

## Brief History of Aimwell

Aimwell is among the oldest Presbyterian churches in the state. The earliest obtainable record of its origin appears to be the year 1790. Services were held in the home of John and Ann Rosborough at Cedar Creek until Francis Robinson gave the land for the first Aimwell Church in 1798. A grass fire destroyed this church. A log church was then used until 1833 when Edward Gendron Palmer of Valencia gave the land where Aimwell Cemetery is located and a frame church was placed on the land. The congregation numbered about 30. Rev. C. W. Boggs was pastor when the church was dedicated November 18, 1859 (as inscribed on the baptismal bowl in the Relic Room).

The present church, built in 1893 was originally a white frame building. It is the fourth building to serve the congregation. In 1947, a recreational hall was added. This project was first begun through the efforts of the Youth Fellowship group and their devoted leader, Mrs. W. R. Goodson. (Mrs. Goodson served her church well for so many years as Sunday School teacher, Organist and Youth Advisor that when the Fellowship Hall was completed, it was dedicated to her.) The church was veneered and a vestibule was added in 1951. A new manse was built in 1956 under the direction of James Louie Coleman, Sr. (Mr. Coleman also served the church as a life-long member, elder, deacon, Sunday School Superintendent and teacher.) Picture #10 shows the deacons burning the mortgage. In 1963, a new Educational Building joined the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. The building was supervised by Elder John Jones, and planned by Deacon Robert D. Arndt (who was an engineer and architect). They were honored on the day

of dedication along with Mrs. Sarah Starnes, as oldest Sunday School teacher, Mr. Aram Davis, Chairman of Deacons and Mr. Eddie Squirewell, builder. The Rev. Joseph Beale was minister at this time.

Other additions include 2-1/2 acres of land behind the church as given by Mr. M. H. Traylor in memory of Mrs. Eloise Davis Ruff who attended Aimwell as a child. (This is known as Aimwell Park and was dedicated on April 2, 1961.) Also, the lot adjacent to the church was bought by the church to serve as additional parking space.

In the year 1982, the congregation voted to become a member of the Palmetto Presbytery. Therefore, we are under the watchcare of the Presbyterian Church of America (PCA).

The faithful 30 who were the original members of the first Aimwell left us a rich heritage. The 150th Anniversary was celebrated on August 18, 1940 while Rev. B. H. Franklin was pastor. The membership then was approximately 70. The membership today is approximately 93. We shall never forget the exemplified faith and perseverance of our forefathers. We shall ever be grateful for the dedicated teachers, officers, ministers, parents and friends who helped form our characters, and who taught us lessons about a wonderful Savior - the same Savior who has guided this Church through ages past and has brought us to our 200th year in 1990.