

ers the local Presbyterian-  
 shipped at Pine Grove  
 however, a church was  
 re in 1913 with Mrs. S.  
 erty, Major Wilson, Mr.  
 W. M. Davidson, Mrs.  
 Culp, Alice Culp, and

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Dixon, as  
 charter members. The organiza-  
 tion of the church dates back to  
 the second Sunday in June 1908.  
 Apparently other churches were  
 used as meeting places until the  
 erection of the Presbyterian  
 Church in 1913. The Rev. E. L.  
 Siler was the first pastor of the  
 church, serving from 1908 until  
 1917.

The St. James Episcopal Church  
 traces its origin to the invitation  
 of Major John Wilson, a devout  
 Presbyterian, to his friend, the  
 Rev. A. DeR. Meares to hold a  
 communion service at his house  
 for some Episcopalian guests and  
 neighbors. This was followed by  
 other house services. Then per-  
 mission was secured to use The  
 Methodist Church on stated Sun-  
 days. On St. James Day, 1912, the  
 cornerstone of the present church  
 edifice on Vance avenue was laid.  
 And the build was consecrated in  
 1917.

The beginnings of Friendship  
 Chapel Presbyterian Church on the  
 Montreat Road, (do I hear the Rev.  
 Armistead and Adrian Hardwick  
 saying that I should omit Chapel  
 from the title?) seem to be found  
 in the Missionary zeal of the Mon-  
 treat folk. Work is mentioned as  
 early as 1902. The first building  
 was across the road from the  
 present site. In June of 1911, it  
 was decided to build the church.  
 The building was finished enough  
 to use by Feb. 14, 1912. The chapel  
 was completed in 1914. The chapel  
 received its name from one of the  
 bible classes, the Friendship  
 class. In 1948 the members voted  
 to turn the chapel into a church.  
 The Free Will Baptist move-  
 ment dates back in this community  
 a number of tent meetings held  
 this locality during the 1880's.  
 number of the Missionary Bap-  
 tists from the North Fork Church,  
 led by "Jonse" Walker became  
 very much interested and withdrew  
 from the North Fork Church on  
 Saturday before the first Sunday  
 Dec., 1887. The Homer's Chapel  
 Free Will Baptist Church was  
 organized Feb. 25, 1888. Rev. John  
 Henry Ballard was called as the  
 first pastor. The church  
 is named for one of John  
 Walker's sons, Homer Walker,  
 who died from diphtheria and was  
 the first person to be buried in  
 the church cemetery. Land for  
 the church was donated by Dan  
 Walker.

The Kerlee Baptist Church was  
 organized August 31, 1941. The  
 Rev. B. G. Dalton was called to  
 be the first pastor. He was suc-  
 ceeded by the Rev. James Isley,  
 who in turn, was succeeded by  
 the Rev. Vernon Hensley, the  
 present pastor. Prior to the orga-  
 nization of the Kerlee Baptist  
 Church, the Presbyterian Church  
 had carried on religious activities  
 at the same location, under the  
 name of Kerlee Chapel. The Ker-  
 lee Chapel work began in the home  
 of the late Columbus Kerlee with  
 Sunday school classes held in the  
 Kerlee living room. Later Mr.  
 Kerlee donated land for the build-  
 ing of a chapel and it was named  
 in his honor. The work received  
 much encouragement from the Rev.  
 Harry Boehme, who served the  
 Black Mountain Presbyterian  
 Church in 1922.

The Lakey Gap Chapel was begun  
 under the auspices of the local  
 Presbyterian Church under the  
 leadership of the Rev. Boehme in  
 1922. He co-operated with Miss  
 Ann and Miss Lyde Wilson in  
 establishing a neighborhood Sun-  
 day school. Previously, Miss Lyde  
 Wilson had taught Sunday school  
 for neighboring children under an  
 apple tree. Mrs. John Williamson,  
 who was anxious for her children  
 to have a Sunday school nearby  
 gave the land on which the Lakey  
 Gap Chapel is located. The Chapel  
 retains its Presbyterian affilia-  
 tion.

The youngest of Black Moun-  
 tain's churches, the Christian  
 Church, was organized April 23,  
 1950 in a meeting held at the As-  
 sembly Grounds, formerly the  
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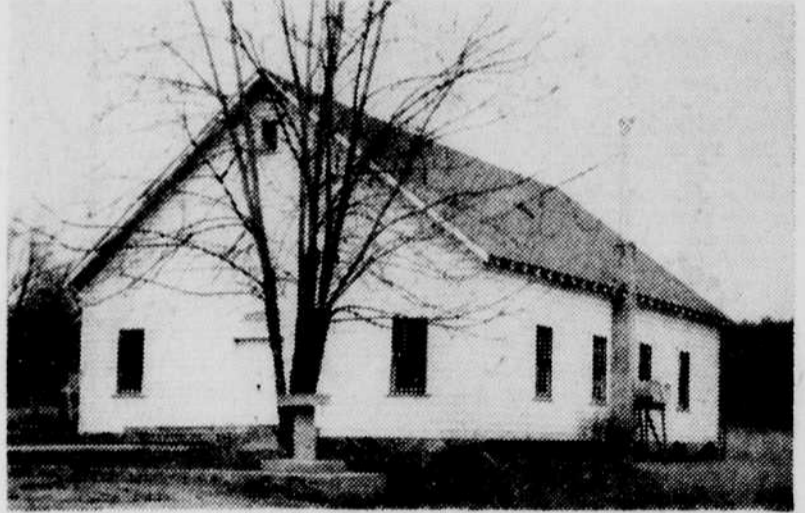
Mountain View Baptist Church, Rev. Eugene Byrd, Pastor



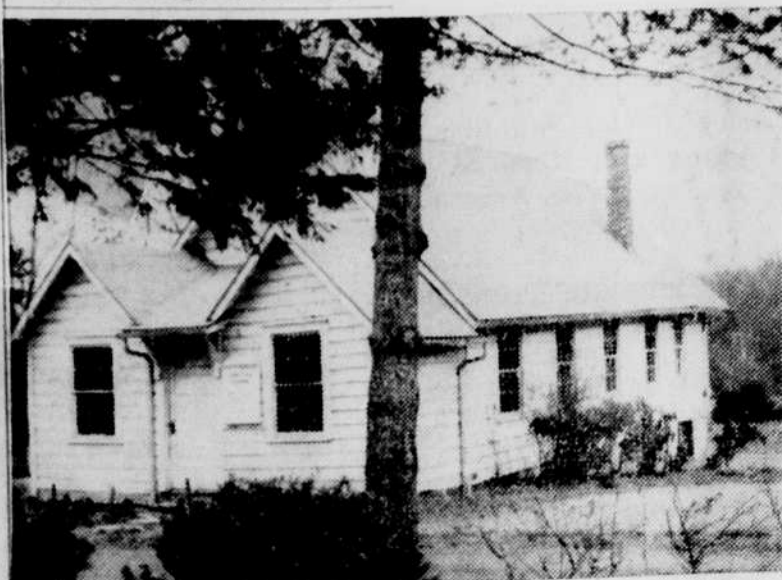
Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Rev. Cecil M. Perry, Pastor



Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, Rev. W. W. Preston, Pastor



Church of God, Rev. L. D. King, Pastor



Lakey Gap Presbyterian Chapel, Rev. W. W. Preston, Pastor



East Black Mountain Baptist Church, Rev. Charlie Hollifield, Pastor



Ed M. Cassell, Pastor



John R. Williams, Pastor