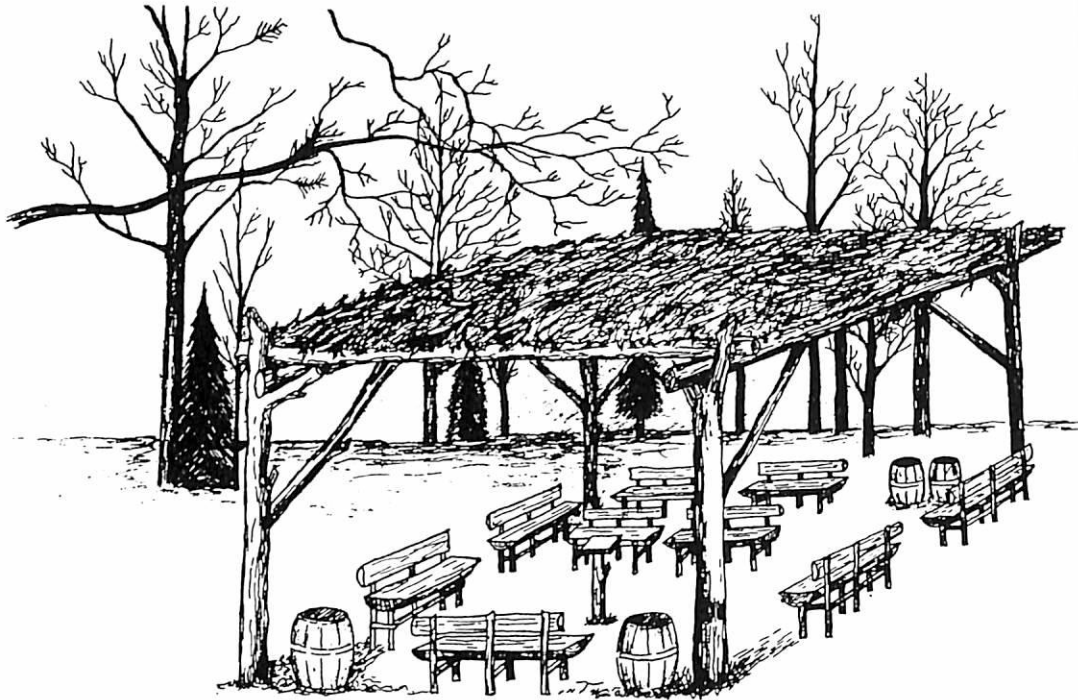


Five Churches - Two Hundred Years



The First Church
-1790-

HOUSES OF WORSHIP Five Buildings - Two Hundred Years

A new nation was being born in the United States of America as the American colonies cut the ties with England, far across the wind-swept waters of the Atlantic. These were trying and difficult days for there was no central government, no White House or written Constitution, and the weary George Washington, the War General; has returned to Mount Vernon after a long absence from his estate. It will be two years before he will become the first President of the United States.

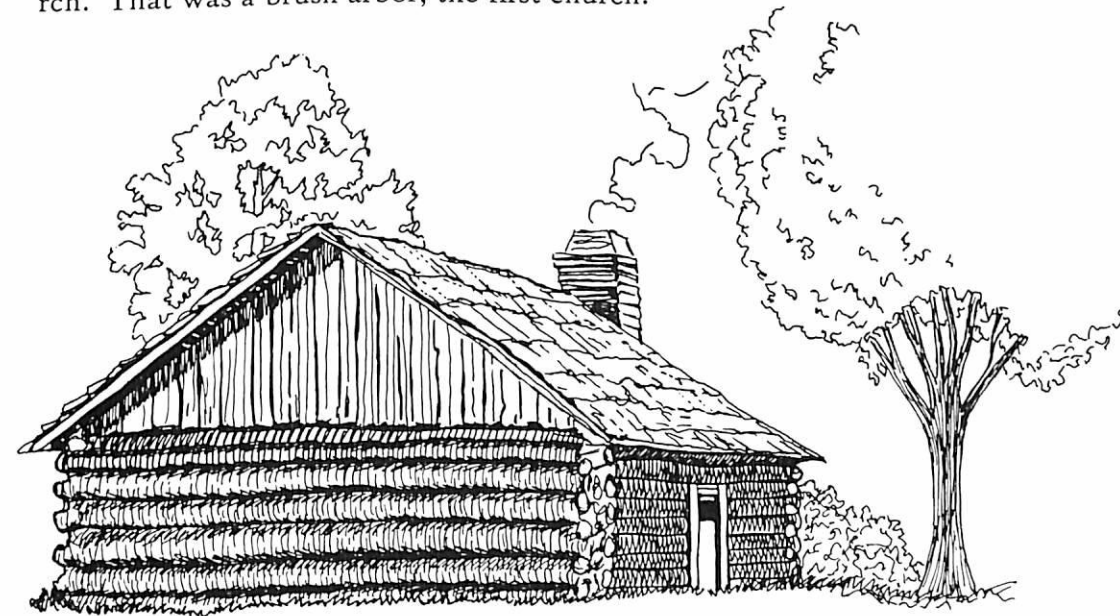
The First Church Built in the 1790's -

A new community was being born in York County in this year of 1797, as Scotch-Irish settlers move from Virginia, Pennsylvania and from the coast to build homes, raise food crops and build churches and schools. These early settlers may have mixed and diverse political views, but united they were to worship in unity and peace, giving honor to no earthly king, but to the King Supreme, Creator and Lord. Their log homes must be built, and also a rude, brush arbor under the tall, oak trees and there the twenty-eight members gathered to worship and praise.

"This seems to be the perfect place for our Meeting House," said the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians near the little village of Lesslie. "Look," said one man "Here is a big grove of trees, pine and oak at the top of the hill, a stream below the hill, and a deep spring in the woods."

"This looks good to me and I can help build a brush arbor for our meetings. We will need protection from the sun, wind and rain," offered another.

So the farmers brought their families here to sing, worship and pray in the first church of Neely's Creek Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. That was a brush arbor, the first church.



The Second Church
The Second Church 1790's - 1832

The Second Church
1790's - 1832

When the cold winds blew and rains descended on their brush arbor, rightly called a church, the people determined to build a larger and better house of worship. Abundant trees were all around and they knew how to prepare logs, notch corners, and make rude benches of split logs. This rectangular log church was in the middle of what is now the cemetery. There was probably no heat, and small childrens' feet would not touch the hand packed dirt floor. But — they came on horseback, wagons, buggies or walking through the woods, and the increase in membership of Neely's Creek Church created the need for a larger building. This church was used until 1832.



The Third Church
1832 - 1907

This third church was a sturdy white frame building with hand stones as a foundation. Their Session house was a separate building near the center of the cemetery. The Fire of is said to have destroyed the log church and scorched the new building then under construction. Each family carried leather bound copies of the Psalms, the women sat on the right, men on the left, and a section in the rear of the church was reserved for the blacks, for twenty or more slaves were members of the church.

The stones from the foundation of the church now mark the spot where the pulpit stood but unfortunately there is no inscription on the marker. The Session House was in the middle of the cemetery.

The church was enlarged in 1860 —1861 by adding 20 feet. In this church pews were around the sides, a partition in center separating men and women, and more pews in the center of the church with aisles between pews.

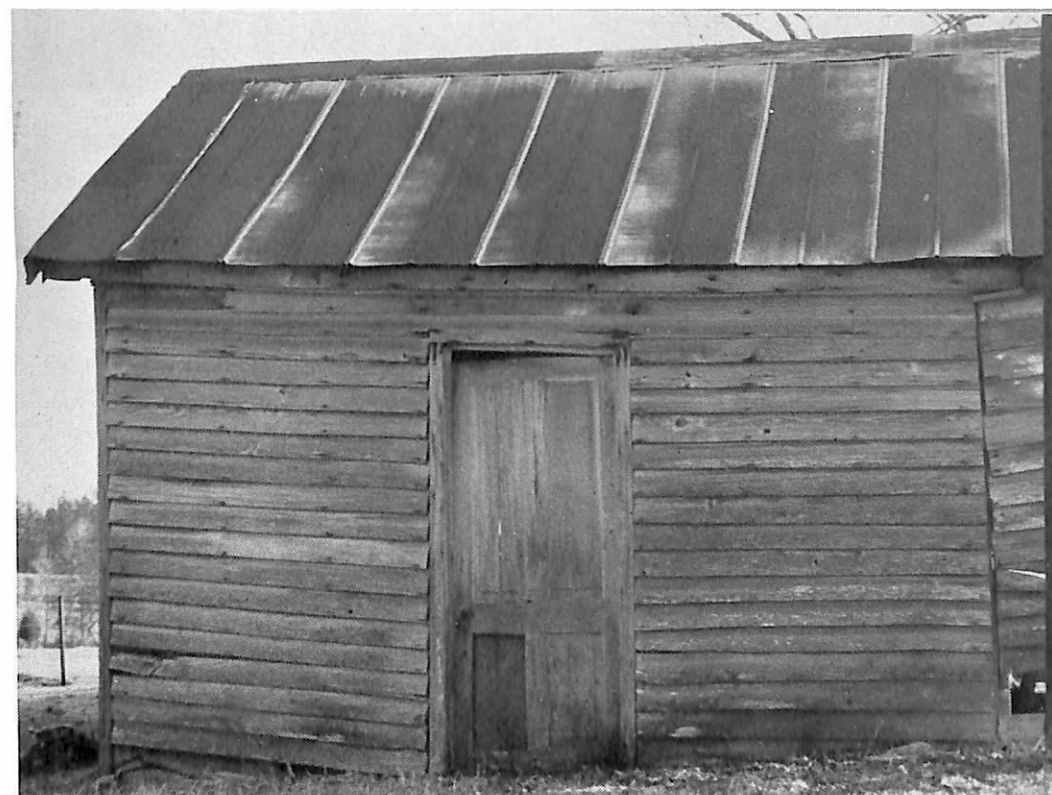
A congregation of 196 was worshipping in this building in 1893, and at least three ministers must have preached in this building:

Rev. C. B. Betts - 1871-1889

Rev. D. G. Caldwell - 1892-1894

Rev. Oliver Johnson - 1894-1906

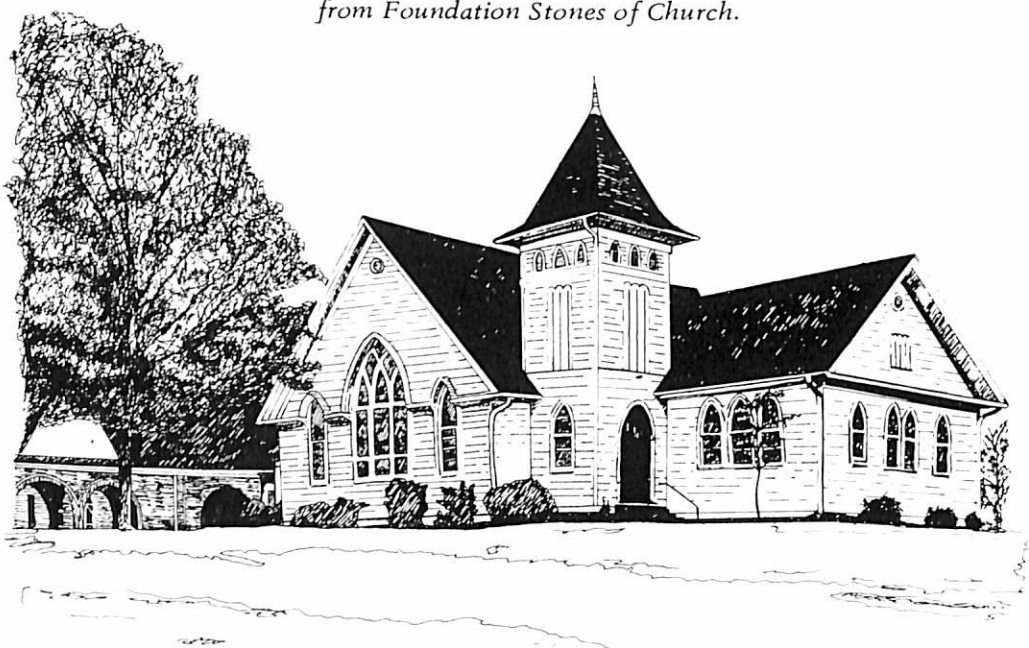
At this time the pastor's salary was \$800, Foreign missions \$82, Church extension \$22, budget \$126 - total all money \$1,547.



Old Session House



*Location of Pulpit – Built
from Foundation Stones of Church.*



*The Fourth Church
1907 - 1973*

The fourth church is well known and remembered by many people of Neely's Creek.

Mr. Robert Gettys wrote, "In the early nineties, people began to talk of a new church, but cotton was their sole money crop, ten cents per pound, and 1901, there was a complete failure. The young pastor, Reverend Oliver Johnson, must have been discouraged but he never gave up. The next four years were favorable and the project was launched in 1906."

Session minutes give the plans for this church:

June 25, 1905

"A meeting of the Neely's Creek congregation was held on June 25, 1905, with Reverend Oliver Johnson as chairman. The business before the congregation was to take some steps toward erecting a new church. The following building committee was appointed: W. S. Boyd, T. M. Allen, and J.F. Ferguson, elders; W.T. Anderson, D.P. Lesslie, Sep Massey and private members. It was decided to add the names of Reverend Oliver Johnson and Captain W.L. Roddey to this committee".

August 29, 1900

"A meeting of the congregation called for the purpose to decide where to locate the new church. Reverend Oliver Johnson was elected chairman and J.R. Gettys, secretary. Psalm 133 was sung, then prayer by Reverend Johnson. A motion was made by Captain Roddey that the new church be built on the hill near the Columbia road. This motion was unanimously adopted".

Thomas Faulkner Lesslie was in charge of the construction of this building, taking over when the original contractor was unable to fulfill his commitment. Among those who also worked on the building were W.S. Boyd, David Franklin Lesslie and W.T. McCullough.

The Yorkville Enquirer, May 3, 1908, gives the following information about the dedication of the church:

"The handsome structure was dedicated to the Lord's service.

"Reverend Oliver Johnson gave some of the history, past and present of the church, the fourth one erected at this place. He complimented the congregation on their liberality, and made mention that no hot suppers, festivals, etc. had been indulged in, in order to get up the money - that it had been a free-will offering. He especially complimented Mr. N. B. Williams for taking a very active part in raising funds. A debt of \$125.00 was due on this building, but was freely given before the meeting was over.

"Reverend D. D. Moffatt, President of Erskine College in a most eloquent and impressive manner preached the dedicatory sermon, using the text "But Christ is All."

"Neely's Creek is a very handsome frame structure costing about \$7500. The woodwork of the interior is dark oak, with white pine for the ceiling. There are two very pretty memorial windows dedicated to the memory of Thomas and Nancy Wylie, and John and M. G. Roddy.

"Reverend Oliver Johnson gave some of the history, past and present of the church, the fourth one erected at this place. He complimented the congregation on their liberality, and made mention that no hot suppers, festivals, etc. had been indulged in, in order to get up the money-that it had been a free-will offering. He especially complimented Mr. N. B. Williams for taking a very active part in raising funds. A debt of \$125.00 was due on this building, but was freely given before the meeting was over.

A place of worship, the Fourth Church was very elegant and beautiful for that day and time. The cathedral stained glass windows, steeple carved pulpit and chairs and special choir loft made a worshipful setting for crowds of people. Each family had a favorite designated hitching post, using a piece of metal or a horseshoe embedded in the tree over which the reins could be looped. Some fathers stopped at the front door. to unload but many drove to their special tree. Much beloved ladies, Misses Minnie, Mattie and Maggie Walker came in a small surrey with Miss Mattie as the driver. Then, they came into the church in their long skirts, high button shoes and greeting for all. The horses knew exactly where to go and how to wait patiently for the "more than an hour" long sermon. Also, these horses carried many people to Hopewell Church for the afternoon service.

A sad accident occurred on Saturday, August 3, 1907 when Mr. J. T. Ferguson's horse became frightened and ran away causing the injury and later death of Mr. Ferguson. The funeral was conducted by Dr. Oliver Johnson on Sabbath, August 4th, the first funeral held in the new church.

The negro members of Neely's Creek sat in a small section of the church that was carefully paneled off, their voices must have added to the beauty of the singing as the tunes were started by the tuning fork. Those negroes first attended as slaves and later as free men and women. Negroes from the plantations of Thomas Wylie, Squire John Roddey, Ebenezer Gettys, Thomas Boyd, Thomas Spencer, D. T. Lesslie, and others often

sat in the right rear section of the church. On one occasion (August 1891), so I have heard, Dr. W. W. Orr led a protracted meeting here and at one service used for a text, "I know that my Redeemer liveth." He was unusually eloquent that night and repeated the text frequently for emphasis. But soon this was no longer necessary, for the negro section began chanting the text with perfect rhythm. An especially enthusiastic colored sister began shouting "Hallelujah! I know my Redeemer liveth!" After a bit of this one of the elders moved down the aisle and very kindly and tactfully suggested that the shouting sister take a stroll under the pine trees for a breath of fresh air.



Choir In Old Church

1. Mason Boyd, organist, Mary Frances Love, Rebecca Faris, Andrea Grem, Bertha Walker, Delores Peebles, Martha Williams, Lynn Leslie, Annie Fudge, Leon Craven, Director
2. Jerry Auten, Rudy Orr, Joe Faris, Mary Ella Fudge, Martha Wylie Fudge, Martin Leslie, David Leslie, George Schwab
3. Marie Roach, Ruth Leslie, Nancy Orr, Ethel Craven

Ministers and Missionaries from Neely's Creek Church

Thomas Wylie Hayes
April 4, 1867 - December 12, 1913

Thomas Wylie Hayes was born in the Neely's Creek Community, the son of William Riley Hayes and Eleanor Whiteside Hayes. He attended the community schools and then attended the Huntersville High School and from there he went to Erskine College graduating from that institution in 1895. He took a course of study in Moody Bible School and after further study in Erskine Seminary was ordained. He was appointed by the Board of Home Missions to supply Corsicana, Texas and he served that church for sixteen months. He then served Chicota, Texas for eight years and then went to Spartanburg, South Carolina. After two years in this pastorate, his health began to fail and on the advice of a physician, he sought dryer climate. For a time he preached in the United Presbyterian Church in Blair, Oklahoma and then he served in the Roswell Presbyterian Church in New Mexico for a time. His health continued to fail and he was forced to give up his work entirely. After five years spent in regaining health, he was preparing to resume his work at Roswell, New Mexico, when he was stricken with pneumonia and died on December 12, 1913. He is buried in the Roswell Cemetery, New Mexico.

JAMES LEROY OATES
April 8, 1873 - April 2, 1943

James Leroy Oates was born in Gaston County, North Carolina. At the age of seven, with his parents, James Blackwood Oates and Nancy White Oates he moved to Neely's Creek community where the family attended

Neely's Creek Church. James Leroy graduated from Rock Hill High School and from Erskine College in 1896. After finishing his course in Erskine Seminary he was ordained in June, 1897. For three months he served at Bartow, Florida, leaving there to accept the pastorate of Unity and Gills Creek in Lancaster County, where he served until 1900. From March, 1900 until July, 1909, he was pastor of the Hickory Grove and Smyrna churches and left this field to accept a call to York, S. C. After 13 years in York he accepted a call to the Centennial Church in Columbia, S. C. where he served for six years. His last pastorate was back at Bartow and he was pastor there at the time of his death on April 2, 1943.

Besides preaching and pastoral work, he served in many other capacities. He was Camp Pastor at Camp Jackson during World War II. He also served as Superintendent of York City Schools and as Principal of the High School, filling out unexpired terms of other men. He was Secretary of the Draft Board in York during World War I, which enabled him to have personal contact with all soldiers leaving from that area.

The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by Erskine College in 1922, and he served as Moderator of the Synod in 1931. While still a young man he was a delegate to the World-wide Y.M.C.A. Conference.

On January 19, 1898, he was married to Miss Lee Crockett and to Dr. and Mrs. Oates were born four daughters.

WILLIAM TAYLOR SIMPSON
June 16, 1896 - May 5, 1947

William Taylor Simpson, a son of Neely's Creek, was born to Joseph Wylie and Eliza Lesslie Simpson. At the age of twelve, he was received into the church on profession of faith during the ministry of Dr. Johnson. After attending the local schools, he entered Erskine College and graduated in 1917. Since early childhood he had felt the call to the ministry and on completion of his college course he entered Erskine Seminary.

He was ordained in August, 1919. Having supplied for some time the churches of Hopewell and Fairview in Georgia, after his ordination he became pastor of these churches. In 1920, he accepted a call to the pastorate of the Hopewell and Head Springs churches in Tennessee and con-



tinued there until 1926. From 1926 to 1929, he was pastor at White Oak, Georgia. In 1930, he became pastor of the Huntersville and Gilead churches in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina and was the pastor of these churches until illness forced him to give up the work. He moved to Rock Hill, S. C., where he lived until his death on May 5, 1947. He is buried at Neely's Creek.

Mr. Simpson served a number of terms on the Board of Home Missions and served his denomination in a number of other responsible positions.

On December 22, 1920, he was married to Miss Easter Bell Hooten. To them were born three children, one of whom, Miss Rebecca Simpson, is a member of Neely's Creek at the present time.

John Nathaniel Lesslie
September 4, 1883 - May 18, 1950

John Nathaniel Lesslie, son of David Franklin and Ida Victoria Lesslie of the Neely's Creek community was born September 4, 1883. He attended the community school and graduated from Erskine College in 1910. He taught school for one year at Eastover, S. C. Feeling that he was called to preach, he entered Erskine Seminary in 1911 and graduated from the seminary in 1913. "Than" as he was affectionately known served the following churches until his retirement from the active ministry in 1949: Prosperity,



Tennessee; Monticello, Arkansas; Bartow, Florida; Elk Valley, Tennessee; and Salisbury, N. C.

In two cases he was instrumental in the building of new churches, at Bartow and at Salisbury, N. C.

Rev. Lesslie died May 18, 1950 at his home in Salisbury and is buried in Chestnut Hill Cemetery there.

He was twice married — first to Lesslie Elizabeth Simpson and after her death, to Ruth Sloan Sheffield. Of the four children only two are living at this time: Esther Lesslie Fisher and Dr. T. Ellis Lesslie who was a member of the Erskine College faculty for a number of years.

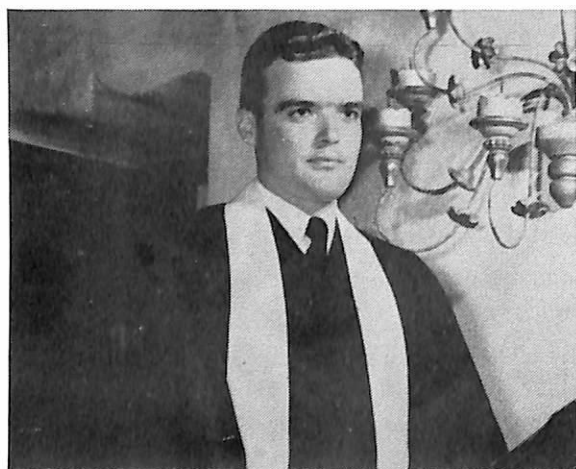
CHARLES OMER WILLIAMS
July 2, 1891 - December 19, 1971

Charles Omer Williams was born near Lesslie, S. C., on July 2, 1891 the son of William Thomas and Annie Graham Williams. He attended school at Lesslie and graduated from Rock Hill High School in 1913. The following fall he entered Erskine College from which he graduated in 1916. He was in Y.M.C.A. work in Birmingham, Ala., for a time. After World War I, during which he served in the U. S. Army, he studied at Erskine Seminary and later did other studying at Union Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. After ordination, he began his ministerial career at the Forest Grove Mission in Charlotte, N. C., and this mission soon became a strong church and its name was changed to Statesville Avenue Church. During Mr. Williams



pastorate a new church building was erected. In 1936, Mr. Williams accepted a call to the pastorate of the Greenville A. R. P. Church where he labored until May 1945 when he became pastor of the Second A. R. P. Church in Gastonia. He left this work to open the Candler Road work, later known as McElroy Memorial Church, near Atlanta, Ga. After 1949 he has been pastor of the Highland Heights A. R. P. Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he served for 10 years, before returning to Charlotte to the First A. R. P. Church. He then served in the Mission Church in Winston Salem, N. C. and New Perth, Troutman, N. C. His last pastorate was at the Springdale Church in Lancaster, S. C. where he was active until his death on December 19, 1971. He spent a total of 50 years serving in the various churches of the A. R. P. and in 1954 was Moderator of the Synod.

In 1925, he visited Europe and Palestine. On July 5, 1939 he was married to Miss Evelyn Ragsdale of Russellville, Arkansas.



Oliver Walthall Carmichael, Jr.
(1919 - 1973)

Oliver Walthall Carmichael, Jr. was born at Lesslie, S. C., son of Reverend and Mrs. Oliver W. Carmichael. He was baptized at Neely's Creek Church, grew to manhood and united with the church by profession there.

His education was received in the Grammar School of Lesslie, Rock Hill High School and at Erskine College, a graduate of the class of 1941. He graduated from Erskine Theological Seminary in 1942, and was the student pastor of White Oak, S. C. that summer.

He supplied the Lancaster Church in 1943, where he brought comfort and help to a congregation where many boys were in service. He conducted the service for the dedication of the Service Flag, and later his name was placed on this roll as he served as a Navy Chaplain.

His first church was in Louisville, Kentucky, then came to Sharon Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, N. C. where he died in 1973.

He was a gifted speaker with a pleasing personality, a useful and able minister of the Gospel, greatly loved by his people.



Reverend Robert Welsh Ackerman

Robert Welsh Ackerman was born May 13, 1939, to Robert Major and Mary Elise Welsh Ackerman in Lancaster, South Carolina. At the age of 5 he moved with his family to Neely's Creek section of York County, South Carolina where he came under the influence of Neely's Creek Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. His early childhood education was received at Lesslie Elementary School and in 1957 he graduated from Rock Hill High School. He grew up in Neely's Creek Church under the ministry of Dr. William Roger Echols. In his early teens he united with the church and was baptized by Dr. Echols during a special meeting being conducted by Dr. John Calvin Reid. In the fall of 1957, he entered Erskine College, Due West, South Carolina. During his college years he became a student under the care of Catawba Presbytery as a candidate for the

Gospel Ministry. He graduated from Erskine College in 1961 with a B.A. degree. He entered Erskine Theological Seminary in the fall of 1961 and graduated with a Master of Divinity Degree in 1964. During the summers he worked as Assistant to the Pastor at the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, Virginia (Dr. Frank Y. Pressly was the pastor while on furlough from mission work in Pakistan) and at the Upper Long Cane Presbyterian Church, U.S. where he worked as assistant to the pastor and D.C.E. On April 21, 1964, he was licensed to preach by the Catawaba Presbytery meeting at the Hopewell Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Chester County, South Carolina. On June 7, 1964, he was ordained to the Gospel Ministry by Catawba Presbytery in the sanctuary of the Neely's Creek Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. The Commission consisted of Dr. Echols, Minister of Neely's Creek; Dr. W. O. Ragsdale, Minister of First Church, Lancaster; and Dr. A. M. Rogers, Minister of the Chester Church.

On June 16, 1964, he became pastor of the First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Tampa, Florida where he served until November, 1968. During his ministry in Tampa, a study was begun that resulted in the congregation relocating to a new site north of Tampa. New facilities were erected on the corner of North Boulevard and Bears Avenue. On July 10, 1966, the congregation voted to change their name from First Church to Trinity.

In November, 1968, Bob moved from Tampa to Charlotte, North Carolina where he became the pastor of the Chalmers Memorial Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. He served the congregation until March of 1971.

In March of 1971, he became the Mission Developer at the Grace Associate Reformed Presbyterian Mission, Spartanburg, South Carolina where he served until May of 1974.

From June, 1974 until November 1975, he was the pastor of the McElroy Memorial Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Georgia.

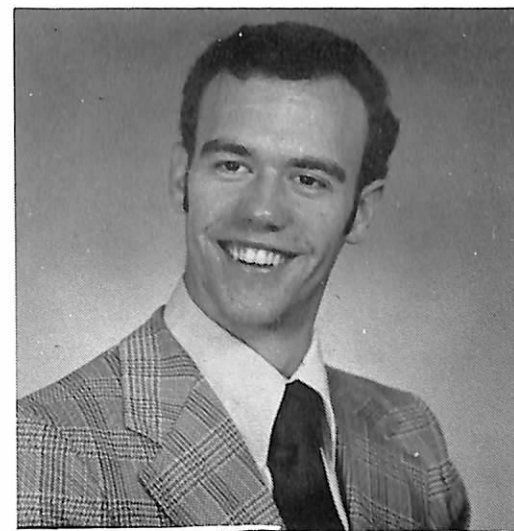
Following some time out of the ministry, he entered into a two-year program of Clinical Pastoral Education at the Crawford W. Long Memorial Hospital of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Following the completion of a residency program in Pastoral Care he took an additional unit of C.P.E. at the Wesley Wood Retirement Center in Atlanta.

On January 11, 1982, he became a member of the Pastoral Care Department at Bayfront Medical Center, St. Petersburg, Florida, where he

continues to serve as Associate Chaplain. He is a member of Second Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and is certified hospital chaplain.

Bob has done additional graduate work at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, Virginia. He is active in the Clergy Association of Greater St. Petersburg and for a number of years has been Membership Secretary and Treasurer of this group.

He is a "Clinical Member" of the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education. He is a charter member of the Center for Religion and Ethics, Park Ridge Lutheran General Hospital and is currently seeking "Fellow" status in the College of Chaplains.



Reverend John Boatright Griffith

Neely's Creek Church is proud to claim John Griffith as a son of the church, and as a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Griffith of Rock Hill, born May 15, 1954.

He received his education at Lesslie Elementary School, Rock Hill High School and Clemson University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology in 1976.

He and his three brothers were all active in the work of Neely's Creek Church, in Sunday School, Boy Scouts and Daily Vacation Bible School.

He graduated from Bob Jones University in 1982, with a Master of Divinity degree. He is now Pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Pelzer, South Carolina, and he and his wife, Ruth Ann Barnard have three children. His church is growing and also carrying on a fine educational program.



ELADIA SOLIS

SAVED AND SERVING

"Having therefore obtained help of God,
I continue unto this day, witnessing both
to small and great."

ELADIA SOLIS

February 8, 1901 --

Eladia Solis was born in the city of Tampico in 1901, in a very poor home, where a drunken father often mistreated her and her twin sister. A kind American sent her to Juarez Institute for Girls, under the direction of Miss Macie Stevenson and Miss Jennie Gettys, the newly appointed missionary-teacher from Neely's Creek Church.

When her mother died of smallpox, Eladia had the cold streets for her home and dogs for her companions. Then the little girl, nine years old, remembered her Christian teachers, found them, received a Bible and learned the way of salvation. Miss Macie read the verse to her: "When thy father and mother forsake thee, then the Lord will take thee up." When she was baptized as a Christian, she was cruelly treated by her grandmother.

The Revolution came, and Miss Stevenson and Miss Jennie Gettys were going home to the states. One day, walking home from church, Miss Jennie said, "I've been thinking that Eladia may be a precious stone--a diamond in the rough." "That settles it--we will take her with us," said Miss Macie.

So with the help of Dr. Dale, she was brought to the States to live at Lesslie in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Gettys, then with Miss Macie Stevenson in the manse with Reverend W. H. Stevenson. The children at Lesslie School sometimes made fun of her dark skin, and gave her the

nickname of "Molasses." So on day, in the home of Mrs. Nina Lesslie she tried to make herself white in the flour barrel. When Miss Macie went to Memphis, Eladia came to live with Mr. and Mrs. John Walker, where her beloved "Miss Jennie" was a dear and kind mother to her. When she attended Winthrop Training School in Rock Hill, she stayed in the home of Miss Bessie Gettys.

She trained as a nurse in Dr. Salmos' Hospital in Mexico, and attended Moody Bible School in Chicago. In 1925, she worked with Mrs. Dale in Tamazunchale, and together they traveled to remote mountain villages, healing the sick and giving out Gospel tracts. After Mrs. Dale's death, Eladia worked for four years in San Luis Potosi. Then, she came to Chicago to work with Mexican people in that large city.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Miss Macie Stevenson and Miss Jennie Gettys touched this little Mexican girl to give her heart to the Lord Jesus, and for more than fifty years she witnessed for the Lord in both Mexico and the United States.

Many people at Neely's Creek remember Eladia Solis: "Saved and Serving."



MISS MARY E. LESSLIE
(1882 - 1972)

Mary E. Lesslie was one of the nine children of William Samuel and Margaret Grier Lesslie. She grew up in a deeply religious home where her parents taught their children the Bible and created a fellowship of love in the home. Mary E. was baptized at Neely's Creek Associate Reformed Church and at the age of 14 made her public profession of faith in Jesus Christ and became a member of Neely's Creek.

She was educated in the community schools and Due West Female

College. After graduation she taught in the public schools of North and South Carolina. During an evangelistic meeting, led by Rev. John A. Smith, Miss Lesslie responded to a call for devotion of her life to full time service to the Lord Jesus Christ in foreign mission work.

On November 10, 1910, the Associate Reformed Board of Missions opened mission work in Montgomery, Punjab India, under the direction and Dr. and Mrs. A. J. Ranson and Miss Minnie Alexander. In the spring of 1910, Miss Lesslie was the first missionary to join them. After she passed her first year of language study, her first work was going with a Bible woman or another missionary to visit the women in their homes in Montgomery or in the villages.

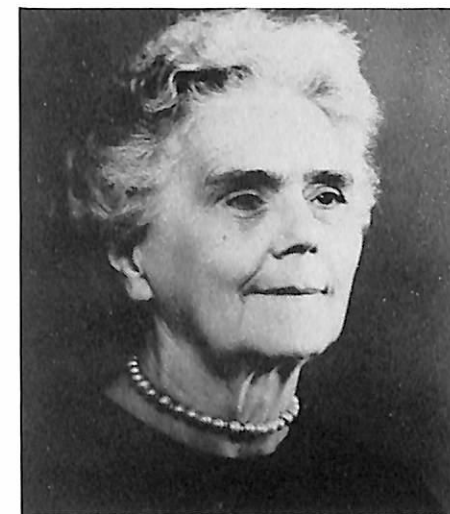
A Girls' School was opened by the mission in April, 1913. There were only a few girls at first with Miss B. Bannerjee as teacher. When the school needed a full time missionary, Miss Lesslie wrote, "I enjoyed working with the girls as they seemed to appreciate what was done for them." She delighted to tell of a revival meeting that took place at the school when many girls and others confessed their sins and found forgiveness.

During her last years in what had now become Pakistan, she spent her time doing evangelistic work in Nancy Fulwood Hospital. The sick patients liked to have her pray for them.

In 1952, she returned home and retired the following year. She was grateful to God for the years that she spent in India and what is now Sahiwal, Pakistan. She served faithfully for forty years.

After retirement she kept house for her brother, Grier Lesslie. They had an apartment in her ancestral home which then belonged to her nephew John Lesslie, his wife Louise and their three children. The three generations in this house were happy together.

Miss Lesslie was keenly interested in the life in her community, church and denomination. She was active in Bible teaching at Neely's Creek and taught one summer in the Tampa Associate Reformed Mission. She rejoiced to see friends at Presbyterial, Synodical and Bonclarken and attended these meetings as long as she was physically able. On October 28, 1972, she was called to her heavenly home.



Mrs. Frances Pressly Hamilton
1897 - 1981

Mabel Pressly was born in Statesville, N. C. in 1897. The daughter of Reverend and Mrs. J. H. Pressly.

After graduating from the High School in Statesville, she graduated from Women's College in Due West in 1917.

In 1922, there came a marriage in Statesville as Frances Pressly and Buford Lindsay Hamilton were pronounced husband and wife. For 42 years they served together in the far off Punjab, India, then retired in 1949.

She and her husband, Dr. B. L. Hamilton, did evangelistic work, taught Bible School and The memorization of the scripture, for many could not read. Her house was always open to the Pakistanis, especially to the poor and needy. Above all, she was known as a prayer warrior. She often visited the hospital, presenting the Gospel to patients and their families in the courtyard, waiting to see the doctors.

After their retirement, an emergency occurred on the Mission field and they were needed in Pakistan. Neely's Creek Church gladly volunteered to support Mrs. Hamilton which was done for several years.

Mabel Pressly Hamilton was a devoted mother, a diligent and consecrated missionary, winning many souls for her Lord. The people of Neely's Creek Church are grateful to have a part in the service in India and to call her one of our own missionaries.

MARY GRIER LESSLIE JUNKER



Mrs. Junker, the daughter of David Grier and Susan McCully Lesslie was born in Bowling Green, South Carolina on April 7, 1910. She spent most of her childhood and youth in the Lesslie community and attended Lesslie School. She made her profession of faith while Dr. Carmichael was pastor of Neely's Creek Church. Mrs. Junker graduated from Winthrop College in 1931. From 1931 until 1939, she taught at Lesslie School and also taught in the Church School at Neely's Creek. While teaching the following year in North Carolina she felt called of the Lord to teach Bible in the public schools. To better prepare herself for Bible teaching, she attended The Biblical Seminary in New York City. Then, for five years she taught Bible in the public schools of Gastonia, North Carolina and Rock Hill, South Carolina.

On June 12, 1947, she was married to Rev. James A. Junker whom she had met when a student with him at The Biblical Seminary. Together they served as missionaries in Brazil, South America for five years, where they worked in churches and in a mission school training young men and women for Christian service. After returning from Brazil, the Junkers served churches in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina.

ELEANORE MYERS

Neely's Creek Church is glad to add the name of Eleanore Myers to our list of missionaries, and although she did not serve as a Nurse-Missionary under our Church and World Witness, she has given her zeal and loyalty to Missions since she joined Neely's Creek Church in 1983.

Eleanore was born in Whitewater, Kansas, of German speaking parents, and her family were faithful members of the Emmaus Mennonite Church. When her sister died soon after accepting Christ as Saviour, Eleanore pledged to the Lord to serve as a nurse in her sisters' place.

Her education was in Grace College for Bible, and Nursing at the West



Suburban Hospital, affiliated with Wheaton College. Her parents prayed and helped many times at great sacrifices to themselves. At one time, there were two children in Heaven, two on the Mission field and two at home supporting them.

In 1958, she went to Costa Rica for language study and then to Honduras to serve with another nurse, opening new Mission stations and clinics in remote mountain areas, teaching Bible to adults, and working with children, thus establishing churches. This work was carried on for ten years, three areas were opened to the Gospel and many came to know Christ as Saviour.

In 1969, because of illness, she returned to the States, worked as a nurse in Wichita, Kansas, married Clarence Myers, and together they came South to find a retirement home. Through the help of Mason Boyd, they found not only a home but also a place of worship, - Neely's Creek Church. She uses her talents and zeal to serve on the Mission Committee, officer in the Women of the Church, always seeking to interest young people in serving the Lord in foreign fields-everywhere a true Missionary.

CAROL ANNE BOYD



Carol Anne Boyd was born on July 21, 1959. Her parents are Roy and Mary Anne Boyd who are faithful members of Neely's Creek Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Carol Anne was reared near Neely's Creek Church. As a child she trusted in Jesus Christ as her Saviour and publicly confessed her faith in Christ and joined Neely's Creek Church at the age of twelve. In her youth she used her musical talent by playing the piano for Church School and for the evening worship service. She also served as a youth representative on the Board of Christian Education for Catawba Presbytery. While attending a Christian Camp she found the joy that Christ promised for the Christian life.

After graduation from Rock Hill High School, Carol Anne attended Bob Jones University where she majored in Bible. Following graduation she planned to become a full time missionary in Nova Scotia, Canada under the Gospel Fellowship Association Missions. She served during the summer in ministry there, but had to wait until she could raise her support and secure a Canadian visa before returning to Canada. On May 26, 1986, Carol Anne departed for Nova Scotia to work in training children and youth in Christian service. Friends and loved ones gathered under the trees at her parents' home to pray Gods' blessing upon this young, talented, and dedicated Christian and to wish her a blessed farewell.



Reverend Robert Lytle served as a missionary in Brazil and Canada for fifteen years. He was Home Director of The Evangelical Union of South America. He and his wife, Doreen, who are now members of Neely's Creek, are very active in the teaching ministry of the church, and he often supplies the pulpit here.

MRS. JENNIE GETTYS WALKER
(1879 - 1975)

Mrs. Walkers maiden name was Jennie Gettys. Her parents were James Robert and Martha Roddey Gettys. Her parents were dedicated Christians and faithful members of Neely's Creek Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Jennie was one of their six children. Early in life Jennie became a member of Neely's Creek Church.

She received her education in the local school and Winthrop College from which she graduated in 1909. She later studied at the Biblical Seminary in New York.

In November, 1909, she went as a missionary to Mexico and continued to serve there until September, 1913, when disturbed conditions in that country made it necessary for all missionaries to return home. When she returned home she brought with her a little orphaned Mexican girl, Eladia Solis, who attended Lesslie School and Winthrop Training School and



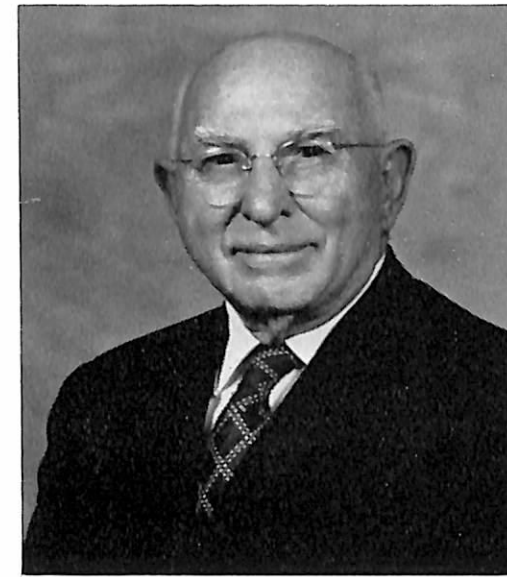
returned to Mexico to serve as a nurse with Dr. Kate Neal Dale.

On February 23, 1916, Miss Gettys married Mr. John T. Walker. To them were born three children, two of whom died in early life. The youngest Neal Walker died in the service of our country in World War II.

Mrs. Walker continued her interest in missions for the remainder of her life. She gave liberally to mission support and prayed diligently for those serving in the proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. She and her husband bequeathed their estate to the Associate Reformed Foreign Mission Board.



Miss Macie Stevenson, Missionary to Mexico for 50 Years



Neely's Creek cannot claim the Gettys ministers--Rev. Ervin Gettys, Dr. Ebenezer Gettys, and Dr. Joseph Gettys--as sons but the tie between them and Neely's Creek is very close since their father was, at one time, a member and their mother, Mrs. Rosa Gettys was a member for many years.

Wayne Deese

Wayne Deese of Rock Hill, South Carolina, served for a time as a pastor in the Church of the Nazarene. As a young boy, he faithfully attended Neely's Creek Church, and it was here that he was baptized on February 1, 1958, when he made his Profession of Faith and joined the church.