Clement to launch 165th anniversary celebration Sunday

Louise Yarbrough, retired missionary to Alaska, will speak Sunday at 11 a.m.

CLEMENT BAPTIST CHURCH will celebrate its 165th anniversary with special speakers one Sunday of each month, beginning this month and continuing through October. The speakers will be former pastors, interim pastors, and former Clement members who have become full-time ministers or missionaries.

The first of these anniversary speakers will be Louise Yarbrough, a Person County native who served as a Southern Baptist missionary in Alaska until her retirement in 1993. She continues to reside in Anchorage, where she teaches English classes to students from Columbia, Russia, Japan, Cambodia, Taiwan, and Mexico.

Miss Yarbrough grew up in the Bushy Fork community and graduated from Roxboro High, Mars Hill Junior College, and Meredith College. She received a master of religious education degree from Carver School of Missions and Social Work in 1954 and an ED specialist degree from New Orleans Seminary in 1969.

She first went to Alaska as a student summer missionary in 1954 and was the Alaska Baptist Convention’s first executive secretary of the Woman’s Missionary Union (WMU), a position she held from 1957-68. She held other missionary appointments in Alaska, working as a home missionary in Anchorage from 1986-1993, when she retired.

Miss Yarbrough will speak for the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 7.

In addition to the monthly guest speakers, former pastors or former Clement members who became ministers spoke for the church’s revival services April 23-26 as part of the anniversary celebration.