

Andrew Chapel UMC



1732 Brooke Road
Brooke, Virginia

2012

Homecoming 2012



In celebration of Homecoming this small booklet of pictures and stories is being shared.

These are the stories of our church mothers and fathers. The ones who worked and served to make Andrew Chapel UMC the wonderful little white church on the hill that it is today.



This booklet is not comprehensive, there are more people and stories not written on these pages than are found here. It is our prayer this will be the beginning of a movement to preserve the stories, pictures and memories that are Brooke, Virginia and Andrew Chapel UMC.



Andrew Chapel...the Story

The Stafford County, Virginia land around the intersection of Brooke Road (State Route 608) and Andrew Chapel Road (State Route 629) is known as Brooke. This area was named after John Taliaferro Brooke (1763-1821).

The first Andrew Chapel - Methodist Episcopal South (1854 - 1862) was located in Brooke and was a parish on the Stafford Circuit of up to 20 churches. Civil War armies encamped around Andrew Chapel destroyed the church in 1862. Services were held under grape arbors until a new church was built.

The second Andrew Chapel M.E.S. (1866-1955) was erected at Winkler's Corner located at the intersection of Courthouse Road and Andrew Chapel Road. This Stafford Charge site is marked by the "Old" Andrew cemetery, consecrated in 1924. The building was considered temporary, deteriorated, and the need for a larger facility caused a third chapel to be erected in 1904.

Our current building, Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, is located at the intersection of Brooke and Andrew Chapel Roads, approximately 5 miles south east of the Stafford Court House, and across from the now Virginia Railway Express station.

The "new" Andrew Chapel was built in 1904 and was dedicated Sunday March 12, 1905. Rev. J. P. Stump, of Alexandria, preached the dedicatory sermon to a large congregation, where there was hardly standing room. Many came from Fredericksburg by train; some carried their dinners with them in picnic style. The altar was decorated with palms and presented a pretty effect. Prof. A. B. Bowering, presided at the organ, and, it is needless to say, rendered sweet music. A collection was taken up at this service, which amounted to about \$275. Mr. Stump again preached at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and Rev. C. F. McClintie, of Randolph Macon College, preached at night. The day was long remembered at Brooke.

The Rev. C. L. Potter, pastor, Hon. M. K. Lowry, Edward Robinson, C. D. Green, C. T. Stone and others were congratulated on the accomplishment for the work of building the new church, which cost \$2500.

Less than a month after the dedication, on April 11, 1905, Henry and Potter Payne were the first children baptized in the new church. The first couple married were Elmer Stewart Crismond and Eva Serena Jones on December 28, 1905.

From 1904 until 1955, both Andrew Chapels, standing a few miles apart, shared the same name and circuit minister. "Old" Andrew Chapel held its last Worship services in 1955 and the building was razed in 1971. The Andrew Chapel Cemetery is located at the site of Old Andrew. The "New" Andrew Chapel along with Salem

Church at Widewater, formed the Potomac Charge in 1962, helped build the Brooke Voluntary Fire Department in 1963 and purchased the adjacent parsonage in 1968. The connection between the Brooke Firehouse and Andrew Chapel continues still.

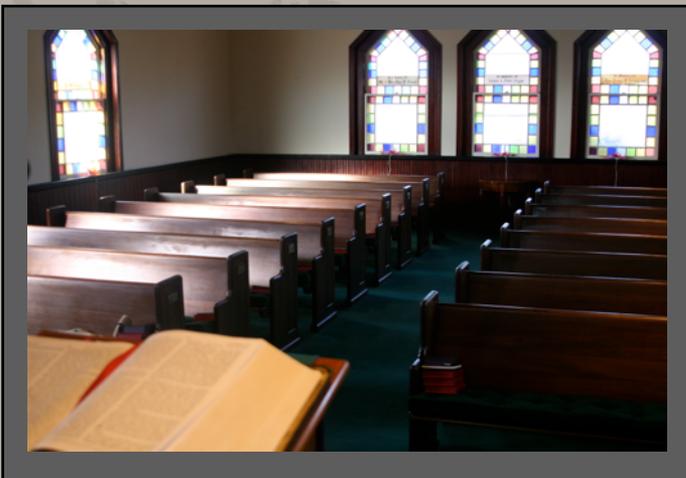
Andrew Chapel includes the sanctuary with a connected Fellowship Hall (1978) and picnic shelter (2010). Facilities include a pastor's study, meeting space for church administration, Bible studies and Sunday school classes, a kitchen and dining areas, and nursery.

In 2005 Boy Scout Troop 516 (numbered to match Matthew 5:16) was formed. It has become a strong scout troop with 50 boys and many leaders. An Eagle project provided Andrew Chapel with an amphitheater and a fire pit was added later.

In 2012 Andrew Chapel became fully handicapped accessible with the installation of new sidewalks and railings. This project combined with awnings and picnic shelter have provided Andrew Chapel with a welcoming entry and opens the doors to the Brooke community.

Andrew Chapel currently offers Worship Services at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m., Sunday School for all ages at 10:00 a.m., and vacation and year-round Bible schools of study. We are financially self-sufficient, supporting feeding ministries in our community and to the homeless in D.C.. Our Lay Leadership is excellent, friendly, helpful and mature Christians with seasoned veterans and enthusiastic new members.

Andrew Chapel is energized by our church's past, celebrated our 150th Anniversary in 2004, and envisions a bright future.



Mabel and Walter Watson

Walter and Mabel were lifetime residents of Brooke.

Walter built the "G&D Store" in 1904, and was the store owner and businessman in Brooke for many years. He did not regularly attend Andrew Chapel, but he was a Christian-type man and followed the readings of the Bible. He married Mabel Ashton Jones on February 14, 1906 in Washington D. C. in a flower shop - quite a romantic setting! They had six children: Louise (Payne,) Eleanor (Fleming,) Pearl (Shelton,) Willard Lee, and "Baby" Watson.

Mabel never missed church services. She attended on Sundays and all other meetings, if possible. She was a Christian woman and made sure that all of her children and grandchildren were taught to believe in the Bible. She was a lifetime member of the Ladies Auxiliary (UMW). She always helped with church picnics, fall festivals, homecomings, etc. She had a stern but sometimes funny side of her.

One Sunday in the 1960's Lorita and Eileen wore mini skirts to church..Grandma walked up to them and said, in her nonsense way, that they needed to go home and sew a ruffle on the bottom of those skirts. That was her way of telling them they were not appropriately dressed for church!

She and Walter had more than their share of sad times because of losing three of their six children...Anna Isabelle died at age 9 from heart complications, the full-term baby boy lived one day and Willard was killed at Iwo Jima in 1945 at age 25...the cross on the alter is in his memory because Mabel wanted something to be in Andrew Chapel that represented her son.

Walter, Mabel, Anna Isabelle, and the baby are buried in the church cemetery here at Andrew Chapel. Walter was born in 1875 and lived until 1959. Mabel was born in 1885 and lived until 1969.



**Party for “Over 70 Years”
August 1968**

Front Row (L to R) - Hoyt Reed, Gus Beagle, Eva Crismond, Kate Stamper, Mable Watson.

Back Row - Eva Reed, Peggy Watson, Ada Dent, Hattie Grigsby, Marian Jones, Edith Turnbull.

W. Gordon and Pearl W. Watson

William Gordon Shelton was born May 4, 1910 and lived 72 years...he died on Easter morning, April 2, 1983...he was a lifetime resident of Stafford County where he loved his family, Andrew Chapel at Brooke and Cedar Hill Farm. He married Pearl Jeanette Watson at 8 AM on Christmas morning, December 25, 1933. He and Pearl had three children, Eileen Jeanette Shelton Greene, William Gordon Shelton, Jr. and Eleanor Louise Shelton Pitts. They also had four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Gordon was baptised in 1913 at Register Chapel Church and later transferred his membership to Andrew Chapel in 1933. He did not always attend the services but applied his building knowledge and carpentry skills in helping finish the church basement and building the kitchen cabinets, counter and downstairs bathrooms. Even though he was not always in church on a regular basis, he helped support all church projects. Later in life, he used to baby sit the grandchildren while Pearl and the children's parents would be at church services.

Pearl Jeanette Watson Shelton was born May 18, 1913 and died on the morning of Eileen's birthday, June 28, 2004. She was the daughter of Walter Lee Watson and Mabel Ashton Jones Watson. She was sister to Louise Watson Payne, Eleanor Watson Fleming, Willard Lee Watson, and Anna Isabelle Watson. Her brother, Willard, whom she adored, was killed on Iwo Jima in 1945...the cross that sits in the pulpit is in memory of him.

Pearl was a faithful member of Andrew Chapel. She was in church every Sunday for worship services and was a lifetime member of the church and the United Methodist Women. She attended board meetings, was on the Parsonage Committee, Ways

and Means committee and sang, with her beautiful alto voice, in the adult choir for years. As a young married lady, she cleaned the church from top to bottom every week - all for no pay! That was her loving contribution to this church. I think that anyone who knew her could offer a personal time when Pearl gave us an example of "her faith through love" and could say she lived "by the Spirit."

Pearl and Gordon's "legacy" has enriched Andrew Chapel. Their children serve as leaders of this church. They sing, teach and preach the word of God, they tend to the accounting of funds, they record the minutes of meetings, they are doing what their parents have taught them to do and what God would have them do. And, they greet you every Sunday morning. We know both Pearl and Gordon are smiling on us today.



C. O. Dent, Sr.

Christy, as he was called, was married to Ada Lucy Jones Dent..they had two sons and lived in the Brooke area all of their lives. Christy was very devoted to Andrew Chapel where he held many leadership positions of the church. Christy and Ada were a very loving and devoted couple.

They sang as a duet so beautifully, he with his tenor voice and her as an alto. They sang many hymns together and later when their son, Harold "Dishpan" Dent, grew up he accompanied them with his guitar. But, all of that beautiful music came to an end when Christy died at a young age (in his early 50's) from brain cancer. Ada still attended church here and had a most lovely smile, was always kind and thoughtful to everyone, always wanting to help her church in any way she could..she lived to be 92, but there was a sadness that never seemed to go away after the loss of her dear Christy. They are buried in Andrew Chapel's church yard.



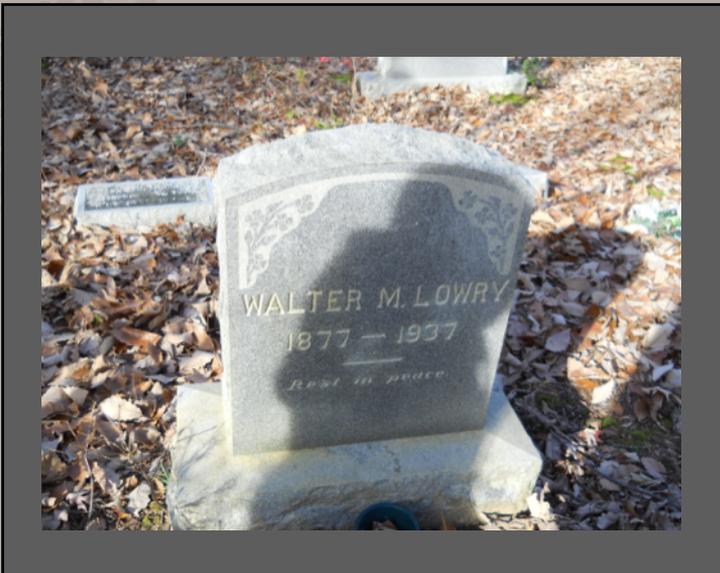
The Old Lowry Burial Ground

The Old Lowry Burial ground is located between Courthouse Road, Meadowbrooke Estates, behind the Bowling property. This year Brendan Cobb, cleared the cemetery and rebuilt the fence for his Eagle project. It was this project that inspired the assembling of this booklet, to remember the people whose names are on the windows.



W. M. Lowry

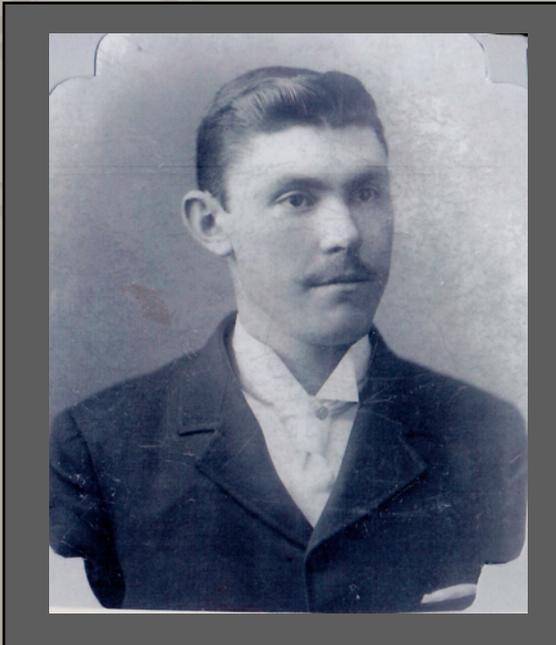
Walter M. Lowry lived in Brooke as a youngster...he was from the family that gave the land where Andrew Chapel was built in 1904. Walter served this church and was known for his leadership abilities....always doing God's work. He attended Andrew Chapel until he moved to Fredericksburg, where he was a very successful businessman.

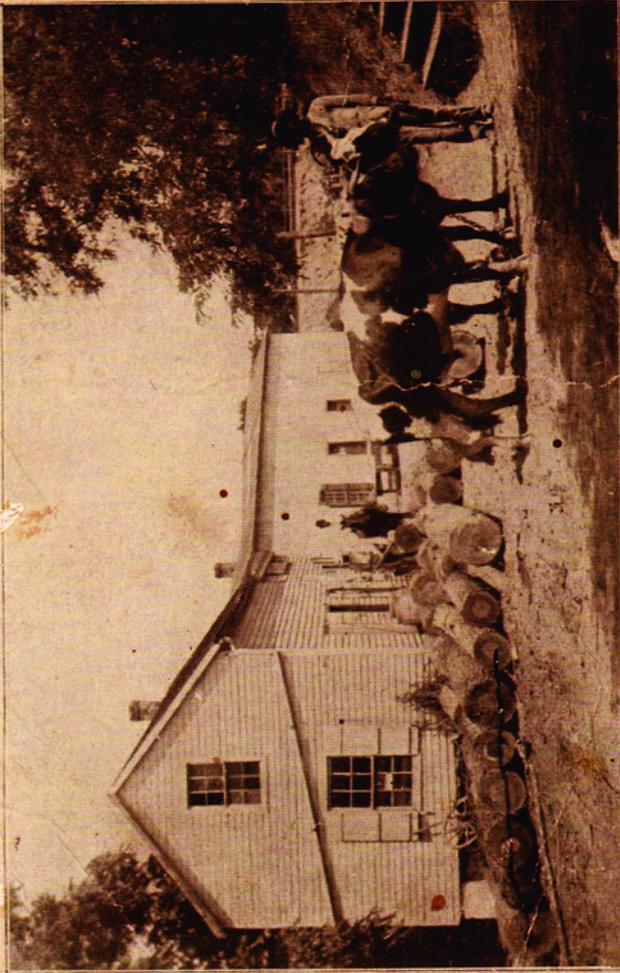


Charles D. Green

Mr. Green built a home for himself and his bride, Anna, in Brooke in 1901. This is the home we know as Eva Green's. They lived there until they moved to D.C. (not sure what year). When they returned in 1930 they moved into the school house. They lived in the school house until they died (actually at home in the school house). When plans to build the current Andrew Chapel Church were made he was asked to assist.

Sunday mornings he picked up his two granddaughters, Mary (Williard) & Joyce. They all walked to church together. He would get on his knees and lead the congregation in prayer. Most Sundays he and his wife had Sunday dinners for the circuit preachers and their families.





C. D. GREEN'S STORE AND LOG YARD, BROOKE, VA²

The steps in this picture are the steps at the front of Andrew Chapel.

Edgar & Rebecca Worrell

Rebecca Green, one of C.D. Green's children, married Edgar Worrell. They were married in the Brooke Schoolhouse in 1932. Nancy Worrell Wood is their daughter. After retiring from the army as a colonel, the Worrell's returned to Brooke and remodeled and lived in the Brooke Schoolhouse.

After retirement, Edgar Worrell pursued his interest in preaching. He served in two churches, one in Lorton and the other at Ft. Belvoir. He was always extremely generous in providing what was needed for the church projects, additions, etc.

Becky Worrell was known for her delicious home made rolls. They were both active members and generous financial supporters of Andrew Chapel.



Louise & Potter Payne

Louise Watson Payne was a very caring, generous person. She taught Sunday school and Bible school classes at Andrew Chapel for many years, all children loved her. She was a lifetime member of the United Methodist Women, attended all board (council) meetings and was actively helpful in any situation. The baptismal font, that sits in the church, was given by Louise and family in memory of their granddaughter, Melissa, who died at age 4, in 1962.

Potter Payne was just as active and generous in church as his wife. One could see Potter working on projects to enhance the beauty of the church and its properties. For many years, Louise and Potter shared their beautiful, Aquia creekside property to use for the annual Fall Festival event. The highlight of the festival was when Harvey Fleming began the quilt auction. Potter would begin the bidding by placing a "high dollar" amount on the prize quilt. He had a distinct laugh that could be heard everywhere because he enjoyed every minute of the time that was contributed to his church and the people of the community.

Potter was named after Rev. Potter who was the first minister at this Andrew Chapel in 1904. He was one of the first babies baptized, along with his twin brother, Henry. Potter rang the bell every week to announce the beginning of worship. He was a faithful servant.

Louise and Potter have been greatly missed since their deaths...Louise died in April 1985 at age 76, Potter just a few months later..they are buried in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Fredericksburg, Va.

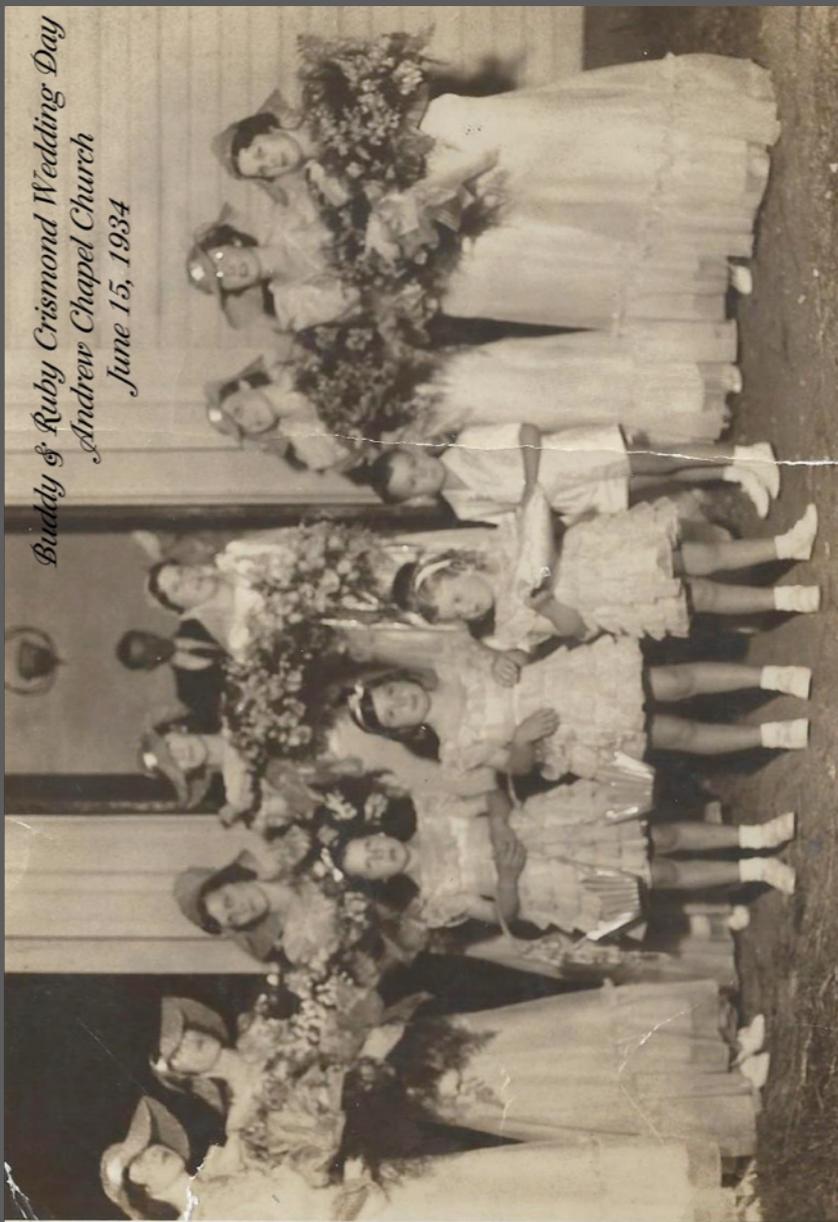


Ruby & Buddy Crismond

The children of Buddy & Ruby left a window in their memory to celebrate their lifetime achievements at Andrew Chapel Church. Buddy was Superintendent for years, chaired the Board Meetings, and taught Sunday School as well. Then there were the Programs that Ruby prepared and presented. That included a Christmas Program and Children's Day program in June. All the little children would go up on the stage and give their recitations. Also there were pantomines and singing. Ruby orchestrated all parts of the program. She also was the Piano Player for the church. Ruby was President of the Ladies Circle. Their life was centered around this church and Buddy still loved to come back (after being in a Nursing Home), until he was 91. He loved to sing and would outright ask for certain of the old songs to be sung when he was there! They are buried at Sunset Memorial.



*Buddy & Ruby Crismond Wedding Day
Andrew Chapel Church
June 15, 1934*



Mildred & Milton Evans

The Evanses moved to Marlborough Point in 1955 and thanks to neighbors, Edna and Charles Crismond, started attending Andrew Chapel Methodist Church. At that time, they had Stacy, Lorita, Archie, and Randolph. David was born in 1957 after they moved to Stafford Courthouse where the Elementary School now stands. Both became very involved in the church leadership. Milton held various offices, such as Lay Leader, Lay Delegate and eventually became a Lay Speaker. Mildred sang in the choir and was instrumental in getting the Ladies Aide connected to the Alexandria District, and it was renamed the Women's Society of Christian Service and is now the United Methodist Women. Both taught Sunday School. From time to time, the Evanses would keep welfare children, and the preacher loved to see them come to church as they would fill a whole pew.



Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Robinson

Edwin, who was Peggy Bourne Timmons' grandfather, lived in a big house on a very high hill overlooking the present day Brooke Road. It was located about one or two miles from Andrew Chapel. Edwin, was a carpenter and helped build Andrew Chapel in 1904. He was a devoted member of the church where he and his family attended regularly. The story goes that his wife would load the wagon with their children, the mid-day meal and go to the site where her husband was working on the church. She did this everyday until the building was completed. The cost of the church was \$2,500. Mr. Robinson died in 1937, she in 1948. So, they lived some years to enjoy this church. They must have been so proud to have been a part of creating this lovely place of worship. They both are buried in Oak Hill Cemetery located on Route 3 in Fredericksburg, Va.



Andrew Chapel Church
Brooke, Virginia

Harvey & Edith Fleming

Harvey Lee and Edith Cavell Stamper Fleming married on November 12, 1935 in Fredericksburg Methodist Church. Edith was a big historian and loved to talk about the history of Brooke and Andrew Chapel so much she wrote her stories in a book for her friends and neighbors. She was church historian. Her love was Andrew Chapel and this was demonstrated through her 43 years of perfect attendance. Edith was always thinking of something to do for her church. She loved putting flowers from her garden in the church, was hostess for the luncheons until her final days and was very involved with Ladies Group (UMW) where she looked forward to working the Country Store each Fall Festival. Her mother was the first president of the Ladies Group. Edith worked on the newsletter staff where she had a special "Edith Page". She would mail cards to those on the prayer list and to anyone she thought needed a little cheer. Edith started the Tree of Lights at Christmas. She always spoke of new sidewalks and the handicap access. I am sure there was a HUGE smile on her face the day they were finished.

Harvey was always on the sidelines helping her with some of the task. Harvey was an usher and bell ringer at the church. When it came time for the UMW Fall Festival Harvey was there to help sell the quilt. There was a time when the quilt was auctioned and Harvey did his best to get top dollar for it.

Edith's last dream was a picnic shelter for Andrew Chapel. The children paid tribute to them by placing their names in the window, where Edith always sat and covered the air duct because it blew too much air on her. But she loved it! They were buried in Old Andrew Cemetery.



James E. Lowry

James (Ed) Lowry's family lived in Brooke and his grandfather gave the land where Andrew Chapel sits today. Ed grew up loving and attending Andrew Chapel. He married a local girl, Helen Truslow and they had one child, Linda Lee.

They were a happy, fun loving couple and shared their time together at church. Ed was very active in the leadership roles at Andrew Chapel and represented the church at annual conferences. Helen had a lovely voice and shared it with all who listened to her sing at the church services. At times, she would sing with the Dent family.

Ed and Helen loved each other very much and shared happy times together until World War II called Ed to serve. He enlisted in the Navy and spent time away from Brooke until the war ended. Ed came home and once again he and his family attended Andrew Chapel. Ed became ill with colon cancer and died when he was in his 30's. It was a sad time for his personal and church family. He rests in peace in an old graveyard that is located in the woods behind Clarence Bowling's residence.



James M. Jones

Obituary...

James M. Jones
(May 31, 1881 - Jul 17, 1970)

James Marion Jones – born in Brooke, was a farmer, and enjoyed his life of 89 years. He never married and lived on Courthouse Road. "May," as family and friends called him, grew up going to Andrew Chapel every Sunday. He walked, rain or shine, from his home to attend services. He was a small man who wore a dark suit, necktie and white shirt, sat on the front row pew and put a one-dollar bill in the collection plate; but, always took out three quarters. He was faithful to his church and when the only means of heating the church on cold days meant that a fire had to be started in the wood-burning stove, he would arrive early enough to get the fire going and by the time others arrived it was warm inside the sanctuary. His funeral service was held at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church with the Rev. Mary Wilkins and the Rev. Edgar V. Wörrell officiating. He is buried in the Old Andrew Cemetery at Winkler's Corner, just a stone's throw from his earthly home. He was a quiet man, who loved Jesus and obeyed the word of God.



*Thank You
to all who provided
information and pictures
for this booklet.*

John & Carolyn Fleming

Janet Bowling

Eileen Greene

Mary Williard

Lorita Shelton

and many others.

