

# Primitive Baptist Church, Newport, Traces Roots to Late 18th Century

By F. C. SALISBURY

Recognized as one of the oldest churches in Carteret County, other than the Church of England, with a record for holding continuous services through the years, is the Primitive Baptist Church at Newport. It was known in early days as Regular Old School Baptist Church.

The history of this branch of the Baptist denomination dates back to 1701. It was this year that the Welch Tract Church, Newark, Del., was organized. It was the oldest Old School Baptist Church in the United States, organized in Europe before spreading to this country.

Settlers of this church, orthodox, journeyed southward, establishing homes and towns in the new colony. First mention of an Old School Baptist Church in North Carolina was the Kehukee Church in Halifax County. In this church the first association was formed. It is recorded in the records of this association that the Newport Church was received into membership in 1780.

There are no records giving the exact date when the Newport Church was first organized. It probably was a year or two before joining the association. Records that have come to light covering the early years of this church bear the date of Oct. 3, 1783. In 1885 a committee consisting of Elder N. H. Wiley, Michael Gould and Jasper B. Mann was appointed to compile a history of the church. The findings of this committee follow:

**Committee Reports**  
"We, the committee set apart by the Church, met according to arrangement and proceeded to examine the books and we regret very much to say that the History of the Church from the time she was constructed is lost so far as for the time she was constituted, and who first took the pastoral care of the church we can say nothing about, as we find nothing left on record to inform us.

"The oldest date we find in the book is 1783. We see under that date of October 3rd, written thus: 'We the Church of Christ at Newport with our help, Robert Nixon, have chosen and set apart our beloved Brother Joseph Bell for the office of a Deacon upon trial. We see May the 4th, 1785, by the help of Robert Nixon and C. Markland, Presbytery, proceeded to ordain Joseph Bell and James Sanders, ruling Elder.'

"This is all we can say in relation to Elder James Sanders' pastoralship, as we see his name mentioned nowhere else, only enrolled on the list of members' names. We see written over the list of names thus James Frazure, present pastor, which list we believe contains the first names ever enrolled at this church.

"Consequently Elder James Frazure was about the first pastor, as we see James Sanders name underneath on the church list. The above mentioned list is without date. It contains 67 names, all of whom are either dead or moved away and their names forgotten. This is the longest list we see anywhere on the book and had it have been continued down to the present time, the names would all have been enrolled in this book... so we shall only enroll in this book all of the now living that are in full fellowship.

"We will now pass on and give some sketches in relation to Elder John McKain (McCain), who we are informed once had the pastoral care of the church, probably next to James Sanders, who we are informed was put down for joining and holding to the Freemasons, the church deeming it her indispensable duty to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, so could no longer claim him as our pastor. This is only verbal information as we see his name mentioned nowhere on the book, but on the church list.

**Moved Down**  
"The next pastor, probably, was Elder Jabez Weeks who had the care of the church for many years and was much esteemed as pastor for his watchful care over its affairs. He continued pastor till the 11th of July, 1828, when death mowed his mortal body down and he was called to the way of all the earth.

"He attended the church at Quarterly Meeting on June 1828, punctually discharging the duties enjoined upon him as its pastor."

"The account covering the accident that caused the death of Elder Weeks does not appear in this historical sketch.

While traveling the White Oak road, supposedly going to attend a conference at the Hadnot Creek Church, the Elder and his wife were thrown out of the two-wheel vehicle in which they were riding. Their horse became frightened, either from a rattler crossing the road, or the sensing of a bear.

The Elder was kicked by the horse and so severely injured that he died by the side of the road before his wife returned from going back over the road to secure help. He was 72 years of age. The church history continues:



Photo by F. C. Salisbury

Church at Newport figures in early county history.

siah Smith of Onslow County to take the pastoral care of the church. Complying with the request, he attended them at Quarterly Meeting in March 1829, at which time he became the pastor of the church and continued sole pastor till September 1850, at which time he, with the help of Elder Samuel Holt, ordained Nathaniel H. Wiley to the ministry.

"Elder Smith then became the occasional pastor till March 1854, at which time Elder N. H. Wiley became the sole pastor of the church. Elder Josiah Smith served the church for 25 years as pastor, during which time he spared no pains in discharging his duty.

**In Memoriam**  
"We deem it our duty in honor of the dead to insert a few lines here in memory of Elder Thomas Morton who died an ordained minister of the Gospel. He was, by the request of the church, called to ordination March 1846. Elders Josiah Smith and Samuel Holt, Presbytery, it seemed to be the will of our Heavenly Father that he should not stand long as a watchman on the walls of Jerusalem. He was taken home in September following, consequently he never became the pastor of the church."

Credit is given to the committee, appointed in 1855 to compile a past history of the church and for putting the information in a book of records with a list of membership up to that date. From that time on, a most complete church record has been kept.

The pastorate of Elder Wiley was of short duration, compared to those who served before and those who followed. In June 1856 he petitioned for a "letter of dismission" which was granted. For the next three years, the church was without a regular pastor. However, services were conducted regularly, either in charge of a visiting Elder or a Deacon.

**From Craven County**  
The year 1859 brought Elder John S. Brinson who had been serving the Milton Church in Craven County. He died in 1883, having had the pastoral care of the church for 24 years. This record has been matched only by Elder W. W. Roberts, the present pastor who is rounding out 28 years as the church's pastor.

During the year 1859, Thomas Mann was licensed to preach. A year later he was duly ordained by the laying on of hands by Elders Brinson, Levi P. Wayne and Thomas Goodwin. He is not mentioned as a regular pastor of the church, yet it was his preaching in the old building that brought about an interesting event in his life, as well as the destroying of the meeting house by fire.

During Civil War days when Federal troops occupied the town of Newport and regular church services could not be held, Elder Mann took it upon himself to preach to Union soldiers who cared for religious services. He tried to take a neutral stand in his sermons but was accused of favoring the cause of the invaders by making statements that the North was stronger and would win the war. As a result, he was spirited away one night and the meeting house burned.

**From Union Records**  
From the history of the 9th New Jersey Regiment, stationed at Newport Barracks is taken an account of the kidnapping: "June 11, 1862—A party of Confederates (farmers by day and soldiers by night), eluded our pickets and reached the humble home of the Rev. Thomas Mann, just inside our lines and carried off the inoffensive clergyman. He had refused to identify himself with the cause of rebellion and having committed the crime of addressing a Union meeting, composed of his neighbors, incurred the mortal hate of secessionists, who em-

braced this opportunity of wreaking vengeance upon him."

It is told that the Elder was taken to Wilmington and imprisoned and that word was sent by the Union soldiers that if he was not released they would come down and blow up the town. Several years later the Government paid the church the sum of \$170 for the loss of the building, even though the Union forces did not fire it.

**Home Meetings**  
When the church society was first formed in 1780, meetings for many years were held in the homes of the settlement or other convenient places. The records give no date as to when the first meeting house was built. It stood on a slight elevation on the north side of the present highway on the outskirts of town. A nearby ancient burying ground now marks the spot.

Deprived of a meeting house following the close of the war, services were held for a while in various homes. Later, an old mill-house was reconsecrated, making it a place for worship until 1885. In that year funds were subscribed for the purchase of a lot on Fisher Street, and for the construction of a simple church structure. It is the present building that has served this society for nearly three-quarters of a century.

Elder L. H. Hardy, who was serving as pastor at the time the building project was started, was most active in securing funds, material and labor, as well as giving of his labor. To this pastor was given the privilege of preaching the first sermon in the new meeting house. Its doors have never been closed to service.

Quarterly conference is held on the Saturday before the third Sunday of the month with regular service the following day.

To keep the records of the church clear during the four years of Civil War, Elder Brinson inscribed this notice in the record book under date of 1866: "That the time may come that inquiries may be made as to the reason why there was no conference held from September 1861 to June 1866, the reason is now well known and will last in the memory of the generation and those that follow after. We will say that the cause of the great Civil War was the privation and distressing situation of the country. The place being besieged by the enemy and the meeting house burned and the members scattered, it was not thought expedient to hold meetings."

**Two-Year Gap**  
Death, bringing to a close the long service of Elder Brinson in 1882, left the church without a regular pastor for the next two years. In the spring of 1885, a call was extended to Elder L. H. Hardy. He served for the next ten years. In 1899 the church dismissed H. Wade, Alice Wade, Sidney Macon, Josephine Willis, M. R. Willis, Abbie Willis, G. W. Willis and Emily Willis to form a church at Morehead City.

After 40 years of almost continuous service as church clerk, Jasper B. Mann tendered his resignation in 1885. During this same year Elder Hardy severed his connections with the church. A year later Elder W. W. Brinson took over the charge, serving for the next eleven years.

Another faithful Elder, who devoted 22 years in the service of this church was Elder Isaac Jones. He entered into his duties March 1908, dying in 1930. During his pastorate the church in 1911 licensed W. W. Roberts of Newport to preach. Two years later W. W. Roberts and E. F. Pollard were ordained by Elders Jones, James S. Corbett and C. C. Brown.

After the death of Elder Jones in 1930, Elder W. W. Roberts took over the duties of the church, serv-

## With the Armed Forces

### Sergeant Serves at Marine Barracks, Yorktown, Va.

Yorktown, Va. — Marine First Sgt. Steve Olkowski is serving as first sergeant of the First Guard Company with the Marine Barracks at the Naval Mine Depot, Yorktown, Va.

First Sgt. Olkowski, the husband of the former Miss Aileen Goodwin of Cedar Island was promoted to his present rank June 1.

Before entering the service in May 1942, he attended Nanticoke High School, Nanticoke, Pa.



Sgt. Steve Olkowski ... wed to countian

Camp Perry, Ohio—Army Sgt. Frank S. Daniels, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Daniels, Cedar Island, is firing with the 82nd Airborne division pistol team in the National Rifle and Pistol Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Upon completion of the matches Sept. 6, Daniels will return to his regular duties as a reconnaissance sergeant in the division artillery at Fort Bragg, N. C.

The 26-year-old sergeant entered the Army in 1949 and was last stationed in Germany. He attended Atlantic High School. Daniels' wife, Callie, lives at 427 Durant Dr., Fayetteville, Va.

Fort Jackson, S. C.—Pvt. Alonzo E. Freeman Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo E. Freeman, 2001 Arendell St., Morehead City, has been assigned to Company D, 10th

News from **SMYRNA**

Aug. 19—Miss Evelyn Baker of Lumberton was a visitor with Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Gillikin and family during last week.

Rd/3 Henry Lynch and family of Brunswick, Ga., spent the weekend with Mrs. Blanch Willis and family.

Mrs. William Garvin and son of Long Island, N. Y., are visiting Mrs. Betty Smith.

Miss Jane Hancock of Greenville spent the weekend with Mrs. Herbert Hancock and family.

William Curtis Gillikin of Chincoteague, Va., spent a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Gillikin last week.

Mrs. Blanch Simmons and family have returned to Florida after spending a few weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Orin Beal.

## National Park Draws Visitors To Outer Banks

Hatteras — The new Cape Hatteras National Seashore, being developed rapidly by the National Park Service, is a new magnet drawing increased travel to the once isolated Outer Banks of North Carolina.

During July of this year alone, there were 99,330 visitors to the Hatteras Seashore, up 9,728 from July of last year.

Paved road all the way on Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands; stepped up ferry service (state-operated, toll-free) across Oregon and Hatteras inlets, and new motels and restaurants have vastly enhanced the accessibility and comforts of the Outer Banks.

A new booklet with latest information on the Outer Banks, what's there, how to get there, and information about accommodations, has just been published and is free on request to the State Travel Bureau, P. O. Box 2719, Raleigh.

The Soviet Union has 59,000 miles of railways. The United States has 241,000 rail miles.

## Methodist Young People Plan Christian Youth Corps

Under the leadership of Miss Anna Critcher, a group of young people from First Methodist Church are attending the CYC Conference at Ferrum College, Ferrum, Va. They left Morehead City at 3 a.m. Thursday. The conference began at Ferrum College with an afternoon session and will continue through Sunday noon, Aug. 24.

Miss Critcher, director of Christian Education for the church, heads the delegation which consists of Wayne Economon, Miss Anne Herbert, Miss Nancy Laughon, Miss Annette Cooper and Mrs. Theodore Economon, who will provide her car for transportation of the group to Ferrum and back. Mrs. Economon will also act as chaperone.

The Christian Youth Corps is an inter-denominational organization with the highest Christian ideals. The young people attending the meeting are planning to establish an organization of the Corps in Morehead City.

The Rev. J. F. Herbert of First Church returned from his vacation Monday, Aug. 18. The pastor was at his mother's home at Lake Junaluska for ten days. He spent the last three days of his vacation in Wilmington where he was guest preacher Sunday, Aug. 17.

Mr. Herbert was pastor of Grace Methodist Church from 1939 to 1945. The pastor resumed his direction of the local church program with the Wednesday evening prayer service and the meeting of the Commission on Education which followed the prayer service.

During the absence of the pastor, the pulpit was supplied on Sunday, Aug. 10, morning and night, by the Rev. Reinhard Brose. On Sunday, Aug. 17, at the morning service the Rev. Dr. A. Furnell Bailey preached. At the evening service the Rev. E. Guthrie Brown, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, preached and conducted the service.

The entire church and city is looking forward to the return on Sept. 21 of Dr. Frank Crossley Morgan for an eight-day Bible Conference, sponsored by the First Presbyterian and First Methodist Churches of Morehead City.

Dr. Morgan, born in London, England in 1898, is the son of Dr. G. Campbell Morgan, who at the turn of the century was the world's outstanding Bible Conference leader. His son is following in his steps and for many years has been conducting Bible Conferences in the United States and in Europe.

His first visit to Morehead City was in January 1957. Although almost two years have passed, his ministry in this city is vividly remembered by hundreds of people. His return is an event long anticipated. Dr. Morgan's ministry will follow the following schedule: Sunday morning, Sept. 21 at 11 o'clock at First Presbyterian Church; Sunday night, Sept. 21 through Sunday night, Sept. 28, at 7:30 at First Methodist Church. Monday, Sept. 22 through Friday, Sept. 26 at 10 a.m., at First Presbyterian Church; Sunday, Sept. 28 at 11 a.m., at First Methodist Church. There will be no Saturday service.

## Bookmobile Route Listed

The bookmobile will travel Monday only of next week because Mrs. Monroe Willis, bookmobile librarian, will be working in the county library Tuesday.

The Monday schedule follows: 9:15-9:55—Harlowe, Mrs. E. R. Bowlin's book station; 10:05-10:45—Mrs. John Ives' book station; 10:55-11:40—Mill Creek, Mrs. J. C. Skinner's book station; 12:40-12:55—route 2 Newport, Mrs. Madge Reynolds.

1:00-1:15—Masontown, Mrs. M. L. Simmons; 1:20-1:35—Mrs. Pearl Simmons; 1:40-1:55—Mrs. Mayola Piner; 2:00-2:15—Mrs. Harold Simmons; 2:20-2:35—Mrs. Verna Gould.

2:40-2:55—Nine Foot Road, Mrs. Janie Garner; 3:00-3:30—Mrs. Alice Simmons' book station; 3:35-4:05—Mrs. Daisy Cannon's book station.

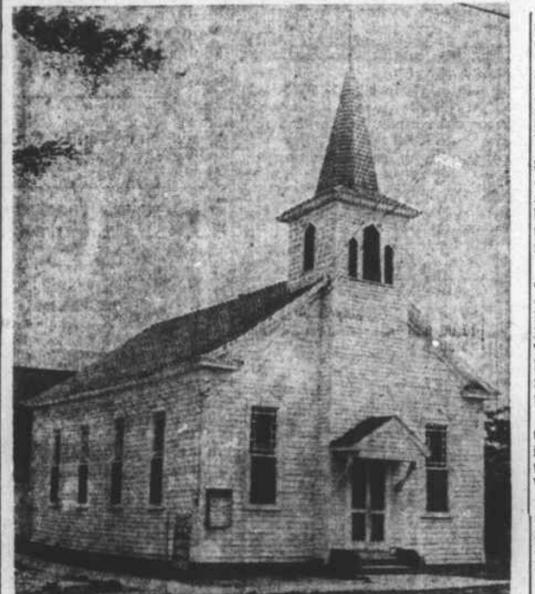
## Presbyterian Pastor Announces Services

Happy Art Thou will be the topic of the sermon by the Rev. A. G. Harris Jr., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Morehead City, at 11 a.m. Sunday. Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m.

The First Presbyterian congregation will worship with the Wildwood congregation at 7:30 p.m. The message will be a recorded sermon by Dr. Peter Marshall.

Hong Kong, a British dependency on the coast of China, is an island of 32 square miles with a population of one million.

## First Free Will Baptist Church Will Lay Cornerstone at 11 Sunday



This picture of the old church was taken July 1, 1957, the same day workmen began tearing it down to make way for the new building.

The Rev. J. R. Davidson, Goldsboro, will be guest preacher when the First Free Will Baptist Church, Morehead City, opens its new sanctuary at 10th and Bridges Streets at 11 a.m. Sunday. At that time the cornerstone will be put in place.

Pastor of the church, the Rev. Seldon Bullard, says the new church has been in use for several services even though it has not been completed. The finishing touches to the auditorium are being put on this week.

Mr. Davidson is a former moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists and was also business manager of the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn. He is now a member of the board of trustees and is special representative for the college in this state.

Mr. Davidson is now pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Goldsboro and is moderator for the Cape Fear Association of Free Will Baptists.

At 2 p.m. there will be a sing-spiration and testimonial meeting, followed by a message by Rev. J. C. Griffin, former pastor of the church.

**Baptismal Planned**  
The speaker for the evening service has not been determined. At the close of the service, Mr. Bullard will baptize about 15 persons.

The new church, valued at \$40,000 will seat 372 adults in the main floor, balcony and choir loft. The building was designed by the Rev. Boyd Shook of Kenly, N. C.

The building is the climax to a 21-month effort by Mr. Bullard and the members of the church. Mr. Bullard came to Morehead City Oct. 23, 1956, from Kannapolis.

When he arrived, the education building was under construction and the congregation was holding worship services in a frame building.

On the first day of July last year workmen began tearing down the old church. By July 10, the lot was cleared off and special ground breaking ceremonies were observed.

Mr. Bullard supervised work on the new building. Rather than giving a contract for the entire building, Mr. Bullard hired individuals to do the different phases of construction.

Thomas Fish, Morehead City, was the mason and Hubert Murdoch, Wildwood, was the carpenter. Sam Smallum of Mount Olive did much of the electrical work and is responsible for the indirect lighting in the auditorium.

A complete heating system that can be converted to an air conditioning unit in the summer has been installed. The pastor hopes to have the air conditioning unit in by next summer.

Mack Kittrell, Crab Point, laid the tile floors in the church free, in memory of his mother and father. Many of the men in the church contributed their time in doing work around the church during the construction program.

Members of the building committee, in addition to Mr. Bullard, are W. H. Marks Jr., C. H. Barker and A. E. Cannon. The committee places a value of about \$65,000 on the property and the two buildings.

"Local businessmen and members of other churches have been very generous and we are grateful," said Mr. Bullard. "We would like to see all the people who helped us build the church at our Sunday services," he concluded.

Daniel G. Wheaton, 205 N. 20th St., Morehead City, has reenlisted in the Navy at Richmond, Va. Daniel recently completed his first enlistment and advanced to the rating of electricians mate first class.

He will report to the Navy receiving station at Norfolk, Va., for reassignment by the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

There is a US Navy Recruiter in Morehead City on Mondays and Wednesdays for those seeking information on enlisting and what the Navy has to offer.

News from **MERRIMON**

Aug. 20 — Mrs. Bob Floss and children of Bridgeton spent Friday here visiting her mother, Mrs. Jennie Mills, who has been visiting relatives and friends here. Mrs. Mills will return to Bridgeton with Mrs. Floss.

Mrs. Emma Beacham spent last Saturday with Mrs. Guy Carraway. Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Adams who has been visiting Mrs. Adams' sister in Graham returned home on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Wallace and baby, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Wallace and baby, all of Durham spent the weekend with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Wallace.

Mr. and Mrs. "Gus" Robinson and children of Vanceboro are spending the week with Mrs. Robinson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Stallings.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill McIntyre of Rocky Mount spent last week with Miss Nita Carraway.

**To Honor Pastor**  
The congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, Morehead City, will honor its pastor, the Rev. A. G. Harris Jr., and his family at a covered dish supper at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the fellowship hall. Mr. Harris will be leaving soon to serve the Emory Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Ga.

## First Baptists Schedule 'Off-to-College' Sunday

The First Baptist Church in Morehead City is planning Off-to-College Day Sunday. For the morning service, the Rev. Edgar Christman, Baptist Student Union Director from Wake Forest College will speak on the subject, The Only Thing That Matters.

At the night service, college students will give the program. Taking part will be Billy Rich, Johnny McBride, Billy Laughton and Bill Munden. Helen Carlton, who has been doing summer mission work in Columbus, Ohio, will share some of her experiences with us as our principal speaker.

The choir will include Sabra Eubanks, Linda Cheek, Catherine Lohr, Barbara Williams, Rose Daniels, Louise White, Jeane Barnes, Gordon Willis Jr., Frank Sanderson, Robert McNeill, David Nelson, Llewellyn Phillips, James Phillips, Francis Swanson and Billy Laughton.

Blossom Thompson will be pianist for the evening. The ushers and collectors are Eddie Smithwick, Bobby Lewis, Walter Willis and Wayne Cheek. A committee is planning a fellowship hour with refreshments and games after the service.

## Glenwood Quartet Will Sing at Faith FWB Church

The Glenwood Quartet of Rockingham will sing at the Faith Free Will Baptist Church at the 7:30 Sunday night service.

The Rev. Noah Brown, pastor, also announces that there will be communion and feet washing service. Members of the visiting quartet are Alec Brown, bass; Mrs. Clayton Steen, alto; Mrs. Bernie Grigors, soprano and pianist, and Miss Leedie Brown, tenor. The pastor invites the public.



News from **CEDAR ISLAND**

Aug. 19—The Rev. W. R. Hale filled his regular appointment at the Methodist Church here Sunday morning.

Mr. John Gaskill and Lester Day left early Sunday morning for Brunswick, Ga., where they are shrimping.

Everyone was glad to see the beautiful rain Sunday afternoon which was needed so bad.

People in the community and elsewhere send their heartfelt sympathy to the family of William Brittingham who lost their home by fire Thursday afternoon in Morehead City.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Jones and son were the weekend guests of Mrs. Jones' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Goodwin.

Mr. Russell Gaskill spent the weekend home.

Mrs. Julius Grey and Alice G. Daniels motored to Southport Saturday to take their grandmother to the hospital for a check-up.

Mrs. Neil Daniels and infant daughter, Rebecca, is leaving Tuesday to join her husband who is stationed in Puerto Rico.

Mrs. Gregory Rice and children of Morehead City have been spending some time with her mother, Mrs. Janet Daniels.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sundie of Virginia was the weekend guest of Mrs. Sundie's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Goodwin.

The Spokane Falls, 70 feet high, is in the central business district of Spokane, Wash.