Prayer For The Spirit of Worship

O our God, we humbly beseech Thee to purify our hearts from all vain and worldly and sinful thoughts, and thus prepare our souls to worship Thee this day acceptably, with reverence and godly fear. O Lord, set our affection on things above, all the day long, and give us grace to receive Thy word which we shall hear this day, into honest and good hearts, and bring forth fruit with patience. Hear us, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

ARTHUR J. MOORE, Bishop
MARVIN M. MAXWELL, District Superintendent
WILLIAM A. TYSON, Jr., Minister
HISTORY OF WILLIAM'S METHODIST CHAPEL

(Note: The factual information in the following history of William's Methodist Chapel was gathered by Mrs. C. C. Rogers, Mrs. C. L. Murphy, Mrs. Eakes Fort, Mr. Joe Rad Morrow, and Mrs. W. A. Dunson. Much of the information comes from stories that have been told about William's Chapel by many people. To all of these we are indebted for this short history.)

There is some disagreement as to the exact date of the founding of William's Methodist Chapel. However, a few people gathered together beneath the shade of a brush arbor either in 1868 or 1870 and decided to build a church.

The name of Captain William Morrow was prominent in the early life of the church. He was one of the charter members and donated the land and the lumber to build the first building. It is from this man that the name William's Chapel comes.

The original building was not stately. Present day men would hardly think it conducive to the worship of God. The building was made of unfinished pine boards; it was unsealed; and it was small. The first pews were made of pine slabs. They were very uncomfortable, especially during the lengthy sermons customary in that day. The windows had no glasses. Shutters made from rough pine boards kept out the rain, wind, and cold.

This original building was located about one mile from what is now known as Butler's Crossing, near the present Trammell place, about two miles Northeast of Morrow. The inadequate building did not discourage those sturdy men and women of that day from finding the comfort that comes through the public worship of God. Some of these men and women who were the charter members of the church are as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Vineyard, Mr. J. T. Lambert, Captain William Morrow, Mr. A. F. Sears, Mr. Dave Dunson, Mr. Thomas, Mitchell, Mr. Jake Bankingert, Mr. Joe Bankingert, Mr. (? Bankingert, Mr. Franklin Burks, Mr. Hamp Lambert, and Mr. (? Peacock.

In 1882 the original building was torn down and a new and larger building was erected on the site where the first building stood. For almost sixty years public worship was held in this building. Many are the stories that are told by the "old-timers" about the summer-time revival meetings, the Quarterly Conferences, the home-comings, and the like that marked the history of that period.

The years following the depression of the late twenties and early thirties brought many changes in the church. It was indeed difficult to carry on the program of God's work with limited finances. However, as conditions became more normal one of God's saints gave $500.00 to the church. She was Mrs. Emma Wyn Kent. Before provision could be made to spend this money for much needed repairs to the church building, death knocked at the door of Mrs. Kent's life. Upon her death-bed she requested that this money be used to build a new church. Through her efforts a building program was started.

It was decided that the new church building should be closer to the Morrow Community. Mr. William J. Nolan had an acre of ground upon which he was planning to build a home. He gave this land to the church and the present red brick building was erected upon it in 1935.

Since 1881, as far back as there are accurate records, thirty-one men have served as pastors of the church. When the original building was torn away in 1882 the Rev. James B. Allen was the pastor. Undoubtedly he directed the building of a new structure.

In 1935, when the present building was erected, the Rev. M. C. Allen was the pastor. It is said that Brother Allen drove as many nails, did as much carpenter work, perspired as much sweat, shed as many tears, lived as happier a life, and preached as true a gospel at William's Chapel as any man who has ever lived. A great deal of the present organization of the church is due to his untiring efforts to advance God's Kingdom in the Morrow Community.

Much could be said about these men of God who gave a few years of Christian service to William's Chapel. Many of them have found a resting place at the foot of the Throne of God. It is with reverence that we mention their names and the length of their service to the church. They are as follows:

James B. Allen, 1881-188 (?); J. H. Brooks, 1884; O. B. Quillian, 1885-1888; W. F. Robinson, 1889; Robert F. Eakes, 1890; F. P. Brown, 1891; E. C. Marks, 1892; W. E. Tarpley, 1893-1894; L. P. Neese, 1895-1897; A. B. Weaver, 1898; J. W. Hunt, 1899-1900; Henry D.
No history of William's Methodist Chapel would be complete without mentioning the name of Miss Maude George. She became a member of the church in 1906 and was an ardent worker in God's vineyard from that day on. When it was decided to move the church to Morrow she took her place as a member of the church and immediately set to work to do anything, no matter how small or how large, to build a beautiful and lasting worship center in the Morrow Community.

She loved to hear the beautiful words of that great old hymn, "Just When I Need Him Most," resound throughout the walls of the church she loved. She has gone to an eternal resting place. Her physical body is seen no more. But the spirit of a great and Godly woman who loved William's Chapel with a divine passion lives to touch the lives of those who knew her and those who hear about her.

Today in her church, William's Methodist Chapel, upon the sacred desk, rests a beautiful pulpit Bible with the inscription upon it, "Presented to William's Methodist Chapel in Loving Memory of Miss Maude George." Wherever the Word of God is found, there lies the spirit of Miss Maude George.

There are others too numerous to mention who have given their lives as best they knew how to the advancement of God's Kingdom at William's Chapel. The present beautiful little church is a memorial to all those who have gone before and to those who will follow in years to come.

Whenever future histories of William's Methodist Chapel are written the names of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. McGrew, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rad Morrow, Mrs. C. L. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Tarpley George, Mr. and Mrs. Talmage George, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. George, Mrs. Eakes Fort, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Sargent, Mr. W. A. Dunson, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Sherman, Mrs. W. P. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Farmer, Mrs. Brack Gilbert, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Peacock, Mrs. Ava Brown Palmer, Mrs. Oxi Sanders, Mrs. Nancy Burks, and Mrs. Elizabeth Reid will find an important place in the future success of the church. These members of the church have given from a full heart of their substance, their physical energy, and their Godly endowments to create for future generations the abiding example of Christian Principles. These have provided a way to carry on the present day program of the Christian Church.

CONGRATULATIONS, COMMENDATION, AND GOOD WILL

Lake Junaluska, North Carolina
August 24, 1943

Dear Brother Tyson:

Your letter reached me only today. Thanks for your gracious invitation to come to William's Chapel on October 31. I regret to say that every Sunday morning and night on my schedule is already pledged for the rest of the year. But for this I would gladly come. I must ask to be excused.

God's richest blessings upon William's Chapel and the work that has been done there this year.

Sincerely,

(Signed) ARTHUR J. MOORE,
Bishop, The Methodist Church,
Atlanta, Georgia.