

## *“The Historic Spring”*

As far back as the 1830's, the clear cool spring water attracted travelers to the site of what is now Cold Springs United Methodist Church. Cold Springs United Methodist Church derived its name from the flourishing springs found tucked away in the woods in back of the church. During early years, the spring furnished cool, clear, refreshing drink for weary travelers and worshipers. Even today, people make their way to the spring to get gallons of water for home use. It is not unusual to see cyclists going to the spring to fill their water bottles as they travel through the Cold Springs community. The water has been consumed by people, who for generations, have recognized it for its pure quality and great refreshing taste.

Can you imagine the stories the spring could tell, the secrets and surprises? The springs still flow, and the water can still be just as cool and refreshing. The water comes in and goes out, same as it did over 150 years ago. The water never stays still and looks just like it always has. Long time member Bill Krimminger checked the water flow and found that the spring furnishes six gallons of water per minute. Renovation of the original spring was done by the United Methodist Men in 1977 using rocks from the family farm of Rebecca Barnhardt and Alvin Hurlocker. Take some time - walk the path to the spring - peek into the past - step back to a simpler time - enjoy the sounds of nature - listen to the songbirds calling to each other - It is spiritually beautiful.

On September 22, 1989, Hurricane Hugo played havoc to the Cabarrus County area and the Cold Springs community. The power was out in sections of the county for up to two weeks. A path was cleared to the spring, and for many people the spring provided all of their water for days. The path stayed busy with people from the church and community bringing containers to fill with clear cool spring water.

A shelter/picnic area was built beside the spring by the Cold Springs United Methodist Men and dedicated to long-time member John Kimray on October 27, 1996. Steps leading to the spring were built in 1997 and in order to make the spring and picnic area more accessible, the road leading to the spring was paved in 2009.

On Friday evening, May 24, 2013, a strong electrical/wind/rain/hail storm came through the Cold Springs community taking down trees and flooding creeks. Several large oak trees came down across the paved road to the spring. On Saturday, May 25, men and women from the church cleared the road to the spring in order for people to get clean fresh spring water. It took several weeks for the clean up to be completed.

The spring is our tie to the past and our historical treasure, and many of our members have been baptized at the spring. We are blessed with such a unique place as this - it is a place where stories live on - a place where footprints have been left behind by our saints, and a place that has been preserved for our enjoyment. The sun shines brightly as water continues to run through the spring as it has for so many years.

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You just really can feel history when you visit the spring. There's something about that spring... a calmness that extends deep into us. It is a wholesome getaway. Slow down long enough to enjoy. Take a little time to look at it, to breath it, drink from it and listen to it. The spring whispers.

There has always been a path to the historic springs and what we can do is to take care of it, and protect it as we visit and step back into a simpler time. It is God's country - an enchanting historical place.