

Meeting registration is on p. 7.

# North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society

## Summer, 2016

Fall Meeting, October 8, 2016

### **Martin Luther and Our Reformed Heritage—the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



Graham Presbyterian

Photo from the church

The North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society will gather in the beautiful and historic Graham Presbyterian Church on Saturday, October 8, with registration and refreshments beginning at 9:15 a.m.

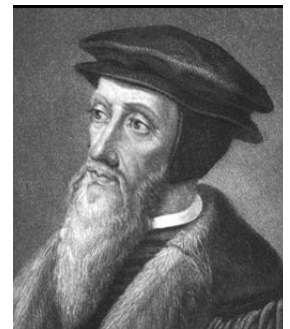
As Program Chair Sam Martin and Society President John Goodman were looking toward our October 8th meeting, it occurred to them that 2017 will be the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the act that ultimately led to the Protestant Reformation. On the eve of All Saints Day, October 31, 1517, the 37-year-old Augustinian monk Martin Luther nailed 95 theses, or points for debate and discussion, to the town bulletin board, which was also the door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany. As they say, the rest is history.

Since our society celebrates the Reformed heritage throughout the state we call home, it seemed an opportune time to recall how Martin Luther and his followers enriched our Reformed faith. With the help of scholarly friends, we were led to the Rev. Madeline Mercer of Scotia Village in Laurinburg. She and her husband, the Rev. Jeff Mercer, have been leading a series of studies on the history of the Reformed faith, and she is most knowledgeable about our Lutheran heritage.

The Graham Presbyterian Church was established by a committee of Orange Presbytery on December 8, 1850, and is currently a member of Salem Presbytery. The church was established with 27 charter members and met in the new Alamance County courthouse until the construction of a frame church in 1857. This also marked the arrival of the first permanent minister, Reverend A. Currie. There have been many changes and building projects over the years, and the Presbyterian Women gave great leadership in the development of the church. The church historian, Faye Caynor, will lead us on a tour and tell about its history.

After lunch, the fifty-third annual business meeting of the NCPHS will take place. Some of the items of business include reports from the nominating committee, the treasurer, the awards chair, historian, and the program chair; election of officers; and recurring and new business concerns.

### **Luther and Calvin**



As Presbyterians, we think of ourselves as Calvinists, and we tend to ignore the works of Martin Luther. However, John Calvin himself regarded Luther highly. Only eight years old when Luther wrote his 95 theses, Calvin regarded Luther as the pioneer of the Reformation and considered his works to be the work of God. He took much from Luther, but differed with him on such matters as the Lord's Supper and on church organization. So let's celebrate the work of Martin Luther!

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**Awards:** If you know of a recently published church history or a completed church history project that you feel is worthy of consideration for an award, please send the book or a description of the project to Awards Chairman Mrs. Sheila Brewer, 915 Evans Dr., Sanford, NC 27330. Her contact information is above. Awards are given in the spring for works published or completed in the previous year or in a recent year.

We note with sadness the following deaths of members, recently brought to our attention:

*2014:* Delany Turlington Ingraham, Peace Presbyterian, Fayetteville; mother of our member Teddy Witherspoon.

--Dr. Jesse Fisher, First Presbyterian, Whiteville

*2015:* Marjorie Council, Lake Waccamaw Presbyterian.

*2016:* Suzanne Newell Davis, White Memorial Presbyterian

## NCPHS "On The Road"



Several discussions have occurred in the past few years concerning the need to publicize and "get the word out" to Presbyterians and like-minded individuals who are interested in church history and the preservation of our heritage. Many are still not aware of the North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society, even now in our fifty-third year. The renewed attempts will involve presentations to gatherings of Presbyterian Women throughout the five presbyteries in the latter half of 2016 and early 2017. President John Goodman and Publicity Chair Sam Martin decided to try it out on the "home-folks" first, so they had a display at the Fall Gathering of the Presbyterian Women of Coastal Carolina on Saturday, August 20 at Lumberton First Presbyterian Church. A new banner was displayed; revamped and updated brochures were distributed; and previous tour books, notifications, pictures, and certificates were shared with the participants. Notification cards with information about the Fall Meeting in Graham on October 8<sup>th</sup> were also distributed, and invitations to attend were extended. Many questions and conversations were enjoyed, new friends were made, old friendships were renewed, and a positive reaction to the NCPHS presence was experienced. Three churches were recognized with their anniversary / birthday certificates at the plenary, prompting several to mention that their centennial was "coming up" in the future. Goodwill seeds were planted and a sweet harvest is hoped to occur in the future.

Next stop on the tour prior to the Fall Meeting will be Salem Presbytery's Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Clemmons on September 15, to be attended by Don Saunders. Then there will be two such meetings in the Presbytery of Western North Carolina: one in Gastonia on Sept. 24, and one in Mills River on October 1, both attended by Sam Martin. If you are aware of possible display possibilities, please contact Sam at (910) 428-4165 or [smartin8@embarqmail.com](mailto:smartin8@embarqmail.com).

## **What the NCPHS has meant to me**

by Dr. Donald B. Saunders,  
professor emeritus of history, Appalachian State University

When do you get interested in knowing the heritage and history of your faith denomination? I suppose I first did in college, when I attended Davidson--which I knew had been founded by Presbyterians--and found a difference between Northern and Southern ones! I of course knew there were Baptists, Methodists (my great uncle was a Methodist bishop), Episcopalians, etc., but the fact that the Presbyterians had split over slavery during the Civil War was a new one on me. (Knowing about the division made the reunion later of the PCUS and the PCUSA more meaningful to me).

Since those college days I have come to know a lot more about Presbyterianism in North Carolina, because about 30 years ago I joined the NC Presbyterian Historical Society. At the time I had been asked by the pastor to consider writing the local history of the church I was attending, Rumble Memorial in Blowing Rock. I begged off at first, knowing few of the members and little about the context of Presbyterianism in the area. I taught history, but this was not my field!

He suggested I attend a meeting of the NCPHS and get to know others interested in Presbyterian history. Thus I met, among other folk, such stalwarts as Dr. Harold Dudley and Dr. John McLeod, whose great knowledge and interest had led Dr. Dudley to found the Society in 1964 and Dr. MacLeod to carry it forward with enthusiasm.

By the time I attended my first meeting, at Peace College as I recall, I was deep into researching local church history. The first tour I remember taking I actually helped organize! Here in my own area, Watauga and Avery counties, we viewed evidence of rural church planting, local Presbyterian educational initiatives, and historic, resort-oriented worship communities. At one stop we even sang old hymns around the piano in a fellowship hall.

I was hooked.

Learning about local church history, hearing speakers on a range of relevant topics, appreciating varieties of worship and building styles, walking old graveyards, going into the background and depth of Presbyterianism as it is practiced across North Carolina: these are some of the benefits I have derived from membership.

More, there are the people I have met and become friends with along the way. Our band is not terribly large, but it is loyal, learned, and I would even say intrepid. We have assembled from away down east to the far west of our state, caravanning down secondary and tertiary roads to find some gem of a Presbyterian church. Every gathering brings out questions and comments from knowledgeable and curious members, local host church folks, and visitors. We are blessed with creative program planners, but most of all we are blessed with a heritage of the faith in this state that is varied and interesting to learn about.

I hope more people will travel along with us!

## Spring Tour of Flat Rock and Henderson County, April 1-2, 2016



This year's Spring Tour began on Friday afternoon in Flat Rock at "**Connemara**", the former home of the poet Carl Sandburg and his wife. It is now a National Historic Site. The house has spacious rooms and wonderful views of the mountains. Repairs to the house had necessitated the removal and storage of most of the furnishings, but there were large photographs of each room as it had been and will be, and we had a most knowledgeable guide with many stories about the Sandburgs. Afterwards we visited the descendants of their prize-winning herd of goats.



Our next stop was **Mills River Presbyterian Church**, founded in 1830. We heard about their history of providing the first school in Henderson Co., and about their current educational missions -- providing scholarships to enable all children in their sister congregation in Guatemala to go to school, and starting a garden on wheels, showing local children and adults how to create a tire garden for winter greens and summer vegetables.



We then had time to check-in at our motel and have dinner together in a private room at the Golden Corral in Hendersonville.



Next morning we left for **Trinity Presbyterian** in Hendersonville. The congregation was organized in 1965 and has always been very active in the community and in world mission. It grew rapidly, bringing in young families and benefitting from the skills and volunteering interests of many who had retired to the mountains. In 1996 the new sanctuary was completed. Since then they have added a beautiful garden and columbarium, and a glass-roofed atrium where small groups can meet



informally.



Our next stop was the **St. John of the Wilderness Episcopal Church**, begun in the 18<sup>th</sup> century as a private chapel for the Charleston families who spent summers in the mountains. The pews still bear the brass plates with very Charlestonian names such as Pinckney, Manigault, and Grimke, and the cemetery is full of others, including Christopher Memminger, Confederate Secretary of the Treasury. The congregation has recently placed crosses on the



unmarked graves in the slave cemetery downhill from the church. Our excellent guide, a member of the church, had many interesting stories from the church's history.



**Pinecrest Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church** in Flat Rock is the home church of our Membership Chair, Sarah Alexander. Sarah had arranged a very interesting display of photographs, materials, and scrapbooks showing the history of the church. Rev. Chuck Evans, a former pastor there, spoke to us about the church in its beautiful rock-walled sanctuary. He told us about some of the differences between the ARP denomination and the PCUSA, such as the general singing of psalms set to music rather than hymns from non-Biblical sources, though hymns may be used. Also, women may not hold ordained positions. But we are both strongly rooted in the Reformed tradition and have a great deal in common.



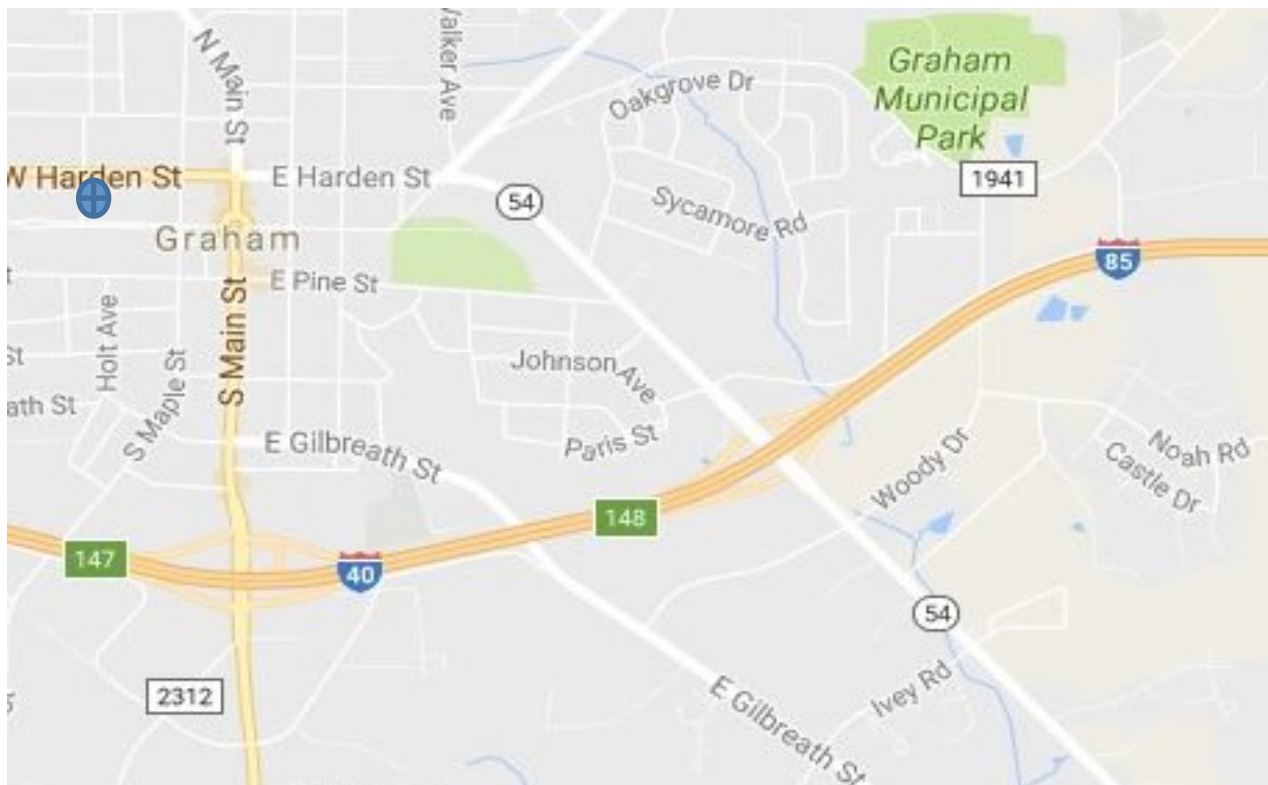
We ended our time together with a wonderful lunch and a brief business meeting at the **Moose Café** in Hendersonville – a “Farm to Table” restaurant with great Southern cooking and fresh food from the Farmers’ Market. Meals always begin with hot biscuits and homemade apple butter! They also have restaurants in Asheville and Greensboro. And so we headed home with happy memories and a fresh understanding of the past and present life of churches and communities in this

## **DIRECTIONS TO GRAHAM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Take exit 148 (NC Highway 54) from I-40 and I-85. This is the Chapel Hill-Graham exit.

From I-40 Westbound from Durham area: At the base of the exit, turn right onto NC 54, which turns into Harden Street. Continue approximately 1 mile to the intersection with Maple Street. The church is on your left, and parking will be past the church or street parking before and around the church. Street address is 216 West Harden Street.

From I-40 Eastbound from Greensboro area: At the base of the exit, turn left onto NC 54, which turns into Harden Street. Continue approximately 1 mile to the intersection with Maple Street. The church is on your left, and parking will be past the church or street parking before and around the church. Street address is 216 West Harden Street.



If you need overnight accommodation, there are many motels available in the Burlington-Graham- Mebane area along the I-85/40 corridor.

**North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society  
Fall Meeting**

**Graham Presbyterian Church  
216 W. Harden St., Graham, North Carolina**

**Saturday, October 8, 2016**

9:15           Registration and coffee -- Social and catch up time

10:00           Graham Presbyterian Church  
                  Faye Caynor, Historian

11:00           Our Reformed Heritage: Martin Luther's Influence  
                  Rev. Madeline Mercer

12:00           Lunch

1:00            Business Meeting  
                  Reports  
                  Election of Officers  
                  Unfinished and New Business

2:00            Update on future meetings

2:30            Adjourn

*Registration:* \$18.00 (includes lunch). Directions and map are on the opposite page.

Please send the form below and a check (payable to NCPHS) by October 1<sup>st</sup> to NCPHS, P.O. Box 20804, Raleigh, NC 27619-0804. If you have questions, please contact our Program Chairman Sam Martin, (910) 428-4165, [smartin8@embarqmail.com](mailto:smartin8@embarqmail.com).

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***Registration, Fall Meeting, October 8, 2016***

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of registrations \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$18.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dues if included (Individual \$15; Family \$20; Individual Life Membership, \$125): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please send this form with your check (made out to NCPHS) by **October 1st** to NCPHS, P.O. Box 20804, Raleigh, NC 27619-0804.

**If you can do so, please put the following announcement in your church bulletin or newsletter:**

The North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society will meet on Saturday, October 8, at Graham Presbyterian Church in Graham, Alamance Co. The Rev. Madeline Mercer of Laurinburg will speak on the influence of Martin Luther on our Reformed faith. This will begin our celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Luther's nailing up his 95 theses for discussion, an act in 1517 that led ultimately to the Protestant Reformation. Registration is \$18, including lunch. The schedule, registration form, and address are on our website at [www.ncphsociety.org](http://www.ncphsociety.org), or contact Program Chair Sam Martin at (910) 428-4165.

\*\*\*\* If you haven't paid your 2015 dues yet, please send them with the registration form. Individual \$15  
Family \$20; Individual Life Membership, \$125. \*\*\*\*

North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society  
P.O. Box 20804  
Raleigh, NC 27619-0804

**Fall Meeting, October 8, 2016  
Graham Presbyterian Church, Graham, N.C.**