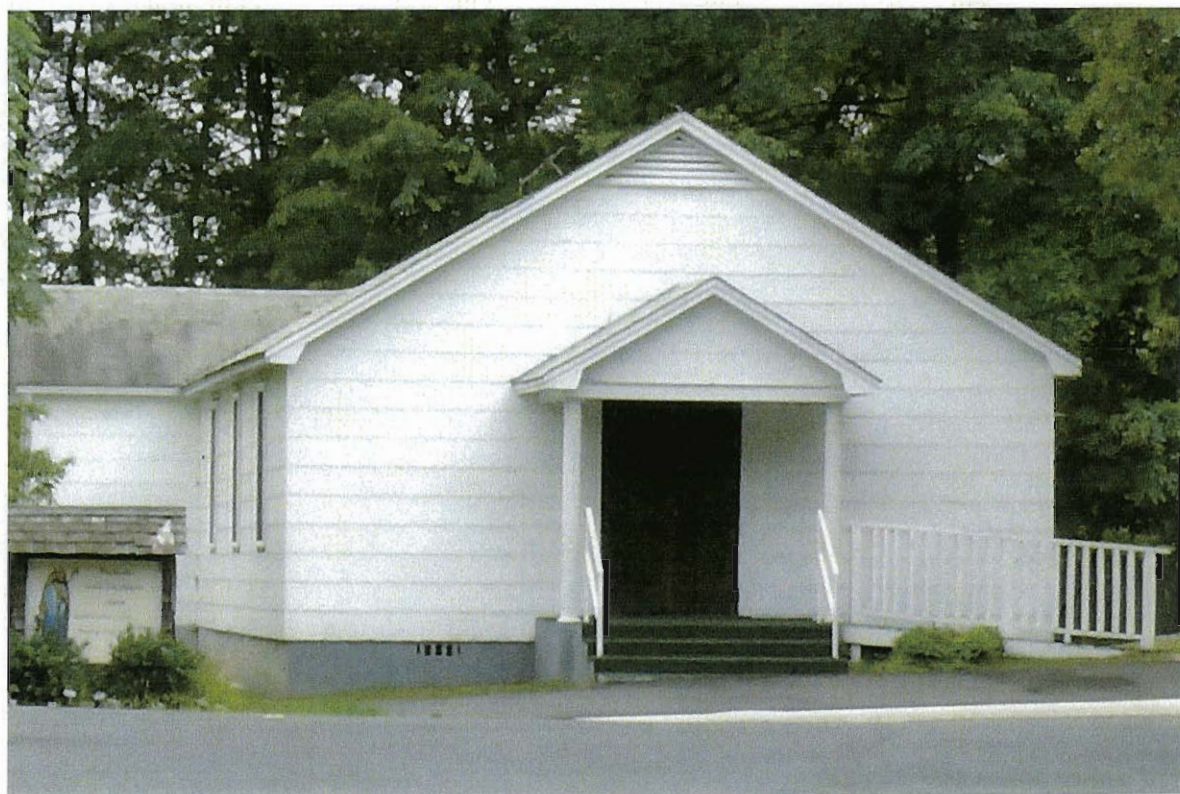




HISTORY OF THE DAVIDIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

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In the early 1930's, Elder Leonard W. Nations, a Seventh-day Adventist layman minister, came to Salem and erected a little tent in town and began giving Bible studies. His preaching was based on the Ten Commandments. He believed the Fourth Commandment--the keeping of the seventh day Sabbath was God's requirement, and this did not please some in the community. Several young men cut up his tent and destroyed it.

Our father and Mother Samuel and Stella Smith owned property that bordered Shallowford Road. Our father offered to let Elder Nations use property there to put up a brush arbor in which to preach. This consisted of poles put up with tree branches to cover the top. Later, a tabernacle was built with wooden planks for sides, a roof, and a sawdust floor.

During the time Elder Nations was preaching in the brush arbor, word came to him that a group would destroy this place of worship also. He said, "I went out in the woods near the brush arbor, knelt down, prayed, and asked God that if it is Your will for me to remain in the Salem area, help me, and let me know." He had already announced that his subject would be on the calamities that God sends to awaken people to their need of Him.

That night the Salem area was shaken by an earthquake so strong that everyone was awakened. Homes were shaken, and dishes were shaken out of the cupboards. The earthquake was recorded as far as Columbia, South Carolina. The next night's service was attended by a large crowd. No one offered to bother him after that.

Elder Nations loved the Bible. He wanted to understand it so much so that he would stay up many nights until one or two o'clock to study. God blessed him to be a preacher that was able to give a sermon from memory; he could repeat from the verses he used as reference. He would ask anyone in the congregation to read the Scripture. He was then able to repeat it and explain it. The large Bible charts he used to explain the books of Daniel and Revelation were a source of wonder to all of us children. His family was gifted in music and singing. They blessed the services with their talents.

Our Mother Stella Smith began attending services in the old brush arbor and believed that the Ten Commandments were to be kept and that the seventh day Sabbath was to be honored. However, she could not understand health reform, having come from a denomination that did not teach it. We were blessed to have as our neighbors the Lawrence and Emma Harper family who were Seventh-day Adventists. Mrs. Emma Harper was a sister to Mrs. Lula Nations, Elder Nations' wife.

Mrs. Emma was a good Bible student. She began explaining the importance of diet and of not using anything that would harm our bodies.

Our Mother used tobacco, coffee, and pork. She could not understand how these things could harm her health. One night God gave her a dream of being in Mrs. Harper's home. Mrs. Harper was washing dishes. She picked up a white enamel pot, washed it, looked inside it, and threw it in the garbage. She did likewise with two more enamel pots. Our Mother asked, "Why did you throw away those three pots? They looked good to me." Her reply was, "Mrs. Smith, they all had holes, and I could use them no more." Our Mother awoke from her dream. She went about her day, and the dream continued to trouble her. The Holy Spirit spoke to her and said, "The three pots that Mrs. Harper threw away with holes that you could not see are your tobacco, pork, and coffee." She said from that day on, "I never used either of them any more, for I knew that God has given me the dream and given me a neighbor who cared enough to share her faith with me." Thus was another soul's name entered in the Book of Life. God blessed her, and her health improved. She lived to be 99 years old, and she always gave God the honor for having let her know the Seventh-day Adventist message.

After our Mother fully accepted the Adventist message, she was baptized. At the same

time, two of our brothers Sumpter and Mack Smith were also baptized. Throughout the years, many more family members were baptized into the church. In the tabernacle services the Nations, Harper, Mull, Wilson, Talley, and Smith families all attended and participated in the church services.

In the late 1930's, our present church, which was then known as The Fall Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church, was built. Our brother Sumpter and our father Sam cut the lumber for the church on a small sawmill which Sumpter owned. Our brother-in-law Ralph Talley hauled the lumber for it. Church members provided the labor to build it. Also in the late 1930's, Elder Nations began studying "The Shepherd's Rod" message given by Victor T. Houteff. This message is based on Daniel 2, the fulfillment of this prophecy, and setting up of God's Kingdom. At this time, all who studied and believed "The Shepherd's Rod" message stayed in the church, and the others left. In the early 1940's, the church name was changed to The Davidian Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In December 23, 1949, we lost a beloved member, Rhodda Burrell Jacobs. Her illness and care made church members aware of a needed place of care for the elderly, sick, and needy. At that time, Victor T. Houteff asked that each state with believers build rest homes to honor God according to Isaiah 58, which tells us to care for those who

are sick and in need.

In the early 1950's, the present Rest Home was built by members of the church. Our sister Pearl Barker donated the land. Church members and others served as caregivers to the patients. It was opened on the basis of anyone in need regardless of their religious belief was welcome. In this manner, it has served and has been a blessing to the church, family members, and all who have needed its services. From our family, our Mother Stella Smith, brother Sumpter Smith, sister Mary Barker, and Sam Barker, her son, were all cared for at this Rest Home in their final illnesses. Among many church members and friends who were cared for are Mary Wessell, Hattie Talley, Alvin Quackenbush, Sidney Smith, and our dear Miss Willie Dubose. She died on November 5, 2006. She was a black lady who was of the Baptist faith. We cared for her for almost 20 years. Sam Barker, our nephew, spent the last year of his life here and expressed his thankfulness for the care he received from his brother Jack and other family members. Sam also was thankful that he had been brought up in the church for he said that we have never had a boy to go bad who had the privilege of attending.

We have been blessed throughout the years by having ministers who were dedicated to serving the church and attending its members' needs. Elders Sumpter Smith,

Sidney Smith, and Glen Green are to be honored for their faithfulness. May God continue to bless our church, and may it bring many to know and serve Jesus, our Saviour.