blowing Rock Methodist Church. The Fitzgerald Health Care Center, a valuable unit of the United Methodist sponsored facility, Arbor Acres, in Winston-Salem, is but a small part of the wide legacy left behind by Bishop Ernest A. Fitzgerald.

When Bishop Stockton had completed the 2001 season for Bishop Fitzgerald, Board Chairman Fonville and the other members of the Board prevailed upon Bishop Stockton to become the Resident Minister of the church. Tom and **Jean Stockton** were well known by many of the Board members and others in the congregation. They also knew the history of the church since Mark Depp had been Tom's preacher in Winston-Salem and Tom and Jean had lived across the street from Wilson and Margaret Weldon in Charlotte. Affable, dedicated, involved, kind and talented people, the church was fortunate to have had them on board when two of its largest transitions occurred, purchase of the condominium/parsonage and purchase of the church building itself.

Bishop Thomas Barber Stockton and Mrs. Stockton, the former Jean Stevens, are natives of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Bishop Stockton was educated at Reynolds High School, Davidson College (A.B. 1952), and Duke University Divinity School (M.Div. 1955). He holds honorary doctorates from Pfeiffer College (1973) and Shenandoah University (1993). His pastorates in North Carolina included: Central Avenue, Charlotte 1956; Thrift Methodist, Charlotte 1956-60; First, Reidsville 1960-64; Dilworth, Charlotte 1964-70; Central, Asheville 1970-75; Myers Park, Charlotte, 1975-83; Wesley Memorial, High Point 1983-88. In 1988 he was elected to the office of Bishop and assigned as Bishop of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. He retired in 1996. That same year he was assigned to again fill the Myers Park pulpit due to their pastor, Lawrence McCleskey, having been elected to the office of Bishop.

In the fall of 1996 Bishop Stockton became Bishop-in-Residence of High Point University, High Point, North Carolina, a position he continues to hold. In this capacity he works with students, parents, administrators, and faculty as the institution seeks to better serve students and honor its responsibilities as a private, church-related university. He also preaches for Chapel worship services several times each semester.

When the Stocktons came to the church in 2001, the living arrangements were the same as they had been since 1948. The church would rent a home each summer for the resident minister. The housing situation changed dramatically as the church made a transition from rental housing to purchasing a condominium/parsonage for use by the resident minister. The church purchased unit B-2 of The Cones, located on Caleb Avenue approximately one and a half miles from the church. The unit was purchased from Frank and Anne Mongelluzzi of Palm Harbor, Florida, and the deed was transferred on October 23, 2001, in time for the Stocktons to use it for the 2002 season. This nice and more convenient housing arrangement has been appreciated by the church's ministers and guests. While the condominium/ parsonage was purchased furnished, several of the ladies in the church did extra work and provided furnishings soon after it was purchased. Bishop Stockton relates that his family "felt privileged to be in a place that was owned and cared for by the church." (In recent years **Jess Cook, Sylvia Shealy, Gerrie Keener, and Charo Berry** have given much time and effort to help keep the condominium/parsonage running).

The church remained true to its legacy of being strictly a volunteer, spartan operation in administrative matters. The Official Board met but once a year and Bishop Stockton carried the handwritten drafts of Sunday bulletins to the Blowing Rock Country Club for typing. In 2003 the bulletins were sent to a person in Boone who would type them, take them to Staples for duplicating and leave them at the Blowing Rock BP station on the by-pass for pick up by **Sonny Sealy** or a designated volunteer from the church.

Bishop Stockton, the Official Board of the Blowing Rock Methodist Church, and its worshippers could not have anticipated the profound (and providential) impact of the arrival of a single letter to the church in 2002. As mentioned previously, the Blowing Rock Civic and Religious Association, Incorporated had leased the church from the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church for \$1 a year since 1966. Bishop Stockton had been told by certain Methodist officials that they were entertaining having a full-time, year-round Methodist church in Blowing Rock. Suddenly Charles Fonville received a letter from Joe M. McGuire, Jr., the president of the conference Board of Trustees. The letter notified the church that the lease was being terminated. In short, the church was being evicted so the conference, under the prodding of the District Superintendent of the North Wilkesboro District, could create a year-round church. The blunt, matter-of-fact letter came as a surprise since the conference had never contacted any member of the Board of the church.

Below is a copy of the letter

Re: Blowing Rock Summer Church Lease Agreement

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Grace and Peace to you all.

The Board of Trustees of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, owner of the entire premises known as the "Blowing Rock Methodist Church" hereby give you one year's written notice canceling our lease agreement. The District Superintendent along with the Owner Trustees have decided to commence the use of the premises as a regular preaching station for the United Methodist denomination. This action was taken at the Trustees meeting February 19, 2002 at the Christ UMC in Hickory, North Carolina.

Please contact Dr. Alan Rice, District Superintendent to work out any transition arrangements needed to effect this cancellation and termination of the lease agreement between the Owner Trustees and the Summer Church Trustees.

Your ministry over the years has borne fruit. It is evident in the enthusiasm of persons in the community for a year-round preaching station to be resumed.

Sincerely,

Joe McGuire  
Chairman  
WNC Conference  
Board of Trustees

Charles Fonville immediately called Mr. McGuire at his office in Asheville and explained a bit of the history of the church and its seasonal niche in the community. Mr. McGuire remarked that it sounded like the church was one of the best things the Methodists had going and at no cost to them. He was sympathetic to the desire to keep the church as it was.

A meeting was held in Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte to work out matters between the Trustees of the Western North Carolina Conference and the Blowing Rock Civic and Religious

Association. Attending from the Conference were the Business Manager, Treasurer, and Church Development Manager of the Conference, and the District Superintendent of the North Wilkesboro District. Those representing the church and the association were Bishop Tom Stockton, **Bob Dixon**, **Hurshell Keener**, and Charles Fonville. Each group had gotten appraisals on the property and the conference deducted from the cost an allowance for improvements to the property made by the worshippers through the years and financed the balance at 2%, giving the Blowing Rock Methodist Church favorable terms. The church was purchased according to Charles Fonville, to "put the issue to bed for future generations and tie the church down in an unquestionable way as a seasonal church." In the agreement related to the sale, the church agreed to hold at least six worship services a year for the next sixty years. If an old church could smile, this one certainly would be smiling broadly. From being abandoned for almost twenty years during the first 45 years of her existence, 1902-1947, at age 100 in the year 2002, some of the most powerful people in seven different denominations from sixteen states had pledged legally and formally to keep the former orphan church of the mountains moving forward sixty years as a vibrant and much cherished center of their lives each summer. Surely the angels sang and the echoes of the past resounded in joy across the old wooden pews at 1314 South Main Street in Blowing Rock.

On November 27, 2002, church recording secretary, **Ben Hawfield** of Charlotte, affected a Change of Registered Office and Registered Agent dated November 27, 2002, so the Blowing Rock Civic and Religious Association could hold property. A Money Deed of Trust was dated February 1, 2003, followed shortly thereafter by the following letter from The Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc., giving the Blowing Rock Civic and Religious Association the right to the name Blowing Rock Methodist Church:

**The letter is below.**

Blowing Rock Civic and  
Religious Association Attn:  
Charles L. Fonville, Chairman  
c/o 100 North Tryon Street,  
Suite 4700 Charlotte, North  
Carolina 28202

Re: Utilization of the Name, "Blowing Rock Methodist Church"

Dear Mr. Fonville: As of this date, The Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc. has conveyed the historic sanctuary on West Main Street in Blowing Rock, North Carolina to Blowing Rock Civic and Religious Association, Inc. for the purpose of preserving and continuing divine worship at this site which began over a century ago as the Blowing Rock Methodist Church. Because of the longstanding and abiding bonds between the congregation and The United Methodist Church, we acknowledge and agree that the congregation may continue to utilize the name, "Blowing Rock Methodist Church," pursuant to Article 2502 of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (1996), in connection with worship and related activities.

We look forward to the continuation of the warm relationship between Blowing Rock Methodist Church and the Western North Carolina Conference.

Sincerely,

Joe M. McGuire, Jr.  
Board President



## Dr. Hal Warlick

### 2004-present

Bishop Tom Stockton, weighed down with responsibilities in High Point and at Lake Junaluska, notified the Board of the Blowing Rock Methodist Church at the end of the 2003 season that he would not be returning as Resident Minister.

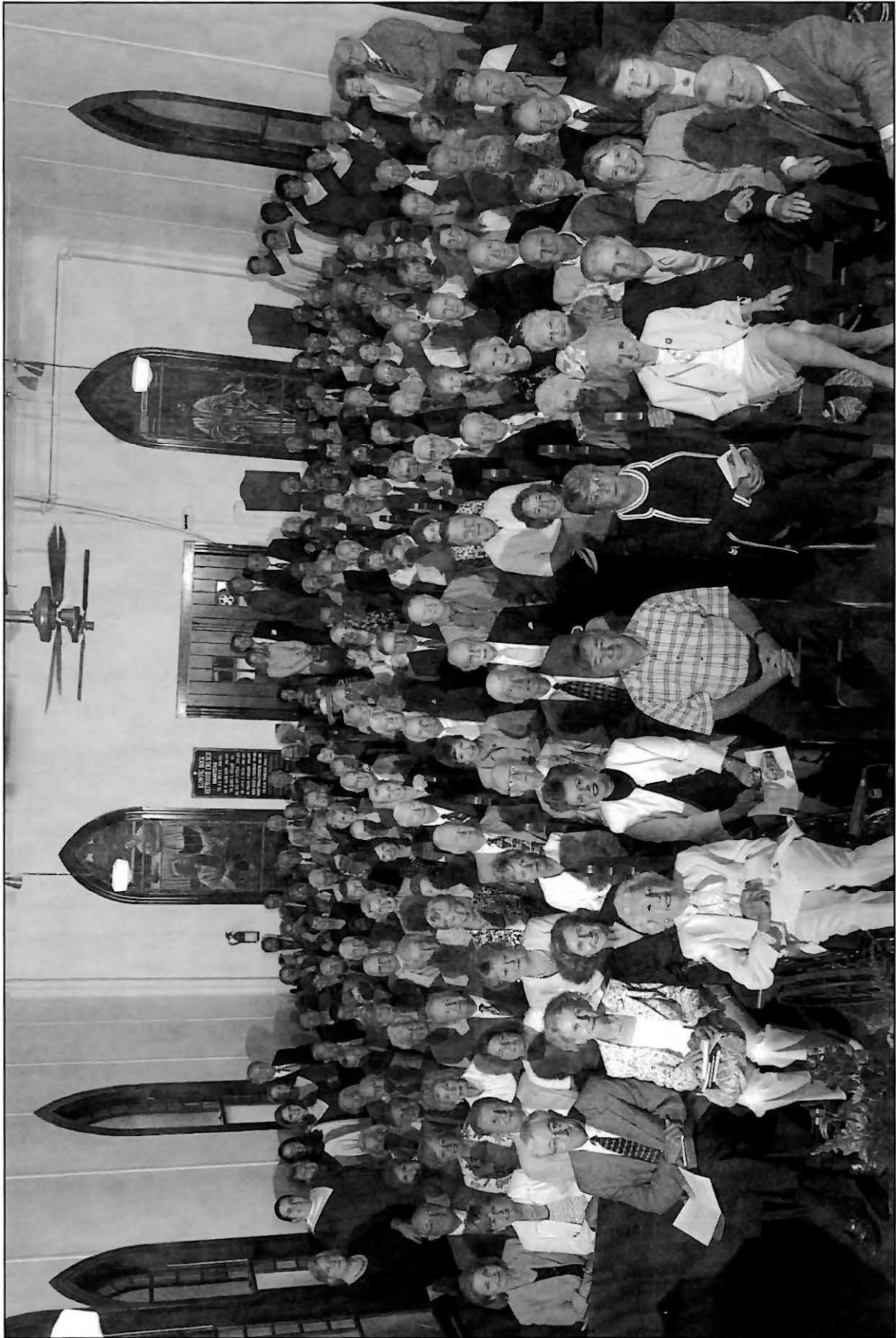
Bishop Stockton had introduced to the church his colleague, **Dr. Hal Warlick**, Dean of the Chapel and Professor of Religion at High Point University, by having him preach on four Sundays that season. The Board asked Dr. Warlick to be the resident minister of the church starting with the 2004 season. Hal and **Diane Warlick** thus became the second pastoral family to occupy the condominium/parsonage of the church.

Dr. Warlick was born in Wilmington, North Carolina and raised in South Carolina (McColl and North Augusta). He attended Furman University on a football scholarship and played that sport for four years prior to graduating in 1968 (B.A.).

He holds degrees from Harvard University Divinity School (M.Div.) and Vanderbilt University Divinity School (D.Div.). His pastoral experiences include serving as senior minister of Baptist Churches in North Carolina (High Point 1982-89), Texas (Waco, 1976-78) and South Carolina (Seneca, 1972-1978). From 1978-1982, he served as Director of Ministerial Studies and member of the faculty of Harvard Divinity School. Since 1989 he has served as Dean of the Chapel and Professor of Religion at High Point University, High point, North Carolina. He has been a member of the western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church since 1990. He has taught in a number of universities, including UCLA, The University of Toronto School of Theology, and Union Theological Seminary, Virginia. A noted preacher and speaker he has delivered sermons and convocation messages in many settings, including seven years as guest American summer Preacher for Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, Toronto, Canada, and multiple years for Duke University Chapel, Harvard Memorial Church, and Battell Chapel, Yale University. He is the author of 15 books of sermons and essays.

During the 2004-2009 seasons, the Blowing Rock Methodist Church has embarked on the task of compiling an accurate list of its **Affiliate Members**, regular attendees whose membership remains in their home church but whose summer worship attendance and contributions are directed toward the Blowing Rock Church. Beginning with a list of 78 Affiliate Members in 2004, the church has added another 152 members to its list of supporters. This effort has been greatly facilitated by the work of **Cathy Jones**, who maintains the file and each season prepares a handsome affiliate membership directory for distribution to the congregation.

In 2005, **George Snyder, Jr.**, drew a beautiful pin and ink drawing of the church and this occupies the front cover of the Sunday bulletins and the affiliate directory. That same year color note cards were printed and sold to the worshippers after each service by **Betty Brown** and Cathy Jones. Much of the season of 2006 was spent planning the special heritage/anniversary service which took place **August 6, 2006**. The idea for the celebration was birthed by Betsy Collins who observed that the church had failed to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary six years previously, and that it would be good to develop a church history and help new worshippers celebrate the long life of the little mountain church. The August 6, 2006 celebration of the church's heritage was an unqualified success. A crowd of 241 people crammed into every nook and corner of the little brown church. A church history (now revised) was distributed to the members, and a professional photographer took the following photos.



*Some of the worshippers at August 6, 2006, service.*

Some of the identified attendees at the August 6, 2006, service and their approximate locations in the photograph of the congregation:

Left front- Jean Moberg. Right front- Walter Wilkinson.

Left wall, standing - Hollie Lacy, Chelsea Black, Carla Nicholson, Amy Woodall, Jessica Kontz, Autumn East, Hal Warlick.

Standing at rear door - Kitty Bauknight, Dow Bauknight, Charles Fonville.

Standing right wall - Robert Dixon, Patsy Rose, Jim Rose, Ben Allen, Garet Garland, Brian Newland, John Woodall, Michael Nicholson.

*Left to right by rows (approximate):*

Row one - Ron Champion, Mary Davidson, Shirley Blackwell, Jupy Stout, Tom Stout, Pat Zachary, Lawrence Zachary, Jean Wilkinson, Marjorie Barrow.

Row two - Molly Eisenman, Gale Champion, Loyd Smith, Virginia Jones, Becky Smith, Carole Arey, Hugh Daley, John Alexander, Betty Pike, Barbara Baptist, "Babe" Baptist, Linda Hawfield, Ben Hawfield.

Row three - Bill Collins, Betsy Collins, Lorraine Arey, Bob Arey, Carolyn Walker, "Bud" Walker, Teresa Caine, Leon Bradshaw, Toof Boone, Sylvia Boone, John Hamrick.

Row four - Jackie Sourbeer, Jack Sourbeer, "Mac" Lorch, Jane Purcell, Don Caine, Ellis Baker, Francis Dixson, Sarah Dixson.

Row five - Rebecca Ficklin, Conway Ficklin, Barbara Weathers, Carroll Weathers, Jeanette Alexander, Cathy Jones, Betty Brown, Roger Curlin, Charles Brown, Jess Cook, Frank Cook.

Row six- Virginia Story, Bill Story, MaryAnn Poole, Greg Poole, Melissa Wallace, Julian Wallace (infant), Frank Mabry, Susie Mabry, Elisa Nicholson, Freda Nicholson, Henry Nicholson.

Row seven - Todd Edwards, Duke Edwards, Dale Edwards, Camille Edwards, Joan Edwards, Carol Perry, Chuck Perry, Susan Wallace, Dick Wallace, Hurshell Keener, Gerrie Keener, Oval Jaynes, Pris Jaynes, John Bradsher, JoAnn Bradsher.

Row eight- Wayne Bass, Mary Bass, Mary Coleman, Tom Ward, Betty Lou Ward, Rush Hamrick, Charlene Hamrick, Carol Dabbs.

Row nine -Judy Studer, Gary Studer, Roger Hamby, Karen Hamby, John Burbank, Pat Burbank, Sherrill Morris, Joyce Collins, Leonard Collins.

Row ten - Diane Warlick, Doris Fonville, Bob Collier, Patsy Stokes, Barbara Collier, Bobby Stokes, Gus Hoffmyer, Hazel Dixon.

Row eleven - Jim Coleman, Carin Eller, Morris Eller, Roy Culler, Dot Culler, Bob West, Louis Deal, Tom Deal.



**The Official Church Board  
2006**

Left to right - First row: Leonard Collins, Robert Dixon, Leon Bradshaw, Jean Moberg, Joseph "Bud" Walker, Wayne Bass.

Left to right - Second row: Charles Brown, Lawrence Zachary, Roger Curlin, Hurshell Keener, Charles Fonville, Jess Cook, Robert Arey, Loyd Smith, Ben Hawfield, Thomas T. "Sonny" Shealy.

Left to right - Third row: Bill Collins, Francis Dixson.



**The staff and choir at August 6, 2006,  
service**

Left to Right-Firstrow: Charles Fonville (Chair of Church Board), Amy Woodall, Shirley Blackwell (Choir Director), Jessica Koontz, Autumn East, Ben Allen, Carla Nicholson.

Left to Right - second Row: John Woodall, Chelsea Black, Garet Garland, Brian Newland, Michael Nicholson, Hal Warlick (Resident Minister), Hollie Lacy, (Organist).



**2009 resident choir from the Hayes School of Music, Appalachian State University.** Left to right: David Clark, Torrey Slack, Tara Nixon, Kate Edahl, and Craig Brown.



Shirley Blackwell, Music Director, and Hollie Lacy, organist, Blowing Rock Methodist Church

As the church prepared to close for the 2006 season, it made **its last payment** to the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church for the purchase of the church building. Thus was effected full ownership of the church by its Official Board and Affiliate Members. The happy letter and accompanying check were sent in the following correspondence from worshipper and attorney, Ben Hawfield, to the conference.

**Moore & Van Allen**

September 25, 2006

**Ben Hawfield**  
Attorney at Law  
T 704 331 1035  
F 704 378 2035  
benhawfield@mvalaw.com

**VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL**

Ms. Yvonne Gritt  
Controller  
Western North Carolina Conference  
United Methodist Church  
3400 Shamrock Drive  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28215

**Moore & Van Allen PLLC**  
Suite 4700  
100 North Tryon Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202-4003

**Re: Blowing Rock Methodist Church Loan**

Dear Ms. Gritt:

To confirm our conversation of today, please find enclosed a check from Blowing Rock Methodist Church in the amount of \$65,825.92 to the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church in full payment of the promissory note dated February 1, 2003 which was in the original amount of \$95,000.00.

Also enclosed is a satisfaction of the deed of trust recorded at Book 875, Page 861, Watauga County Public Registry and a return envelope.

After you have cashed the check, please mark the original promissory note paid by having Mr. Wyman sign the satisfaction blank in the upper left-hand corner.

Then, have Mr. Wyman sign the satisfaction which should be notarized.

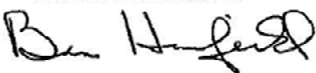
Finally, please mail the original note and the original satisfaction to me in the return envelope. I will see that the satisfaction is recorded in Watauga County.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Best wishes,

Yours truly,

Moore & Van Allen PLLC

  
Ben Hawfield

Enclosures  
cc: Mr. William C. Wyman, Jr.  
Dr. Hal Warlick  
Mr. Charles Fonville  
Mr. J. Robert Dixon

CHAR2196102v1

Raleigh, NC  
Durham, NC  
Charleston, SC

On September 24, 2006, the church held its final service of that year. At the beginning of the

service, Charles Fonville announced to the congregation that both the parsonage, located at the Cones condominium complex on Caleb Drive, and the church building itself, located at 1314 South Main Street, were paid for and now belonged to the church worshippers themselves. The church worshippers, in only four years, had raised and paid over \$500,000 for the two properties.

In 2007, the church received a bequest from the estate of **Walter Crump**. For many seasons, Walter served as the bell ringer at the church. This generous gift enabled the church to renovate and expand its basement area, which consisted of its choir room, basement and restroom. This work, under the leadership of **Wayne Bass**, was completed in 2008 and was greatly facilitated by the work of builder **Terry D. Lentz** of Blowing Rock. Mr. Lentz donated his expertise and the labor of his employees to the church. The work included a ramp to provide a handicap access to the restroom. Additional work by the church in 2008 included leveling the front yard, widening the walkways and refinishing the stonework on the front of the church. Wayne Bass and **Roger Curlin** worked hard to makeover several areas of landscaping for the church. In recognition of the church's gratitude to Terry Lentz, the following Resolution of Appreciation was approved September 14, 2008.

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION**

**TO**

**TERRY D. LENTZ**

**BY**

**BLOWING ROCK METHODIST CHURCH**

At a duly convened meeting of the Official Board of Blowing Rock Methodist Church on September 14, 2008, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

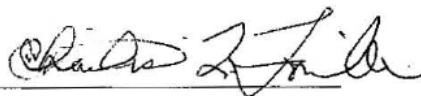
**WHEREAS**, Blowing Rock Methodist Church was in dire need of renovations to its church structure, including its sanctuary, choir room, basement and restroom facilities;

**WHEREAS**, Terry D. Lentz graciously donated his managerial skills, construction expertise and labor of his employees to perform such renovations without charge to the church; and

**WHEREAS**, the renovations were performed in an exemplary manner and resulted in improved facilities which greatly assist the church in its mission of providing Christian worship services to residents of and visitors to Blowing Rock, North Carolina;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Official Board of Blowing Rock Methodist Church hereby expresses its deep gratitude to Terry D. Lentz for his contribution of time, talent and funds in such an effective and meaningful gift to the church and directs that this resolution be conveyed to Mr. Lentz as a token of our appreciation.

This the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008.



Charles L. Fonville, Chairman

As of this date, the little church in the mountains continues to open its doors to overflowing crowds, who sing with fervor and passion in its hymn sing founded by Jean Moberg, enjoy the beautiful music directed by **Shirley Blackwell**, ring its old bell starting the traditional service, and collect and distribute benevolent offerings that were begun under the leadership and generosity of Bob Dixon and the late **Hugh Daley**. To the present day, the church remains a church without a single full-time member, a budget, a parking space, and a telephone. It does have, however, a tremendous legacy and an abundance of beautiful music and loving people, as evidenced by the common thread of Shirley Blackwell, who has been present with all nine of the church's ministers since its reopening in 1948

### ***6.)The Common Thread-Shirley Blackwell and Music***

No history of the High Country in general and Blowing Rock Methodist Church in particular would be complete without mentioning **Shirley Blackwell** and the Farm House Inn and Restaurant. From the mid- 1950s to 1997 the Farm House sent thousands of customers home with satisfied stomachs and musical melodies ringing in their ears. During its heyday, the restaurant used college students as servers, cooks and cleaners. In addition to their normal duties, they also performed musical numbers for diners. In 1954, EJ hired Shirl to serve as the Farm House's first singer. A year later they were married. From that musical beginning the Farm House began to employ college students from music programs around the South to work and perform in the summer months, with Shirl directing the music program. Students had to audition, and the process was very selective. Eventually, approximately 300 students would apply, and Shirl and EJ would only take around 30. Those selected to work at the Farm House sang around the dining tables until the Blackwells set up a parlor room for musical performances. Patrons would have their dinner, and when they finished their dinner, they would go into the parlor room. Their staff members would perform musical selections on a stage.

In 1958, in the heat of the summer, Shirl Blackwell was called to the front of the Farm House. She was surprised to see a very distinguished man dressed in a three-piece suit on such a hot day. The gentleman was Dr. H.E. Spence, the resident minister of Blowing Rock Methodist Church. He had heard of the distinguished singers there and asked if Shirl would send some over to the church once a month for him to use in the Sunday service. Shirl agreed, and Dr. Spence was thrilled. Consequently, in 1958 Shirl sent singers to the church three times to assist the minister. Spence wrote liturgies, and sometimes he would request a soloist to sing in the middle of the liturgy. On other Sundays he wanted a duet to sing at the end of the sermon.

At the time, late 1950's, the Farm House only had 6 to 8 singers. These college students sang around Blowing Rock in the various churches and hustled back to the Farm House to work Sunday lunch for the huge crowds that waited in long lines to be admitted. There was no payment from the Blowing Rock Methodist Church to the students. They were willing to sing as part of their training and their job at the Farm House. Shirl would rehearse the singers at the Farm House and then send them off. One of the few jobs singers could get was a church job, and Shirl sent singers off to the Catholic, Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Christian Science churches in Blowing Rock and the Lutheran church in Boone for years. In the summer of 1959, the students were again used by Dr. Spence for three Sundays. The church did not use them in 1960 but returned to the practice in 1961. In 1970 Shirl started sending a quartet every Sunday and the singers were paid a very small stipend for the first time. For special services, Shirl would attend with the singers and direct them. Other Sundays she had to remain at the Farm House to get lunch plans in motion.

The singers in Blowing Rock Methodist Church did not have robes for the first twenty-two years that they sang there. They just wore their church clothes, and Shirl had to send many a one back to change their attire before departing for the service. The Rumples Presbyterian Church had two sets of robes and for special occasions at the Methodist church the Presbyterians would let the singers borrow their old robes. In the early 1980's Jean Moberg arranged for the church to get a set of used robes from the Lost Tree Village Choir in Palm Beach. In 2003 the Blowing Rock Methodist Church purchased its first new choir robes for the resident choir members.



To say that the caliber of music performed in the church was high would be an understatement. Many of the singers from the Farm House were sacred music majors from the best programs in the Southeast.

**Frances Hyatt** was the treasurer of the Blowing Rock Methodist Church when the program with the Farm House singers started and dealt a lot **with** the music. In the 1980s the church had "Farm House Appreciation Day," a designation when most of the congregation would go as a group to the facility for lunch together.

Mere words cannot adequately express the church's gratitude to Shirl Blackwell for the common thread her music has provided the church. From the time she was a new bride at the age of 25, she has been preparing students and special guests to render quality music for the summer worship services. The church has never had a formal music library. Her garage is the church music library and center of musical planning. She has been a loyal and happy worker under all of the church's pastors whose names reside on the roster board on the inside wall of the sanctuary. In the early years of the arrangement with the church, when Ethel Henley ceased playing the organ, Shirl would send an organist from the Farm House each Sunday to play for the hymn sing and the worship service. Often these were pains students who would "make do" on the organ. So devoted was Shirl to the Blowing Rock Methodist Church that when she interviewed student applicants, she would always hire two instrumentalists so she could always on Sundays be able to leave one at the Farm House and send the other to the church.

Organizing, rehearsing, and teaching college singers from many prominent universities to come to the church and work with some of the Southeast's most noted and successful preachers was and remains quite an accomplishment. Standards were high, for these ministers came from some of the "highest and best" churches and universities in America. Shirl taught the students not only music but poise, respect, and understanding of people that transcended the age differences between the choir and the congregation and its ministers.

When the Farm House closed suddenly in 1997, Shirl obviously no longer had the singers to draw upon. Yet she continued the commitment to the church by remaining its music director. Using a select quartet of music majors from Appalachian State University, supplemented on special occasions by guest appearances from alums from the former Farm House singers, the legacy of the church and its beautiful music seem poised to continue from generation to generation.

### *7.) Special Services*

The Blowing Rock Methodist Church has traditionally held special Sunday services in connection with Independence Day (the Sunday closest to July 4th), Christmas in July (the Sunday closest to July 25) and Labor Day (the Sunday closest to Labor Day). Since the first Heritage Day service in 2006, the church has also celebrated its heritage the first Sunday in August and held a church picnic the same day. The church closes for the season with a Communion service on the last Sunday in September.

**The Independence Day** Sunday hymn sings and worship services are especially anticipated and appreciated by the congregation. Just prior to the beginning of the 10:30 a.m. Hymn Sing, the Christian and American flags are processed by the expanded choir and presented. The congregation and special choir then sing "God Bless America." Special soloists and guest artists expand the choir two or threefold to provide stirring patriotic and religious music during both the hymn sing and the following service. The 11:00 a.m. classical worship service always features three anthems, the last of which is always a special arrangement of "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Many worshippers dress in red, white, and blue. The feel and experience of the service in the oldest church on Main Street in the beautiful mountain village of Blowing Rock is an uplifting piece of Americana that is as genuine as it is meaningful.

**The Christmas in July** Sunday hymn sings and worship services provide an opportunity each year for the worshippers to celebrate the Christmas season together on the July Sunday that is closest to the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Since the church is only open June through September, its worshippers miss greeting each other and singing together the music of Christmas. This special service addresses that reality. Christmas hymns and carols are sung at both the hymn sing and the traditional worship service. Worshippers wear

their Christmas attire, and some bring bells to ring as the congregation sings "Jingle Bells." The resident choir is expanded by guest artists, often alumni of the church's choir. This combined choir sings a Christmas anthem and the resident minister delivers an appropriate sermon for the Christmas season. The service concludes with the choir and congregation singing the Hallelujah Chorus, from Handel's *Messiah*.

Attendance at the Independence Day, Christmas in July, and Labor Day services in recent years has been so great that the church has had to erect a tent on the front lawn those Sundays to accommodate fifty to sixty extra people beyond the more than 200 worshippers who cram into the sanctuary. On these Sundays half the choir will come under the tent to sing the hymns and certain verses back and forth with the inside congregation. On these days, Main Street Blowing Rock is full of the sounds of music.

Special and regular services at the church are enhanced by regular appearances by special guests **Carla and Michael Nicholson**. The couple was married in the Blowing Rock Methodist Church. Michael, a former singer at The Farm House, was born in Charlotte, North Carolina and received his Bachelor of Music and Economics degrees from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his Master of Music degree from Rice University

in Houston. Since 1995, he has been living in Germany, having sung the role of the Phantom in "The Phantom of the Opera" over 500 times. Carla was born in the former East German town of Bautzen in the hills of southern Saxony. She started her career in local theatre before moving to Leipzig to study music at the Felix Mendelssohn Conservatory. In 1993, Carla moved to Hamburg to sing the female lead Christine in "The Phantom of the Opera," and has sung the role 600 times. Michael and Carla tour throughout the world performing concerts and cabarets. They are local favorites and sell out their cabaret performances in country clubs throughout the United States.



Left to Right: Michael Nicholson, Carla Nicholson, Diane Warlick and Hal Warlick

In recent years the church has been greatly assisted by the work of organist **Hollie Lacy**. Employed as an accompanist in the Hayes School of Music at nearby Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, Lacy has greatly aided the church's ability to recruit and retain superb singers from that university. She plays for students who compete in musical competitions and accompanies the University Singers and Chamber Choir. She also teaches piano classes for music majors who must gain piano proficiency in order to graduate.

*To Be continued for many generations.....*

# *Staff*

## Ministers and staff and their time of service to Blowing Rock Methodist Church

### *Assigned by the Methodist denomination*

Mr. C. W. Hunt (lay preacher) .....	1919-????
The Reverend E. R. Stafford (Boone Circuit) .....	1932
The Reverend Joseph Henry Brendal!, Jr. (Boone Circuit) .....	1933
Dr. John G. Barden (Boone).....	1947

### *Selected by the Church*

Dr. Hersey Everett Spence .....	1948-1963
Rabbi Morris Lazon .....	1948-1974
Mrs. Shirley Blackwell. ....	1958- present
Dr. Walter Mark Depp.....	1964-1974
Dr. James George Huggin, Jr .....	1975
Dr. Lee Foy Tuttle .....	1976-1979
Mrs. Jean Moberg (hymn sing leader).....	1976-present
Dr. Lewis N. Head .....	1980-1983
Dr. Wilson Osburne Weldon.....	1984-1993
Bishop Ernest A. Fitzgerald.....	1994-2001
Bishop Thomas B. Stockton.....	2001-2003
Dr. Harold C. Warlick, Jr.....	2004-2018
Dr. Michael B. Brown .....	2018-Present

### **Stained Glass Windows**

In 1963, a window, Christ in Gethsemane, was presented by Mr. Abner McGehee, the son-in-law of Mrs. Schmeisser. The window Christ and the Children was presented by Mr. J. Luther Snyder II, the namesake of his grandfather, Mr. J. Luther Snyder. The first was in memory of Mrs. Ella Bess Schmeisser and was donated by friends and loved ones. The second was in honor of Mrs. Alfreta and Mr. J. Luther Snyder and donated by Mr. George Snyder and his two sisters, Mrs. Norman Bisanar and Mrs. W.B. Garrison. Mr. Lawrence S. Rankin, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Blowing Rock Methodist Church, received the gifts on behalf of the church. The memorials were dedicated by the pastor, Dr. H.E. Spence. August 19, 1991, the proposal and purchase agreement were signed for the two stained glass windows that are in the front of the church. These windows were the "Christ and Mary" window given in loving memory of Elizabeth Parks Duncan and the window entitled "My Lord and My God-John 20:28, Christ and Thomas," given in loving memory of Thomas Lee Dysard, Jr.-1909-1970. These windows have timed spotlights that shine on them each evening and are lasting symbols of the faith and Christian Legacy of worshippers past and present.

## *Memorial Plaques in the Church*

In Memorium

Pulpit Bible-W. E. Boger  
Communion Set and Table-Alice Guyton Altar  
Set-Ella Louis Killick  
Chancel-G.C. Robbins

In Honor of

Hersey Everett Spence Devoted and Faithful Minister In this  
church and Community  
In the Summers of 1948-63 "A workman who need not be  
ashamed"

Roll of Ministers

Gift to Blowing Rock Methodist Church "In Loving Memory of  
Ministers" Guy and Sadie Byerly Chairman, Official Board  
1990-2000

## **Official Board-2006**

Charles L. Fonville, Chairman - Charlotte, NC  
Hurshell H. Keener, Vice-Chairman - Hickory, NC  
Ben Hawfield, Jr., Recording Secretary- Charlotte, NC  
J. Robert Dixon, Treasurer- P.O. Box 352, Blowing Rock, NC

Robert J. Arey, Shelby, NC	Francis Dixson, Palm Coast,
Wayne Bass, Charlotte, NC	FL John H. Isenhour,
Leon Bradshaw, Salisbury, NC	Salisbury, NC
Charles P. Brown, Albemarle, NC	Mrs. Jean Moberg, N. Palm Beach,
Leonard Collins, Savannah, GA	FL Thomas T. Shealy, Atlanta, GA
Mrs. Frances Cook, Bermuda Run, NC	Lloyd B. Smith, Shelby, NC
Roger B. Curlin, Sarasota, FL	Joseph W. Walker, Charlotte, NC
Bill T. Collins, High Point, NC	Lawrence Zachary, Raleigh, NC

### **Ex-Officio Life**

Guy L. Byerly, Jr., Charlotte, NC

## ***Committees-2006***

### **Ushers/Greeters**

Thomas T. Shealy, Chair  
Robert J. Arey  
Roger B. Curlin

### **Parsonage Committee**

Mrs. Frank Cook, Chair  
Mrs. Gerrie Keener  
Mrs. Sylvia Shealey

### **Finance Committee**

Hurshell H. Keener, Chair  
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### **Building/Grounds**

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Leon Bradshaw  
Mrs. Frank Cook  
Roger B. Curlin  
J. Robert Dixon  
John Isenhour

### **Music**

Mrs. Jean Moberg, Chair Mrs.  
Lorraine Arey  
Mrs. Shirley Blackwell Robert H.  
West

### **Flowers**

Mrs. Carolyn Walker Mrs.  
Glenda Talley Mrs. Betsy  
Collins

### **Weddings**

Mrs. Frank Cook, Coordinator Mrs.  
Betsy Collins

## **Official Board-2009**

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Hurshell H. Keener, Vice-Chairman - Hickory, NC

Ben Hawfield, Jr., Recording Secretary - Charlotte, NC John Bradsher, Treasurer - P.O. Box 352,  
Blowing Rock, NC

Robert J. Arey, Shelby, NC Wayne

Bass, Charlotte, NC Dow

Bauknight, Charlotte, NC Leon

Bradshaw, Salisbury, NC

Charles P. Brown, Albemarle, NC Leonard

Collins, Hilton Head Island, SC Roger B.

Curlin, Sarasota, FL

Bill T. Collins, High Point, NC

J. Robert Dixon, Charlotte, NC Francis

Dixson, Palm Coast, FL Joe Freeman,

Boynton Beach, FL Cathy Jones,

Blowing Rock, NC

Mrs. Jean Moberg, N. Palm Beach, FL

Thomas T. Shealy, Atlanta, GA

Lloyd B. Smith, Shelby, NC Joseph W.

Walker, Charlotte, NC

### **Ex-Officio Life**

Guy L. Byerly, Jr., Charlotte, NC

## **Committees-2009**

### **Ushers/Greeters** Joseph W.

Walker, Chair Robert J. Arey

Roger B. Curlin Thomas T.

Shealy

### **Parsonage Committee**

Doris Fonville

Gerrie Keener

Linda Hawfield

### **Finance Committee**

Hurshell H. Keener, Chair

J. Robert Dixon

John Bradsher

### **Building/Grounds**

Wayne Bass, Chair

Leon Bradshaw

Leonard Collins

Roger B. Curlin

J. Robert Dixon

### **Weddings**

Betsy Collins

### **Music:**

Jean Moberg, Chair

Lorraine Arey

Shirley Blackwell

Edwina Shealy

### **Flowers**

Carolyn Walker

Glenda Talley

Betsy Collins

### **Fellowship Committee**

Betty Brown

Cathy Jones



Left to Right - Shirley Blackwell, Choir Director; Hollie Lacey, Organist; Jean Moberg, Founder of Hymn Sing; Robert Arey, accepting for Lorraine Arey - all honored for Hymn Sing work.



**Affiliate Members Blowing 'Rock Methodist Church**  
***Entering 2010 Season***

<b>Alexander, John and Jeannette</b>	Charleston, SC
<b>Arey, Jack and Carole</b>	Shelby, NC
<b>Arey, Robert and Loraine</b>	Shelby, NC
<b>Barnes, Norris and Anne</b>	Winston-Salem, NC
<b>Bass, Wayne and Mary</b>	Charlotte, NC
<b>Bauknight, Dow and Kitty</b>	Charlotte, NC
<b>Berry, Jack and Charo</b>	Windermere, FL
<b>Blackwell, Shirley</b>	Pompano Beach, FL
<b>Bogue, Danny and Betty</b>	Hickory, NC
<b>Boles, Mickey &amp; Katy</b>	Winston-Salem, NC
<b>Boone, Sylvia and Toof</b>	Macon, GA
<b>Bowling, Rachel B.</b>	Denton, TX
<b>Bradshaw, Leon</b>	Salisbury, NC
<b>Bradsher, John and JoAnn</b>	Blowing Rock, NC
<b>Brookshire, Stan and Punkin</b>	Charlotte, NC
<b>Brown, Charles and Betty</b>	Albemarle, NC
<b>Buckles, Kris and Wanda</b>	Boone, NC
<b>Bumpass, Danny &amp; Gloria</b>	Roxboro, NC
<b>Burbank, John and Pat</b>	Wilmington, NC
<b>Caine, Don &amp; Teresa</b>	Greensboro, NC
<b>Calhoun, Jack and Paula</b>	Charlotte, NC
<b>Cathey, Joe and Peggy</b>	Matthews, NC
<b>Chadwick, Bruce and Gwynne</b>	High Point, NC
<b>Champion, Ron and Gale</b>	Washington, NC
<b>Cheek, Charles and Libby</b>	High Point, NC
<b>Clabough, Jim and Karen</b>	Blowing Rock, NC
<b>Collier, Bob and Barbara</b>	Statesville, NC
<b>Collins, Bill and Betsy</b>	High Point, NC
<b>Collins, Leonard &amp; Joyce</b>	Hilton Head, SC
<b>Cook, Frank and Jess</b>	Bermuda Run, NC
<b>Cooper, Virginia &amp; Gary</b>	Ft. Mill, SC
<b>Crigler, David and Beth</b>	Greenville, SC
<b>Culler, Roy and Dot</b>	High Point, NC
<b>Curlin, Roger and Karen</b>	University Park, FL
<b>Dabbs, Carol</b>	Charlotte, NC
<b>Daley, Dorothy</b>	Ft. Myers, FL
<b>Daniel, Orion and Martha</b>	Charlotte, NC
<b>Deal, Tom and Louise</b>	Port St. Lucie, FL
<b>Deaton, Rex and Louise</b>	Sumter, SC
<b>Dew, Larry &amp; Rita</b>	Boynton Beach, FL
<b>Dixon, J. Robert and Hazel</b>	Charlotte, NC
<b>Dixson, Francis and Sarah</b>	Palm Coast, FL
<b>Dowdy, Nancy S.</b>	Hickory, NC
<b>Dunn, Frank and Margaret</b>	Charlotte, NC
<b>Edwards, Dale and Joan</b>	Blowing Rock, NC

Eisenman, Jack & Molly	Greensboro, NC
Eller, Morris and Carin <b>Warner-</b>	Greensboro, NC
Ficklen, Conway and Rebecca	Wilmington, NC
Fite, David and Janis	Jackson, TN
Fonville, Charles and Doris	Charlotte, NC
Freeman, Joe & Natalie	Boynton Beach, FL
Freeze, Ellen and John	Randleman, NC
Freeze, Peg and Thurman	Greensboro, NC
Grigg, Bill and Kathie	Charlotte, NC
Haas, Nancy	Boone, NC
Hamby, Roger and Karen	Blowing Rock, NC
Hamrick, Rush and Charlene	Shelby, NC
Hawfield, Ben and Linda	Charlotte, NC
Hawkins, Ron and Martha	Cornelius, NC
Helms, Ginny	Charlotte, NC
Helsley, Dunbar and Lee	Isle of Palms, SC
Hubble, Don and Loretta	Alpharetta, GA
Hudson, Tramm and Sarah	Sarasota, FL
Isenhour, John and Nell	Salisbury, NC
James, T. Cooper & Glinda	Greensboro, NC
Jaynes, Pris and Oval	Morganton, NC
Jones, Cathy	Blowing Rock, NC
Keener, Hurshell and Gerrie	Hickory, NC
Kelly, Ed and <b>Linda</b>	Winston-Salem, NC
Lacy, Sonny and Sally	Winston-Salem, NC
Lasseter, Lynda	Daytona Beach, FL
Lawson, Gail R.	
Lawton, Edgar and Nan	Hartsville, SC
Loughlin, John	Lynchburg, VA
Logan, Byron and Charleen	Hickory, NC
Mabry, Franklin and Susie	Shelby, NC
Martin, Robert T. and Dale	Greensboro, NC
McClintock, David and Ellen Easter	Burlington, NC
Miller, Wayne and Jenny	Blowing Rock, NC
Moore, Steve and Ann	Lakeland, FL
Moberg, Jean	Boone, NC
Mortin, Gordon and Malinda	Marietta, GA
Nicholson, Henry and Freda	Charlotte, NC
Nicholson, Carla & Michael (& Elisa)	Bautzen, Germany
O'Tuel, Harold and Carolyn	Greensboro, NC
Page, Bill and Jane	Washington, NC
Perry, Chuck and Carol	Shelby, NC
Petree, Christa	Blowing Rock, NC
Petteway, Bernie and Diane	Raleigh, NC
Phillips, Dan and Celeste	Blowing Rock, NC
Pike, Betty	Sarasota, FL
Poole, Greg and Mary Ann	Raleigh, NC
Pressley, Tony and Nancy	Charlotte, NC
Presson, Tom and Ramona	Greensboro, NC

Purcell, Jane  
Rice, Karen and Bobby  
Ritchie, Peggy and Lewis  
Roberts, Carolyn  
Roess, Alice  
Rogers, Fon & Mac  
Rose, Jim and Patsy  
Russell, Harold and Helen  
Sevier, Bob and Pat  
Shealy, Sonny and Edwina  
Sherard, Joel and Kay  
Shreve, Tom  
Smith, Laura P.  
Smith, Becky  
Smith, Loyd and Becky  
Snow, Helen Easter  
Snyder, George and Laura  
Sourbeer, Jack and Jackie  
Starnes, Jerry and Genie  
Stokes, Bobby and Patsy  
Stone, George and Liza  
Story, Virginia & Bill  
Studer, Gary and Judy  
Talley, Doug and Glenda  
Taylor, Earl and Sue  
Taylor, Tommy and Tiffany  
Therrell, Doug and Nancy  
Thompson, Martha A.  
Traudt, Jerry  
Tucker, Bill and Gail  
Turner, Ronny & Patsy  
Vaden, Frank and Caroline  
Walker, Joseph (Bud) and Carolyn  
Wallace, Dick and Susan  
Ward, Tom and Betty Lou  
Warlick, Coulter  
Warlick, Hal and Diane  
Warlick, Scott and Beth  
Weathers, Barbara  
Wells, Susanna  
Williams, Joan  
Wilkinson, Walter and Jean  
Wolfe, Mrs. Jane  
Wyatt, Frank and Becky  
Yearwood, Robert and Jan  
Yount, Jim and Mitzi  
Zachary, Lawrence and Pat

North Palm Beach, FL  
Raleigh, NC  
Greensboro, NC  
Blowing Rock, NC  
Blowing Rock, NC  
Lexington, KY  
Shelby, NC  
Raleigh, NC  
Greensboro, NC  
Marietta, GA  
Stuart, FL  
Wilson, NC  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
Greensboro, NC  
Shelby, NC  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Charlotte, NC  
Boone, NC  
Blowing Rock, NC  
Lakeland, FL  
Columbia, SC  
Blowing Rock, NC  
Caswell Beach, NC  
Charlotte, NC  
Charlotte, NC  
Venice, FL  
Charlotte, NC  
Washington, DC  
DeBary, FL  
Winston-Salem, NC  
Blowing Rock, NC  
Callawassie Is., Okatie, SC  
Charlotte, NC  
Savannah, GA  
Greensboro, NC  
Charlotte, NC  
High Point, NC  
Winston Salem, NC  
Hickory, NC  
Gastonia, NC  
Boone, NC  
Charlotte, NC  
Charlotte, NC  
Boynton Beach, FL  
Charlotte, NC  
Charlotte, NC  
Raleigh, NC