

**Church's  
in the  
Town of Appomattox  
in Year 2000**



## **Churches in the Town of Appomattox in 2000**

1. Memorial United Methodist Church
2. Bethel Bible Church
3. New Beginnings Ministry
4. Seventh Day Adventists Church
5. Liberty Baptist Church
6. Appomattox Penticostal Holiness Church
7. St. Anne's Episcopal Church
8. First Baptist Church
9. Appomattox Court House Presbyterian Church
10. Appomattox Assembly of God

## A History Memorial United Methodist Church

Near the turn of the century, major changes occurred in Appomattox that would affect the future of what would become Memorial United Methodist Church. The old courthouse burned in 1892 and was rebuilt near the railroad, at its present location on Court Street. After the old courthouse burned, the townspeople realized that the growing activity and commerce associated with the railroad made West Appomattox a more logical – and appealing – location for the town; and therefore, a Methodist church. Memorial started with a group of three families of Methodists and several families of Presbyterians that first met as a union Sunday School in the Appomattox Courthouse in 1897.

In November 1897, Rev. P. M. Bell was appointed by the presiding elder of the Lynchburg District to the Appomattox Circuit for the purpose of building a church at West Appomattox. A "great" revival meeting was held in the Courthouse in 1898. This meeting produced 45 new members. On September 17, 1898, a lot was purchased from the trustees of Liberty Baptist Church and Major George A. Armes, a wealthy old soldier who owned land from the village to Hermon Church. This lot was located on what is now Church Street and below the former dormitory building of Appomattox Agricultural School.

C. W. Hancock and Son were contracted to build the church in 1899. The one room frame building cost \$1800.00. Appomattox Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church South was dedicated on the fourth Sunday in September 1899. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Dr. Wiley Bledsoe, and the church was named by Mrs. A. H. Clement as a memorial to her father, Dr. Adam Bledsoe, who was a prominent member of the Virginia Conference. Rev. Bell said that the free will offering that day amounted to more than \$300.00 in cash and the church was dedicated free of debt.

During October 1937, work began on remodeling the one room church and constructing the addition of a church school annex. The cost of this project was \$15,000. In 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church South became the Methodist Church. The church was dedicated July 16, 1944.

Fourteen years later, on September 7, 1958, it was decided to purchase the corner lot on Court Street adjacent to the Courthouse, as the site for a more adequate building and parking space. The cost of the lot was \$16,000. The building on Church Street was sold March 13, 1960, to the Pentecostal Holiness Conference for \$25,000. This money was later used for furnishing the new church and for the grading and planting of the yard.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on April 2, 1961, with members of the building committee and church members in attendance. On July 30, 1961, a Cornerstone Laying Ceremony was conducted by the District Superintendent, Dr.

Edgar A. Potts, assisted by the pastor, Rev. Richard A. Bergdoll and the Building Committee and Board of Trustees. The Cornerstone bears the following inscription: "Memorial Methodist Church - Organized 1899 and relocated 1961." Various articles were placed in a metal box to be sealed and secured immediately behind the Cornerstone. Some items included were attendance rosters, a picture of the church, a brief history of the church, the current issue of the Times Virginian newspaper, a copy of the Virginia Methodist Advocate, and the current budget.

Memorial Methodist Church was consecrated April 15, 1962, with Bishop Paul Garber delivering the sermon. The cost of construction was \$156,429 and was completed by J. E. Jamerson & Sons of Appomattox. In 1969, as a result of unification with the Evangelical United Brethren, the Methodist Church became the United Methodist Church, hence Memorial United Methodist Church. Memorial United Methodist Church was dedicated on March 19, 1972, with the Rev. Alfred L. Eastman as pastor.

On October 5, 1988, the Administrative Board of Memorial United Methodist Church approved the proposed Day Care Program which opened for business in 1989.

Today, Memorial United Methodist Church is a vital institution that continues to build upon its tradition of theological education and community participation.

Submitted by: Sue Eggleston  
(804)352-2752  
MUMC (804)352-5705  
Word Count 681

## **BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH**

Bethel Bible Church of Appomattox, Virginia, was first organized by Pastor David S. Grove in 1977, and services were held in the basement of his home in the Fred Jones Subdivision. The church has always been a full-gospel church.

After a while, when the Grove basement could no longer accommodate the people, the church rented the old Reynolds Store building beside the railroad tracks in downtown Appomattox. The church prospered there for several years, but because of the inadequacies of the building, it was decided to merge with Appomattox Pentecostal Holiness Church, pastored by Rev. Bray at the time. This church was located beside the Appomattox County Middle School on Church Street.

Because of certain doctrinal differences, the Bethel Bible Church family decided to return to Pastor Grove's basement to worship God. A diligent effort was begun to find a suitable building to purchase or site on which to build.

In 1985, the old Robert E. Lee Academy building was offered to the church for purchase, and the building was purchased. It was already outfitted with a sanctuary having been used for a time by Appomattox Baptist Temple. The building itself is very old and was used as a hospital in the Civil War.

Pastor Grove died in 1986, and Chaplain Bunny Gregory and Sister Blonnie Gregory of "Trucking for Jesus" ministry took over pastoring Bethel Bible Church.

Brother Bunny and Sister Blonnie have been greatly instrumental in presenting God's word to the people and Bethel Bible Church continues to prosper in the community.

# N B M

## New Beginnings Ministry

Greetings to you and God's blessings;

New Beginnings Ministry, of Appomattox, Virginia, was formed on March 16, 2000, under the headship of Redemption Ministries of Prince George, Virginia, of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

New Beginnings held its first service on March 19th, 2000, with pastor, Rev. Jerry A. Childress, presiding, and his wife, Susan, leading the praise and worship service. There were forty--seven people in attendance for that first service. The service was held on the second floor of a building, on Highway 460 East, above an automotive parts store, a craft store and an appliance store.

New Beginnings was formed to be a ministry (facility) that would and could reach all people that wanted to come to the knowledge of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. This ministry does not incorporate "religious traditions" of legalism that binds people, nor does it hold to a building as being the church, rather the people as being the church or better yet the ministry.

This ministry is taught from the Holy Bible, God's word. In the new testament of the Holy Bible, I CORINTHIANS, chapter 13, Paul the apostle tells us that LOVE for God and all mankind is the ministry that brings people to know God, which is called Christianity. The belief that Jesus Christ was God's Son and through Him we might be saved and given eternal life with God.

I pray when this is read many years from now, that the power of the Holy Spirit of God will be witness to this document. God's Blessings be upon our future generations.

Written this 4th day of April, the year 2000,

By: Susan M. Childress

## **Appomattox Seventh Day Adventist Church**

In 1949 a tent meeting was held in Appomattox and from that meeting the Seventh Day Adventist Church was organized.

The meetings were held in a rental building until the Church was built in the Fall of 1949.

The pastor's wife, Alice Weinbery, taught school in Appomattox for several years. The Church now has a School with grades K- through 8th grade.

Submitted by: Alice Cook

# LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH

1834 – 1999

The origin of Liberty Baptist Church can be traced to August 7, 1834, when eleven charter members (most from Rocks Baptist Church) met in a crude log cabin. Known as Liberty Meeting House, it was located on the George Abbitt plantation about a mile east of Appomattox north of the South Side Railroad (now the Norfolk Southern Railway). Rev. Thomas A. LeGrand from New Hope Baptist Church was the first pastor.

A second building was erected in 1855 near the intersection of Route 635 and 1003 (east of the present day Liberty Cemetery). This building was also used as a private school and even a hospital during the final days of the Civil War. Following the Battle of Appomattox Station on April 8, 1865, three Union soldiers were buried in the churchyard in coffins made from the shutters of the church building. After the War in November 1865, their remains were disinterred and removed to northern soil.

In 1866, thirty black members of Liberty left to form Galilee Baptist Church, which was the first black church in Appomattox County. This special relationship and the fellowship that we share with the wonderful pastor and members of Galilee Baptist Church bless us even today in 1999.

Liberty's third building was erected in 1888 at the present site of Liberty Cemetery on an acre of land purchased from William and Sarah Abbitt. Liberty Cemetery was established in 1896 and is still maintained today as the community cemetery by trustees elected by our church.

The site of our church today was purchased on December 14, 1897, from R. K. Purdum and his wife. Mr. Charles W. Hancock, whose portrait is in the sanctuary vestibule, paid for this land in gold. In 1898, the building at Liberty Cemetery was dismantled and reconstructed on the site of the home of Mr. C. T. Moses, Jr. next door (immediately south of today's church on Church Street). A steeple, baptistery, and three Sunday School classrooms were added, which made this our fourth church building.

In July 1915, Mr. Charles W. Hancock made a motion that a new building be erected and our present sanctuary building was completed free of debt on July 2, 1916. Educational additions were built in 1955 and again in 1968. In 1959, Liberty Lodge was built at Eagle Eyrie by J. E. Jamerson, Inc. at a cost of \$15,000. Today, with the Lord's blessing and the labors of our forefathers, the foundation of Liberty Baptist Church laid by those eleven charter members in 1834, has grown into a beautiful building with a membership of over 900 dedicated to serving the Lord.

*Submitted by G. Howard Gregory for Homecoming Sunday, October 3, 1999, with special appreciation to the late Mrs. Helene Welch Harvey and Mrs. Judy Conner for their efforts to preserve the history of Liberty Baptist Church.*

## Appomattox Pentecostal Holiness Church History

The 100 year old church was part of the Appomattox County Historical Society Christmas Homes Tour on December 12, 1999, and was decorated with live greenery and candles and chimes played during the tour.

Rev. Ray Archer invited the community to tour this beautiful old church which has served the community for a century.

The church located on Church Street in Appomattox was built by C. W. Hancock and son in 1899. Originally the building was the Appomattox Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church. This later became the Memorial Methodist Church.

During 1937 work began on remodeling the original one-room church and the addition of a church school annex. .

In 1960 the church was sold to the Pentecostal Holiness Conference for \$25,000. Some recent renovations include the installation of stained glass windows in the sanctuary and bell tower.

*A History Of St. Anne's Episcopal Church.  
A Light That Would Not Be Extinguished*

St. Anne's Episcopal Church is built on a foundation of peace, of forgiveness, and of reconciliation. Literally. When the church was moved to Appomattox in 1949 from its first home in Prince Edward, ten bricks from the original McLean House, where Generals Lee and Grant ended the Civil War, were placed in the cornerstone. Those bricks from that building where two warriors laid down their swords in 1865, while blooming dogwoods and daffodils painted hope on a ground scarred by war's long wintering, were tangible evidence of the chief cornerstone of this church. St. Anne's sees itself, in the words of the apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, "Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the Chief Cornerstone". Human hands that hammered nails into wood built a church, just as nails hammered into a wooden cross 2,000 years ago built the true foundation on which that church still rests: the risen Lord.

Nine years after the Civil War ended, construction of St. Anne's began amid the rolling hills, woods, and pasture land known then as Spring Creek in western Prince Edward. By 1874, the community was comprised of English immigrants who settled in the area a few years after the war ended the result of a concerted effort by the county to attract settlers. The English newcomers did all they could to transplant the feeling of their homeland and the look and feel of St. Anne's was central to that goal. In fact, after the service of consecration in 1875, a game of cricket was played.

A visit to the community by the Lord Bishop of Zanzibar, Dr. Tozer, had led to the organization of the church in 1874. Moved by the visible spirit of the people to construct a church building, Dr. Tozer left Prince Edward, traveling north up the East Coast, composing and then delivering a sermon written specifically to benefit the Episcopalians so eager to raise a roof of worship back in Virginia. The sermon generated \$1,000, a considerable sum in 1874, and Dr. Tozer was also able to secure donation of an organ for the as yet unbuilt church.

Thomas Homer, no "doubting Thomas", donated property for the church from his tract of land. The effort was so bundled with energy and belief that news of the undertaking crossed the Atlantic, reaching the ears of the Rev. G. Lloyd Nash, vicar of a church at Tolpuddle, England, ancestral home of one of Spring Creek's prominent citizens. Rev. Nash decided to follow the example of Dr. Tozer and he, too, preached a

special sermon. His words moved the people of Tolpuddle – from the manor lord to laboring shepherd – to come forward with something to give.

The construction of St. Anne's was a labor of love that gave birth to many acts of generosity. An English woman donated a marble baptismal font; another gave an altar cloth. Bishop F. W. Whittle of the Diocese of Virginia donated prayer books. Embroidered lectern covers were given, as were chancel chairs carved from Devonshire, England, oak. Henry Jacob, amateur wood carver and member of the congregation, handmade the seats, altar railing and reading desks. The seeds sown to create St. Anne's fell into rich and fertile soil, compassionate hearts, and the church grew from that planting.

It was Dr. Tozer who recommended the New York architect selected to complete plans for the church's design, which recreated the feeling of the immigrant's homeland in Great Britain. Sitting in the sanctuary for morning prayers, or gathered in the gloaming for evensong, the first congregation of St. Anne's didn't have to close its eyes to believe itself worshipping in their homeland.

An historical record of the consecration of the church describes the east window as "a really fine work of art". That is, of course, a reference to the petaled panes of glass which remain above the altar today, through which the changing seasons paint a never-ending stained glass window, green leaves turning yellow, red, orange and then brown before finally falling, giving way to the bare limbs of winter, and Christmas, before rekindling themselves with the green leaves of spring and Easter.

Construction had begun in August of <sup>1874</sup>~~1974~~ amid the stifling heat and humidity of summer, continued through the fall and winter without ceasing except in the case of exceptionally bad weather. In less than a year, the church was consecrated. On June 10, 1875, the ceremony of consecration was held, the church standing white and freshly painted amid the shady embrace of tall oaks. St. Anne's was dedicated to St. Anne, mother of the Virgin Mary, and in "affectionate remembrance of Mrs. Annie Wyles, the wife of Tracy Wyles, who died in April of <sup>1874</sup>~~1974~~."

Traveling westward into Piedmont, the Rt. Rev. John Johns, who was then Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, performed the consecration service. In his journal, Bishop Johns summed up in a few well chosen words the flowering of faith and the quaint Old World vase in which it now had a home: "...A few English families settled in the vicinity, aided by generous friends at home, and others in New York...have erected this appropriate house of worship and dedicated it to the service of Almighty God."

The spiritual fire at St. Anne's burned bright but briefly, flickering in a community surrounded by other denominations. The effort to recreate their English homeland ultimately lost its energy, a strenuous dash, a burst of energy, enough to turn strangers in a strange land into friends and neighbors. Enough – because the Lord moves in mysterious ways – to prepare the way, to raise the valleys and lower the hills, for another group of Episcopalians living 25 miles away in another county and in another century to finally find a home for their faith.

After the original members of St. Anne's drifted away, the church fell into disuse. But it did not fall beyond recalling because subsequent history proved God had another use for St. Anne's, leading one to wonder of Appomattox hadn't really been the ultimate object of God's plan for those acts of energetic generosity in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Though the flame flickered at St. Anne's, it never went out. Occasional services were held, and then in 1949 the building was declared the property of the Diocese of Southern Virginia. Ironically, at precisely that same moment a small group of Episcopalians in Appomattox were arriving at a moment of truth – a figurative "crossroads." These Christians decided they needed a building, a church, just as the community of Spring Creek had concluded more than 75 years ago.

The group of Appomattox Episcopalians had been gathering for worship as St. Andrews's mission and meeting in the Appomattox Presbyterian Church. But they would be offered a new home. A place of their own. The empty, waiting St. Anne's, sitting at the edge of the woods on the side of a road 25 miles away. If faith can move mountain, faith could move a church. And that's what faith did.

Arch Deacon Norman Taylor was instrumental in negotiating with the diocese to give the Appomattox Episcopalians an offer they couldn't refuse, though accepting the offer provided an interesting challenge. It was met. St. Anne's would once again feel the touch of human hands joined in prayer, elbows leaning on the altar rail as hands cupped the bread and tipped the cup of wine forward toward waiting lips at communion. Its wooden beams and ceiling would reverberate once more with human voices lifted in song and the words of lay readers and ministers announcing the word of God and offering reflections on those treasured syllables.

Under the direction of Hubert A. Gurney, then-superintendent at Appomattox Courthouse National Historic Park and warden of St. Anne's, the building was dismantled, taken apart with the same careful attention that had seen it assembled in 1874. The pieces were then moved the 25 miles between Spring Creek, which had become known as Five Forks, to a lot on Oakleigh Avenue in the town of Appomattox. And the pieces were carefully re-assembled on top of those bricks from the McLean House, but with Christ as the Chief Cornerstone.

Fittingly, St. Anne's was re-consecrated on a spring day, the world looking much the way it had back in 1865 when Lee and Grant ended a war. With the world becoming reborn in the splash of color and the warming of days, the Rt. Rev. George P. Gunn spoke words that resonated in the hearts of those listening on April 28, 1950.

The only visible remains of St. Anne's in Prince Edward would be a simple marker standing at the original site of the church and its cemetery. Those words do not do justice to those who worked for St. Anne's construction in 1874-75, nor those who would de-construct and then re-assemble the church 25 miles away to the west. It reads, "Site of St. Anne's Episcopal Church—Erected 1874—Moved to Appomattox, Virginia, 1949."

But those who moved the church did do it justice. A relatively small but very devoted group of Christians, who seemed to inherit the fervor of those who originally raised the church from the ground, kept the church together. Gave it life. With the breath of their own belief they blew the flicker of the flame into a fire, a lamp that could not be hidden but shone as if on a hill, that attracted more and more fellow believers.

As the congregation grew so did the church's facilities. A trailer behind the church housed Sunday School and other support activities. Then the trailer disappeared and a significant addition to the church building appeared in its place. Named after Bishop David S. Rose, Rose Hall opened in 1976 and answered many needs of the growing church family. Separate Sunday School rooms, nursery, office, kitchen, and large meeting room more realistically provided for the Christians who worshipped at St. Anne's.

The St. Anne's Church family began to grow and grow and in 1985 the pioneering spirit which saw the church built during the previous century surfaced again. The congregation of St. Anne's chose the bold step of abandoning its mission status. It became a parish, a cure-parish with Emmanuel, its sister-church in Buckingham County. Becoming a parish required a greater commitment from the congregation, but that commitment was embraced, so much so that in 1990 St Anne's split – amicably – from Emmanuel and became an independent parish.

As St. Anne's begins a new millennium in the year 2000, it embraces this mission: "To show unconditional regard for the needs of this Parish; to strive to bring friendship and understanding to all church members; to always exercise 'the art of listening!' With Jesus at our center, we act in His name, reach out to the world, and proclaim the love of Christ."

That mission has been translated into these goals:

- To provide an atmosphere of spirituality and friendship.
- To continue outreach and achieve leadership in community outreach.
- To build a viable youth program.
- To increase communication among members.
- To continue to grow numerically so that we maintain our independent parish status.

The mission and goals are firmly built on the Chief Cornerstone of the Church: Jesus Christ. Our true foundation.

*We wish to express our appreciation to Ken Woodley for writing St. Anne's History for this Anniversary Celebration.*

BISHOPS SERVING ST. ANNE'S  
(1950 TO DATE)

Bishop George Gunn, 1950 – 1971  
Bishop David Rose, 1971 – 1978  
Bishop Charles Vache, 1978-1991  
Bishop Frank Vest, 1991 – 1997  
Bishop O'Kelley Whitaker (Assistant Bishop), 1992-1997  
Bishop David Bane, 1997 –  
Bishop Donald P. Hart (Assistant Bishop), 1999 –

CLERGY SERVING ST. ANNE'S  
(1950 TO DATE)

Rev. Norman Taylor (Arch Deacon), 1950  
Dr. John M. Gessell (Deacon in Charge), 1950  
Rev. Herbert Tucker, 1951-1952  
Rev. Robert Withers, 1952-1964 (Full-time, then Supply)  
Rev. Charles W. Norflect, Jr., 1955-1957  
Rev. Peter C. Fulghum, 1959  
Rev. Jack D. Adams, 1964-1967  
Rev. William Latta, 1967-1972  
Rev. G. Moray Peoples, Jr., 1972-1975  
Rev. J. Harmon Smith, 1976-1989  
Rev. Theodore H. Bailey, III, 1990-1991  
Rev. Edward S. Bushong, Jr., 1991-1995  
Rev. William E. Blottner, 1995-1996  
Rev. Michael B. Ferguson, 1996 –

### History of First Baptist Church

First Baptist Church of West Appomattox is the official church name as recorded by deed in the Appomattox Courthouse.

The original church body was organized in 1896, and founded in 1900 during the pastorate of the late Rev. James A. Carter, aided by deacons Thomas Coleman, Isham Christian, Frank Green and Lindsey Statham.

Former pastors are Rev. P L. Price, 11 years, Rev. Dupree, 7 years, Rev. Washington, 15 years, Rev. Nunn, Rev. N. R. Jordan, 14 years, Rev. Ardis Appling, Rev. Marshall and Rev. Davis. *James H. Johnson is our present Pastor*

The faithful deacons who have served are the late Douglas Watkins, Charlie Coleman, Tom Tibbs, Eara Hamlet, Johnnie Green, De Patterson, Tom Davis, Julian Hamlet and Solomon McCoy.

During the entire period of growth and development there has been loyal support from the various organizations and the Sunday School. All have done their share in financial drives and in the moral support of the church.

The Ladies' Aide, Men's Club, Deacon Board, Deaconess Club, Cherub Choir, Choral Group and Senior Choir are the original organizations.

At one period in our history the Sunday School had between 40 and 50 active members.

The women of the church have always assumed a leading role in its development. In the annuals of the church are such names as Mesdames Annie Vara Johnson, Evy Coleman, Jeannetta Watkins, Marcella Hamlett, Bertha Watkins, Sara Green, Lucy Tibbs, Lizzie Patterson, Mariah Davis, Irene Wright, Dora Dillard, Ella Brown, Teresa Hamlet,

Deshie Dillard and Rona Stevens.

The church has had many persons who have helped with the music: Mesdames Olivia Johnson, Gladys McCoy, Marie Hanley, B. V. L. Barksdale, Harriet James, Gwen Allen, T. Lawing and Bro. E. Goode. Junior choir organists have been Beatrice James, Gilbert James, Jr., and Vivian Barksdale.

The church is proud of being first in some things, as in the installation of electric lights, running water, first piano and first organized choir in Appomattox.

Church beautification and landscaping was done by the late County Agent, G. L. James.

Our church membership has fluctuated with the times, and we have been great in numbers and spirit and few in numbers but never in Spirit.

The years have taken their toll in members but those of us who remain will continue with God's help, keep the doors of First Baptist open, until the last trumpet sound.

May God bless the present supporters of this church. We are descendants from the founders: the Dillards, Wrights, Browns, Prestons, Watsons, McCoys, Hunter, Matthews, James, Tibbs, Stevens, Goodes, Pennix, Davis, Kelso, Watkins, Cashwell, Moore families and all are friends and supporters.

Excerpts from a black writer, Margaret Walker, expresses best the thoughts I would like to convey:

"For my people, blundering and floundering in the dark of churches and schools, clubs and societies, associations and councils, committees and conventions, distressed and

disturbed, deceived and devoured by money-hungry, glory-craving leeches...

Let a new earth rise! Let another world be born. Let a peace be written in the sky. Let a new generation, full of courage issue forth;.... Let a beauty full of healing and a strength of final clenching be the pulsing in our spirits and our blood. Let the songs of praise be given; Let the complaining disappear.

Let the now members continue to keep the doors of First Baptist open. We will continue with God's help and guidance."

words: 556

submitted by: Dora W. Turner  
Rt 1 Box 579  
Spout Spring, Va. 24593

APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Founded at the surrender grounds 1867  
Was Used As Public School

The Appomattox Court House Presbyterian Church was organized during the spring of 1867, at what is now know as Old Appomattox Court House, by the Rev. George W. Leyburn of Lexington, Virginia.

Rev. Leyburn came to Appomattox from Greece, where he had been stationed as a missionary for a number of years and after serving as Home Missionary to soldiers during the Civil War. At that time, there were no churches at the Court House, but he, through the help of Captain John, Major J. W. Flood, Mrs. H. C. Sackett, and the Raglands of this place, was successful in getting the Presbyterians throughout the county to cooperate in the organizing of this church.

At this time, just two years after the surrender of General Lee to General Grant, there were no "free" schools in the county, so this church was used as a school. The school was taught by the Rev. and Mrs. Leyburn and their daughter, Liza.

The Rev. Leyburn, after preaching and teaching here a number of years, returned to Greece with his family to do Missionary work and there died.

With the burning of the Court House in 1892, and the rebuilding of it here, the church's membership became scattered. The Rev. E. M. Craig was called to Appomattox at that time, and under his supervision the Evergreen and Pamplin churches were organized. The remaining membership of the Court House Church was moved to [West] Appomattox. Their Sunday school and services being held in the new courthouse (where the congregation shared space with the Methodists) and continued until the new church was built in 1901. The church building at the Old Courthouse was sold to the Evergreen Presbyterians, and there moved in 1894.

The Presbyterians continued their worshipping in the courthouse until the year 1901, when under the supervision of C. W. Hunter, F. W. McKinney, Mrs. Mary Paris

Smith, wife of the late T. A. Smith, and Mrs. Lena Jones Smith, wife of L. E. Smith, the present church was built. The building was built by Mr. W. M. Hancock.

The dedicatory sermon of the present church was preached on June 9, 1901, by the late Dr. Petrie, of Charlottesville. His text was taken from Jeremiah, 51<sup>st</sup> Chapter, and 50<sup>th</sup> verse: "Let Jerusalem come into your mind." Those joining the church on that day were Hal D. Flood, Minnie Foster, and Lucy and Emma Smith.

In 1924 the Rev. Robert Eugene Redding came to Appomattox. During his ministry (and prior to 1952) a Sunday School room was constructed on the east side of the sanctuary. Several other additions and renovations have taken place over the years which have resulted in the beautiful and spacious facility that still occupies the original site on Oakley Ave.

At various times in its history the Appomattox Court House Church has been yoked with Union, Stonewall, Hixburg and Evergreen Presbyterian Churches in different combinations. Currently the church is not yoked with any other church. the current pastor, The Rev. Reuel Lanphier Howe, Jr. was called to Appomattox in February, 1998.



THE REV. TOM COGLE reads part of his dedication sermon to members of the Appomattox Assembly of God congregation.

## *Local church buys property for growth*

The Appomattox Assembly of God held a dedication ceremony on their new church property Friday and is planning a new church building in the very near future.

The new property is located on Confederate Blvd. (460) in the center of town, just two houses from the "Depot" general store.

Pastor Tom Cogle says church members have been praying for property for nearly two years now and had chosen several pieces before now, but for one reason or another, things did not come together and it was not until this property came on the market that things worked out for the purchase.

Cogle comments, "God knows what He is doing. Many times when we want things and do not understand why a certain objective should not work out, God knows the future and He works all things for the good of those that love the Lord."

Appomattox Assembly of God started here in town in September of 1984 with the Pastor running an ad in the local paper and having 15 the first Sunday morning. Since then the congregation has grown to more than

50!

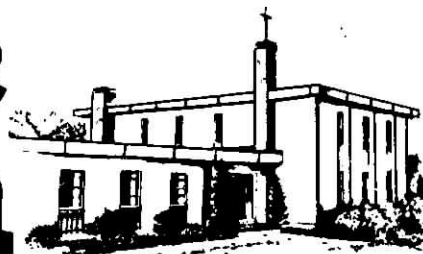
The church has been renting the building over Appomattox Radio and T.V. for the past three years, but is fast outgrowing that facility. Pastor Cogle remarks that "The owner, Steve Pool, has been more than gracious in working with them to provide a temporary place of worship."

The church is looking at the possibility of a metal building seating 200 to be built on the new property. It would have classroom space, nursery, several offices, and a fellowship hall. If things work well, construction should begin this October.

The Assemblies of God is the largest of all the Pentecostal denominations and the fastest growing denomination of any in the United States. They contribute their growth to their open worship services and the friendly atmosphere and allowing the Holy Spirit to have His free way in the services.

Cogle adds, "People come to a church where they get their needs met and can sense God in a real way in their midst."

# The Potomac Bulletin

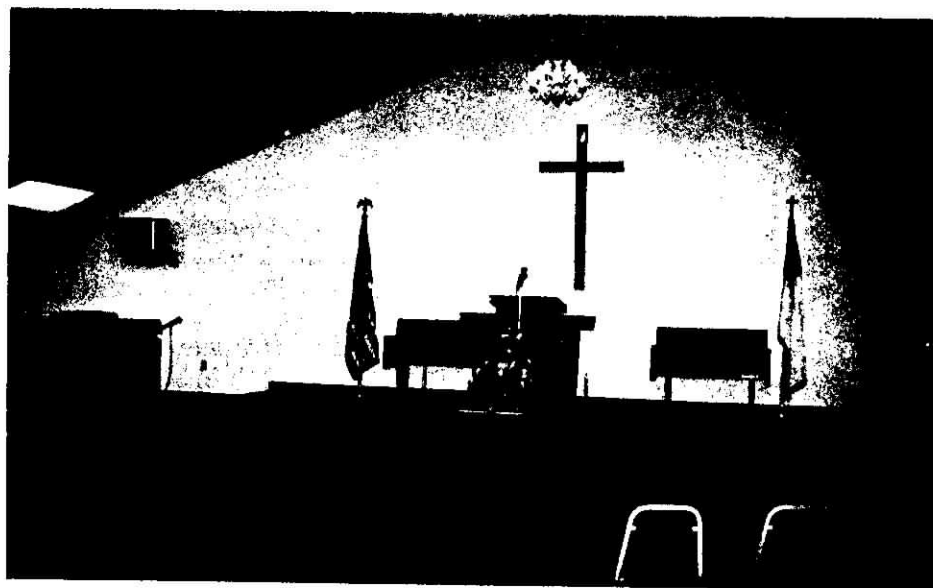


April 1988

Post Office Box 518, Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Number 4

VOLUME XLVIII



**Appomattox Assembly of God  
Appomattox, Virginia**

**Tom Cogle, Pastor**

**New Home Missions Church—Dedicated April 3, 1988  
(See details—page 3)**



**FROM  
THE DESK OF  
THE SECRETARY**

*T. Burton Pierce*

**Personal Integrity**

Do the press and the public and the people in the pews have the right to expect that the minister remain the same godly person he appears to be in the pulpit when he steps from the glare of the spotlight into the welcomed haven of his private life? Absolutely. All Christians, and especially anointed leaders, are to be candles set on tall candlesticks and to be polished mirrors designed to reflect His image without cloud or distortion—twenty-four hours each day.

It needs to be noted that only a tiny fraction of our ministers ever have to face any kind of disciplinary action for conduct unbecoming to a minister. Among those who have submitted to the prescribed discipline of the church, not one has been unable to be restored in due time. Yet, unfortunately, when a widely-known minister fails, the tendency among the onlookers is to conclude that all those who preach the gospel are to be looked upon with cynicism, if not suspicion. It is time for the church to humbly but confidently lift her voice with the proclamation that the grace of God is more than sufficient to keep the servant of God pure as it is sufficient to make him pure in the first place.

Now it is true that Jesus detested hypocrisy and exposed it at every opportunity. It is a fact that the church has been damaged by it far more than by the Herods and the Neros and the combined enemies of ages past. Yet God offers the same unfailing antidote for this most flagrant of sins as for any other: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

There is one sure way to avoid the shame of exposed hypocrisy in this life or the eternal loss from exposure in the judgment. We must at all costs maintain an open and upright posture before our families, the church, the world and, above all, before God. After all, it is He who so loves us that He freely has given His Son to be our Redeemer and His Spirit to be our Sanctifier.

**Presbyters Meet This Month**

On April 19 and 20 the Board of Presbyters will have their spring meeting in Fairfax, VA. It is at this session each year that candidates for ordination are interviewed.

The June 7 and 8 meeting of the Board is planned for Potomac Park Camp this year. Bible college graduates are given the opportunity to apply for license to preach at the June meeting. All candidates for cre-

denentials are reminded that the application form must be completed and sent to the district office by at least 2 months prior to the Credentials Committee meeting at which they will be interviewed.

**Appomattox Dedication on Easter**



*Pastor and Mrs. Tom Cogle*

The new Appomattox Assembly of God was completed and held its dedication service on Easter Sunday, April 3, with District Superintendent Howard V. Spruill bringing the dedication message.

Pastor Tom Cogle states that since the inception of the church in September, 1984, the Lord's blessing has rested on the development of the work. The group was able to purchase property on the main road through the town, resulting in their church being the only one in Appomattox so located. The land was purchased in July, 1987, and the construction of the building was begun in October. The men of the church, assisted by volunteer workers from across the District, did the interior work, beginning in mid-November and finishing up by mid-January, 1988.

The sanctuary seats 175. There are two offices, restrooms, and four large Sunday school rooms. The church and property have been appraised at \$175,000 although the actual cost was only \$120,000 as the result of donated labor. The project was financed by a local bank and by a District Revolving Fund loan. Pastor Cogle and the congregation would like to share the joy of the dedication of their church with their friends throughout the District.

**Ashley Nicole Makes Debut**

A beautiful baby girl named Ashley Nicole came to live with Brian and Vicci Gillespie on November 23, 1987. She weighed eight pounds and measured twenty-one inches in length. Her father, Rev. Gillespie, serves as associate pastor of the Calvary Assembly of God, Walkersville, MD

**Minister, Minister's Widow Pass Away**

Harrison H. Sembower, licensed, went to be with the Lord at age 80 on February 26. He had served as pastor in several churches, including the Cabin John assembly and had assisted with the pastorates at Vienna, VA, Gaithersburg, MD, and Rockville, MD. He is survived by his wife, Pearl; a son; a daughter; and three grandchildren.

Mary C. Ogden, wife of the late Albert L. Ogden, one of our ministers, passed away on February 27 at age 80. She is survived by a son and a daughter as well as by a sister, Mrs. Margerie Boyce, licensed minister of the Potomac District.

**Potomac Students Receive Awards**



*Gina Kesner*



*Cynthia Seekford*

The two lady students pictured above recently received identical scholarships at Valley Forge Christian College in Phoenixville, PA. Each was awarded the \$750.00 Professor's Scholarship as a full-time, first year student who ranked in the top 20% of her high school graduating class. Gina attends Romney Assembly of God (WV) where Rev. Delbert Miller is pastor, and Cynthia attends Hilliard Chapel Assembly of God (Stanley, VA) where Rev. Henry H. Jenkins is pastor.

**Church Position Open**

Calvary Assembly of God, Hampton, VA, has a position open for a part-time choir director. If interested please call Pastor Robert Newman—804-851-3030.

**Choir Robes Needed**

The Valley Assembly of God would like to purchase choir robes from any of our churches that might have some available. Please contact the church at this address: Reverend J. E. Messick, pastor, P.O. Box 142, Middletown, VA 22645.

Oppomana Rosemary 500

started in Sept 1984 over Appendix Radio & TV.

The pastor was Tom Cogle was there for 3 years. Pastor put ad in paper had 15 people the first Sunday grew to 50 people they started praying for a new building.

Pastor Cogle said "people come to a church when they get their needs met and can sense God in a real real way in their midst". (quote)

They had their dedication service on Easter Sunday April 3 the land was bought in July 1987 the construction started in Oct 1987 the men and workers from across the District did the interior work beginning in Nov. and finish in Jan 1988.

The church sanctuary seats 175 people. The church and property appraised at 175,000.00 It has 2 bathrooms, 3 offices, Fellowship Hall, Nursery, 4 Sunday school rooms.

Pastor Cogle was pastor for 4 years.

Pastor Michael & Leni Lamm became the new pastor they had 2 children.

Under pastor Lamm direction the church membership grew so he had had add on the church in 1998.

Under his direction we bought pews, put down new Carpet in Sal Sanctuary, new tile in kitchen.

The pastor and his wife left in 1998.

The new pastor came from Danville, VA. His name is Black.

Pastor Black finished the new addition and he remains with the church today. His wife is a teacher at Rutledge School.

With Pastor Black and God the church was

(on - ... - about)