

# North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society

## Winter, 2014

### Spring Tour: April 25-26

### **A Golden Tour for Our 50<sup>th</sup>**

### **Birthday: Eastern Guilford and Alamance**



Look for the barn! Peacehaven Community Farm

The Spring Tour for 2014 brings the North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society to the rolling hills of the northern Piedmont and Salem Presbytery. This area is rich in Presbyterian history, and we will visit four of the historic churches of the area, each with a unique story. The Society will also visit a fledgling institution with Presbyterian roots, and an historical site that was a vital part of the education of underserved students in the early twentieth century. Our speaker on Saturday is Dr. Carole Troxler, a well-known expert on the Regulator Movement that greatly affected Presbyterians in this area.

The tour will begin with our gathering at **Peacehaven Community Farm** near the village of Whitsett in eastern Guilford County. Peacehaven is an 89-acre facility, and its name wonderfully describes the setting and its purpose. Inspired by the L'Arche communities in Europe, Peacehaven was established to provide a safe and loving community for special-needs adults where their gifts are recognized. The farm also gives opportunities for others in the area to develop relationships with the residents and staff. The beautiful rolling hills on the banks of Lake Mackintosh

### **Fifty Years Ago**

On April 10, 1964, the North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society was organized by the Synod of North Carolina's Permanent Committee on Historical Matters. This took place at the Synod Office in Raleigh, with 13 members present. After electing officers, they viewed a motion picture that had been made of Synod's sesquicentennial meeting in 1963. They also heard a recording of a Gaelic song and the recitation of the Twenty-Third Psalm in Gaelic by the Rev. James MacKenzie. Their first project was to be the publication of *Foote's Sketches of North Carolina*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, edited and indexed by Dr. Harold J. Dudley.

Dr. Dudley was General Secretary and Stated Clerk of Synod, and was the force behind the formation of the society. He truly loved the history of the Presbyterian Church and wanted everyone to appreciate and preserve that history. Since he was also editor of the North Carolina Presbyterian News, there were frequent articles on the society and appeals for church histories and preservation of artifacts, photos, and books.

The next year 73 members and guests met at White Memorial, where they heard an address by Dr. Ernest Trice Thompson. By 1968 the society had 261 members. Thanks to Dr. Dudley and the society he started, a great many church histories have been written, historical rooms built, and anniversaries celebrated.

This April we will be celebrating our own society's heritage, and looking both to the past and to the future. Please join us for this very special occasion.

provide organic gardens, beautiful woodlands, and verdant pastures -- everything that a sustainable and earth-friendly farm must have.

One of the founders and now the director, Rev. Buck Cochran, is a former associate pastor at First Presbyterian, Greensboro. A time for registration and socializing will be a part of our visit.

(continued next page)



Photo by Sam Martin

**Bethel Presbyterian Church** was founded in 1812, and is one of the older churches in Guilford County. The 1868 building is a beautiful example of nineteenth-century architecture with later construction coordinating nicely with the original sanctuary. The campus also is home to an extensive cemetery with graves dating back to the early 1800s, and a Session Meeting House.

The **Charlotte Hawkins Brown Historic Site** is located in the nearby community of Sedalia. Charlotte Hawkins was born in Henderson, N. C., in 1883 and moved with her family to Cambridge, Mass., at an early age. She became acquainted with Alice Freeman Palmer, President of Wellesley College, who became an advisor, counselor, mentor, and benefactor. In 1902 Charlotte Hawkins Brown opened the Palmer Memorial Institute, named for her friend. It quickly became one of the more highly regarded preparatory schools for African-American children in the nation. The site contains houses, classrooms, and dormitories, as well as a museum and visitor's center. In addition to the story of Charlotte Hawkins Brown, the site tells much about social history of the early twentieth century and the development of women's rights and civil rights in an era of drastic change.

**Springwood Presbyterian Church** was established in 1868, following the Civil War. The local German Reformed congregation was split by hard feelings when the abolitionist minister and his followers tried to incorporate the many returning Confederate veterans, who

had their own personal needs. The area had suffered greatly in the time prior to and during the war, and when the men returned from conflict, they were physically and mentally changed by their experiences. Orange Presbytery established the church, and a long history of local and world-wide missions remain a vital part of the congregation almost a century and a half later.

**Stony Creek Presbyterian Church** was founded in 1775, and is one of the oldest continuing congregations in North Carolina. Prior to its formal recognition by Orange Presbytery, Rev. John Debow was holding camp meeting revival services on the site as early as 1770. Located in the beautiful rolling hills of north-central Alamance County, Stony Creek has a historic cemetery dating back to the eighteenth century. An old Session House was located in the southeast corner of the cemetery until 1923 when expansion of the burying ground claimed the building. The beautiful church grounds also house a bell saved from the previous building that burned in 1956.

**First Presbyterian Church of Burlington** was founded in 1879 by a committee of Orange Presbytery. The first Presbyterian services predated the city of Burlington when a Presbyterian minister from Mebane began holding services in the Company Shops community. A building used for the services belonged to the North Carolina Railroad, and Methodists, Baptists, and Lutherans joined the Presbyterians in the union services. First Presbyterian has responded to the needs of the community and conducts numerous programs that meet the needs of those less fortunate, the young people in need of daycare, the elderly, the hungry, and many others. The beautiful buildings cover a large campus on the edge of downtown, and the church continues to be a beacon for Christ in Burlington.

Following the celebration of our first fifty years and the end of our meeting, you may want to explore the herb festival scheduled for downtown. Other historic sites and outlet shopping are nearby. **Be aware that surprises and delights may be experienced from unexpected sources as the Society reaches an important benchmark in its history.**

## Executive Board Members

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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. Joy Heitmann, 5021 Elaine Ave., Raleigh, NC. 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. •

## News from the January Board Meeting

The executive board met on January 18, 2014, at the home of Mrs. Joy Heitmann in Raleigh. In addition to the usual reports by officers, two initiatives were discussed. First, through the Presbyterian Women's organizations at the presbytery level, we will try to contact the local church historians in order to send them the NCPHS Newsletter and information about our meetings. We will also begin to send information about the society to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian churches in our state. At some point we would like to expand our website to include some resources for Presbyterian history.

## New Officers

Last October we elected two new officers—the Rev. John Goodman as president, and Sarah Alexander as membership chair.

John Goodman is the retired executive of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina. Those of you who were at our meeting in Warrenton will remember his skill on the hammered dulcimer and his knowledge of early American music. More from John in the next issue.

Sarah Alexander is from the Charlotte area, attended St. Andrews Presbyterian College, and received her M.A. from Appalachian State in business and economics. She taught business courses in S.C. at York Tech and USC, and later worked in statistics at the National Association of Hosiery Manufacturers. Since 1999 she has lived in Flat Rock, where she is a board member of the Friends of Carl Sandberg, at Connemara. As a child she was in *Voice in the Wilderness*, an outdoor drama about the Scotch-Irish in Mecklenburg Co., and she has loved Presbyterian history ever since! The history of Presbyterians has been a life-long interest. She has visited many churches in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and explored family roots in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and N.C. In Charlotte she was a member of Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church, and in Flat Rock she attends Pinecrest Associate Reformed Presbyterian.



### **Martha McDonald MacLeod, 1923-2013**

Most of our readers will probably have known our dear friend and former president, Martha MacLeod. A long-time member of Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Aberdeen, she lived just outside Aberdeen in the home built by her Scottish ancestors in the 1790s.

A graduate of Flora MacDonald College, she held an M.A. in Christian Education and became a commissioned lay minister in the 1980s. She was very active in her church and was instrumental in setting up their Heritage Room and organizing an internship for Scottish seminarians at Bethesda. She received the Flora McDonald Award for her work to preserve the history of Scottish immigrants to NC. She was also an accomplished poet.

She will also be remembered as the sister of our former Synod Executive, the Rev. Dr. John MacLeod, and the aunt of our society's historian, Sally MacLeod Owens.

We also have received word of the deaths of **Helen Gustavson** of Scotia Village and **Kathrine Fort Neel** of Glenaire. Helen attended Flora MacDonald and Duke, and was a much-loved teacher of mathematics at both FMC and St. Andrews. Kathrine grew up in the First Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, then graduated from Salem College and Columbia University in Library Science. After working as a military librarian and a civilian one, she married and moved back to Raleigh.

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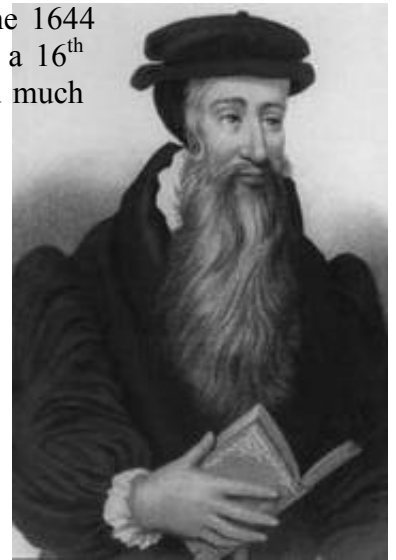
### **News from the Presbyterian Heritage Center, Montreat**

This year is the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of the Scottish Reformer John Knox. A new exhibit at the Heritage Center, opening March 7, will highlight his life, the Scottish Reformation, and Presbyterians in Colonial America. Among the items on display will be the 1644 printing of Knox's *Historie of the Reformation of the Church of Scotland*, a 16<sup>th</sup> century folio Geneva Bible in English, a 1564 Scottish Geneva Psalter, and much more.

They have also arranged a special 12-day tour of Scotland this September in celebration of Knox's 500th birth date. Information and registration forms are on their website. There will be special lectures, worship, tours, and insights.

Other exhibits there include Presbyterian Missions to the Middle East, Pottery from the Holy Land (2,000 to 3,000 years old), and Psalters & Hymnals: A 500-year Musical Journey Exhibit. The exhibit on Presbyterians and Broadcasting ends in April.

The winter hours (through March and April) at the Heritage Center are Friday, 10 a.m - 4 p.m; Saturday 1 - 4 pm; and Sunday 1:30 - 4 pm. The telephone number is (828) 669-6556. •



### **Do your church records need to be preserved?**

Each year the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia makes grants of up to \$500 to small congregations for the purpose of microfilming and digitizing their congregational records. The congregation must be at least 50 years old and have fewer than 250 members. Information about applying for a Heritage Microfilming Grant is at their website, [www.history.pcusa.org](http://www.history.pcusa.org), or call 215-627-1852. Applications are due annually on October 31.

## NCPHS Recognition of Significant Church Anniversaries

Several years ago, our present Program Chairman Sam Martin suggested that we, as the historical society for the Presbyterian Church in North Carolina, should each year recognize and celebrate those congregations that have reached a note-worthy anniversary of their founding. To this end, Sam has been compiling a list of all the Presbyterian churches in North Carolina, with their contact information and their dates of organization. For the past three years, the Society, through Sam, has made sure that churches celebrating anniversaries of 100, 150, 200, or 250 years were recognized at their presbytery meetings and received a certificate of recognition from us.

However, determining the starting date of a congregation is not an exact science. Many older churches appear to have held worship services for some years before being formally organized. The organization of a church may have been reported a year or more after the fact, or in some cases not at all. Session minutes, newspaper accounts, or simply tradition may differ from presbytery minutes. Occasionally a church was dormant or dissolved and was later reorganized.

It is interesting to note that other lists exist. Another of our members, Dr. William Wade, has also been compiling information on Presbyterian churches in North Carolina and other southern states as well, and Dr. Harold Dudley created a list of the PCUS churches by date of organization through 1966. In Philadelphia, the Presbyterian Historical Society has been gathering information on Presbyterian churches in Hall's Index to American Presbyterian Churches, now available on-line at <http://www.history.pcusa.org/collections/hiapc.cfm>. It is not at all unusual for these four lists to differ on a given church's date of organization.

Nevertheless, we are continuing to recognize publicly these churches that served so long and so well, based on the best information we have. If they have chosen a different year to celebrate, they enjoy the recognition anyway. Those with significant anniversaries this year are as follows, and if we have missed any, please let us know!

### Presbytery of Charlotte:

Poplar Tent Presbyterian Church, Concord, **250 years**  
Christ Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, **100 years**

### Presbytery of Coastal Carolina:

Freedom East Presbyterian Church, Wagram, **150 years**  
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Sanford, **150 years**  
Holly Grove Presbyterian Church, Clinton, **100 years**  
Palestine Presbyterian Church, Linden, **100 years**  
Pearsall Memorial Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, **100 years**

### New Hope Presbytery:

Fuquay-Varina Presbyterian Church, Fuquay-Varina, **100 years**

### Salem Presbytery:

Alamance Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, **250 years**  
Centre Presbyterian Church, Mt. Mourne, **250 years**  
First Presbyterian Church, Statesville, **250 years**  
Second Presbyterian Church, Lexington, **100 years**

### Presbytery of Western North Carolina

First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Holly, **250 years**  
Unity Presbyterian Church, Denver, **250 years**  
Ellenboro Presbyterian Church, Ellenboro, **100 years**  
Saluda Presbyterian Church, Saluda, **100 years**

## Annual Meeting 2013 in Hickory



On Saturday, October 12, 2013, our society met at the First Presbyterian Church of Hickory, NC, organized in 1873. After a time for coffee and conversation, we saw the beautiful sanctuary, built in 1906, and met in the chapel, where Beth Taylor gave an excellent talk on the history of First Presbyterian. She also showed us wonderful scrapbooks of past weddings and other events at the church, and church cookbooks. She then led us on a tour of the church, including their columbarium and memorial gardens.



President John Myhre then called the Annual Meeting to order and opened with prayer. After the treasurer's report, Sam Martin reported on our planned 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour in eastern Guilford County, April 25-26, 2014.

The following officers were then elected to a two-year term: President, the Rev. John Goodman; Membership Chair, Ms. Sarah Alexander; Treasurer, Mr. John Myhre; and Secretary, Mrs. Ada Winters. Following announcements, the meeting was adjourned.

After the meeting, our group moved on to Northminster Presbyterian Church in north Hickory. It was established as a mission church in 1964 by members of First Presbyterian. Pastor James Bernhardt and members Martie and Gene Rice and Juanita Clark told us about the founding of the church, the modern construction of the sanctuary, and the congregation's 50-year history. Like its parent church, it has a strong commitment to mission and community service, as witnessed by its impressive community garden! The tour also included their memorial gardens.



We had an excellent lunch at the Crossroads Grill, known throughout the region for good food. The meeting ended there, but some went on to enjoy the Oktoberfest, held in Hickory that weekend. •



Directions to Peacehaven: From Raleigh, take the Gibsonville exit (138) and turn left across the bridge. From Greensboro, take the Whitsett exit (138) and turn right. This is NC Hwy 61. Go South 1.5 miles, and Peacehaven will be on the right. Look for the white barn with the grasshopper!

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Tour

### *Friday, April 25*

- 12:00 p.m.    Registration at Peacehaven Community Farm, 1458 NC Hwy 61, Whitsett.  
From I-85/40, take Exit 138 and go south on Hwy 61 for about 1.5 miles. Farm is on your right.
- 12:30            Begin tour of farm.
- 2:30            Bethel Presbyterian Church (org. 1812), 300 Knox Road, McLeansville.
- 4:00            Charlotte Hawkins Brown Historic Site and Museum, Sedalia
- 5:30            Check in at Comfort Suites (\$79 with **advance booking**—see below).
- 6:30            Dinner at Ciao Pizza and Italian Restaurant
- 8:00            Board Meeting at Comfort Suites.

### *Saturday, April 26*

- 7:00-8:30      Breakfast and checkout at hotel.
- 9:00            Springwood Presbyterian Church (org. 1868), 1422 Springwood Church Rd, Burlington
- 10:30           Stony Creek Presbyterian Church (org. 1775), 2140 Stony Creek Road, Burlington
- 12:00           First Presbyterian Church, Burlington (org. 1879), 508 W. Davis St.
- 1:00            Guest Speaker: Dr. Carole Troxler  
                    "Presbyterian Roles in the Regulator Movement"
- 2:00            Catered Lunch and 50<sup>th</sup> *Birthday Celebration*  
                    Presentation of Awards
- 3:15            Adjourn

\*\*\*\*We will be staying at Comfort Suites, 1102 Sedalia Cross Lane, Whitsett; (336) 449-5161. **To receive the discount price of \$79 + tax, you must make your reservation on-line at [www.comfortsuites.com](http://www.comfortsuites.com) at least 2 weeks in advance (by April 11).**

Please send form below and check (payable to NCPHS) by Friday, April 18 to NCPHS, P.O. Box 20804, Raleigh, NC 27619-0804. If you have questions, please call our Program Chairman Sam Martin at (910) 428-4165.



### **Registration**

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

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

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

No. of registrations \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 18** 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 **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Spring Tour** in eastern Guilford and Alamance counties on Friday and Saturday, **April 25-26**. The varied program includes the historic churches and cemeteries of Bethel, Stony Creek, and Springwood; Peacehaven Farm for special-needs adults, based on L'Arche communities; the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Historic Site; and First Presbyterian of Burlington, where we will have our Birthday Celebration! After lunch, Dr. Carole Troxler will speak on "Presbyterian Roles in the Regulator Movement." Please join us for a fascinating two days! Registration is only \$25. 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.

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

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration! April 25-26, 2014**  
See registration form on p. 7.