

THE CATAWBA STORY

1866-1980

A Brief History of the Catawba Presbytery

RESEARCHED AND EDITED BY

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OF THE

CATAWBA PRESBYTERY

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U.S.A.

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These early churches were formed mostly from Blacks who had been members of white churches in the communities. They were Bellefonte from the Rocky River Church, Cedar Grove from Poplar Tent Church, Bethpage from Bethpage Church, and Westminster, which was the spiritual arm of Scotia Seminary in Concord.

It was Rev. Dorland who saw the great need for upgrading the education of Black women and organized a school for them in 1867. This school, Scotia Seminary, merged with Barber College of Anniston, Alabama, in 1930 to form Barber-Scotia College. Throughout the years, the church and school served the community as a unit, with the pastor of Westminster serving as the unofficial chaplain of the College. Serving as a campus church, it drew into its leadership and support the faculty and students in its services each Sunday.

All of these early churches in Cabarrus County made notable records during the past century and proved to be a credit to their founder. In 1958 another church was organized in the town of Kannapolis by the late Dr. F. C. Shirley, and was named Covenant.

In other counties, several churches were organized between 1870 and 1900. They were: Ebenezer and Lowry Memorial in Wadesboro, Wilson Street in Shelby, Black's Memorial in Monroe, Pine Street in Lincolnton, Shiloh and Bethel in Waxhaw, Third Street in Gastonia, Good Hope in King's Mountain, Green Street in Morganton, and Dulatown in Lenoir.

Most of these churches, although small in membership, made fine contributions to the spread of Presbyterianism in the Presbytery. The vitality exerted by them through the years can be largely due to the dedicated ministers who served sacrificially for long years. Below are listed some of them who served one church or field for more than twenty years: Revs. A. W. Foster at Wilson Street for 43 years, F. D. Battle at Dulatown for 33 years, H. Wilson at Westminster for 40 years, Frank T. Logan at Bellefonte for 32 years, L. J. Melton at Cedar Grove for 22 years, E. H. Hunt at Black's Memorial for 30 years, C. M. Young at Third Street for 26 years, P. E. Davis at Pine Street for 25 years, H. L. Counts at Bethpage/Cedar Grove for 20 years, and J. A. Rollins at Third Street for 23 years.

Not only did ministers in these counties serve churches for over twenty years, but the record shows that many in the Mecklenburg County area did the same. Note these tenures: Revs. R. P. Wyche at Seventh Street for 54 years, R. Z. Beatty at Woodland for 44 years, William Hairston at Murkland/Ben Salem for 40 years, J. H. Gamble at Matthews/Murkland for 37 years, J. M. Alston at New Hampton for 38 years, H. W. Givens at Biddleville for 36 years, C. N. Jenkins at Brandon for 28 years, F. M. Beaver at Davidson for 32 years, A. P. Corley at Davidson for 25 years, T. A. Jenkins at Statesville Avenue for 27 years, P. L. Ross at Love's Chapel for 26 years, W. D. Baxter at McClintock for 25 years, J. W. Smith at Seventh Street for 25 years, H. O. Graham at Mt. Olive for 24 years, C. W. Carpenter at Caldwell for 20 years, L. B. West at Brooklyn for 21 years, D. G. Burke at Emmanuel for 20 years, and others.

Many other ministers served churches between ten and twenty years. Some of them were: Revs. S. L. Fulwood at Shiloh/Bethel, Seth VanLandingham at St. Paul/Bellefonte, L. B. West at Biddleville, F. C. Shirley at Biddleville, J. H. Ward at Bethpage/Cedar Grove, W. R. Mayberry at McClintock, E. E. Gregg at Third Street, R. L. Moore at Huntersville, C. H. Kennedy at Grier's Heights, E. L. Henderson at Grier's Heights, and others.

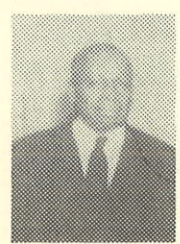
Today, 1980, the Presbytery boasts of having thirty-three (33) churches located in eight counties with 5,143 members. The number of ministers on roll is forty-six (46) with 18 serving churches as Stated Supplies or Pastors. Others are serving as moderators of vacant churches, teachers or administrators in the church-related colleges in the area. During the past decade a significant number of ministers have retired after long years of faithful service to the churches of the Presbytery.

Today, we salute these dedicated men as they continue to give wise counsel and spiritual guidance to the Presbytery and its churches, to the end that the second century of Catawba's history will be even more glorious than the first.

MINISTERS (EARLY 1900's)



Rev. E. H. Hunt



Rev. R. Z. Beatty



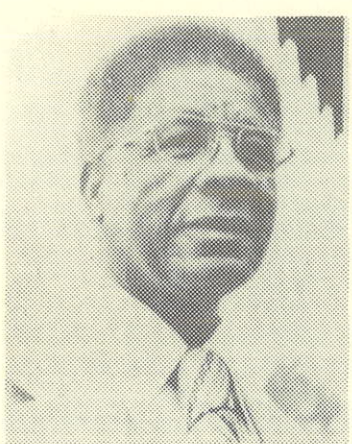
Rev. A. H. George



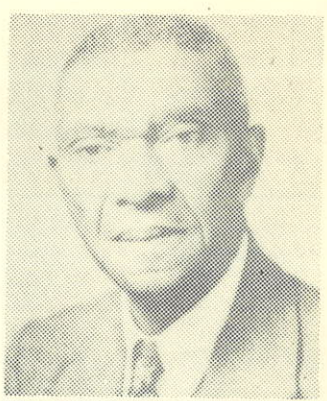
Rev. A. P. Corley



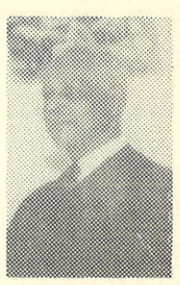
Rev. L. J. Melton



Rev. P. E. Davis



Rev. O. E. Sanders



Rev. W. A. Grigg



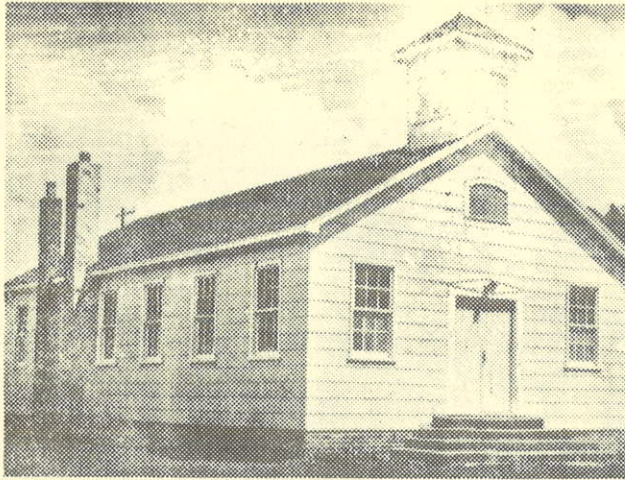
Rev. J. W. Smith, Sr.



Rev. F. M. Beaver

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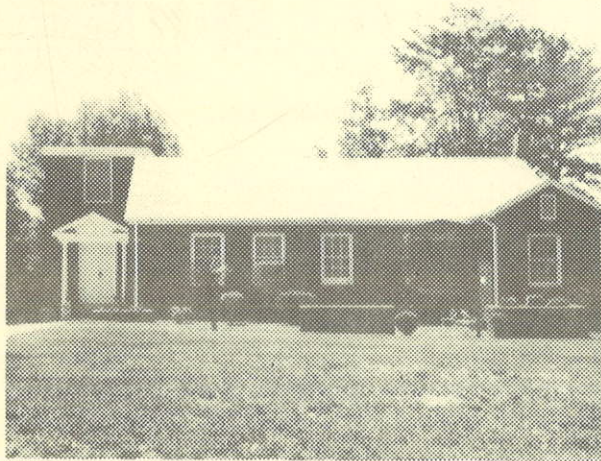
EARLY CHURCHES (CONTINUED)



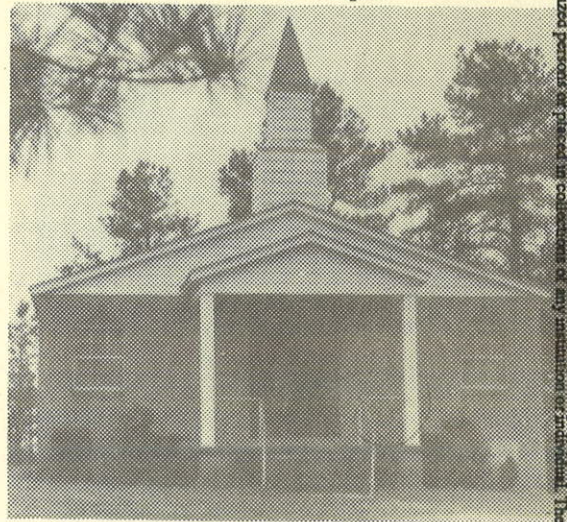
Emmanuel



Love's Chapel



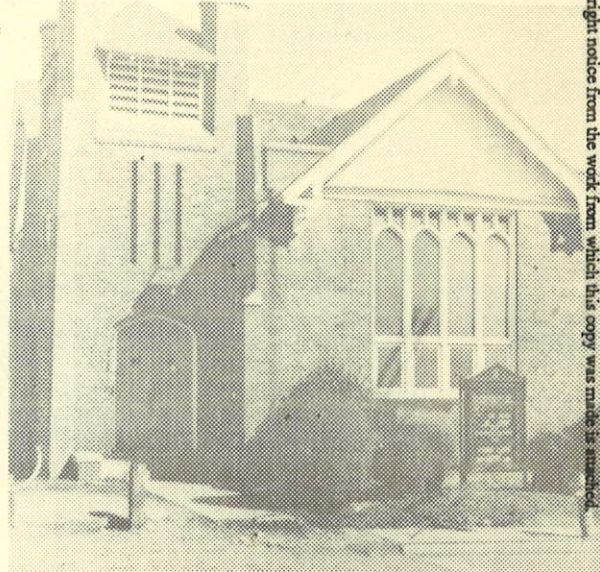
Black's Memorial



Ebenezer



Good Hope



Biddleville