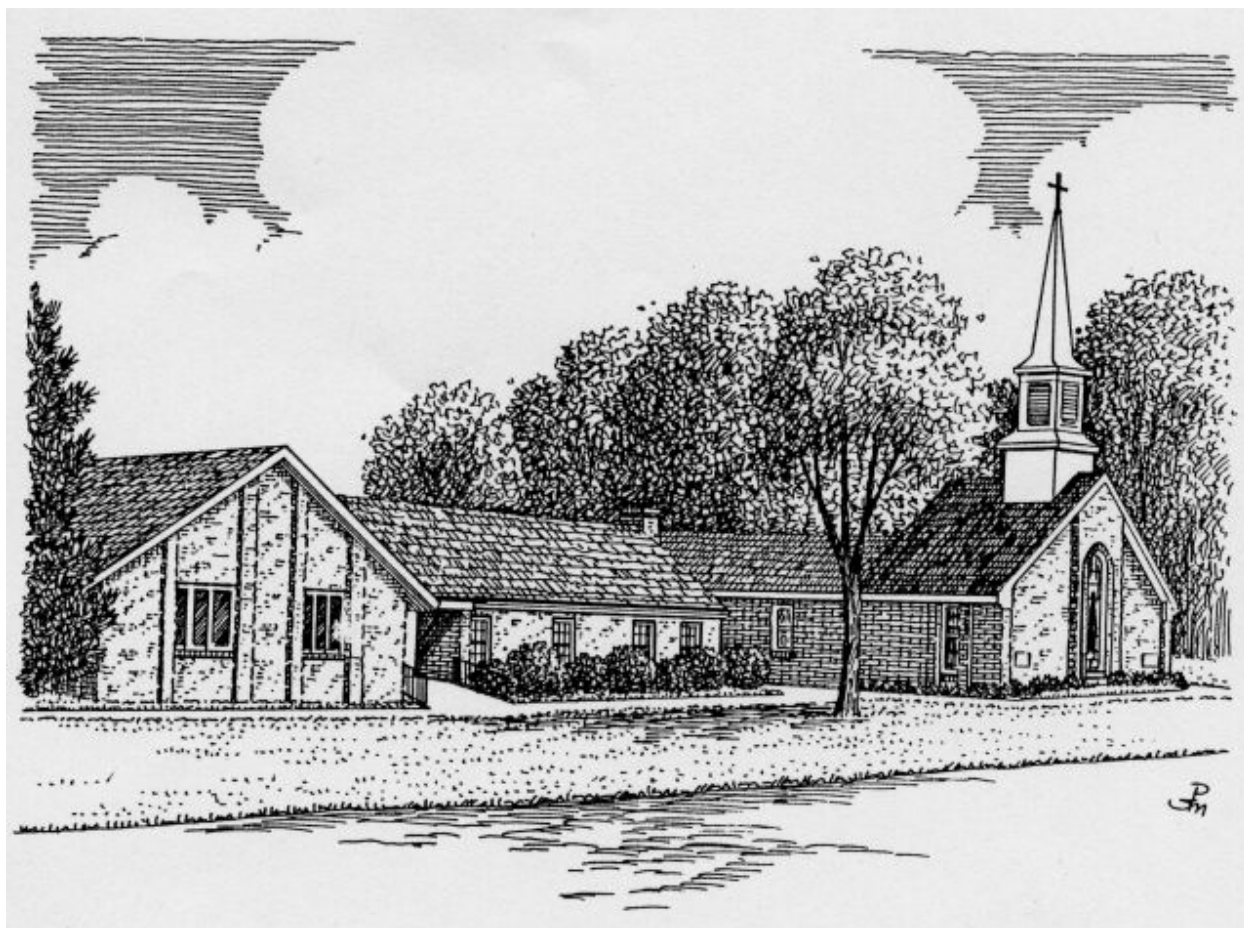




Our First Hundred years 1904-2004



Glencoe
United Methodist Church

We are celebrating our centennial year at Glencoe this October 2004. Tradition has held that our church was formed in 1904, but some documents actually put the date at October 19, 1903. References to our church appeared in the Reidsville paper as early as 1901. The May 24, 1901 issue of the Reidsville Review in "Aspen Grove Items" included "We have beautiful singing at our Sunday School at Glenco". The July 12, 1901 issue of the Reidsville Review in "Aspen Grove Items" included "There will be preaching at Glenco the third Sunday in July." The original deed for the land is dated November 2, 1903. Regardless of the actual date, we are sure that our church is over 100 years old as of this date.

Glencoe Ch. REGISTER OF ORGANIZED Oct. 19, 1903. M							
No.	Names	To whom Married.	Baptism.	Weds.	Certificate.	By order of Ch. Conf.	By Whom Received.
1	James P. Walker v		Oct 19, 03				John F. Kirk
2	Charlotte Walker v		"				"
3	Archie Walker v		"				"
4	Jefferson Walker v		"				"
5	Ella Braine v		"				"
6	Maggie Braine v		"				"
7	Maggie Warren v		"				"
8	Lizzie Warren v		"				"
9	Lucy Michaux v		"				"
10	Minnie Cabell v		"				"
11	Ella Daniel v		"				"
12	Willie Murphy v		"				"
13	Samuel Thomas v		"				"
14	Lucile Dallas v		"				"
15	Lee Winfrey v		"				"
16	B. J. Walker v				Jan'y 17, '04		"
17	Elizabeth Walker				"		"
18	Carrie Braine v		Jan'y 17, '04				"
19	Franklin Williams				Jan'y 17, '04		"
20	Mary A. Williams				"		"
21	Rina Williams v				"		"
22	Minnie Williams v				"		"
23	J. A. Sharpe v				June '04		"
24	Charlie Isabelle v				June '04		"
25	Mrs. A. B. Williams v				March '04		"
26	Eva A. Williams v						"

List of charter members from October 1903

History of Glencoe Methodist Church

This history is a copy of one written in 1937 by Rev. Houser. The information was given to him by Mrs. Eva Williams Harris, and is probably more accurate than history written later.

Glencoe Methodist Church was founded in 1904. The first services were held in a one room school building standing just behind where the present building now stands. During a tent meeting held at Price's store, the church was organized of which a group of men and women joined. Among this group there are only a few living in the community. These are B.J. Walker, F.P. Williams, Mrs. F.P. Williams, Minnie Hudson, Eva Harris, and Jim Walker. This church was built by the people of the community. Men furnished teams, and lumber and labor were free. Within a short while the church was ready for use. But it was not fully completed for several years. The first seats were made of rough planks without backs. The church can never forget the faithful work of the good people of this community. Surely a group has never been more loyal and trustworthy to a cause. The day of dedication was a high and notable day for all this section. The first sermon preached in this church was by Rev. John Robertson, being the first sermon he ever delivered. The plot for this church and the burying ground was given by A.G. Williams. Jemima Ann Williams was the first person buried here in the year 1909. Cecil Dallas was the second the following year, 1910.

Today the membership of this church is small. Although, at one time there were 110 members here. From this church, four young men went out for ministers of God.

The following ministers served on this charge between the year 1904 and 1937: Rev. J.F. Kirk, Rev. T.C. Jordan, Rev. L.T. Hendren, Rev. G.W. Williams, Rev. T.G. Folger, Rev. T.B. Dogett, Rev. M.T. Steele, Rev. T.V. Crouse, Rev. H.M. Wellman, Rev. M.E. Leftwich, Rev. C.E. Tate, Rev. J.J. Edwards, and Rev. J.B. Houser.

To bring this list up to date, February 1993, names of the following ministers are added: Rev. W.T. Albright, Rev. A.D. Shelton, Rev. T.G. Williams (1947-51), Rev. Wade Bustle (1954-56), Rev. T.G. Williams (1956-60), Rev. David Yount (1960-62), Rev. Phillip Vaughn (1962-67), Rev. W.A. Knight (1967-71), Rev. H. Gwynn Clayton (1971-74), Rev. George Carver (1974-76), Rev. Robert Greenawalt (1976-79), Rev. J.E. Maddox (1979-82), Rev. Roy Grant (1982-87), Rev. Dan Brown (1987-90), Rev. Rodney Fulcher (1990-92), and Rev. Jack Owenby (1992 – present).

Robert Greenawalt, in the history which he wrote (typed and put in booklet form), has the following note: "For 1979, the church has a budget of \$11,958.00. The membership in 1979 is 93."

In February 1993, the church has a budget of \$34,575.00. The membership is 86. At this time, 56 of these members are on the list of active members, 25 are listed as inactive.

Shortly after a tent revival at Price's Mill (or store), the Glencoe people got together and elected trustees to build a church. In 1903, A.G. Williams and his wife Belle (Isabelle Walker) donated a parcel of land adjoining the school house lot, which they had given in 1888 for Glencoe Public School. The deed and certificate were registered and witnessed by Jas V. Price and J.A. Scales at eleven o'clock a.m., November 2, 1903.

A large frame building was completed by families of different faiths living in the neighborhood. Many were members of the Hillsdale Primitive Baptist Church, and the "Good Neighbor Policy" never ceased to exist. This building was used as a place of worship until 1944.

Rev. J.F. Kirk was appointed by the Western North Carolina Methodist Conference to the Summerfield Charge and to preach at Glencoe.

In 1909, Sunday School was an important part of the church program. Memorabilia from this period include a gold pin awarded to Janie Williams for perfect attendance. Cards from the "Card Class" taught by Eva Williams Harris for many years, are treasured by many of those whose life she influenced.

Glencoe Church became a part of the Stokesdale Circuit in 1910. The ministers who served were Rev. Heddren,

Rev. G.W. Williams, Rev. T.G. Folger, Rev. R.L. Doggett, Rev. M.T. Steele, Rev. T.V. Crouse, Rev. J.H. Capps, Rev. M.B. Leftwich, Rev. C.F. Tate, Rev. J.J. Edwards, Rev. J.B. Houser, Rev. W.T. Albright, and Rev. A.D. Shelton. These pastors preached on third Sunday afternoons and held revival services the third week in July. Through approximately three decades, the church struggled under these conditions, to keep the doors open and to grow. When families began to bury their dead, the feeling that this church can never be abandoned or merged with another church became a strong force in continuing to carry on the work which began in 1904.

The first grave in the century was the grave of Jemima Ann Williams, age 22 years who died July 1909. Shortly after, followed a second grave, Cecil Dallas.

The 1940's brought a renewed spirit. Even though the church and the small congregation were no longer considered able to survive by the Western North Carolina Conference, there was a leader, a minister. T.G. Williams, son of A.G. and Belle Williams, whose faith and vision led him back to the "Sod, his ancestors had trod". In 1947-51, he served the church while he was at Stokesdale; later in 1956 he retired and came back 'home' to live and preach at Glencoe and Bethany. Prior to this time, in 1944, under his leadership, the old building was torn down and a new one erected. It was a launch of faith and help from the same families who were present in 1904. The building was completed and ready for worship the fourth Sunday in August 1944. Donations came in many ways from many places. Memorial windows were bought by J.L. Caudill from Elkin. Estelle William Caudill painted names, and for these, gifts in memory of family members were added to the Building Fund.

The Day of Dedication was October 20, 1949. The service was conducted by Rev. T.G. Williams, pastor and Herman F. Duncan, District Superintendent. C. E. Norman and G.H. Williams were serving as trustees.

In 1954, the church received Rev. Wade Bustle as pastor. He had been appointed to Stokesdale, and Glencoe was officially again on the Stokesdale Circuit. Rev. Bustle organized and helped conduct our first Vacation Bible School, and revised our membership Register. During the decade of the 40's, many member, who became dedicated leaders, joined Glencoe Church. The Norman family bought the A.G. Williams homeplace, and from them Glencoe received much needed support, particularly from C.E. "Click" who served as Sunday School Superintendent for more than twenty-five years. Also, during this time Mary and Stacey Duncan moved into the community with Mary's two daughters, Betty and Dorothy Williams. Their talent in music, which was shared at the piano and in the choir, is a service and gift which cannot be measured. True to the vision of those who believed the church could rise again, reinforcements and leaders began answering the call. Robert Witty taught the young people's Sunday School class, and later entered the ministry of the Methodist Church. Some of the young people married and brought their spouses from other churches. Growth and renewal was, in part, the result of revival meetings (one by Price from Summerfield) and the tireless efforts of the minister, T.G. Williams, who served from 1956 to 1960.

David Yount, a student from Duke University came on weekends and in the summer of 1961-62 to take on the work at Glencoe and Bethany. In 1962, Bethany and Glencoe were placed with Midway, forming the Midway circuit. Phillip Vaughn came to begin his preaching career in the three churches. Before he arrived, David Yount and T.G. Williams ("Uncle Doc" to many) brought together people and plans to construct an educational building containing four classrooms and restrooms. At this time the community hut and the church building were joined into one building.

Following Rev. Phillip Vaughn, who left in 1967, came Rev. W.A. Knight, Rev. H. Gwynn Clayton, and Rev. George Carver during the years 1967-1976.

A long time dream of the congregation was for a Fellowship Hall. The man to lead us, fortunately was assigned to Midway Circuit in 1976. Rev. Robert Greenawalt knew about building, and was an able leader in this undertaking. He helped bring this dream to a reality. A church conference on Sept. 5, 1976 approved plans. Ground was broken during a snow storm on January 9, with Bishop L. Scott Allen participating. On October 2, 1977, a service of consecration and opening was held with Dr. Harly Williams, Superintendent of Greensboro District preaching. The dedication of the Fellowship Hall occurred on April 8, 1979. The total cost of the project was \$67,000. A plaque expressing appreciation was presented to Rev. Robert Greenawalt for his work as builder. Also, the church is indebted to him for having put in printed booklet form a History of Glencoe Church. These things

accomplished, the congregation moved forward into the 80's, grateful to those who had given so generously of their time and money. Many donations have been memorial gifts – cash, pews, windows, lights, appliances, tables, chairs, land, Treva Williams Haynes Fund, and other gifts recorded in A Book of Remembrance.

Many goals had been reached in three quarters of a century, but the congregation felt there were still new heights to reach. In 1980, Dr. Ed. Maddox was appointed to the Midway Circuit. Soon, plans were underway to renovate and enlarge the sanctuary of the church. A building committee was appointed with Tom Witty as chairman, a leader, welcomed to his grandfather's homeplace from Dallas, Texas, and even more welcomed to Glencoe Church to fill many vacancies, teacher of Men's Class, Sunday School Supt, and support in the capacity of leadership, where the need was great. Assisting him as chairman of the Building Committee were Bill (W.L.) Knight, Johnny Williams, Drexell Dixon, Linda Dixon and Christine Hilton.

Homecoming of 1982, always held the first Sunday in July, met in an unfinished sanctuary with on air conditioning or pews. Folding chairs were set up, and Homecoming Day was observed as it had been for approximately sixty years. If there is a change in ministers, the new one who arrived a week before is invited to speak. At other times, a former pastor or one who has gone from Glencoe into the ministry returns to preach. Robert Witty and Donald Haynes are two who have gone out in more recent years. Others who answered the call in the first quarter of the century were G.W. Williams, John C. Williams, T.G. Williams, Preston Smith, and Arthur Tickle. Seven ministers from so small a congregation may be a record.

The congregation participated in Migrant Ministers in 1981, when Dr. Maddox was here. Help from Duke and a couple working in this field were here to help. Much was attempted.

In the later part of 1980's we lost some of our dearest members and friends: Tommy Wilson, son of Willa and Paul Wilson, aged 14; Ruby Hudson Moore, faithful life long member; Estelle Williams Caudill, Doris Linville Carroll, Janie Williams Clayton, Ozelle Foster Bailey, Katie Witty, James Everett Haynes, Albert Earl Haynes, Paul Preston, and in January 1990 our two oldest member, Treva Williams Haynes and Effie Williams Basham.

We are happy to have added to our roll the Robert Witty family, Dorothy, Mary Kay, and Amy; Donna Knight Dixon, George and Mary Osborne, Kenneth and Kevin Walker, Carolyn and Curtis Basham, Randall Cox, George and Faye Cox.

Dr. Maddox was followed by Rev. Roy Grant, who proved to be a beloved pastor. He endeared himself, especially to those who were ill and old. It was difficult for anyone to follow him as pastor, but Dr. Dan Brown, a younger man, took his place. Because he was led to enter a different type of work, he resigned in his third year, shortly after annual conference. He was replaced by Dr. Rodney Fulcher from High Point, a man of great ability. We have received much from his teaching, preaching, and organizing.

The new Methodist Hymnal have been in use for a month. The Methodist Men has been organized and many positive things are taking place. The Methodist Women is an active group and has been for probably more than fifty years. Membership numbers are 85, about double the 1904 congregation, as best we can learn. The original roll book was lost, and much has been passed on orally.

On Homecoming Day, July 7, 1991, gifts from "Friends of Glencoe" came from seven states: North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Florida, Texas, Massachusetts, and Missouri. Checks ranged in amounts from \$25 to \$600 totaling approximately \$3,700. Notes of appreciation were mailed to all, acknowledging their generosity and faithfulness to our church. For more than half a century, member of each generation have been memorialized and or honored by family and friends.

Dr. Rodney Fulcher, pastor, led the worship service, and Dr. Donald Haynes was the preacher. There was a display depicting the History of Glencoe Church 1904-1991. Many items of special interest were shown, furniture used in the early church, purchased with proceeds for the sale of chickens and eggs, a gold pin awarded to Janie Williams in 1909 for perfect attendance to Sunday School, a card used in the primary class of Mrs. Eva Williams Harris and pictures and programs from the early 1900's. Attention was called to recent gifts, unique and valuable.

During the service there was a roll call by last names of families recorded on the church roll in alphabetical order, beginning with Allen, Apple ... and ending with Witty.

As has been the custom for probable seventy years, a bountiful meal was served under the trees, and many said "The best Homecoming we have ever had!"

July 5, 1992

On this day, a new minister, Rev, Jack Owenby, preached his first sermon at Glencoe Church. Dr. Fulcher was moved to another church but had written and mailed approximately a hundred invitations before leaving. He did things well and did many good things to try to broaden our horizons.

The collection was taken to purchase New Methodist Hymnals. Responses came from about eighty people to dedicate one or more books in memory or in honor of a loved one.

This year, dinner was served in the Fellowship Hall, where it was cool and comfortable. "Dinner on the Ground" now belongs to the past.

Jay Barefoot – January 1994

History 1992—2004

In July 1992 Reverend Jack Owenby, with his wife Mary, was appointed to the Midway, Glencoe, Bethany Charge. In their second year the parsonage across from Glencoe church was built. Pastor Jack was the first pastor to live in the new parsonage, which was built for \$104,000 and appraised for \$225,000. Jack was instrumental in securing several building teams and with their help and lots of volunteer labor from the church community the total debt on the parsonage was only \$69,000. This was paid for in four years and the burning of the mortgage ceremony was held in October 1998. In 1994 Reverend Jack Owenby became minister of the new Glencoe/Bethany charge.

During this time a new well was bored, after three attempts. A senior high class and a young adult women's class was organized. A sound system was installed in the sanctuary and a new roof was put on the entire church. A sign to announce times, dates, and events was erected, thanks to George and Mary Osborne. George also built furnishings for the pastor's study in the parsonage and other furnishings for the church. Paul and Willa Wilson had the parking lot graded and graveled. Pastor Jack did much to increase attendance at Glencoe.

In 1996 Reverend Scott Osterberg, with his wife Susan, began his ministry on the Glencoe/Bethany charge. Scott was a recent graduate of Duke and this was his first appointment.

Scott started Disciple Bible Study. This is a 32 week commitment Bible study that goes from Genesis to Revelation. Even with the 32 week commitment he taught Disciple I and II each twice.

Scott helped Glencoe make the dream of going station a reality. After many meetings and discussions the membership voted to go station in 1998. Scott remained at Glencoe and Bethany was appointed another minister. During this time we went to two services on Sunday at 9:00 and 11:00 with Sunday School at 10:00.

The land surrounding the church property became available and with pledges and a loan 20 acres of land was purchased. An architect was hired to design an enlarged fellowship hall and additional class rooms. Scott and Susan's daughter Allison Grace was born. The Glencoe newsletter "In The Loop" was started and is still being published monthly. In the five years that Scott was at Glencoe, our membership was increased.

In July 2001 Reverend Eric Reece and his family, wife Beverly and daughters Clarissa and Adrienne, were welcomed to Glencoe. Eric continued the 32 week Disciple Bible study with III and IV. Eric also started "Godprints" for our children with a weekly meal followed with Bible study for kindergarten thru fifth grade. Member volunteers helped make this possible.

The ground breaking ceremony for the new addition was held December 16, 2002. Eric worked diligently to secure grants from both Duke Endowment and the District to help pay for the construction. The addition was completed in August 2004 with the size of the fellowship hall being doubled, a new pastor's office, a new secretary's office, two small and three large class rooms, two new restrooms, and a large storage room. No more Sunday School in the kitchen, fellowship hall, or hut storage room. With the capable leadership of Randall Cox and the help of other members the cost of this expansion was held to \$280,935. At the end of construction our loan balance for the land purchased earlier and the building was \$134,000.

During this time more emphasis goes to our teens and younger children. In May 2004 Beverly Reece became our Directory of Education.

In July 2004 work was begun on utilizing some of our land for athletic fields for our community. A baseball field and soccer field are planned. Grants from Duke Endowment were secured to help pay for this construction.

In the last few years Glencoe has participated in the intern program with Duke University Divinity School. The following students have served at Glencoe: Jimmy Parsons, Curtis Goforth, Jeremy Troxler, Lauren Tyler, Jeffrey Martin, Tim Berlew, Robin Fitzgerald, Bob Gobson, and Adrian Sawyer.

Our Building



Early 1900's



Second Building about 1955

Our Building



1960's and 1970's



1979

Our Building



September 2004

Our People



Outside Church 1917



Parking with church in
background 1917



Frist Bible School—1954

Our People



UMW 1968

As early as 1949, records indicate that The United Methodist Women of Glencoe Church had originated. The insightfulness and caring of many women continues today. Having been richly blessed and deeply grateful for the ways in which many have contributed to the enrichment of our lives, the current members of the United Methodist Women would like to honor the memory of members past.

Ozelle Bailey, Jemima “Jay” Barefoot, Hazel Carver, Davis Carroll, Jane Clayton, Estelle Caudill, Eva Collins, Garlene Dixon, Mary Duncan, Dot Grant, Dorotha Hayes, Eva Harris , Treva Haynes, Mary Knight, Gladys Linville, Ruby Moore, Betty Norman, Mae Norman, Annie Small, Jane Tacy, Katie Witty, Nettie Williams, Maggie Williams

(In the event any name was mistakenly omitted, please accept our apology).

The Glencoe United Methodist Women
October 2004

Our People



Building Consecration October 2003



Parsonage 1998

Memories

This year marks my 50th year attending Glencoe United Methodist Church. It was 50 years ago that I came to Glencoe community as a young bride, having come from a difficult childhood and not prepared for the loving, accepting neighborhood that I would call my own for all these years. Although I am living in Reidsville now, I have never left Glencoe in my heart.

Homecoming brings so many sweet memories. Some are dim , but others are so sharp and poignant. In my mind's eye as I travel the roads in the community, I remember the people who lived in each house. I will use no names lest I forget one. I long for the chance , one day , to tell each one how much they meant to me. (When you get to be my age, you begin to think a lot about Heaven and all the friends you'll meet there.)

My best memories are attached to the Church. I remember the Saints, those who I thought were "old" at the time and who I know now were in their prime. I look back at how they nurtured us young folk, how they set the example that we would want to follow, and how we honor their memories by doing just that. Hats and gloves were the attire of the day, nylon hose even on hot days and shirts and ties for the men. In the early morning , prior to church , you could hear the recorded music wafting over the community, coming from the loud speaker mounted on top of the church. Worship had started!

The children of that era all attended Sunday School in the "hut". My children have their own memories of those days and love to tell the stories of their escapades, some of which I was unaware, good thing! They always want to go out to the "hut" when they visit the church. Remember Bible School in those days? Children everywhere! We usually had to help some of the boys out of the big oak tree in the parking lot at the end of the day. There was a covered dish lunch on Friday and the whole community was invited to the lunch and the end of Bible School program. And the Christmas program! One of my children could say everyones part in the program but when his time came to say his , he clammed up! Remember the brown bags for each child filled with nuts, fruits and candy? I think many of us wondered if we were able to get through to the children or if they were learning anything. Well, you and I have seen the end product and I think we did something right.

The women of the church met once a week to clean the church and the men groomed the grounds. How times have changed. We are much larger in size and I for one am very thankful that I don't have to clean this large church! The women of Glencoe have such a special bond stemming from the United Methodist Women's Organization, formerly Women's Society. You'll hear some of us old folk still calling it that. It is a real occasion for us to get together once a month to fellowship and worship. We have been fortunate that God has blessed us to be able to perform many worthwhile missionary services.

Glencoe has also been blessed with many excellent ministers. Many have left an indelible mark on lives and the community as a whole. We are so blessed to have sent out some of our own into the world to share the Gospel and maybe some of the community spirit that is so prevalent at Glencoe. We have a wonderful legacy!

I know that we've grown, the community has changed, we have so many wonderful new families to carry on our traditions, but somehow that little white church with the "hut" just sticks in my memories and in my heart. In fact, I believe that Glencoe has become, for me, a state of mind. What a wonderful state to be in!

God Bless all of you!

Barbara Moore Knight Walker

Some Personal Recollections of Glencoe United Methodist Church

Donald W. Haynes, 2004

My knowledge of the history of Glencoe comes not from books or documents but from my mother's memories which reached back to the early 1900's and my own which reach to the 1940's.

The founding of Glencoe Methodist Episcopal Church, South is probably due to the denominational heritage of Isabel Walker Williams, wife of Alexander Green Williams. "Belle" was reared in the Lowe's Methodist Episcopal Church, South where her father was Sunday School Superintendent for over forty years. In 1876, only two years after their marriage, Alex Williams bought a farm on what was known then as "Flat Rock Church Road." It stretched from the present property of Glencoe Church to the land of W. I. Witty. They joined Flat Rock Methodist Protestant Church, five miles to the west.

Immediately, Alex and Belle Williams began to have children and six of them either died or were killed by accidents. These six children were buried in Flat Rock cemetery. However, the Methodist Protestant Church did not have bishops and were in other ways different from what was called the "ME, South" Church. About the turn of the 20th century, Mrs. Williams attended a brush arbor revival near "Price's Store" which was near the present site of Liberty Wesleyan Church. A number of people were converted and wanted to organize a church. Mrs. Williams convinced her husband, who was not a church member, to give two acres to the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South for the organization of a new church. He gave the land on which Glencoe Church now sits and it was appointed its first pastor in 1904. A few years earlier, he had given to Rockingham County the land for an elementary school.

The origin of the name "Glencoe" lies shrouded in mystery. Perhaps the research of others can bring light to this. Since the school is older, perhaps the name was first associated with the school. However, my mother's memory was that the first pastor named it. Why "Glencoe"? There was already a textile mill village in Alamance County by that name, but we know of no connection. There is a beautiful valley in Scotland named "Glencoe"—in Gaelic a "glen" was a valley and the predominant family living there was the "Coe" family. But what connection could this have had to naming a church in Rockingham County in 1904?

The first church building was erected by the second year. Alex Williams gave the trees which were cut and sawed for the framing. Someone ordered the pews from a manufacturer and Mr. Williams sent wagons to the depot in Summerfield to haul them to the church. (In those years many churches had homemade pews; one of these original pews still remains in the church; others were sold in 1944 when the church was remodeled. The stair treads in the former Janie Williams Clayton house were made from the Glencoe pew seats by her husband, Della Clayton)

The first grave was that of Jemima Ann "Tice" Williams, who died in 1909 of tuberculosis. Other early graves were two Dallas brothers. Alex Williams himself was buried in 1917 after death from a ruptured appendix. Some graves were marked only by rocks. Most of these were children of sharecroppers who lived in the community only a short time, buried their young, and moved away.

The church thrived through the 1920's. J. C. Williams, T. G. Williams, George Williams, and Preston Smith all were called into the Methodist ministry in those years. Preston Smith had been Sunday School Superintendent before his call. The school was closed in 1924 when the consolidated Bethany High School was built. Gradually the church declined, perhaps because it was the furthestest church from Stokesdale of the five churches on the old Stokesdale Circuit. Several prominent landowners in the Glencoe community, including all of the Knight and Witty families, were followers of the Primitive Baptist beliefs. Others, like Dwight Wilson and Carl Haynes remained members of Flat Rock. By the 1930's, most of the active local Glencoe families were descendants of either the Hudsons, Barhams, or the Williams. Most other families within a two mile radius were tenant farmers, often living in the area only a short while. By the 1940's these were joined by the Norman family and the Dixon families. The Everett and Glodie Moore families were faithful descendents of the Hudsons. No one with the name "Williams" was left by World War II. Eva Williams Harris and Treva Williams Haynes joined Minnie Williams Hudson as Sunday School teachers and Stewards. Only a few women and children made up the Sunday School which met weekly at 11:00. Occasionally a few men would join them on "preaching Sundays"—third Sunday afternoons at 3:00. World War II took the young men in service; most of the young women moved to

Greensboro or Reidsville for “public work,” leaving the farms and the church.

In 1939, three branches of Methodism came together in what was called “unification.” The Methodist Episcopal Church(north), the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church all became “The Methodist Church.” This meant that Flat Rock and Midway, former “M.P.” churches would be the same as Glencoe, laying the groundwork for a restructuring years later when these three became a circuit.

Glencoe’s lowest hour was 1943. As the gas and tire rationing became more acute, the pastor recommended that Glencoe be closed, saying he could not justify driving that far for so few people. One of most poignant memories is my mother’s crying while she washed dishes because, in her words, “they are going to turn us out of the conference.”

T. G. Williams was pastor of five churches in Stokes County—the Sandy Ridge Circuit. It was in the Winston Salem District. He went to the Winston Salem District Superintendent and asked that Glencoe be added to his circuit as a sixth church. So it was that a son of the church became its pastor. He immediately had the vision of tearing down the large old church and using the materials to build a smaller one. Jack Caudill, husband of Estelle Williams Caudill, procured the stained glass windows—the same ones we have today. Men of the local community and men of the Sandy Ridge community tore the old church down and built the replacement. My mother was treasurer. People from far and near with roots in Glencoe were written letters and sent money—most in amounts of \$5 and \$10. The project was a miracle that no one ever thought would happen!

Mr. Williams invited various persons to hold annual revivals. One of these was Arthur Tickle who later founded the Maple Lawn Baptist Church in the Bethany Community, but had been converted at Glencoe as a young man years before. Another, in the spring of 1946, was Hampton Price, a free lance evangelist and carpenter who had a widespread reputation as a bootlegger before his conversion. Mr. Price brought with him a singing group from Greensboro; the leader was “Buddy Green” who drove a laundry truck for the old Colombia Laundry on Battleground Avenue. Placards were placed in all the country stores. There were no phones in the community, but many visits were made. By the end of the first week, the church was packed every night. By the end of the second week, dozens had been converted including men like Ed Norman and Sam Haynes. Many young people gave their hearts to Jesus Christ and were baptized including Christine, Lula Mae and Tommy Moore, Jack and Evelyn Dixon, Donald Norman, and Donald Haynes.

T. G. Williams was moved to the Stokesdale Methodist Church in 1946 and asked that Glencoe be transferred with him. It was, and he was now pastor of two churches—Stokesdale and Glencoe. The war was over; the boys were coming home and marrying. For Glencoe the most momentous of these was the return of Clifton Ellis “Click” Norman who returned and married Betty Williams. Shortly thereafter, Robert Lee Witty, Jr. would return from N.C. State College and marry Dorothy Williams. The Williams girls’ mother and step-father Stacey and “Mrs.” Duncan moved their membership from Greensboro. Betty could play the piano!!! Click became Sunday School Superintendent—the first man in nearly twenty years to have that post! Robert’s mother was a member of New Lebanon Christian Church and his father was a Primitive Baptist; his conversion and joining Glencoe was an enormous boost. Alex Harris had married Myrtle Settlemire, daughter of a Wesleyan pastor and a soloist! Annie Knight Small and the Buck Linville family joined the church and were great assets; Annie taught a whole generation of children. The “hut” was built to provide the first Sunday School rooms the church had ever had. These were the years of great blessings.

Glencoe would become weak again, but never would be threatened with closure. Two more young men were called to the ministry—Robert Witty and Donald Haynes. Donald was licensed to preach at Glencoe on April 11, 1953. Robert followed a few years later and both served various charges in the Western North Carolina Conference. Both were led to Christ and into the ministry by T. G. Williams, the man who virtually saved Glencoe Church and served it faithfully for many years even after his retirement.

No one individual lay leader modeled Christ more influentially than Click Norman. No one person was so much a pillar of the church; no one provided more long term leadership, and no one’s name should be held in higher esteem. Just as faithful and pivotal to the music ministry was his dedicated wife, Betty.

A Beloved Memory of Glencoe

Teaching the Glencoe confirmation class of 2003 was a challenging experience. We met on Wednesday evenings for six long months. There was a lot of energy in the class as the confirmands were still winding down from school. Attention spans were short and every possible form of education was used to share the Christian faith. Needless to say, there was a lot of interruptions and all of the fruits of the spirit were required on the part of the Pastor.

One night, I was concerned on how the students would behave as I had invited the Reverend Robert Witty, Jr. to speak with the class about his faith and call to the ministry. Rev. Witty was a member of the church before his ordination and he and his family returned to Glencoe after his retirement.

When Rev. Witty came to be with the class, they were perfect. They behaved, asked questions, listened and thank Rev. Witty for coming. I thought things had changed and the rest of the evening would be different. Yet, as soon as Rev. Witty left the room the class lost their restraints and reverted to their usual form.

On the Sunday that they were confirmed (which is now observed as a high holy day at Glencoe) I was presented with a shirt with a group picture. The caption under the picture read:

“I survived Confirmation Class 2002-2003.... BARELY.”

Members of the class who joined the church were Jacob Lester, Clarissa Reece, Jake Sanders, Cam Thomas and Taylor Witty. It was with this class that Glencoe's membership past two hundred full members.

Rev. Eric A. Reece
October 2004

Memories Growing Up at Glencoe

The main memory I have of Glencoe, is from when I was little and you thought of church I always would think of three people. I thought that Glencoe was where Betty and Click Norman lived they were always there. It would surprise me on Halloween when we would go trick or treating, and they would be at "a house" not at church. The other person was Johnny Williams he was always the well dressed man that ALWAYS had peppermint candy in his pocket for the kids. He is still the best dressed man at Glencoe but he hasn't given me a piece of candy to stay quite in church lately.

I do not remember this but I have been told several times about the time I was not behaving very well in church and my mom pinched me on the leg. I announced to the whole church " you pinched me" I think that worked better on mom than the pinched worked on me.

Donnell Dixon Witty