

Holly Springs Union Chapel, Horse Shoe, NC

Rev. J. F. and Emily Woodfin granted 3 acres to Holly Springs community March 13, 1878. Trustees Thomas R. Murry, John G. Sitton, J. F. Woodfin, W. B. Allison, N. P. Johnson, H. J. Gash and J. J. Osborne managed a school and church on the property (Source: Henderson County Deed Book 12, Page 295). Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian churches had permission to conduct non-denominational services.

About 1900 a naughty boy, who did not want to attend school, burned the original school/church building down.

On December 10, 1901, Paul J. and Julia Woodfin granted three-fourths of an acre at the same location to the Henderson County Board of Education for a school (Source: Henderson County Deed Book 54, Page 81). That same year, the men of Holly Springs community, led by Eber Allison, built a new building at the present location. It was used jointly as school and church from 1901 until 1924 when the local children were enrolled at Mills River School. Henderson County Board of Education deeded the property back to the community on April 16, 1925. A fee of \$1.00 to cover this transaction was paid by Eber Allison.

Trustees in 1925 were Misters M. S. Anderson, J. M. Allison, H. J. Miller, A. W. McKinna, and Mrs. Hazeltine Hollingsworth.

Rev. Clyde N. Cady, American Sunday School Union missionary, Philadelphia, PA, started Sunday afternoon worship and Sunday School classes in the early 1920's. He and his wife Pearl conducted Vacation Bible School in June each year. Gene Miller was Sunday School Superintendent; teachers were Hazeltine Hollingsworth and Emma U. Allison. Rev. Cady's ministry at Holly Springs lasted through 1956.

Local women held quilting bees at Holly Springs Church during the 1940's and early 1950's. When their summer canning was finished and children returned to school, neighbors met each morning to set up quilting frames to stitch blankets. They carried sandwiches and slices of home-baked cake in brown bags and tea in quart jars for lunch. In November, a truck came to the community from the Presbyterian Children's Home in Black Mountain to collect the quilts and jars of canned goods donated by the Holly Springs ladies.

Emma Allison and Harry J. Nicholson organized Holly Springs Homecoming which was held from 1945 through 2007. Each fourth Sunday afternoon in August former students and their families gathered from as far away as South Carolina and Tennessee for a picnic and fellowship. Former students and their descendants led hymn singing and worship. Most recently, Rev. Ralph Banning and Chris Phillips conducted homecoming services.

Holly Springs Union Chapel is maintained by the current trustees: Drew Brannon, Ann Johnson, Sam Laughter, Jimmy Phillips, Beth Simpson, George Williams and Maria Williams.

Karen B. Phillips is church treasurer, and Annette N. Phillips is secretary.

George Williams and Annette Phillips
November 20, 2013