

# Welcome to Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

*Pastor Dawne Hollis*



Visit us at: [www.mtziongrandy.org](http://www.mtziongrandy.org)

A Short History Presentation on  
Mt. Zion's 241<sup>st</sup> Birthday Celebration

October 20, 2013

By: Sheila Grandy

Oldest Church Photo 1908





August 28, 1971  
Wedding showing  
interior of the church.







After the church fire on  
Ash Wednesday 1976  
Rev. Denny Wise stands  
beside the ashes that remain.







Old Communion Set



The old church bell



Revs. Piland & Old

## **The History of the Currituck Charge** from Duke University Records

1926: Mt. Zion; Hebron; Asbury, and Ebenezer

1932: Mt. Zion; Hebron; Kitty Hawk-Boaz; Colington;  
Ebenezer; Grace; and Sharon

1939: Mt. Zion; Ebenezer; Hebron and Sharon  
*Ebenezer UMC burned down and many attended Sharon.*

1956: Mt. Zion; Hebron and Sharon  
*Sharon UMC later went station.*

Present day: Mt. Zion and Hebron UM Churches



Burnt timbers &  
nails from fire

# Church Book

No.

Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church

in Society at

Mount Zion

Meeting house

Summituck County North Carolina

This Book is designed as a permanent record of the Membership and progress of the Society, with the subscribers for the Christian Advocate Journals and Zion's Herald; that when, who are now Ministers or members are removed hence by death, those who survive may take deep interest in viewing the progress of the Society and particularly in reading the names of those who have departed in the triumph of faith and gone safe to Heaven.

That the Enrollment of members may be complete no names once regularly entered should be erased their names, but entered in the Column for marks and changes that may take place by Deaths, Removals, suspensions or withdrawals; in these latter cases taking up a little space is no objection that if the same individuals should come back to the Church, it might be entered opposite their names Rejoined or Returned



# Church Razed By Fire Rebuilds On Original Site

By GWEN WHITE

GRANDY — Construction is underway to rebuild Mt. Zion Methodist Church at Grandy County, destroyed by fire over a year ago.

The new structure is being built on the site of the original church. A local firm, E. C. Harding Company, is contractor for the project.

The congregation has been seeking donations to aid in rebuilding the church since March 3, 1976, when the church burned. A sign on the front lawn indicates approximately \$60,000 of the \$100,000 goal has been raised. The building, a total loss, was insured for \$25,000.

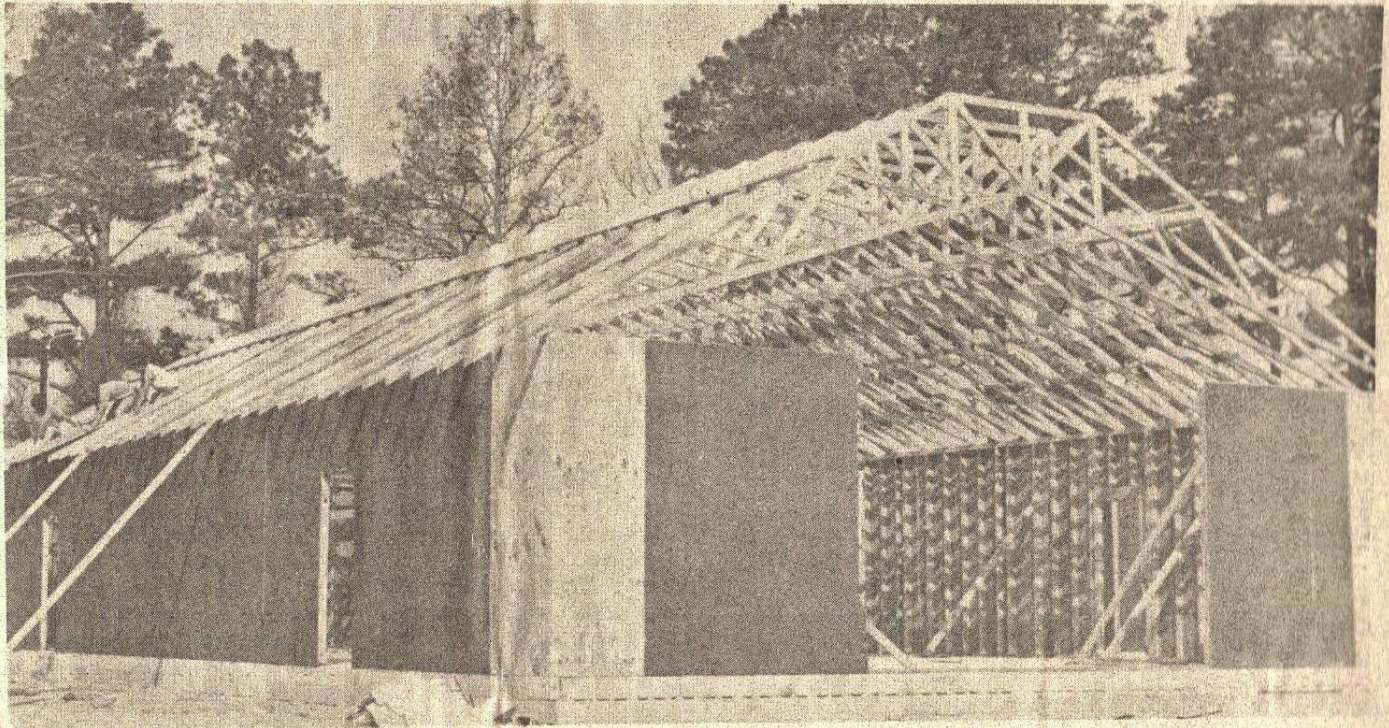
When the building burned, North Carolina lost what may have been the oldest Methodist Church in the state.

Although three churches in North Carolina claim to be the oldest continuing congregations of Methodism, Mt. Zion dated itself to Oct. 1, 1772. On Sept. 28, 1975, the congregation held its 203 anniversary celebration, commemorating the visit of Joseph Pilmoor to that church.

Destroyed with the building were "priceless antiques" including a hand carved altar set, a 100 year old Bible, and an antique desk from the old Grandy School that dated to approximately 1880.

The main block of the sanctuary that burned was the remainder of an 1818 church. Mt. Zion stemmed from an earlier church once called

## Mt. Zion Rebuilds After Fire



A NEW BUILDING for Mt. Zion Methodist Church is now under construction to replace the church which burned almost two years ago. The facility will replace an historic structure dating to 1772.

Mt. Zion claims to be the oldest Methodist church in North Carolina. (Gwen White photo)

"Narrows Chapel."

Although the history of Mt. Zion is difficult to document, a member of the present congregation has in her possession the "Church Book for Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Society at Mt. Zion Meeting House." This book was written by Rev. Robert V. Webb, a circuit rider who served the Camden Circuit in 1829.

According to Professor Frank Baker of Duke Divinity School, this is the oldest Methodist record book of its type in the

state.

When Thomas Webb was appointed to the circuit in that year, he reported there were 78 white members and 79 black members. Most of the white members were then 60 to 80 years old, evidence they had been Methodist most, if not all, of their lives.

Among the ministers who served the church were Rev. Hardy Jarvis, father of Thomas J. Jarvis, elected Governor of North Carolina in 1879.

Rev. Denny C. Wise, pastor of the church when it burned,

wrote and published a history of the church. Profits from the book which outlined the congregation's claim to being the "oldest church" went into the building fund.

Cause of the fire which destroyed the church was never determined. According to reports from the minister and chief Calvin Outlaw of the Lower Currituck Volunteer Fire Department, the fire began on the opposite side from the heater and burned straight up the wall.

Rev. C. E. O'Briant is the new



# Mt. Zion Methodist History Written

By GWEN WHITE

**GRANDY** — Rev. Denny C. Wise, pastor of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church at Grandy, has written a history of the church which burned to the ground March 3.

The book "Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, 1772-1976, a History," was written over a one-year period to document a claim as the "Oldest continuing congregation of Methodism in the state of North Carolina." The book was almost ready for printing when a fire of undetermined origin leveled the structure on Ash Wednesday evening.

Rev. Wise contends in the book that there was an organized Methodist congregation at Mt. Zion as early as 1772 when Joseph Pilmore first preached in Currituck County. He documents his theory thoroughly using the Pilmore's published journal, early colonial records, and a variety of public records, journals, and books on early Methodist missionary efforts.

Mt. Zion is recognized statewide as being third oldest, but Rev. Wise says, "We're documenting it to be the oldest."

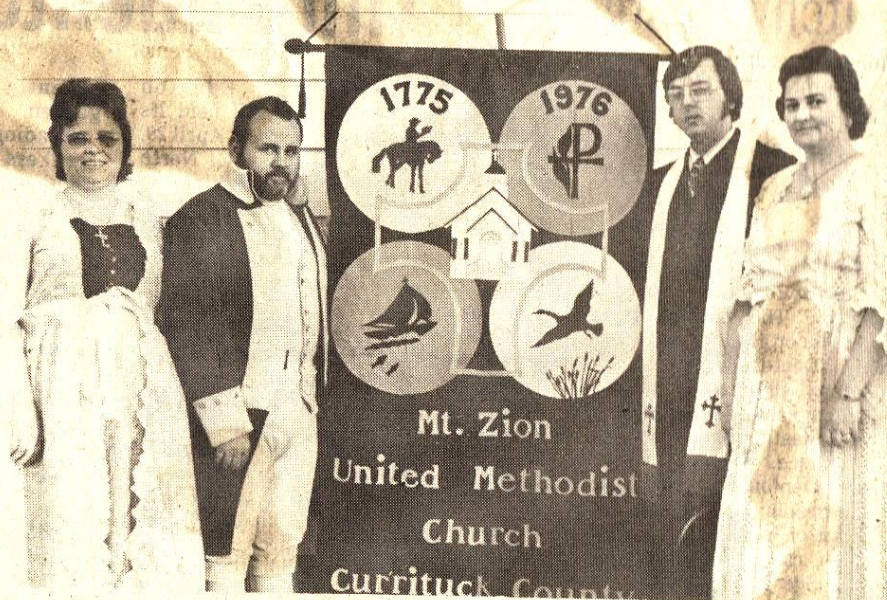
The book contains five chapters outlining a history of the congregation, information on the original church building, the church record book of 1829 (oldest Methodist record book of its type in North Carolina), and notes from the memory of church members. An appendix lists Sunday School Superintendents and

ministers. The listing of minister dates from 1783.

The modern day church

Carolina Circuit in Durham last week. There they marched with a banner with the

Printing was by the Joseph P. Knapp High School.



**MARCHED WITH BANNER** — Rev. Denny Wise, left, marched with three of the church members of Mt. Zion Methodist Church at the Bicentennial activities of the Carolina Circuit last week. The banner made by Rev. and Mrs. Judy Wise depicts the church history from 1775-1976, the Methodist Bicenten-

nial emblem, and two squares representative of Currituck County. Three of the members that marched are Mrs. Mavourneen Evans, left, Chris Aydlett and Mrs. Alline Aydlett all in Bicentennial costumes. (Staff photo by Gwen White)

member would probably be surprised to read church members of Mt. Zion in 1829 could be expelled for dancing, gambling, cursing, brawling and multitude of other "sins." Also, there was a six-month probation period before "joining" the church.

The church was represented at the Bicentennial activities of the

50 oldest Methodist churches in the state.

The book is being offered for a \$5 donation to the church. All profits go to the church.





Sanctuary Remodeled



New Addition



New Parsonage  
Dedication







In 1978, Rev. Clarence O'Briant led the first service in the new Mt. Zion structure. His son Paul was guest speaker Homecoming 2008.

In 2004, after completing new additions, Worship services were held in the fellowship hall while the sanctuary was renovated.





Dedicated in 2005 as:  
**The Glenn H. McCranie  
Fellowship Hall**



**Kingdom Kids Learning Center**  
opened preschool doors in 2004  
following a grant from Duke Endowment  
the preschool served the community  
from 2004-2011.





# Mt. Zion Prayer Garden, 2004





# Former Ministers 1974 - 2012



Denny C. Wise  
1974



Clarence O'Briant  
1977

Not Pictured:  
Haywood Martin 1984



Gordon Hanford  
1979



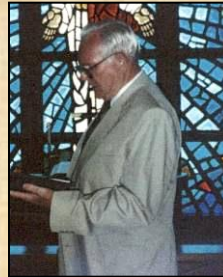
Richard Austin  
1985



Emmitt McCall  
1987



Ralph Epps  
*Interim* 1992



Linwood Jones  
1992



Glenn H. McCranie  
1997-2006  
Still serving today!



Ken Singley  
1996



Tom Tarkenton  
*Interim* 1997



Minister Helper  
Charles Gregory



David J. Blackman  
2006 - June 2010



J. Scott Finicum  
2006 - June 2013



**Pastor Glenn H. McCranie, 1997-2006**  
**Pastor Emeritus 2009 to present**



**Minister Helper Floyd Hoskinson, Sr.**  
**& Administrative Assistant Willa Hoskinson**



**Pastor Dawne Hollis**  
serving July 2013 to present



**Daughter Danielle & Granddaughter Lilly**



## Mission Ministries







Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at  
Waterview Shores Park

Do all the good you can.  
By all the means you can.  
In all the ways you can.  
In all the places you can.  
At all the times you can.  
To all the people you can.  
As long as ever you can.

~ John Wesley, the Founder of Methodism