

[Meeting registration is on p. 7.](#)

# North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society

## Winter, 2017

**Spring Tour 2017: April 21-22**  
**Moore and Richmond counties**

### Rural Churches and Railroads



**Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church** Photo by Steve Mcrae

This year our tour will be in a part of the Scottish settlements we have not visited before. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century and well into the 19<sup>th</sup>, Scots settled in the Cape Fear basin and all across the Sandhills, establishing Presbyterian churches where they could. We will begin our tour at one of these churches, **Jackson Springs Presbyterian**, which is celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. After a mineral spring was found near an extensive "Scotch Settlement," a preaching stand was set up in 1817 to draw the occasional visiting preacher. By 1819 the Rev. John Patterson was their stated preacher, and he officially organized the Mineral Spring Presbyterian Church. In 1889 the name was changed to Jackson Spring.

Their first church was built in 1820 near the present one. Today's sanctuary was built in 1854. Over the years an extension, balcony, classrooms, a front porch, and a steeple were added. In 1914-1916, the separate doors for men and women were changed to a central door, but men and women continued to sit on separate sides until the 1940s.

The next church we will visit is **Mt. Carmel** (PCA) outside Ellerbe in Richmond Co. This congregation was organized in 1776 by the Rev. John Bethune, who had come to NC with emigrants from the Isle of Skye. Like other recent Scottish

immigrants, he sided with the Loyalists during the Revolution, was captured, later released, and went to Canada to found new churches there. A Gaelic-speaking minister named Rev. Colin Lindsay served Mt. Carmel from 1799 to 1812. In 1944 a new brick church was built, but the original frame building has been carefully restored.



Also near Ellerbe is one of our few surviving one-room schools. The **Bostick Schoolhouse** served children in the region from about 1890 to 1922. It also has been lovingly restored.

Friday night we will be in Pinehurst for dinner and sleep. Then Saturday we will head south to Hamlet, the hub of three major rail lines. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, more than 30 trains stopped in Hamlet daily, en route to destinations such as New York City, New Orleans, and Florida. **Hamlet Presbyterian Church** was organized in 1899 in a small frame building, two years after the town was incorporated. By 1919 membership had increased to 200, and an impressive brick building was completed in 1925.

While in Hamlet, we will also visit the Queen Anne style **Depot**, now on the National Register, and the **National Railroad Museum**, a nonprofit begun by wives of railroad workers in the early days of the



Seaboard Airline.

Our last stop will be **Mark's Creek** church just south of Hamlet, where we will have lunch. The church was organized in 1820, but it is believed that a number of church members left to settle in west Florida not long after that. For whatever reason, the church seems to have closed and was reorganized in 1861. A one-room school was nearby in the early 1900s.

More tour information and registration is on p. 7.

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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. Connie Hudson, 2305 Byrd St., Raleigh, NC 27608. Her other contact information is above. Awards are given in the spring for works published or completed in the previous year or in a recent year.**

### Annual Business Meeting, October 8, 2016

After the program and lunch at our Fall Meeting in Graham Presbyterian Church, the society's annual business meeting took place. After the opening prayer, President John Goodman thanked our hosts and speaker. Minutes of the previous meeting and the treasurer's report were passed out. Publicity Chair Sam Martin reported that, in addition to his attendance at presbytery meetings to recognize important church anniversaries, he has also attended several presbytery women's meetings. He now has a

banner and new brochures. The membership chair reported 108 memberships, 21 of which are families.

John Goodman then reported on the finding of a well-marked hymnal belonging to the Rev. Randy Taylor when he was pastor of Myers Park and was serving as the architect of the north-south reunion. The hymnal is now at the Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat.

The nominating committee then recommended Steve McRae to be program chair and Connie Hudson to be awards chair. They were elected by acclamation. After the benediction, the meeting was adjourned.

### Board Meeting, January 28, 2017

This year the Board of Directors of NCPHS held its annual January meeting at the home of John and Ann Myhre in Garner. All officers attended except Connie Hudson, whose husband was very ill. After the opening prayer, the appointments were confirmed of Sally MacLeod Owens as historian, Barbara Cain as newsletter editor, and Sam Martin as publicity chair. The minutes of the Fall Meeting on October 8 were approved, as was the treasurer's report. The board approved renewing our membership in the Federation of NC Historical Societies. A communication was reported from the First Presbyterian Church in Mocksville, giving details of their 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on May 27-28, and inviting members of the society to attend. Sam Martin will bring our official greetings.

Program Chair Steve McRae then described his plans for the Spring Tour, April 20-21. (Details are given elsewhere in this newsletter.) The outline of the tour was enthusiastically received, and the plans were approved. Brief reports were made by the membership chair, historian, and newsletter editor. Sam Martin reported on the significant church anniversaries this year. He will present certificates to each of them at presbytery meetings. Barbara Cain passed around sample pages of Dr. Dudley's book, which is in the process of being typeset.

The discussion then turned to the website, and what additional information could be made available. Suggestions included information on writing church histories, links to important resources, and guidelines for our own awards. The board instructed Barbara Cain to proceed with the redevelopment of the website.

President Goodman asked for suggestions for appointment to the nominating committee. The offices to be filled in the fall include president, secretary, treasurer, and membership chair. He will appoint the nominating committee this spring.

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Under new business, John Myhre had received an invitation for us to take part in Society Night at the National Genealogical Society meeting in Raleigh. The event will be at the NC Museum of History on Thursday evening, May 11, 6 to 9 p.m. We would have a table for information about church history,

brochures, our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book, and anything else. The board voted to pay \$25 for a table. Some members will need to be there to answer questions.

It was voted to adjourn the meeting. John Goodman thanked our hosts and closed with prayer. ♦

## Report on the Fall Meeting, Oct. 8, 2016

### Graham Presbyterian Church Alamance County



In the midst of the pouring rain from Hurricane Matthew, a small group of intrepid members of our society met and were most warmly welcomed at Graham Presbyterian Church. After hot coffee and refreshments, we had a tour of the church, including the beautiful sanctuary with its 1897 stained glass windows. Church members Faye Caynor and Barbara Taylor then told us some of the church's history. Their published history covers the years 1850 to 1983 and was written by historian Durward T. Stokes of Elon College/University. The town of Graham

was established in 1849 as the county seat of Alamance, and by 1850 the Presbyterian Church was formed, meeting at first in the courthouse. Many of its members had previously been members of the Hawfields, Alamance, Bethel, and Crossroads churches. The core of the present church was built in 1855, but it was extensively remodeled and expanded in 1897. The big textile mills in Alamance County were owned by E. M. Holt and his sons, most of whom were members of this church.



When it was time to begin the program on Martin Luther, we found that our speaker, the Rev. Madeline Mercer, had been unable to leave her driveway because of the flooding at Scotia Village in Laurinburg! This is when we first realized that the storm was causing more damage than had been predicted. Carrying on, however, we happily accepted the offer by Dr. Carole Troxler, retired professor of history at Elon, to step up and give us her "Luther lecture." This turned out to be a most interesting recounting of his early life and the spiritual struggles that led him to challenge the way the church was run in the German states. With the approval of the Church, bankers were selling indulgences in order to recover their loans to the Vatican for the building of St. Peter's Cathedral. Indulgences were said to lessen the penalty for sins. Such abuses were curbed in the Roman Catholic Church during the Counter-Reformation. In NC we have many Lutheran and German Reformed churches.

#### **Annual Business Meeting, October 8, 2016**

After the program and lunch, the society's annual business meeting took place. After the opening prayer, President John Goodman thanked our hosts and our volunteer speaker. Minutes of the previous meeting and the treasurer's report were passed out. Publicity Chair Sam Martin reported that, in addition to his attendance at presbytery meetings to recognize important church anniversaries, he has also attended several presbytery women's meetings. He now has a banner and new brochures. The membership chair reported 108 memberships, 21 of which are families. John Goodman reported on the finding of a well-marked hymnal belonging to the Rev. Randy Taylor when he was pastor of Myers Park and was serving as the architect of the north-south reunion. The hymnal is now at the Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat. The nominating committee then recommended Steve McRae to be program chair and Connie Hudson to be awards chair. They were elected by acclamation. After the benediction, the meeting was adjourned.

After the meeting, several members visited the traveling exhibit of Venetian glass works by Dale Chihuly, being shown in the galleries at Alamance Arts. Then most of us drove home in the pouring rain, but John Goodman could not get back to Elizabethtown because high water had blocked the interstate! Fortunately he made it home the next day. ♦



## Significant Presbyterian Anniversaries in 2017

This year our program chairman, Mr. Sam Martin, will be delivering certificates of recognition and congratulation from the North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society to each of the following:

### Presbytery of Charlotte

<b>Providence Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC</b>	<b>250 years</b>
<b>Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, NC</b>	<b>150 years</b>

### Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

<b>Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church, Jackson Springs, NC</b>	<b>200 years</b>
<b>Blandonia Presbyterian Church, Sanford, NC</b>	<b>150 years</b>
<b>Spout Springs Presbyterian Church, Cameron, NC</b>	<b>150 years</b>
<b>Hallsville Presbyterian Church, Beulaville, NC</b>	<b>100 years</b>
<b>Beulaville Presbyterian Church, Beulaville, NC</b>	<b>100 years</b>
<b>Pink Hill Presbyterian Church, Pink Hill, NC</b>	<b>100 years</b>

### Presbytery of New Hope

<b>First Presbyterian Church, New Bern, NC</b>	<b>200 years</b>
<b>Center Ridge Presbyterian Church, Kenly, NC</b>	<b>100 years</b>
<b>Hebron Presbyterian Church, Oxford, NC</b>	<b>100 years</b>

### Salem Presbytery

<b>First Presbyterian Church, Mocksville, NC</b>	<b>250 years</b>
<b>Cameron Presbyterian Church, Elmwood, NC</b>	<b>150 years</b>
<b>Piedmont Presbyterian Church, Burlington, NC</b>	<b>100 years</b>
<b>Shiloh Presbyterian Church, Burlington, NC</b>	<b>100 years</b>

### Presbytery of Western North Carolina

<b>Clinchfield Presbyterian Church, Marion, NC</b>	<b>100 years</b>
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Congratulations to all of these congregations! We hope you will let us know how you are celebrating your anniversary; send us a copy of any published history; and describe for us any historical project completed as part of your celebration. We'd like to share this information and recognize your good work.

### Anniversary Celebrations

**Mocksville First Presbyterian Church** will celebrate its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the weekend of **May 27-28**. On Saturday they will gather at Joppa Cemetery, site of the original church, at 10:30 a.m. for historical reflection, prayer, old-time hymn singing, as well as refreshments. The cemetery is on US Hwy 601, beside the GPS address of 977 Yadkinville Road in Mocksville. There is plenty of parking at the shopping center next door, and an easy path leads to the cemetery.

On Sunday a "social gathering" will begin in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45; church will be from 10:30 to 12, followed by lunch. The Rev. Neal Carter, who served there from 1998 to 2004, will preach the sermon. Participating in the service will be Sam Marshall, General Presbyter of Salem Presbytery; the Rev. Leland Richardson, their pastor for 27 years; and their present pastor, the Rev. Dana Fruits.

The church has graciously invited any and all members of the NC Presbyterian Historical Society to attend. Many of us remember our wonderful 2007 Fall Meeting in Mocksville. Sam Martin is planning to be at the Joppa Cemetery celebration to bring greetings from the society. For more information, check the website [www.fpcmocksville.com](http://www.fpcmocksville.com), or email [secretary@fpcmocksville.com](mailto:secretary@fpcmocksville.com), or call 336-751-2507. The church address is 261 South Main Street in Mocksville.

For the last four years, **Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church** has been celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Beginning in 2013, they have celebrated each fifty years of that history with services and historical displays at their annual October homecomings. This year they will have a whole weekend of celebration in October. ♦

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

(Report left out of the Summer 2016 Newsletter)



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. They provide scholarships to enable all children in their sister congregation in Guatemala to go to school, and have started 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 good memories and a fresh understanding of the past and present life of these churches and communities.

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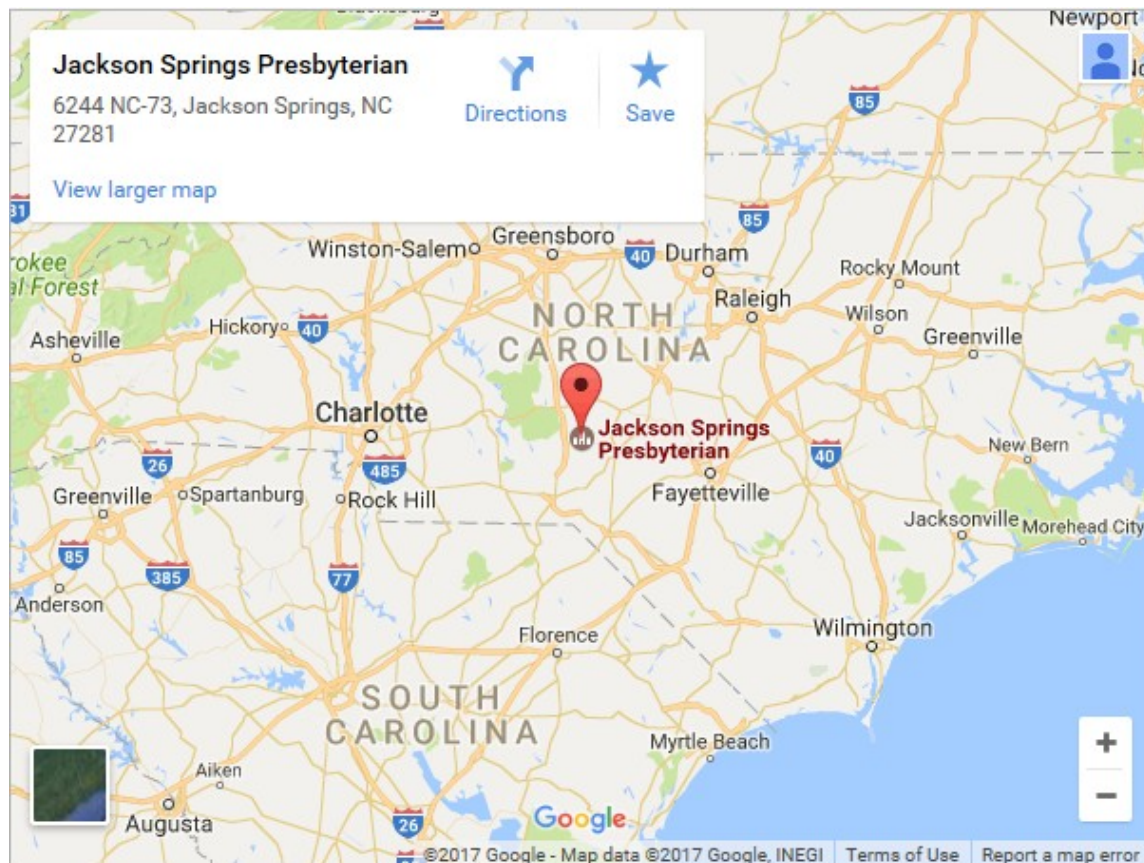
## North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society 2017 Spring Tour Richmond County

### Friday, April 21

- 12:00 – 2:00 Registration, social time, and tour of Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church  
6244 NC-73, Jackson Springs, NC 27281
- 2:30 – 3:30 Tour of Mt. Carmel Presbyterian Church
- 3:45 – 5:00 Tour of Old Bostick School House
- 6:00 Supper at Squire's Pub, Pinehurst
- 7:30 Check in at Comfort Inn, Pinehurst
- 8:15 Meeting of the Executive Board at Comfort Inn.

### Saturday, April 22

- 7:00 – 8:15 Breakfast and check out
- 9:15 – 11:00 Tour of First Presbyterian Church, Hamlet
- 11:15 – 12:00 Tour of the Historic Railroad Depot, Hamlet
- 12:15 – 1:00 Tour of the National Railway Museum, Hamlet
- 1:30 Lunch and tour of Mark's Creek Presbyterian Church
- 3:00 Adjourn



Our recommended motel is the Comfort Inn, 9801 US 15-501, Pinehurst 28374. **Please call the motel directly for reservations at (910) 215-5500 and ask for group booking.** Identify yourself as a member of the North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society and ask for the group discount rate of \$82 + tax. Motel has free wi-fi and a hot breakfast.

Registration fee is \$20. This includes refreshments Friday noon, lunch on Saturday, and the tour book. Please send form below and check (payable to NCPHS) *by April 14* to NCPHS, P.O. Box 20804, Raleigh, NC 27619-0804. If you have questions, please contact our Program Chairman Steve McRae, (336) 693-1929, [smcrae@stevemcraelaw.com](mailto:smcrae@stevemcraelaw.com).

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**Registration, Spring Tour, April 21-22, 2017**

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

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

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

Registrations: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 April 14** 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 hold its **Annual Spring Tour** on Friday and Saturday, April 21-22, in Moore and Richmond counties. We will meet at the Jackson Springs church, celebrating its bicentennial, visit some historic rural churches and a one-room school, and enjoy the National Railroad Museum in Hamlet. Please join us for a memorable tour. Registration is \$20. The schedule, registration form, and address are on our website at [www.ncphsociety.org](http://www.ncphsociety.org), or contact Program Chair Steve McRae at (336) 693-1929.

\*\*\*\* If you haven't paid your 2017 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

**Rural Churches and Railroads—Spring Tour, April 21-22, 2017**  
See registration form on p. 8.