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Reverend R. D. Lucas, Pastor

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Mr. Dewitt Wray

Mr. Babe Ruth Byers

Mrs. Ida Wray

1883

1968

THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY AND SOUVENIR PROGRAM

Sunday, July 21, 1968

2:30 P. M.



EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH

Route 1, Highway No. 216

Kings Mountain, North Carolina

REVEREND R. D. LUCAS, PASTOR

CHURCH HISTORY

By Rev. D. A. Costner

Between the "old brush arbor" and the present comfortable stone building the evolution of Ebenezer Baptist Church can be visualized. Time with its bitters and sweets brings to light the doings of the past and presents hope for the future.

In 1883 a small band of Baptist—members of Washington Baptist Church living in Good Hope Community or the community adjoining Pigeon Roost—with the aid inspiration of Reverend Andrew Johnson and Sister Sallie Wray organized Ebenezer Baptist Church and began holding regular services under a brush arbor. This new congregation was nobody's split for it had the blessing of Washington Baptist Church, the mother church. Noah Roberts was one of the first deacons, Frank Wray was the first church clerk. Sidney Wray, Jennie Ramseur, Emmaline Johnson, and others were a part of the early church. Nelson Roberts, though not yet a member, was a contributor to the establishment and support of the new congregation. This new church began services in a brush arbor a few yards from the old Good Hope Presbyterian Church site.

Much information will necessarily not be given as new comers frequently do not get and retain some of the important facts in regard to the development of a people or an institution. Nevertheless it seems that the history as presented by Mrs. Jennie Earl in 1912 was fairly accurate and complete at that date.

During the 85 years of the church's life it has had many pastors to shepherd the flock; some were outstanding. The Reverend A. Johnson, the organizer, was soon followed by Reverend E. F. Roberts, who gave his pastoral services while a church building was being erected. The names of several pastors are being omitted, with hope that at some time someone with the necessary accurate information may complete this sketch. However, the roster of pastors does include these names: Reverends Conley Henry, S.E.J. Miller, Dr. Carey, W. S. Shuford, A. Burke, Dillard, G. W. Austin, W. W. Price, D. J. Avery, R. J. Davidson, (served twice), M. L. Davidson, C. F. Gingles, D. A. Costner, W. M. Murray, R. D. Lucas.

A roster including most of the deacons who helped hold up the arms of the church's pastors as they pressed the battle to the gates—follows: Noah Roberts, Tom Hamrick, George Ramseur, W. I. Brooks, Sidney Wray, Nelson Roberts, T. L. Wellmon, A. L. Costner, C. J. Ramseur, Logan Glenn, W. L. Logan, Rush Brooks, Neal Hall, Charlie Young, Otto Ramseur, T. C. Wellmon, Ernest Roberts, Roosevelt Brooks, the late James Oates and Wilbur Youngblood, James T. Adams, O. B. Boyce, Fred Thomason, Andrew J. McClain, Willie Gardner, James Wellman, Norville Johnson.

The record shows that the office of church clerk has been filled by Frank Wray, C. J. Ramseur, E. A. Ramseur, V. O. Ramseur and Mrs. Virginia Johnson.

A list of Sunday School Superintendents (in which there may be a missing link) is here presented: Brother Frank Wray, A. L. Costner, V. O. Ramseur, Rush Brooks, W. Earl Costner, L. L. Lutz, W. L. Logan, Howard Roberts, Sr. James T. Adams, Calvin Miller, Donald Miller, Dewitt Wray.

The Baptist Training Union presidents have been Mr. Julius Young, D. A. Costner, Miss Georgia Surratte, C. Young, Everett Ramseur, Mrs. Evelyn L. Bullard, and Mrs. Julia E. Roberts.

SENIOR USHER BOARD
Mr. James T. Adams, President



MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT
Mrs. Julia E. Roberts, President



THE SENIOR CHOIR
Mrs. Julia E. Roberts, President



JUNIOR USHER BOARD
David B. Lucas, President



CHURCH HISTORY

If any variety of plants is to survive it must be able to reproduce. If a church is to remain in tact it must produce converts and bring forth some leaders and some ministers. Ebenezer has helped develop religious leaders and a few of those leaders were ministers. The roster reads: Reverends John L. Johnson (deceased), Brother Frank Froneberger (deceased), Reverend Dwight A. Costner, Rev. A. D. Logan, and Rev. M. J. Williams (deceased). The Rev. C. W. Sandifer was a member of this church at the time of his ordination, about 1912 or 1913. The Reverend W. E. Costner acknowledged the call some years after leaving Ebenezer.

Some early members, supporters, and Sunday School workers were Drucilla Wellman, Jennie and Mary Roberts, the George Ramseur family, Arthur Thompson, Summie Johnson, The Wesley Mauneys, The Alfred Wellman family, the Weirs, W. I. Brooks, Elijah Brooks, Elisha Brooks, Tom Hamrick, the Morgan family, the Froneberger; and the late I. Lutz, L. L. Lutz, the Costner family, Youngs, Andy Adams, W. L. Logan, Neal Halls, and memory fails to bring all the names to light.

The Ebenezer Association was organized at a meeting called for that purpose at Ebenezer Church in 1889, and was named by the Reverend A. Johnson.

This church has served as host to the association, the Sunday School convention, the Missionary & Education conventions, The W.M.U. Convention, and has often been in the vanguard of other uplift movements.

The church has exemplified concern for its youth. In other years the church celebrated Children's Day, Vacation Bible School, Youth Appreciation Day, the church Holidays, and often special literary programs for the development of its youth.

About the turn of the century Ebenezer church became the mother of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Kings Mountain, North Carolina.

An organ was placed in the church during the pastorate of Rev. G. W. Austin, Mr. U. S. Wray and his brother Mr. Edgar Wray were very devoted organists.

Under the inspiration and leadership of Mr. Julius Young our first BTU came into being as an agency of the church in 1908 and continued for some time. The B.T.U., was again set up in 1914 by Miss Ada Tate. Brother D. A. Costner was elected for president. The B.T.U., has been functioning here since 1914.

The W.M.U., was organized as an agency of this church about 55 years ago.

The church has had some encouragements, some conflicts; however, she has been aware "Hitherto the Lord has helped us", therefore she goes forward trusting in the Lord of hosts.

Sons and daughters of Ebenezer have served well wherever they have found fields of labor.

We trust this effort to present a few pertinent facts in the evolution of this church may inspire, challenge, and provoke, Ebenezer people to keep records, to fill in and correct any errors found in this treatise, and to be living letters and witnesses approved of God.

85TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

Sunday Morning Worship Services

July 21, 1968

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Sunday School	Superintendent	
Devotional Services	Bros. John Gist O. B. Boyce	
Call To Worship	Pastor	
<i>"Lord lay some soul upon my heart and love that soul through me; And way I bravely do my part; to win that soul for Thee."</i>		
The Lord's Prayer Chant	Congregation	
Morning Hymn	Number 96	Combined Choirs
Scripture Reading	Pastor	
Invocation	Bro. James T. Adams	
Choir Response		
Music	Number 218	Choirs
Welcome Address	Miss Lola Adams	
Response	Miss Valarie Ramseur	
Solo	Miss Patra Adams	
Remarks on the church history	Bro. Hilliard Ramseur	
Music	Hymn 406	Choirs
Mission Offering	(Soft Music-Flee As A Bird)	Ushers
Pastoral Prayer		
Morning Message	Reverend R. D. Lucas	
Invitational Hymn	Choirs	
Morning Offering	Finance Committee	
Announcements	(Church Secretary)	Miss Janice Byers
Recognition of visitors	Mrs. Juanita Adams	
Closing Hymn	Congregation	
Benediction	Pastor	

THE JUNIOR CHOIR
Deborah Ann Crockett, President



THE YOUNG ADULT CHOIR
Ansel Houser, President



THE EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH
 Music Department
 "Where Words Fail, Music Speaks"



Deborah A. Crockett



Sandra K. Byers



Mrs. R. D. Lucas, Music Director



Patra A. Adams



Lola B. Adams

AFTERNOON SESSION

2:30 P. M.

Mr. Hilliard Ramseur Presiding
 Devotion Visiting Churches
 Music "What A Fellowship" Congregation
 Scripture Reading Reverend R. D. Lucas
 Invocation Reverend J. M. Alexander
 Music Shoal Creek Choirs
 Welcome Address Mr. Dorson Bullard
 Response Representative From Shoal Creek
 Solo Mrs. Geneva B. Ramseur
 Psalm Of Life Mrs. Myetta Oates
 Music Mt. Olive Choirs
 Introduction of speaker Attorney D. E. Ramseur
 Guest Speaker Mr. Max D. Howell
 Music Shoal Creek
 Remarks Reverend R. D. Lucas
 Offering Finance Committee
 Recognition & Thanks Mrs. Lena Youngblood
 Closing Hymn Congregation
 Benediction Reverend J. M. Alexander

MOTHER OF THE YEAR
1967



Mrs. Viola Curry

MOTHER OF THE YEAR
1968



Mrs. Juanita C. Adams

DEACON BOARD
Mr. James T. Adams, Chairman



TRUSTEE BOARD
Mr. John F. Adams, Chairman

