

## HISTORY OF GREENBRIER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A tremendous undertaking by a small congregation of less than 100 people was culminated December 8, 1957, when the beautiful blue granite church of Greenbrier was formally dedicated. In less than six years, this small group of people, headed by a dedicated building committee, saw a \$45,000 sanctuary, with complete equipment, rise as the members continued their worship in the sweet, simple house of God just across the road. Now only a marker signifies the place where the little frame church once stood, surrounded on three sides by its dead. Instead of the old, fancy iron fence that every Greenbrier child walked in his youth, another, built of the same native, Fairfield stone, embraces the church yard grounds.

The history of this old church is little known, but the late T. C. Camak, writing from "Mossy Dale" in THE NEWS AND HERALD (date not given), recalls what he could of "the founding and early history of Greenbrier Church" as follows:

"In 1877, there were a few Methodist families in the vicinity of what is now the thickly settled Greenbrier Community, and there being no church within the area of 12 miles, the Rev. J. M. Boyd, who was serving the Fairfield Charge, conceived the idea of organizing a church somewhere between Bethel and Winnsboro, and there already being a Sunday School meeting in a small log house just in front of where the Church now stands, and when the Rev. W. W. Duncan (afterwards Bishop) visited Bethel, Mr. Boyd had him to preach in the little school house above mentioned, and at that meeting a church building was discussed. Soon, a Building Committee was appointed, and Mr. James Madison Curlee, Sr., was asked to sell a lot, which he refused to do, but gave two acres free

of charge. The Building Committee, of which Capt. Henry Padgett was chairman, began to look around for lumber, but there being no portable saw mills, they were forced to buy Mac. Bookman's flour mill which was built of very fine lumber, but in taking it down, a good bit of it was rendered useless.

"The Charter Members, as I can recall them at this late date, were Henry Padgett and wife, Charles Broom and wife, Sam Broom and wife, Thomas Hobbs and wife, Bob Camak and wife, T. C. Camak and wife, Mrs. Jessie Deleney, and Mrs. Craig, and Mrs. Capt. John Lyles." (Another informant adds: "and children of these, who were old enough to join.")

"The Misses Nelson and T. W. Ruff, Sr., and mother, joined about the first and made devoted members.

"No record of who dedicated the church, but I remember who named it. Major Woodward, having contributed 100 dollars towards the erection of the building, was given the right by a majority of the members to name the church and he called it Greenbrier. Space won't allow me to tell why he called it Greenbrier. I may do so at another time."

Concerning the naming of the Church, informed sources have said, "Because the place was thickly overgrown with the evergreen bramble some call bamboo vine, it was called Greenbrier." It has also been said that "the lumber from the mill was hauled by Mr. Padgett from a place several miles back of the Fridy home (Bethel) near Cedar Creek."

According to one former church member, the first marriage in the second church was that of Miss Lila Brockington to Mr. Dick Powell.

The Fairfield Circuit appears to have been comprised of seven churches in 1858, as follows:

Monticello, Cedar Creek, Mt. Pleasant, Union, Bethel, Shiloh, and Pine Grove. In 1860, Winnsboro was added, making the eighth church. The Winnsboro church had its beginning in 1808.

In 1878 the Winnsboro Church was taken off the Fairfield Circuit and made a station appointment. Fairfield Circuit then consisted of the following churches: Bethel, Cedar Creek, Monticello, Shiloh, Pine Grove, and Greenbrier. In that year, Greenbrier is listed as the "smallest church" on the Fairfield Circuit.

The date when the Winnsboro church and Greenbrier were constituted as a charge was 1891. In 1898, according to the deed recorded in the Fairfield County Court House, these two churches purchased a house on Zion Street, in Winnsboro, for \$1,200, to be used as a parsonage.

A second church building, which replaced the one built from the flour mill lumber, served until 1954.

In 1949, which was the last year of the Rev. T. C. Cannon's ministry, a building fund was begun. Contributions continued steadily during the pastorate of the late Rev. George K. Way, from 1949 until 1951.

In 1951, the Rev. J. Sherwood Davis was appointed to serve the charge. The following year, steps were taken toward beginning construction of the new church, on a lot across the road from the old church, which was donated by Mr. J. Roy Robinson, of Winnsboro. Ground-breaking services were held in June of 1952. Most of the actual construction took place during 1953 and early 1954.

The local chapter of the American Bible Society held its meeting in the new church on October 4, 1953. The formal opening service was held on July 25, 1954. The first wedding in the present church was that of Miss Frances Lou Stewart and Robert Warren Rutland on July 22, 1955.

Beautiful Greenbrier Church is a monument to the love and labors of so many people--pastors, the building committee, members, former members, and friends, for all of these had a significant part. There were, for example, some men who gave many hours of skilled labor, as well as their money.

In the fall of 1955 steel steps and landing were erected at the rear of the church. During the church year 1955-1956, the church paid \$1,891 toward the final indebtedness. During 1956-1957, the final indebtedness of \$1,148 was paid.

An extensive program of improvements to the cemetery grounds and site of the old church was undertaken in 1957 at a cost of more than \$1,600. This included the erection of a stone fence, the moving of iron fencing, and enlargement of the cemetery grounds. Additional land for these purposes had been given by Mr. J. Roy Robinson and the late Mr. Herbert L. Castles.

We have purchased hymnboards, and installed carpeting at a cost of \$1,439. An electric organ was installed in 1958. In 1960 the grounds of both the church and cemetery were landscaped. In 1961, Greenbrier Church entered "The Rural Church Program" in Fairfield County. Our church received second place award and with the proceeds of our award we purchased brass offering plates to complete the altar set.

Extensive renovation to strengthen the beams and roof of the sanctuary took place in 1961 at

a cost of approximately \$7,000. This was necessary because the weight of the roof was forcing the walls to lean.

The basement of the church was remodeled and Sunday School rooms added in this space during 1965. This was a project which was not completed at the time the church was built and cost approximately \$6,000.

By 1969, we were still making our building more comfortable and attractive. At this time, we replaced the furnace and added air conditioning; this project involved expenditures of \$7,000.

From time to time, many of our families have made donations in memory of loved ones and friends. The altar cross, narthex table, communion table, outdoor bulletin board, and new hymnals are all memorial gifts to our church.

It has long been our dream to have a beautiful parsonage to go with our church. In June, 1971, permission was granted to Greenbrier Church to build a parsonage. Mr. Carl Lyles donated a lot adjacent to one we already owned to allow us to enlarge our building site for the construction of the house. In February, 1972, the contract was awarded and ground broken for the new house. In July, 1972, a \$30,000 house was completed and is ready for the Rev. Perry Turner.

Our church building and parsonage are valued at \$125,000. We are indebted in the amount of \$20,000.

Greenbrier Church, although small in membership but strong in devotion and determination, looks forward to a bright future as the twentieth century draws to its close.

LIST OF PASTORS

Fairfield Circuit

J. M. Boyd  
1874-1877

N. K. Melton  
1887-1888

J. A. Porter  
1877-1878

J. C. Stroll  
1888-1890

A. J. Cauthen  
1879-1883

J. W. Murray  
1890-1891

J. K. McClain  
1884-1886

Winnsboro Charge

S. A. Webber  
1891-1892

J. B. Traywick  
1912-1916

W. S. Stokes  
1892-1894

H. B. Hardy  
1916-1919

T. M. Dent  
1894-1897

Hamlin Etheredge  
1919-1920

J. D. Crout  
1897-1900

J. D. Holler  
1920-1922

E. P. Taylor  
1900-1901

R. F. Revis  
1920-1922  
(Supply Junior Preacher)

(Prior to 1906, Winns-  
boro was in the Columbia  
District)

J. G. Huggins  
1923-1926

J. B. Campbell  
1901-1905

D. C. Gregory  
1923  
(Supply Junior Preacher)

Henry Stokes  
1905-1908

J. H. Bell  
1924  
(Supply Junior Preacher)

D. A. Phillips  
1908-1911

G. C. Hutchinson  
1911-1912

R. L. Keaton  
1926-1928

LIST OF PASTORS (Continued)

W. A. Falty	1928-1930
J. L. Daniel	1930-1933
W. H. Polk	1933-1934
L. A. Carter	1934-1938
J. H. Brown	1938-1940
Lester Kingman	1940-1945
T. C. Cannon	1945-1949
George K. May	1949-1951
J. Sherwood Davis	1951-1955
W. H. Chandler	1955-1959
Dr. A. F. Ragan	1959-1961
R. M. Wolford	1961-1965
Geoff M. Camlin	1965-1967
Roy Dickert	1967-1969
Olin Hardwich	1969-1971
W. Ralph Carter	1971-1972
Ferry Turner	1972-

1972?

OFFICERS - UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

- President.....Mrs. J. W. Cathcart
- Vice President.....Mrs. Carl Bates
- Secretary.....Mrs. Frank Lewis
- Treasurer.....Mrs. Davis Robinson
- Chairman.....Mrs. Gary Bass, Jr.
- Missionary Education
- Chairman.....Mrs. Dave Beckham
- Spiritual Growth
- Person Responsible.....Mrs. Marjorie Lewis
- For Program Materials
- Chairman.....Mrs. Pete Gustafson
- Nominating Committee
- Chairman.....Mrs. John Rutland
- Local Church Activities

MEMBERS

- Mrs. Gary Bass, Jr.
- Mrs. Carl Bates
- Mrs. Dave Beckham
- Mrs. Eunice Blair
- Mrs. Henry Blair
- Mrs. Annie S. Castles
- Mrs. Hoyt Castles
- Mrs. W. H. Castles
- Mrs. J. W. Cathcart
- Mrs. W. M. Estes, Jr.
- Mrs. Pete Gustafson
- Mrs. H. E. Haynes
- Mrs. L. A. Haynes
- Mrs. Gene Hinrichs
- Mrs. Jim Humphries
- Mrs. Helen Johnson
- Mrs. W. M. Knight
- Mrs. Frank Lewis
- Mrs. Josephine Lewis
- Mrs. Marjorie Lewis
- Mrs. Roy Lewis, Sr.
- Miss Beaufort Lyles
- Mrs. J. D. Lyles
- Mrs. V. O. Porter
- Mrs. A. F. Robinson, Sr.

## MEMBERS (Continued)

Mrs. Davis Robinson  
Mrs. Bobby Rutland  
Mrs. John Rutland  
Mrs. Lois Sandifer  
Mrs. George Summer

## LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. Gary Bass, Jr.  
Mrs. Dave Beckham  
Mrs. A. M. Blair (Deceased)  
Mrs. Eunice Blair  
Mrs. Henry Blair  
Mrs. Annie S. Castles  
Mrs. Hoyt Castles  
Mrs. W. H. Castles  
Mrs. J. W. Cathcart (H.B.)  
Mrs. Gene Hinrichs  
Mrs. Jim Humphries  
Mrs. W. M. Knight  
Mrs. Helen Johnson  
Mrs. Frank Lewis  
Mrs. Josephine Lewis  
Mrs. L. B. Lewis (Deceased)  
Mrs. Marjorie Lewis  
Mrs. Roy Lewis, Sr.  
Mrs. W. H. Ligon (Deceased)  
Miss Beaufort Lyles  
Mrs. J. D. Lyles  
Miss Jessie Lyles (Deceased)  
Mrs. A. F. Robinson, Sr.  
Mrs. Davis Robinson  
Mrs. Bobby Rutland  
Mrs. John Rutland  
Mrs. Lois Sandifer  
Miss Hattie Greene Stewart  
Mrs. W. E. Stewart, Sr. (Deceased)  
Mrs. George Summer

## HONORARY BABY

Rebekah Marie Castles  
Mitzi Luann Knight  
Lisa Ann Robinson  
Laura Ann Thomas