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MAR-27-85

291

A8

Hammond Creek Union Convenes This Weekend

By C. TRUMILLA
McDOWELL

The Hammond Creek Union will convene at Abbottsburg Baptist Church in Bladenboro Saturday and Sunday, March 30-31.

On Saturday at 10 a.m. Moderator B.L. Smith will call the union to order with a prayer service led by messengers from Jerusalem and White Creek. Music will be provided by the union choir.

Rev. J.W. Drye, host pastor, along with his Sunday School superintendent and B.T.U. president, will extend the welcome. Deacon Ottis McKoy will respond.

The topic is "I Have Learned, In Whatever State I Am, To Be Confident." Philemon 4:11 will be presented by Deacon Burnie Currie. Mrs. Betty McKoy will sing a solo, followed by echoes from the field by Deacon Matthew Cromartie.

The introductory sermon will be by the Reverend Stanley A. Richardson or his alternate Reverend James Smith.

Dinner will be served at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Moderator Smith will reconvene the session with messengers from First Baptist Church in Elizabethtown and Pleasant

Union. Deacon Charles W. Gillespie, president and, Sister Fannie Kealon, secretary of the Sunday School Hour, will open the session.

A panel discussion on the Topic, "For As He Thinketh In His Heart So Is He," Proverb 23:7, will be given by delegates.

All committees will then report. The BTU Hour will be opened by messengers from Piney Grove and First Baptist Abbottsburg, followed by BTU, directed by President Henry Lewis and Secretary Mary C. Carter.

Delegates will discuss the topic "If The Son Makes You Free, You Are Free Indeed," John 8:36. The doctrinal sermon will be the Reverend John D. Herring or his alternate Reverend Jerry Ganus followed by supper.

The Sunday session will begin at 10 a.m. with Sunday School being called to order by the Superintendent and the lesson being taught by Deacon Dewitt Mathis.

The Educational Address will be given by Mrs. Deloris Smith. Mrs. Joyce McKoy will provide the solo. The Missionary sermon will be given by Reverend Idell Dixon or his alternate Reverend J.R. Godfrey.

The union will close with communion to convene again on June 29-30.

Abbotsburg B

Plans Revival

Revival services will begin at the Abbotsburg Baptist Church on March 28 and will continue thru April 2.

Rev. Phillip McLean from Bethel Baptist Church in Dublin will be the guest speaker.

Rev. George Langley, pastor, cordially invites the public to attend these services which begin at 7:30 p. m. nightly.

Davidson: Mecklenburg Gazette
Denton Record
Dunn Dispatch
Eden News
Edenton: Chowan Herald
Elizabethtown: Bladen Journal
Elkin Tribune
Enfield Progress
Fairmont: Times-Messenger
Farmville Enterprise
Forest City Courier-Sun

MAR 25 1976

Bladen

EN JOURNAL, ELIZA

Bake Bread At

All over America, women
(and men, too!) have been
searching for ways to cut their

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BHC HISTORY SHEET

NAME: Abbottsburg Baptist Church

COUNTY: Bladen

ADDRESS: Abbottsburg, N. C. 28321

ASSOC.: Bladen

ORGANIZATION: In 1869 a Sunday School was organized in a small vacant house in the village of Abbottsburg, Bladen County, N. C. On Sunday, January 6, 1870 the members met to organize a Baptist Church. The Reverend Haynes Lennon met with them and served as moderator. Members were received into the church from neighboring churches by letter. Others came requesting membership by baptism. Twenty-eight men (including one Negro) and fifteen women were the constituent members of Abbottsburg Baptist Church.

NAME CHANGES: None.

<u>ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP:</u>	Cape Fear (E)	1870-1892.
	Bladen	1892-

<u>PASTORS:</u>	Haynes Lennon	1870	R. L. Byrd	1904-1912
	P. C. Connelly	1871	R. E. Sentell	1913
	W. S. McDaniel	1872	R. A. Hedgepeth	1914-1915
	E. D. Johnson	1873-1874	J. M. Fleming	1916-1924
	D. J. Ray	1875	W. D. Pridgen	1925-1926
	Haynes Lennon	1876	Pastor not listed	1927
	E. W. Wooten	1877-1880	W. D. Pridgen	1928
	E. G. Edwards	1881-1882	J. O. Ballard	1929
	W. R. Johnson	1883	R. L. Byrd	1930-1933
	J. W. Gurganious	1884-1885	A. D. Woodall	1934
	D. J. Clark	1886	Pastor not listed	1937
	C. L. Powell	1886-1887	No report	1938
	James W. Register	1887-1891	C. R. Hester	1939
	Pastor not listed	1892	C. B. Horne	1940-1943
	D. C. Britt	1893	H. B. Bennett	1943-1954
	Pastor not listed	1894	Joe A. Campbell	1955-1959
	R. L. Byrd	1895	George Langley	1959-1965
	Minutes lacking	1896	Earl Lanier	1965-1966
	Ippy Purvis Hedgepeth	1897-	H. D. Harris	1967-1968
	Pastor not listed	1900-1902	George Langley	1969-
	W. L. Brisson	1903		

CEMETERY/RECORDS/DATES:

HISTORIES: N. A.
History of Abbottsburg Baptist Church. (In the BLADEN JOURNAL,
27 Dec. 1962, p. 4. (NCCF)
N. A.
History of Abbottsburg Baptist Church. (In Bladen Baptist Association
minutes, 1966, p. 25-26.)
Pait, Sarah B
History of Abbottsburg Baptist Church, Abbottsburg, N. C., 1869-1970.
c1970. 8 pagees. typescript (NCCF)

BHC ACCESSION SHEET

MAIN ENTRY: Abbottsburg Baptist Church (1870), Bladen Co., N. C.

TYPE OF PAPERS; DATES: Minute books, 1926-1965, history sketch, 1962.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4 Vols. (mss.); 1 item (mss.)

ORIGINAL FORM OF MATERIAL: Manuscript.

HISTORY-SCOPE AND CONTENT (ABOUT AUTHOR AND MATERIALS):

Abbottsburg Baptist Church (1870), Bladen Co., N. C.
Records, 1926-1965. 4 vols.; 1 item. (mss.)
Minutes of church conferences from November 7,
1926 to March 31, 1965, including membership rolls,
financial records, association statistics, and
loose papers; with a church history written for
Homecoming, 1962.
See finding aid in BHC.
Loan, 1965.

1. N. C. Church Records.
2. Bladen County, N. C.

NCCF: Abbottsburg Baptist Church BLADEN
Shelf list.

REFERENCE TO A DESCRIPTION IN A GUIDE, OR WHERE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED:

ORIGINAL LOCATION OF MANUSCRIPTS:

Church records were returned to the church
after microfilming.

COPY IN BHC IF NOT ORIGINAL: Microfilm.

PROVENANCE/DONOR, CITY AND STATE, DATE OF RECEIPT/RESTRICTIONS:

Loan for microfilming by the Reverend Earl Lanier,
pastor of Abbottsburg Baptist Church. Abbottsburg,
N. C., 12 Aug. 1965.
No restrictions.

LOCATION IN BHC: CRmf 13

DATE: 14 March 1972/JRW.

Abbottsburg - 1870

Bladen

BLADEN

1870 - Const. Jan. 6. Admit. to CAPE FEAR[E]
1892 - Dism. from CAPE FEAR[E]. Charter member of
BLADEN.

Abbottsburg - 1870

Bladen

BHC DESCRIPTIVE LIST

Abbottsburg Baptist Church (1870). Bladen County, N. C.

CHURCH MINUTES:

Church minute book, Vol. 1, 1926-1942.

Minutes of church conferences beginning November 7, 1926 with the 488th conference and ending with the 554th conference held November 21, 1942. Meetings were held approximately 2 per month with 4 meetings making one conference through the 490th conference. Beginning in November 1927 the meetings are on a monthly basis for the most part. This volume also contains lists of church officers, the Building Committee members, and several loose papers and membership rolls.

Church minute book, Vol. 2, 1942-1953.

Minutes of church conferences beginning November 21, 1942 with the 554th conference and ending with the 619th conference held September 20, 1953. This volume also contains lists of church officers, membership rolls, attendance rolls, financial records, statistics in the associational letter for 1944, 1945, and 1948.

Church minute book, Vol. 3, 1953-1960.

Minutes of church conferences beginning November 14, 1953 with the 620th conference and ending with the 663rd conference held September 25, 1960. This volume also contains membership rolls, a yearly summary (1954), attendance roll, a list of church officers, and loose papers.

Church minute book, Vol. 4, 1960-1965.

Contains church minutes beginning September (?) 9, 1960 with the 664th conference and ending with the 688th conference, March 21, 1965. This volume also contains membership roll, list of church officers, and yearly summary, 1959-1963 and some loose papers

CHURCH HISTORY:

Manuscript ink copy of a history of the Abbottsburg Baptist Church prepared for Homecoming Day, October 21, 1962 by Sarah B. Pait.

1868 -

1869 -

Cont 6 January 1870

1870 - Admit. to assoc. as newly const.

1871 -

1872 - *same charges brought against church. Assoc. withdrew fellowship (p. 6)*✓ 1873 - *Restored to full membership*

1874 -

1875 -

1876 -

1877 -

1878 -

1879 -

1880 -

1881 -

1882 -

1883 -

1884 -

1885 -

✓ 1886 - *Assoc. not with*

1887 -

1888 -

1889 -

1890 -

1891 -

1892 - *Dis. to form Bladen B/A*

1893 -

1894 -

1895 -

1896 -

1897 -

1898 -

" " " Bladen

Contd to January 1870

- 1875 -
- 1876 -
- 1877 -
- 1878 -
- 1879 -
- 1880 -
- 1881 -
- 1882 -
- 1883 -
- 1884 -
- 1885 -
- 1886 -
- 1887 -
- 1888 -
- 1889 -
- 1890 -
- 1891 - J. M. Register
- ✓ 1892 - Am. man from Cape Fear
- 1893 - D. C. Britz
- 1894 - n. p. listed
- 1895 - R. L. Byrd
- 1896 - ~~I. P. Hedgespeth~~ Museum
- 1897 - I. P. Hedgespeth
- 1898 - " " "
- 1899 - " " "

- 1900 - p. not listed church
 1901 - p. not listed by church
 1902 - p. " " "
 1903 - W L. BRISSON
 1904 - A L Byrd
 1905 - " " "
 1906 - " " "
 1907 - R L ~~Byrd~~ Byrd
 ✓ 1908 - Assoc met under R L Byrd
 1909 - R L Byrd
 1910 - " " "
 1911 - " " "
 1912 - " " "
 1913 - A E SEATELL
 1914 - R A Hodgepeth
 1915 - " " "
 1916 - J M Fleming
 1917 - " " "
 1918 - " " "
 1919 - " " "
 1920 - " " "
 1921 - " " "
 1922 - " " "
 1923 - " " "
 1924 - " " "

- 1925 - W. D. Bridgen
 1926 - " " "
 1927 - ~~pastor not listed~~ B. W. D. Bridgen
 1928 - W. D. Bridgen
 1929 - J. O. Ballard
 1930 - ~~no minutes present~~ R. L. Byrd
 1931 - R. L. Byrd
 1932 - " " "
 1933 - ~~A. D. Woodall~~ ~~pastor not listed~~ R. L. Byrd
 ✓ 1934 - Assn met with A. D. Woodall
 1935 - A. D. Woodall
 1936 - " " "
 1937 - no pastor listed
 1938 - no report
 1939 - ~~no pastor listed~~ C. P. Hester
 1940 - C. B. Horne
 1941 - " " "
 1942 - " " - 43
 1943 - H. B. Bennett
 1944 - "
 1945 - "
 1946 - "
 1947 - "
 1948 - "
 1949 - "

1950 - "

1951 - "

1952 - "

1953 - "

1954 - "

1955 - Joe A Campbell

1956 -

1957 -

1958 -

1959 -

1960 -

1961 -

1962 -

1963 -

1964 -

1965 -

1966 - History released (25) by 6 Jan 1870.

1967 -

1968 -

1969 -

1970 -

1971 -

1972 -

1973 -

1974 -

used
69, 70 min

HISTORY OF ABBOTTSBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

(By Rev. Nash A. Odom, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Dublin, N. C., and President of the Bladen County Historical Society.)

This history of the Abbottsburg Baptist Church comes from several sources, from a history that appeared in THE BLADEN JOURNAL newspaper on October 21, 1962, and from a history written by Mrs. Wanda S. Campbell appearing in the Minutes of Bladen Baptist Association for 1966.

In the year, 1869, a small dwelling house, located beside the railroad track, near the center of the little village of Abbottsburg, North Carolina, had become the meeting place of a group of Christians, for the purpose of conducting a Sabbath School for themselves, their children and unsaved friends.

It was Sunday, January 6, 1870, that this courageous little group met, not for Sabbath School, but to them it was a much more important occasion. The Reverend Haynes Lennon had accepted their invitation to meet with them, and serve as moderator in the organization of the First Baptist Church of Abbottsburg. Reverend Lennon also delivered the message for the day taking his scripture from the sixth chapter of Jeremiah.

Received into the church that day were 28 men and 15 women. Some of them came from other churches by letter, while others came requesting membership by baptism.

Male members were: Jonathan Cashwell, C. D. Russ, C. T. Cashwell, B. G. Thompson, James H. Cashwell, John C. Cashwell, Thomas L. Cashwell, Dougald McTurner, William Thompson, James Cashwell, J. K. Baldwin, M. F. Carroll, John W. Thompson, Gus Cause, G. W. Gurganious, Theo Faircloth, Nevil Cashwell, Andrew Thompson, O. J. Rivenbark, Jordan Revils, James Cashwell, Jr., Benjamin Faircloth, Thomas Kingon, Joseph Thompson, Charley Thompson, H. B. Rivenbark, D. C. Faircloth, and one Negro Nedham Robinson.

Female members were: Harriet Cashwell, Charlotte Cashwell, Ann Russ, Mary Thompson, Amelia Cashwell, Sarah Russ, Effie Edwards, Dorcas Turner, Lyda Carroll,

Harriet Thompson, Ruth Cain, Mary C. Wilson, Sarah J. Edwards, Susan Baldwin, and Mary Ward.

The sincerity of these people is expressed in the fact that their first matter was to appoint a committee to secure aid to provide a real church house in which to worship God. A favorable report was brought in by the committee. General Abbott, the founder of the village promised to give \$1,000, if the church would raise the same amount. That was a large gift and a rather high goal, but by October, \$500.00 had been raised, material had been donated, a plot of land had been secured at the lower end of the village and work on the structure was well in progress. Reverend Lennon served as pastor that first year and it was under his leadership in October, 1870, that the first communion service was observed in the new church. We do not know what Reverend Lennon received for his year of faithful service, but the records show that the second pastor was paid \$75.00.

Reverend C. T. Connely stepped in on a well laid foundation in January, 1871, and continued the work begun and left by Reverend Lennon. As was the custom of the day, Reverend Connely held services for the black people of the community, as well as the white people, and it was under his pastorate, October 26, 1871, that the church granted license to preach to Brother Nedham Robinson. This first black charter member became the first ordained preacher to go from the newly organized church.

Reverend W. S. McDaniel was pastor in 1872, and Reverend E. D. Johnson, great grandfather of this writer, in 1873 and 1874. It was Reverend Johnson who conducted the first mid-week prayer meeting in the church. During this time, work was progressing steadily on the building and to the people of the community, it was a thing of beauty. Although, it was small, with a seating capacity for only about 50 persons, it had high walls that had kerosene lamps hanging on them to provide light by night and added a decorative touch by day. The roof was very sharp and the tall steeple held the bell that could be heard for miles around.

under way for a new and larger building. It was November 21st, 1891, that a plot of land was donated by Mr. J. S. Cain and received by the church, upon which to erect the new building. This piece of land was located on the opposite side of the road almost directly in front of what was known as "Mrs. Neal Averitte's Home Place."

Recorded information is missing for the next twenty years in the church's history but the proposed church building was built. Some of the pastors remembered who served the church during that period of time were Reverends M. V. Mercer, D. C. Britt, R. L. Byrd, W. L. Brisson, I. P. Hedgpeth, Roland Hedgpeth, J. M. Fleming, and W. D. Pridgen.

The period of 1927 and 1928 was one of many changes. The new brick high school building was erected and moved into, and under the pastorate of Reverend W. D. Pridgen, the church trustees arranged to purchase and remodel the old school building which stood where the present church is located. This remodeling resulted in obtaining the first electric lights and the first separate class rooms. To the children, it was quite a novelty to be attending Sunday School and worship services where they had previously been taught the three R's in school.

It was during the ministry of Reverend W. D. Pridgen that the church ordained another minister, Reverend Garland Singletary. He became well-known throughout Bladen County and North Carolina.

The old schoolhouse church, as it was lovingly called served as a place of worship for 26 years. It is interesting to note that the pastor following Reverend Pridgen was the same Reverend R. L. Byrd that had served as pastor 35 years earlier in 1894. Reverend Byrd left in 1933 and during the next ten years the church was served by Reverends A. D. Woodell, J. S. Johnson, Charlie Hester, and C. B. Horne.

It was 1943 that Reverend H. B. Bennett accepted a call to the church and it was during his pastorate in 1947 that the church's first Vacation Bible School was held. It was also Reverend Bennett that helped launch the program that resulted in the erection of the present church building. In October, 1955, with only

1955

the sub-flooring laid, it was his pleasure to conduct the first revival to be held in the Sanctuary. Reverend Bernett handed in his resignation and was soon followed by Reverend J. A. Campbell who served the church for four years. He was followed by Reverend George Langley. In 1966 Reverend Earl Lanier was pastor. In 1967 Reverend H. D. Harris was serving the church as pastor. In 1968 the church was again without a pastor. In 1969 Reverend George Langley returned to become the pastor and is presently serving the church.

Since the church was organized, she has ordained six men and sent them out to proclaim the gospel, as well as one pastor going to Africa as a missionary. Most likely she has excelled all of her sister churches in the number she has sent out to preach the gospel.

Bladen Baptist Association has met with the Abbottsburg Baptist Church on three occasions, 1908, 1934, and 1972.

In 1973 Abbottsburg Baptist Church had 180 members and a property evaluation of \$103,000. That year there were 188 enrolled in Sunday School, 51 in Church Training, 39 enrolled in church choirs, 38 enrolled in WMU organizations, 16 RA's, and Total Receipts amounted to \$20,346. Of this amount, \$1,780.00 went beyond the church to the cause of missions.

HISTORY OF THE ABBOTTSBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

ABBOTTSBURG, NORTH CAROLINA

1869 - 1970

(Written by Sarah B. Pait)

In the year 1869, a small vacant dwelling house, located beside the railroad track, near the center of the little village of Abbottsburg, North Carolina, had become the meeting place of a group of Christians, for the purpose of conducting a Sabbath School for themselves, their children, and unsaved friends.

It was Sunday, January 6, 1870, that this courageous little group met, not for Sabbath School, but to them it was a much more important occasion. The Reverend Haynes Lennon had accepted their invitation to meet with them, and serve as moderator in the organization of the First Baptist Church of Abbottsburg. Reverend Lennon also delivered the message for the day, using for his scripture reading the sixth chapter of Jeremiah.

Received into the church that day were 28 men and 15 women. Some of them were coming from other churches by letter, while others came requesting membership by Baptism. Because our church membership today includes many descendants of those charter members, we will list them.

Male members, including one negro, were:

1. Nedham Robinson (Colored)
2. Jonathan Cashwell
3. C. D. Russ
4. C. T. Cashwell
5. B. G. Thompson
6. James H. Cashwell
7. John C. Cashwell
8. Thomas L. Cashwell
9. Dougald McTurner
10. William Thompson
11. James Cashwell
12. J. K. Baldwin
13. M. F. Carroll
14. John W. Thompson
15. Gus Gause
16. G. W. Gurganious
17. Theo Faircloth

18. Nevil Cashwell
19. Andrew Thompson
20. O. J. Rivenbark
21. Jordan Revils
22. James Cashwell, Jr.
23. Benjamin Faircloth
24. Thomas Kingon
25. Joseph Thompson
26. Charley Thompson
27. H. B. Riven Bark
28. D. C. Faircloth

Female Members

1. Harriet Cashwell
2. Charlotte Cashwell
3. Ann Russ
4. Mary Thompson
5. Amelia Cashwell
6. Sarah Russ
7. Effie Edwards
8. Dorcas Turner
9. Lyda Carroll
10. Harriet Thompson
11. Ruth Cain
12. Mary C. Wilson
13. Sarah J. Edwards
14. Susan Baldwin
15. Mary Ward

The Sincerity of these people is expressēd in the fact that their first matter of business was to appoint a committee to secure aid to provide a real church house in which to worship God.

In March of the same year, a very favorable report was brought in by the committee. General Abbott, the founder of the village, promisēd to give \$1,000, if the church would raise the same amount. That was a large gift and a rather high goal, but by October, \$500 had been raised, material had been donated, a plot of land had been secured at the lower end of the village and work on the structure was well in progress. Reverend Lennon served as pastor that first year and it was under his leadership in October, 1870, that the first communion service was observed in the new church. We do not know what Reverend Lennon received for his year of faithful service, but the rēcords show that the second pastor was paid \$75.00.

Reverend C. T. Connely stepped in on a well laid foundation in January, 1871, and continued the work begun and left by Reverend Lennon. As was the custon of the day, Reverend Connely held service for the colored folk, as well as the white people, and it was under his pastorate, October 26, 1871, that the church granted license to preach to Brother Nedham Robinson. Our colored charter member became the

first ordained pastor to go from the newly organized church.

Reverend W. S. McDaniel was pastor in 1872, and Reverend E. D. Johnson in 1873 and 1874. It was he who conducted the first mid-week prayer meeting in the church. During this time, work was progressing steadily on the building and to the people of the community, it was a thing of beauty. Although it was small, with a seating capacity for only about 50 persons, it had high walls that were hung with kerosene lamps that provided light by night and added a decorative touch by day. The roof was very sharp and the tall steeple held the bell that could be heard to ring out clear and sweet for miles around. The pulpit furniture consisting of the speaker's stand, a pew and two lamp stands were hand-made by Brother Troy Cashwell. The pew remained in use and seated all of our preachers until we moved into our present building.

November 25, 1875, under the pastorate of Reverend D. J. Ray, the first Thanksgiving service was held in the church. The minutes read: "We met just to give thanks to God for his blessings upon us in the past year." It was December 23rd of this same year that Brother J. W. Gurganious was duly ordained to the gospel ministry, and became the second minister to go out from the church.

Reverend Haynes Lennon returned as pastor for 1876, and it was this year that the Baptist Hymn Book was adopted as the standard music for church worship.

Reverend E. W. Wooten was pastor from 1877 until 1880 and it was his privilege to grant a letter of dismissal and license to preach to Brother Nevil Cashwell, our third ordained minister. Reverend E. G. Edwards was pastor the next two years and in February 1883, during the pastorate of Reverend W. R. Johnson, Brother James Cashwell was liberated to preach.

In 1884, Reverend J. W. Gurganious returned to serve as pastor for two years in the church that had sent him out only a few years earlier. He too, was privileged to send out another servant of Christ to preach the gospel. It was August 1885, that W. A. Westmoreland was ordained into the ministry.

Reverend D. J. Clark was pastor for half the year of 1886 and Reverend C. L. Powell finished the year for him and continued until

March of 1887, when he was relieved by Reverend James W. Register so that Brother Powell could go as a missionary to Africa. Reverend Register served as pastor until December, 1891 and during this time he encouraged the church to help support Brother Powell in his mission work.

In spite of hard times the church prospered and the membership grew both in the church and in the Sunday School, so twenty years after the first little church was built, we find it pitifully outgrown and plans under way for a new and larger building. It was November 21, 1891, that a plot of land was donated by Brother J. S. Cain and received by the church, upon which to erect the new building. This piece of land was located on the opposite side of the road almost directly in front of what is known as "Mrs. Neal Averitte's Home Place."

We regret that we do not have any recorded information for the next twenty years, but we do know the proposed church was built. The older citizens of our community have numerous and varied memories connected with the church. To some it brings the memory of seeing their very first decorated Christmas Tree. Some remember weddings or the sad occasion of funerals. While others recall that it was there at the old Alter Bench they were led to accept Jesus as their Savior, by a faithful minister of the gospel. Some of these remembered pastors are: Reverend M. V. Mercer, D. C. Britt, R. L. Byrd, W. L. Brisson, I. P. Hedgpeth, Roland Hedgpeth, M. M. Flemming and W. D. Pridgen.

There are many who very vividly remember the year 1927 and 1928. It was a period of many changes. The new brick high school building was erected and moved into, and under the pastorate of Reverend W. D. Pridgen, the church trustees arranged to purchase and re-model the old school building which stood on our present church site. This remodeling resulted in obtaining our first electric lights and our first separate class rooms. To the children, it was quite a novelty to be attending Sunday School and worship service where they had previously been trying to grasp the three R's in school. It was about this same time that we again have information of our church sending out another ordained minister. Reverend Garland Singletary became well known through out Bladen County and North Carolina and is remembered quite well by most people of our community today, as it was only a

few years ago that he spoke most interestingly here.

The old schoolhouse church, as it has been lovingly called was our place of worship for 26 years, and it is interesting to note that our first pastor after Reverend Pridgen left us, was the same Reverend R. L. Byrd that had served as pastor 35 years earlier in 1894. Reverend Byrd left us in 1933 and during the next ten years we were served by Reverend A. D. Woodel, J. S. Johnson, Charlie Hester, and C. B. Horne.

It was 1943, when Reverend H. B. Bennett accepted our call and it was during his pastorate in 1947, that our first Vacation Bible School was held. It has been held each year since that time except 1958, and is a very important part of our church activity. It was also Reverend Bennett that helped launch the program that resulted in the erection of our present building. In October, 1953, with only the sub-flooring laid, it was his pleasure to conduct the first revival to be held in this Sanctuary. Soon after this, Reverend Bennett gave his resignation, and our pulpit committee went to work very prayerfully in an effort to obtain the right man for our church. It was January, 1955 when their efforts were rewarded with Reverend Joe A. Campbell accepting their call and bringing his family to our community.

Under his dedicated leadership, we went forward spiritually and financially, as our membership increased and our building program progressed. By the fall of 1956, our sanctuary was finished, and completely furnished with new pews and pulpit furniture.

Work on our Sunday School class rooms was slow, as most of the work was done by our own members at night, or whatever time they could get away from their own jobs. We are fortunate in having some excellent carpenters and electricians in our church and Reverend Campbell could always be found working side by side with whoever was on the job. "Brother Joe", as many called him, was much interested in the young people of the church and many of our present members are fruit of his labor. He was with us almost four years leaving in January, 1959.

Our pulpit committee was again pressed into service and were very fortunate in obtaining our present pastor Reverend George Langley. He has been with us two very rewarding years and we are not ashamed to say that our church is not finished.

Under the leadership of both of these fine men, we have continued to grow and our need for more space and facilities make it necessary to continue our building program. We are looking forward to fruitful service for our Lord in the coming years, and to those of you here today that have had even a tiny part in the growth of this church, we extend our sincere appreciation and may God bless each effort as we continue in His service.

FEBRUARY 2, 1970

The foregoing history was prepared especially for and read at the homecoming service, held the third Sunday in October 1962.

Since that time, we have observed that date as an annual event, and it is looked forward to with interest each year.

Reverend Langley, who became our pastor in July, 1959, continued to labor with us and for, proving himself a capable carpenter also. Our original floor plan for Sunday School classrooms was completed and furnished with shairs, but by that time our enrollment had grown faster than the work had progressed and we were still over crowded. Something had to be done, so we did it.

At the suggestion of the building committee, we obtained a loan from the bank and the service of a building contractor. This time we did not feel that we should wait to do the work ourselves, as the need for space was urgent.

Plans were drawn up for our present educational plant and the contract was let on May 31, 1965. The ground breaking service was held in June with Mr. Archie Ward turning the first shovel.

In September, 1965, shortly after this building program was begun, Reverend Langly felt the call from God to go to another church. We accepted his resignation with heavy hearts, but could not help but rejoice in the thought that God would use him to bless another community as abundantly as he had been a blessing to us.

In November, 1965, Reverend Earl Lanier became our pastor. Meanwhile the contractors were making rapid progress on our educational plant, and it was a proud moment for Reverend Lanier, when he was able to call Reverend Langley to tell him the project he helped begin was completed.

Dedication services were held for our new building March 6, 1966 with Reverend Langley returning to bring the dedication message.

After one year of service, Reverend Lanier resigned in December, 1966 and in January, 1967, Reverend H. D. Harris came to be with us. It was during his pastorate that we were able to pay off the debt on our educational building and a note vurning service was held in October, 1967.

Mr. Harris leff us in March, 1968 and again we were as sheep without a shepherd. As the pulpit committee went into action again, after much searching and praying, they were led to contact Reverend Langley to ask if he would consider returning to us. He asked to be given some time to think it over. We were much in prayer that God's will be done, and it was with open arms that we welcomed him back in January, 1969.

At this time we were trying to make a difficult decision. We were trying to decide which was needed more for our community and church, a full time pastor or a parsonage for a part time pastor. After much prayer, conference was called and the majority vote that the parsonage should come first.

The building committee went into immediate action, and on August 5, 1969 Reverend George Langley moved his family into the lovely four bedroom brick home. This has been a long time dream of many of our members, and we feel that having our pastor in our community will be a blessing, not only to the Baptist church people, but to all people in this area.

On Sunday, February 1, 1970, we celebrated our centenial year as an organized church. A wonderful hour of worship and fellowship was enjoyed by everyone as they paid tribute to their founders by trying to recreate a picture of their first church.

Many attended worship service dressed in the fashion of the late 1800's, some of the dress being that actually worn by some of the charter members of the church.

Along with the colorful and interesting dress, there were many pictures and articles of interest on display. One of special note was the hand made pew from the pulpit of the early church, which continued to serve the pastors at Abbottsburg until the present furniture was placed in the church in 1956.

Reverend Langley read the sixth chapter of Jeremiah as his

scripture, this being the same passage that was used by Reverend Haynes Lennon on that memorable Sunday 100 years ago. To make it even more realistic, the congregation was led by the choir director in singing the old time hymns without the accompaniment of piano or organ.

From that first little 12 x 15 foot building with 43 members, Abbottsburg, which is still a small rural community, has now progressed to a record to be commended with church membership now 179 and the Sunday School enrollment is 169. It is with thankful hearts for the past blessings, and continuing in an Eternal God, that Abbottsburg Baptist Church goes forward, beginning her second century in service for the Lord.

BLADEN JOURNAL

ELIZABETHTOWN, NC

FRIDAY 4,800

MAY 30 2003



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INFORMATION SERVICES

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VB'S next week at Abbottsburg Baptist Church

750K5
The Abbottsburg Baptist
Church will hold Vacation
Bible School Sunday, June 1,
through Friday, June 6.

The school will meet nightly
from 6:30 till 8:30 p. m. from
Sunday through Thursday. A
sandwich supper will be served
each evening.

The Bible School will
conclude on Friday with Family
Night beginning with
commencement at 6:30 p. m.
and a hamburger/hot dog supper
at 7:30 p. m.

Classes will be provided from
nursery to adult and everyone is
invited.

This year's theme is "The
Great Kingdom Caper:
Cracking the Character Code."

Abbottsburg (Bladen)

1950 -

1951 -

1952 -

1953 -

1954 -

1955 -

1956 -

1957 -

1958 -

1959 -

1960 -

1961 -

1962 -

1963 -

1964 -

1965 -

1966 -

1967 -

1968 -

1969 -

1970 -

1971 -

1972 - ✓

1973 - ✓

1974 - ✓

Abbotsburg (Bladen)

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- 1996 -
- 1997 -
- 1998 -
- 1999 -

The pulpit furniture consisting of the speaker's stand, a pew and two lamp stands were hand-made by Mr. Troy Cashwell. The pew remained in use and seated all the preachers until the church moved into their present building.

On November 25, 1875, under the pastorate of Reverend D. J. Ray, the first Thanksgiving service was held in the church. The minutes read: "We met just to give thanks to God for his blessings upon us in the past year." It was on December 23rd of this same year that J. W. Gurganious was duly ordained to the gospel ministry, and became the second minister to go out from the church.

Reverend Haynes Lennon returned as pastor in 1876, and it was this year that the Baptist Hymn Book was adopted as the standard music for church worship.

Reverend E. W. Wooten was pastor from 1877 until 1880 and it was his privilege to grant a letter of dismissal and a license to preach to Mr. Nevil Cashwell, the third minister to go out from Abbottsburg Church.

Reverend E. G. Edwards was pastor the next two years and in February, 1883, during the pastorate of Reverend W. R. Johnson, that Brother James Cashwell was licensed to preach the gospel.

In 1884, Reverend J. W. Gurganious returned to serve as pastor for two years. He had gone out from the church to preach and now came home to serve as pastor. He too, was privileged to send out another servant of Christ to preach the gospel. It was August, 1885, that W. A. Westmoreland was ordained into the ministry.

Reverend D. J. Clark was pastor for half the year of 1886 and Reverend C. L. Powell finished the year for him and continued until March of 1887, when he was followed by Reverend James W. Register, so that Brother Powell could go as a missionary to Africa. Reverend Register served as pastor until December, 1891, and during this time he encouraged the church to help support Missionary Powell in his mission field.

In spite of hard times during the depression the church prospered and the membership grew both in the church and in the Sunday School, so twenty years after the first little church was built, it became pitifully out grown, and plans were