

PRAYER

"Tis not to those who stand erect,
Or those who bend the knee,
It is to those who bow the heart
The Lord will gracious be;
It is the posture of the soul
That pleases or offends;
If it be not in God's sight right
Naught else can make amends."

unknown

A TRIBUTE TO



Merdyth McCullers Lane

Our love and gratitude go to "Miss Merdyth" who gives herself to enrich the lives of others. She is our constant friend, our dedicated counselor, our faithful teacher, and adds a *touch of glory* to our lives. Along with the records she keeps of our Christian heritage for perpetuity, the influence of her life will always remain with us as a memorable afterglow.

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church Membership

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Merdyth McCullers Lane, daughter of the late William Edward and Leute Willis McCullers, was born in Johnston County on April 9, 1903.

She acquired the rudiments of "reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic" at "Oakynook" private school located on the family farm, Panther Branch township, Wake County, North Carolina. Her present home includes this special one-room school house with slight alterations as her living room. She entered the tenth grade at Garner High School and upon leaving high school, she entered Woman's College at Greensboro (now University of North Carolina at Greensboro). After earning her B.S. degree, she for many years, taught Home Economics and other subjects in the North Carolina Public School system.

On July 21, 1936, she was married to the late George W. Lane, Jr.; and of this union, there were no children. However, she has many "adopted" children who love and respect her far more than can be expressed.

For sixty-five years she has lived a life dedicated to the glory of God. With devotion, dignity, and loyalty she has served her Master, her Church and her community. Having participated in all areas of work in the United Methodist Church, she continues to be active in all phases of the program of work in Mt. Zion United Methodist Church and its community where she has resided and continues to live a full and purposeful life.

Due to the author's modest approach in writing this volume and Volume I, her immense impact in our church life is not fully recorded.

(Compiled by order of the Administrative Board)

MT. ZION

A Dedication Hymn

"Oh Lord of Host, vouchsafe this day
To look in tender mercy down,
Accept this offering while we pray,
And bless this temple for thine own.
Christ is our pillar, rock and shield
Our strong deliverer and our guide;
Oh may our hearts rich incense yield;
And peace and love with us abide.

"Here in this house Thy presence live
Thy sacred love and truth and grace,
Thy 'peace the world can never give',
Dwell in this consecrated place.
May all Thy saints that worship here
Be filled with heavenly zeal and grace;
And wisdom, truth and Godly fear
Win heaven at last, their resting place.

"May sinners here Thy work receive
Thy quickening power their hearts renew,
'Till all by grace through faith believe--
And sin and death and hell subdue.
Come Holy Spirit, heavenly dove,
With consecrating power enshrine,
Accept this Temple of our love,
Accept and crown it ever Thine."

Sarah McCullers Steadman - Ca 1885



Mt. Zion Church.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT

Some Characteristics of the Early Christian Church

Paul's conviction regarding the Early Christian Church was that the true descendants of Abraham -- the true Israel -- were not those who could trace their physical descent from Abraham, but those who had made the same venture of faith as Abraham had made. The true Israel, and the true Church, were not composed of any nation or race; it was composed of those who accepted Jesus Christ in faith. This constitutes the conception and membership of the Christian Church. One of the first things the Christian Church stressed was the idea that no man is useless--that every man is of use to God. The fact that each person was important and needed was stressed; in short, individuality was of prime importance. In the Early Christian Church there were no class distinctions, so to speak, each man was on the same "footing".

The Early Christian Church emphasized the fact that the Christian had a joy that no other man could express, and this belief has also been handed down to us through the years. The first question in the Catechism is, "What is man's chief end?", and the answer, of course, is "Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever".

The Early Church also demonstrated that no man was worthless because Christ died for all men.

The Early Church was:

A Singing Church: In Paul's description of the meeting of the Church at Corinth, we find singing as an integral part of the Church fellowship. They were well-versed in the singing of David's Psalms. Since the Fall of Jerusalem in AD 70, in the Orthodox Jewish Synagogue there has been no music for when they worship, they remember a tragedy. But in the Christian Church, from the beginning until this date, there have been songs of praise; for the Christian remembers an infinite love.

A Healing Church: The Early Church had a code which laid down the law that each congregation must appoint at least one widow to take care of women and children who were sick. (A present day example of this is the importance which the Mormon Church places on such matters).

A Praying Church: They knew that the proper preparation of their thoughts and prayers, which were numerous, gave the proper emphasis to their actions.

An Unselfish Church: The Early Christian Church taught its members that to live selfishly was "to pierce Christ again", and that to cultivate selfish and evil desires was not only the downfall of the Christian himself, but was the downfall of the whole Church, as well.

Development in the Church has been based on an early established fact: without right relationships between man and man, righteousness cannot exist, and all man's striving for righteousness is rendered ineffective and without reward.

The Early Christians knew, as you and I know, that it is man who **proposes**, but it is God who **disposes**, for the future is in the hands of God. Knowing these things, the mission of the Early Christians was, as ours should be, to create a right relationship first with God and then with our fellowman.

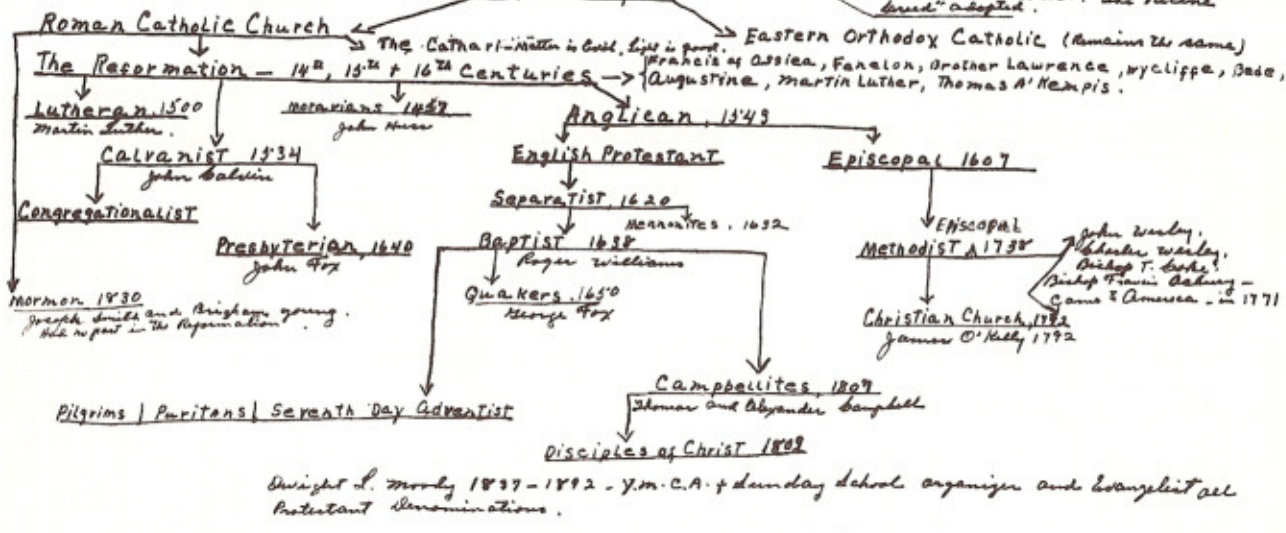
Barbara Taylor Ennis

July 1977

CHRISTIANITY

The Disciples were called Christians first at Antioch - 40 years after Jesus ascended into Heaven.

Historic Catholic Church - (The Universal Church). 1st. world wide Ecumenical Meeting - 325 A.D. The Council of Nicaea called by Constantine the Great. The Nicene Creed adopted.



Present Ecumenical Movement (World Council of Churches) 1910 — 1978

Many other denominations established from these since middle 1800s.

MUSINGS OF MT. ZION

On one occasion when Jesus was relating a parable to His disciples, He said:

"This was the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in Our eyes."

Mark 12:11

Now that we have reached almost two centuries of Mt. Zion's service to God and the community, we too can say as did Jesus, "This is the Lord's work and it is marvelous in our eyes". It is truly amazing to remember the blessings of the past which inspire us to build for today and for the future.

We are told that "God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform", and so it was with the establishing of our Mt. Zion.

When He was ready for a Methodist Church to be constructed in the north-western part of Johnston County, He led one of the young men of the community, who had settled here in the early 1800's, to fall in love with a Virginia lass from a Methodist family. He brought her home to this "wilderness community" and to satisfy her longing for her little Methodist "Meeting House" in Virginia, he set aside two acres of his plantation and built a little Church to the Glory of God and for her worship center. John T. Leach and wife, Susan Parham Leach, with the inspiration from God and help of friends named the Church for God's Holy Mount, "Mt. Zion". Our Church has continued to prosper in the Lord's work for untold years. As in the past, may Her people continue to serve in the leadership of the community to the Glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to minister to those who need our love and encouragement.

There has been much joy and many blessings at Mt. Zion during the past years. We must follow Jesus' admonition to us, "To show what great things God has done for us". Luke 8:39

It is now time to begin again in recording the achievements of the people of Mt. Zion. These achievements are noted in the accomplishments of our organizations of which we have many; namely, the United Methodist Women, the United Methodist Men, the United Methodist Youth Fellowship, the Junior and Senior Choirs, the Boy Scouts, Sunday School, and, of course, the Administrative Body composed of the many committees which are drawn up by the North Carolina Conference.

We have been blest with the leadership of able pastors to inspire us on to success as well as that of our Sunday School Superintendents, Committee Chairmen, Sunday School Teachers, Choir Leaders, Musicians, and each working member of the Church.

We have planted many beautiful shrubs and flowers in God's Garden, which includes the entire Mt. Zion acreage, and hope to keep on with this beautifying of our Church grounds. "All things bright and beautiful, the Lord God made them all."

The Bicentennial of the Carolina Methodist Circuit was celebrated at Duke University in 1976 which brought much joy and thankfulness to those who could attend. "The best drivers keep a close watch in the rearview mirror", we are told; so, a true knowledge of the past helps us to plan better for the future.