

# BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

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SECTION II

## Crusade for Christ

"Who is the greatest man who ever lived?" If you were asked that question your answer would surely be Jesus of Nazareth.

Born in a manger, a man who lived out his life without acquiring a home or property, this homeless Jew, who made a bare living by following the carpenter's trade, changed the course of history. His record of service to humanity, the simple lessons that He taught have stamped him as immortal. Without honor among His own people, Jesus taught a philosophy, a way of life which even today, 20 centuries after He died on Calvary's Cross, is recognized as the hope of the world—and the only hope for humanity. He won no great battles, He led no great armies. But in 1951, almost 2000 years after His death, His promise of a better way of life has spanned the centuries and offers rest for the tired and worn, comfort for the sorrowing, and peace for "those who will come."

This week the 19 churches of the Black Mountain community are sponsoring a "Crusade For Christ Week." Recognizing that we need to follow closer the teachings of the Risen Christ, the ministers and church leaders have set aside this week for special prayer, and rededication. The peace of the world depends not necessarily on the biggest armies, the fastest planes, or the most powerful bombs, but on our being able to follow the Prince of Peace who devoted His life to the teaching of God's love for a sinful world.

The 19 churches of Black Mountain extend a joint invitation to each of you to attend the church of your choice during the Crusade For Christ Week. Revival services will be held each evening in each church, Sunday through Friday, at 7:30. An interdenominational noon day service will be held each day, Monday through Friday, from 12:05 to 12:35, in the sanctuary of the Methodist church.

Attend these services as often as you can.



The 19 Churches of The  
Black Mountain Community  
Invite You To  
*Come to*  
**CHURCH**  
Crusade For Christ Week  
April 1 - 8

## Origin And Early History Of Churches Of Black Mountain Community Told

### Tabernacle was First Established In This Vicinity

By Eugene Byrd

Note: Some people have felt that a few words concerning the history of the various churches in Black Mountain would be most appropriate in this special Crusade for Christ edition of the Black Mountain News. I shall approach this privilege with fear and trembling since so few records exist concerning the older churches and since much of my information is "word of mouth" material. I would be most glad if I make any erroneous statements to have them called to my attention, and I would also appreciate any information concerning any churches that I have been forced to omit on account of limited knowledge.

When our forefathers pushed their way across the mountains during the latter days of the eighteenth century, they found themselves living in a wilderness. Homes had to be built and fields had to be cleared. However, realizing that "Man does not live by bread alone," our forbears soon began erecting buildings that in many instances served the dual purpose of church and schoolhouse.

The first known church west of the Blue Ridge in this area was a Presbyterian church known as Patton's Meeting House or Robert Patton's Meeting House. This church was the parent church of the present Pine Grove Presbyterian Church at Swannanoa.

In the immediate vicinity of Black Mountain, Tabernacle Methodist Church is possibly the oldest church. There are some traditions that the church was visited by Bishop Asbury while he was on his missionary tours of Western North Carolina early in the nineteenth century. Tabernacle was probably one of the original members of the old "Swanina Circuit." Fletcher Fortune, Jesse Stepp, and Leander Lytle appear to have been early leaders in this church.

Baptist work in this area began with the founding of the North Fork Church, now known as the Mountain View Baptist Church, in 1828. Tradition has it that the church was founded by John Henry Wheeler, an itinerant Baptist minister. Land for the original site was given by Frederick Burnett, Jr. One is led to conjecture if Jeremiah Truett, grandfather of the renowned Dr. George Truett, and who resided at the present site of Goodson's Dairy, may have had any part in the early North Fork Church. The late Jule Walker always said that Ellridge Burnett bore the name of being the "main spoke" in the old North Fork Church. The North Fork Church moved about 1900 to its present site and at the suggestion of its pastor at that time, Joseph Cordell, adopted the name Mountain View Baptist Church.

The present First Baptist Church originated as an "arm" of the old North Fork Church. On Sept. 19, 1891, 14 members of the North Fork Church received letters of dismission to begin the work at Black Mountain "station." However lack of a meeting place other than the Kerlee schoolhouse appears to have been a drawback and the First Baptist Church was not a well knit organization until after deciding to build a church and appointing a building committee, March 14, 1907. At that time, Rev. Elijah Allison was the pastor of the church.

The present State Street Methodist Church or Black Mountain Methodist Church originated from the Tabernacle Church and according to traditions was constituted by a Sunday school group that met in the Kerlee schoolhouse to worship. Prominent early members of the group seem to have

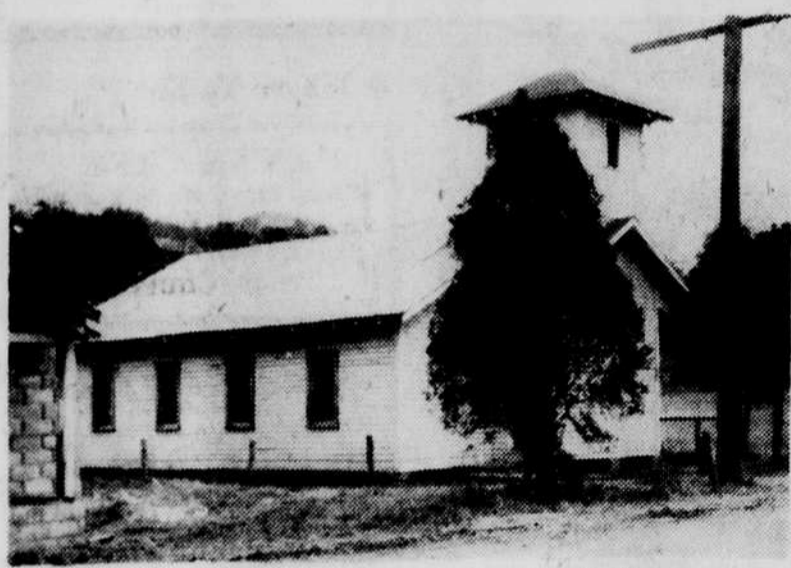
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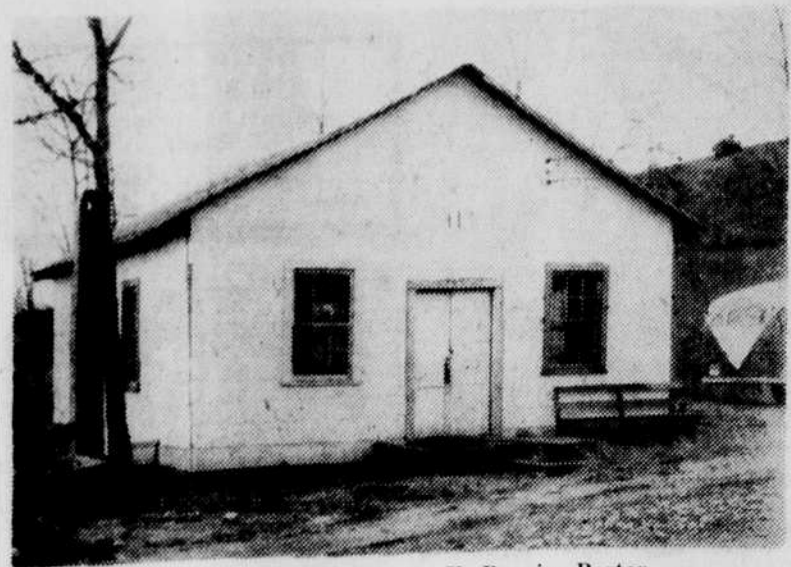
Grovestone Baptist Church, Rev. L. V. Vess, Pastor



Friendship Presbyterian Church, Rev. W. H. Armistead, Pastor



Hudgin's Chapel, Rev. E. L. Beachboard, Pastor



Burgin's Chapel, Rev. G. Y. Burgin, Pastor