

Pastors serving New Hope Church 1779-2009

1779 John B. Davis (class leader, founder)

Pittsylvania Circuit

1779 Lee Roy Cole, Greenberry Green, John Atkins
 1780 Richard Ivy, Carter Cole, William Partridge
 1781 Thomas Foster, James Mallory
 1782 Caleb Bowyer, Ira Ellis, Henry Jones

Caswell Circuit

1783 Peter Moriarty, Jesse Lee
 1784 Richard Swift
 1785 Elijah Ellis
 1786 Sihon Smith
 1787 Terence Burns
 1788 Isaac Lowe
 1789 Thomas Ware, Henry Ledbetter
 1790 Henry Merritt, Simon Carlisle
 1791 Enoch George, Henry Hill
 1792 Jonathan Bird, John Sproul
 1793 F. Killinsworth, George McKenney
 1794 Francis Parker, Arthur Lipsey
 1795 Samuel S. Steward, William Wells
 1796 John Weeks, Roger Hancock
 1797 Edmund Ellis, Hill Jones
 1798 Lewis Garnett, John Turner
 1799 Banister Meador, Samuel Hooser
 1800 John Ray, John Gamewell
 1801 Billy Corr
 1802 Joseph Pinnell
 1803 Daniel Ross
 1804 Samuel Garrard, Ira Ellis
 1805 Ira Ellis, Dempsey Clayton
 1806 Thomas Mann, T. Pinnell, B. Duvany
 1807 Humphrey Wood, Edward Cannon
 1808 Daniel Kelly, Thomas Shands
 1809 John C. Jones, Jacob Hill
 1810 John Early, Ethelbert Drake
 1811 Charles Callaway, Ewen Johnson
 1812 Henry Warren, Jesse Branch
 1813 Samuel Garrard
 1815 William M. Elliot
 1816 Lewis Skidmore
 1817 William Peebles, Edward W. Ward
 1818 Allen Bernard, Richard Carson
 1819 Amos C. Treadway
 1820 Lewis Kimball
 1821 William H. Starr
 1822-23 Russell B. Foster
 1824 Joakim Lane
 1825 Joshua Leigh
 1826 George Stevens
 1827 William Holmes
 1828-29 Benton Field
 1830 John H. Watson
 1831 Benton Field
 1832-33 Russell B. Foster
 1834-35 William Anderson
 1836 J. Bethel
 1837 Peter Doub
 1838-39 John Hank
 1840 William Anderson
 1841-42 Henry Speck
 1843 Alfred Norman
 1844-45 James L. Nicholson
 1846-47 R.P. Bibb
 1848-49 James Reid
 1850 Addison Lea
 1851-52 William M. Jordan

1853 William Carter

1854 Peter H. Joiner

Yanceyville Circuit

1855-56 John W. Lewis
 1857-58 James P. Simpson
 1859-60 Alfred Norman
 1861-62 T.B. Kingsbury
 1863 (to be supplied)
 1864 James P. Simpson
 1865 (no conference)
 1866 Lemon Shell
 1867-70 J.H. Wheeler
 1871-74 J.W. Jenkins
 1875-76 T.J. Gattis
 1877-80 R.A. Willis
 1881-82 H.H. Gibbons
 1883-86 L.L. Nash
 1887-88 D.L. Earnhardt

Milton Circuit

1889-92 J.H. Shore
 1893 E.E. Rose
 1894 W.B. Moore
 1895-97 E.W. Fox
 1898-99 W.E. Nicholson
 1900-01 N.C. Yearby
 1902-05 J.A. Dailey
 1906-07 M.D. Giles
 1908-09 W.T. Usry
 1910 T.C. Eilers
 1911-14 S.F. Nicks
 1915-18 J.E. Blalock
 1919 B.O. Merritt
 1920-21 A.J. Hobbs, Jr.
 1922-24 J. Bascomb Hurley
 1925-28 W.C. Jones
 1929-30 H.E. Lance
 1931 M.F. Hodges
 1932-34 R.J. Lough
 1935-38 A.M. Williams
 1939-40 D.I. Garner
 1940-42 R.M. Patterson
 1942-44 J.E. Carter
 1945 (to be supplied)
 1945-49 M.R. Chambers
 1949-59 W.F. Meacham
 1959-61 Z.V. Cowan
 1961-62 R.W. Stewart (student)

New Hope-Purley Charge

1963-65 Robert T. Sharp (student)
 1965-66 C.O. Stokes (student)
 1966-67 Clyde E. Johnson (student)
 1967-71 Howard A. Elam (student)
 1971-72 H.W. Burnside (student)
 1972-74 Lewis Dodson
 1974-81 Clay Smith
 1981-82 Charles Nicholson
 1982 Lemeul Mason
 1982-86 Henry Grant
 1986-88 Bill and Peg Whitt
 1988-92 D. Susan Moore
 1992-94 Charles Litzenberger
 1994-01 Floyd Morrow
 2001-04 Jaylynn Byassee
 2004-06 Janet Balasko
 2006-10 M. Park Hunter (student)



A History of New Hope United Methodist 230th Anniversary, July 26, 2009

New Hope is the oldest church in the Burlington District and one of the oldest in the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. It pre-dates the creation of the United States at the Treaty of Paris in 1783 and of the Methodist Episcopal Church at the Christmas Conference of 1784.

Local tradition traces the founding of the church to class meetings led by John B. Davis in the area starting before 1779. Born in Maryland in 1756, Davis moved to Caswell County in his teens. Maryland was a hotbed of early Methodist societies and Methodist pioneer Frances Asbury was active there in the 1770s. Davis may have met Asbury in Maryland and brought Methodism to Caswell. Early meetings were held under an oak tree or in Davis's home. A log meeting house was built in 1778 and dedicated in 1779.

Asbury, who was later appointed the first bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, made his initial trip to North Carolina in 1780. His journal records visits to Hillsborough and to Lea's Chapel in Person County. Then Asbury writes, "Tuesday, 8 [August 1780]. I rode to Baxter's sixteen miles... was tried in getting there; we crossed the Line Creek. After preaching, rode six miles, but was an hour too late. About eight o'clock, came to a cabin, an earthen floor, and a damp bed." Country Line Creek passes very close to the old Davis homestead and the log church. Most likely, Asbury preached to Davis's class meeting before riding on to his "damp bed" in Milton, then crossed the Dan River into Virginia the next day.

* Dates for early pastors are from conference minutes when they were appointed; they usually served the following year.

New Hope was originally part of the Pittsylvania Circuit. In 1783 the Caswell Circuit was created. Jesse Lee, a young preacher in his first appointment, came to Caswell that year and reported that his first sermon, delivered to tired field workers on a hot summer afternoon, put everyone to sleep! Lee later served as chaplain of the U.S. Congress. From 165 members in 1784, the circuit grew to 515 whites and 120 “colored” members in 1800. Over 1% of all American Methodists during this period lived in Caswell!

Surviving records from the early years include familiar names. Typical is the third class meeting of 1846, held at New Hope: “William Carter, [Presiding Elder]; James L. Nicholson [Acting Elder]; Elijah Roberts, John Pinchback, John A. Davis [Exhorters]; William Smith, St. Wm. H[?] [Childs St.]; James Ingram, Green T. Womack, Richard Taylor, Daniel T. Merit[?], Bluford W. Reid, Franklin B. Burton [Class Leaders].” Church leaders were required to pass annual examinations of character during this time.

William Jordan, pastor of the Caswell Circuit in 1852-1853, left colorful accounts in his unpublished journal. In his first year, he despaired of New Hope, writing, “Sat July 17th [1852] Commenced a [revival] meeting at New Hope. Bro. S. Lea came to my assistance on Sunday and preached one sermon. I toiled hard ‘til Sunday evening. Sinners seemed to feel much, but would not yield. Poor New Hope! It is a hard place. Great deal of gambling about here.”

The next year saw an amazing turnaround. Jordan reports, “Sat 24th [September, 1853] Commenced at New Hope – continued nine days. Great indeed were the displays of Divine power. We reckon the number of converts to be forty one. The believers were greatly blessed. Some of the old members of the church say they have never seen such times at New Hope before. I shall never forget this meeting while memory lasts. Glory to God for such a manifestation of his goodness!”

In the 1870s, New Hope, Shady Grove and Yanceyville were the three largest churches on the Yanceyville Circuit. Records from that era show New Hope paying \$200 of its \$210 assessment for the year. The pastor’s salary was \$900, and the circuit contributed \$125 to the presiding elder (district superintendent).

The current sanctuary was erected in 1906 and dedicated in 1907. J.A. Daily, pastor in charge of the Milton Circuit reported at the

quarterly conference, April 14, 1906, “At New Hope we are building a good church but just at the beginning of work there we sustained a great loss to that church, and indeed to the whole charge in the death of our good sister Mrs. Ella B. Satterfield.” Older church members remember Mrs. Satterfield’s memorial tablet placed right behind the pulpit, setting a high standard for future generations of church women: “*She hath done what she could.*” The tablet is now in the middle entry hall of the church.

At some point, the back of the sanctuary was enclosed to provide four Sunday School classrooms. In the 1950s the original clear glass windows along the side of the sanctuary were replaced with stained glass. In 1964, the men of the church undertook a major project to restore the cemetery, which had become completely overgrown. The fellowship hall was added in the 1970s with help from a Duke Endowment grant. In 1979 New Hope celebrated its 200th anniversary with parishioners dressing like pioneering Methodists. Bishop Robert Blackburn attended.

New Hope has always been an integral part of the community with Christmas pageants and other activities. Today, radical hospitality means inviting new faces into our midst with our monthly family breakfasts, trunk-or-treat, and Fat Tuesday celebrations.

We engage in passionate worship with all-night prayer vigils, community Methodist revivals, and quarterly ecumenical and interracial worship services. Our spiritual formation includes a thought-provoking adult Sunday School class and great VBS programs. Last year’s VBS drew 40 people to hear Christians from Mexico, England, China, and Ghana!

New Hope’s focus on missions contributes thousands of dollars to missions beyond our budgeted commitments. We have sent two all-ages mission teams on week-long trips to Hinton in the past two years, and helped sponsor many kids to Methodist summer camps. We respond generously to family disasters such as house fires.

In 2008, New Hope and Purley were recognized as an Acts 2 charge, an honor accorded just 10% of North Carolina churches! We are servants of Jesus Christ and heirs of generations of saints, building up a corner of the kingdom here in Caswell County.