

*SLAUGHTER NECK  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH*

*Route One, Argo's Corner, Milford, Delaware*



*1777 - 1810 - 1856 - 1929*

*Rev. Wesley Davis, Pastor*

**Slaughter Neck United Methodist Church  
Homecoming**

Wesley P. Davis  
Pastor

November 16, 1997

422-7269

- \*Opening hymn...."And Can It Be That I Should Gain.....#527
- Prayer
- \*Praise Choruses
- Sharing Time
- Prayer
- Scripture.....Colossians 1:9-20
- Offering
- Doxology
- Ministry of "Soldiers of the Cross"
- Blessing of the fellowship meal
- \*Hymn... "Blest Be the Tie That Binds".....#306
- \*Benediction
- \*Alleluia

\* Those who are able will please stand

Pianist	Nancy Rhue
Organist	Sharon Stevens
Ushers	Joe & Rhonda Moore
Acolytes	Ty Wilkerson Jordan Hollenbeck

Slaughter Neck U M Church is planning an expansion/improvement project to the church. New facilities will include a larger social hall, class rooms, bathrooms and kitchen facilities. The expansion project is expected to cost from \$160,000. to \$180,000. Funds on hand amount to \$50,000. Donations, bequeaths, gifts may be made to the Slaughter Neck Church Building Fund in care of Ethel Graham, treasurer; RD 1 Box 132, Milford, DE 19963.

The arrangement of flowers on the altar table is presented by the United Methodist Women in memory of departed members.

The basket of garden flowers by the historical marker is presented in loving remembrance of Doris Clifton Argo by the Clifton family.

The single yellow rose on the altar is presented in loving memory of Doris Argo by her husband Jack and children, Kay, Chris, Craig, and Karyl and families.

A donation has been given to the Slaughter Neck Cemetery in loving memory of Susan C. Penuel by Joseph Penuel and family.

A donation has been given to the Slaughter Neck Cemetery in loving memory of Sally & Hubbard Argo by Joseph Penuel and family.

The basket of flowers are presented in loving memory of George and Margaret Adams by Mr. & Mrs. T. Z. Farens.

The ornamental plants are in memory of Carlton & Beatrice Clifton and Doris Argo by the Clifton family.

## *History of Slaughter Neck Church*

America was barely a year old when the seed for Methodism in the Slaughter Neck Community was sown in 1777 with the assistance of a Presbyterian minister, known only as "J. K." and a Society was formed.

Itinerant preacher Rev. Francis Asbury preached in the area on two separate occasions: July 13, 1778 and July 14, 1779. During the first visit he thought the children were "openly witted." The children and others had miraculously redeemed themselves on his subsequent visit the following year.

In 1810, local preacher, William Hickman donated land upon which the first established church was built and named Hickman's Meeting House. Services were held on Wednesday for many years. It was a wooden structure about 25 feet square with galleries on three sides and connected with the Milford Circuit.

This building was used until 1856 when a new church was built near the site of the precedent church. A vacant lot to the rear of the present church is thought to be the hallowed ground where that first church stood for 46 years.

The second church, which cost \$1,050 to build was incorporated under the name of Slaughter Neck Zion Meeting House. In 1888, it was extensively remodeled for \$1600. Stained glass windows, shipped from Philadelphia, were installed as well as a metal ceiling. It had a large and prosperous congregation. During a funeral held in the church in 1928, one of the main supporting beams in the foundation cracked. The church was declared unsafe to hold services. For one year, services were held in the Prime Hook School until the a new church was built.

Dedication of the third structure was held on November 24, 1929. Even though, the nation was in the midst of an economic depression, there were enough funds collected throughout the day to pay off the building debt. The cornerstone was inscribed with its name: Slaughter Neck M. E. Church.

The church still stands as a beacon to the faithful and to the passersby on the busy highway. Many of the furnishings had been used in the former church: the metal ceiling, pews, altar railing, the pulpit and the three altar chairs. Electricity was installed in 1938. It was air-conditioned in 1995.

There is an active Sunday School that meets every Sunday morning at 10:15 with worship service at 11:15. Slaughter Neck U. M. Church comprises part of the Lincoln Circuit.

The oldest tombstone in the adjoining cemetery belongs to six-year old Mary Hickman, thought to be the daughter of land donor, Mr. William Hickman and his wife. It still stands as a memorial to her.

***Slaughter Neck United Methodist Church  
Dedication of Historical Marker***

Wesley P. Davis  
Pastor

November 16, 1997

- \*Opening Hymn..."O God, Our Help in Ages Past".....#28  
Prayer  
Scripture Reading.....Joshua 4:1-7  
Reflection on Scripture  
Remarks by Selected Guests  
Dedication of Historical Marker  
\*Closing Hymn..."The Church's One Foundation".....#297

We wish to thank and acknowledge the following persons for  
their presence and their role in this special occasion:

Doris Clifton Argo (in loving memory)  
Jack Argo  
H. Sterling Green  
Russell McCabe  
George Carey  
Robert Voshell  
Ruth Ann Minner

The two trees planted near the church sign are dedicated by Donald Custer to the memory of his wife, Elinor Francis Custer (9/4/27-6/13/97) and their son, Terrance Scott Custer.

The tree to the left of the sign, a Japanese Styrax, is for Elinor. The one to the right, a Japanese Bloodgood Maple is for Terrance.

Requesting the Pleasure  
of Your Company

Occasion Dedication of Historical Marker

Date Sunday, Nov. 16, 1997 Time 2:00 P.M.

Place Slaughter Neck U. M. Church  
Argo's Corner - Milford, DE

Given by The Homecoming Committee

R. F. Y. P. Regrets Only - 684-4637

2:30 Homecoming Service with dinner to follow



Rosanne Pack photo

A new historic marker is unveiled at Slaughter Neck United Methodist Church during the congregation's annual homecoming. The marker is dedicated to the memory of Doris Clifton Argo, the church archivist and a life member. Members of the Argo family are joined by church officials and friends who participated in the dedication. Pictured are (l-r) the Rev. Wesley Davis, Bishop Sterling Green, Kay Argo Bennett, Lindsay Sapp, Carlyn Argo Braun, Craig Argo, Chris Argo, Jack Argo, Rep. George Carey, Sen. Robert Voshell and Lt. Governor Ruth Ann Minner.

## Dedication and history marked at Slaughter Neck Methodist homecoming

By Rosanne Pack

The weather was bright but bitter cold with a cutting wind, but heartfelt words and memories warmed those gathered at Slaughter Neck United Methodist Church last Sunday to witness the unveiling of a Delaware Historic Marker at the site of the 200-year-old congregation's home.

The ceremony was scheduled for Slaughter Neck United Methodist Church Homecoming, Sunday, Nov. 16, and it combined feelings of bitterness

that an automobile accident took her life in August so she did not live to see the ceremony that she had long dreamed of.

However, there was no doubt in the minds of those assembled that day that her spirit was present and she was sharing in every minute of the celebration.

Her daughter, Kay Bennett, reminded people that her mother would have been in the middle of the event, taking pictures for the archives.

was never so organized and efficient as when Argo worked for her.

Minner said that she also had some sad moments last week as she took out her information on the marker ceremony.

"I opened my folder, and there was a handwritten note from my friend, Doris, thanking me for participating and reminding that she

**Continued on page 30**



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The ceremony was scheduled for Slaughter Neck United Methodist Church Homecoming, Sunday, Nov. 16, and it combined feelings of bittersweet sadness with the celebration of the designation as a historic site. The marker and much of the day was dedicated to the memory of Doris Clifton Argo, the church historian and a life member of Slaughter Neck Church.

It was Argo who initiated the movement that resulted in her church home being recognized as a historic site. As family and friends shared loving and humorous memories of the active church member, they lamented the fact



Standing before the historic church, the Rev. Wesley Davis, pastor of Slaughter Neck United Methodist Church, leads the congregation in a hymn before the unveiling of a Delaware Historic Marker.

that an automobile accident took her life in August so she did not live to see the ceremony that she had long dreamed of.

However, there was no doubt in the minds of those assembled that day that her spirit was present and she was sharing in every minute of the celebration.

Her daughter, Kay Bennett, reminded people that her mother would have been in the middle of the event, taking pictures for the archives.

Bennett thanked everyone who had supported her mother's efforts to bring the historic marker to Slaughter Neck Methodist Church, and she assured them that her mother was watching everything.

Those who spoke all recalled Doris Clifton Argo as a woman of great determination and energy who dedicated her life to her family and community.

Rep. George Carey (R-Milford) prefaced his remarks with the comment that it is still hard to speak of his memories of Argo. He told of her last minute request to have the church chosen as a historic site in 1997. He thought that it was too late to get it through the waning hours of the General Assembly last summer, but he would try.

Himself a life member of Slaughter Neck Methodist Church, Carey was pleasantly surprised when the resolution was immediately adopted. He said he called his lifelong friend to tell her of the success, and she replied, "That's great! We'll have the ceremony at homecoming this year."

Lt. Gov. Ruth Ann Minner grew up in Slaughter Neck and was a friend to Argo from childhood. The two had even worked together after Minner was elected to public office. She said her office

was never so organized and efficient as when Argo worked for her.

Minner said that she also had some sad moments last week as she took out her information on the marker ceremony.

"I opened my folder, and there was a handwritten note from my friend, Doris, thanking me for participating and reminding that she

Continued on page 30

## Carl

Something Special

The Look, The

Of Genuine

FUR

Is Simply

Breathtaking!

Specially Priced

MINK • FOX • BEAVER

31 Rehoboth Avenue

43/483 > Selon  
44/163

First settled clergyman, Rev. John Hough, 1853-54.

Minutes, 1900--, 1 vol.; Financial, 1900--, 1 vol.; in possession of Larry Moore, R.F.D. Register (baptisms, marriages, members; including Cokesbury entry 229; Bethesda, entry 261 and Sand Hill, entry 277), 1802--, 3 vols.; in possession of pastor, Rev. Ernest N. Wright. Sunday School, 1900--. 1 vol.; kept in church. Typed transcript of register, 1892-1914, in State Archives. Records of incorporation and deeds: Sussex Co. Recorder's office, Deeds Record; Vol.; AAL59, p.266; vol.;BM86, p.273; vol.;BBV121, p.396; vol.;DIY307, p.14.

104/464

121/538

194/504

269. BETHBERI METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1856--, Main St., Magnolia.

Organized 1855. Present building dedicated 1856. It is a two story frame building with belfry and bell. First settled clergyman, unknown. See: an historical sketch, on flyleaf of register.

Minutes, 1886--, 2 vols.; Register, 1886--, 2 vols.; in possession of pastor, Rev. Robert E. Green. Sunday School, 1931--, 1 vol.; in possession of secretary, Mrs. Anderson. Records of incorporation and deeds: Kent Co. Recorder's office, Deeds Record: vol.K4, p.179; vol.S4, p.125; vol.K4, p.423; vol.D12, p.250.

270. BETHEL METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1855--, (near Delaware-Maryland line) near Gumboro.

Organized and present building dedicated in 1858. Church was rebuilt in 1930. It is one story frame building. The walls are covered by cypress shingles. First settled clergyman, unknown.

Minutes, 1923--, 1 vol.; Sunday School, 1923--, 1 vol.; in possession of Joshua Baker, R.F.D., Williards, Md. Register, 1887--, 2 vols.; in possession of pastor, Rev. Wilbur F. Gorkran. Financial, 1923--, 1 vol.; in possession of Thomas moores, R.F.D., Williard, Md.

271. SLAUGHTER NECK METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1856--, Highway 14, 7 miles SE of Milford.

Organized and firs. church erected in 1886. Second building, erected in 1888, was used until dedication of present building in 1929. It is a one

story cement block building with bell and belfry. First settled clergyman, unknown. See: Horace Bennett, "History of Slaughter Neck M.E. Church", manuscript, 1934.

Minutes, 1888--, 1 vol.; Financial, 1888--, 1 vol.; in possession of Riley Bennett, R.F.D. Register, 1898--, 2 vols.; in possession of pastor, Rev. Samuel L. Hanby, Lincoln. Sunday School, 1888--, 1 vol.; in possession of Ruth Tinnity, R.F.D. Records of deeds: Sussex Co. Recorder's office, Deeds Record; vol.DDZ176, p.435; vol.DHA257, p.374; vol.DHC259, p.94; vol.DEY281, p.469; vol.DHZ282, p.164.

272. BRANDYWINE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1857--, 22nd and Market Sts., Wilmington.

Orgnaized 1857 as "Brandywine Village Mission of the M.E. Church", First building, on Vandever Ave. east of Market St., known as "Academy of Brandywine." Given present name when building now occupied was opened and dedicated in 1858.

180-324  
180  
324

9/1340

92/322  
325 351

28/90 '92

83/426 -WB, Brock.

DB29/102

(122/292?)

178/435 -A. Bennett

of St. Johnstown Methodist Episcopal Church. The same year they were incorporated, they bought of Samuel Stephens land "on which the Methodist Meeting-house now stands." The second structure erected was in 1823 and on September 19th, 1872, they erected the present building. It was improved in 1896. This church is in Nanticoke Hundred and is one mile east of Greenwood.

St. Paul's Methodist Protestant Church, Little Creek Hundred, one and a half miles southeast of Laurel, was organized by the Rev. T. H. Burgess in the Sharp's schoolhouse in 1866. The church was built in 1870. In 1868, under the pastorate of Rev. Jeremiah Clay, active measures were taken for the erection of a church building, and three years later, the edifice was dedicated by the pastor in charge, Rev. W. D. Litsinger, the cost being \$800.00. The original members were Elizabeth Gordy, Leah Gordy, W. L. Gordy, and John W. D. McGee. The church was improved in 1904 and they built their community house in 1924, at a cost of \$500.00.

St. Thomas Methodist Episcopal Church in Broad Creek Hundred, was at one time called Shortly Methodist Episcopal Church. The land upon which the church was built was given by Levin Hopkins. It was built in 1800 and burned to the ground in 1856. It was again, built in 1857, and also in 1887. Repairs have been made on it in 1892 and 1896. The church is closed as an active organization, but once a year they have an annual home coming and anniversary service.

Salem Meeting-house, Methodist Episcopal Church, was organized and built in 1790, near Sandy Branch, outside of Selbyville. Another church was erected in 1846. It ceased to function after the Selbyville church was built in 1885.

Sand Hill Methodist Episcopal Church is a misnomer. Its proper name is Reed's Chapel. See that for details.

Scott's Methodist Episcopal Church is the name of one of the churches in Rehoboth Beach. See Rehoboth for details.

Scaford Methodist Episcopal Church. See St. John's.

Scaford Methodist Protestant Church. See Mt. Olivet.

Selbyville Methodist Protestant Church was organized in 1910 and erected their building in 1912, at a cost of \$6,000.00. When the Millville Methodist Protestant Church was closed, the few members united with the Selbyville society. The Selbyville Protestant group, finding the field pre-occupied, moved building and congregation to Dagsboro in 1924. They sold their lot in Selbyville the following year for \$326.00.

Sharp's Methodist Episcopal Church, stood near Milford. It was active in 1846, closed sometime after that, but it has not been in existence in years.

Shiloh Methodist Protestant Church, Broad Creek Hundred, was built in 1879. The land was donated by W. W. Dashiell of Laurel, and the trustees receiving the land were Levin S. Hitch, and Reuben James. The community house was built in 1943 at a cost of \$1,000.00. The church still stands on the Laurel-Millsboro road.

Shortly Methodist Episcopal Church was the original name of the present St. Thomas Church. For more information see St. Thomas.

★ Slaughter Neck Zion Meeting-house, Methodist Episcopal Church, in Cedar Creek Hundred, was organized in 1777. They met in the homes of the Stradley's, Rickards and Shockley's, before the church was built. It

was formerly called Hickman Meeting-house. Perhaps it was the Draw Bridge congregation that Asbury reports. If so, it was organized in a home near the river. The Hickman site was a little distant from the present location. The old church purchased a lot in 1810. The Zion Meeting-house was built in 1856. It was enlarged in 1889 at a cost of \$1,600, and again in 1919 at a cost of \$1,000. A new church was built in 1930. This burned in 1943 and was rebuilt in 1945.

Smiths Chapel, Methodist Episcopal Church, Cedar Creek Hundred, is now called Union. It was built in 1821 and the second church was dedicated in 1874. See Union Church.

Sound Chapel, Methodist Episcopal Church, Baltimore Hundred, was organized by Freeborn Garretson, April, 1779, and is among the oldest of the Methodist churches in Sussex County. They purchased one acre of ground for twenty shillings and built their church in 1784. In 1807, they changed its name to William's, but the old name was restored in later years. The church burned in 1867, and the congregations have built new churches in 1868 and 1939, fire having destroyed the church of 1868 on Dec. 11th, 1937. The deed bears date of April, 1784. The trustees named are James Laws, John Aydelott, Solomon Evans, Arthur Williams, Andrew Williams, Ezekial Williams, John Dier, William Powell and John Coe. The last church was built under the ministry of Rev. John Edward Jones.

Sycamore Methodist Episcopal Church. See Epworth.

Trinity Methodist Protestant Church, Broad Creek Hundred was organized in 1866, and built in 1873. In the year of 1873, George W. McGee gave land on which to build a church. The building was erected at a cost of \$1,000. The building committee consisted of William H. Rodney, George W. McGee and William Mitchell. The first trustees were William H. Rodney, George W. McGee, William Mitchell, William S. Warrington and Hamilton B. Truitt. The church was improved in 1908. The deed was recorded May 14th, 1873.

Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church in Northwest Fork, out from Bridgeville, had its beginnings in the ministry of Bishop Asbury in 1777. The society lapsed on the death of Charles Twyford, an influential and energetic Methodist. Many years passed, before the society was reorganized, but in 1843, they built the church. In 1885 it was destroyed by fire, and the present structure was erected. The name Trinity was taken from a prominent church in Philadelphia by that name.

Union Methodist Episcopal Church in Bridgeville was the fourth organization within the County, superceded by Lewes, Bethel in Northwest Fork, and Sound. They had preaching in the homes of the Laytons and Judge Laws and William Allen as early as 1777. However, they did not organize until Freeborn Garretson reached them in 1773. The church was erected in 1805. On March 11th, 1805, Thomas Sargen sold three quarters of an acre of land for ten dollars to Thomas Laws, William Mason, John Carey, Charles Brown, Elijah Adams, Stephen Reddin and William Allen, the first Board of Trustees. They have built two churches since then, namely in 1859 and a reconstructed church in 1909. The Sunday School room was added in 1934.

Union Methodist Episcopal Church, Cedar Creek Hundred, was formerly called Smith's Chapel. On June 29th, 1821, David Smith conveyed to Joseph Hudson, Curtis Shockley, James Butler, Lowder Layton and Walter Sipple, a tract of 80 perches about six miles from Milford on the road from Milford to Concord. Upon this land, Smith's Chapel was built in 1821. When they dedicated the new chapel, May 3rd, 1874, they changed its name to Union Methodist Church. See Smith's Chapel for other facts.

(1885) ... from ... John T. Jacobs, a Notary Public, in and ...  
 ... party to this Indenture known to ...  
 ... seal of office the day and year 'aforesaid'.  
 Given the day, the date of this ... John T. Jacobs, Notary Public.  
 ... the sum of ...  
 ...  
 ... 1885 ...

Know all men that Hester O. Drooper, of the County of Lyon, Mo., do hereby certify that the first (1st) day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty five (1885), between Hester O. Drooper, widow of Samuel Drooper (deceased) of Southfield in Boone County and state of Missouri, and Samuel Drooper and Ann, his wife of the City of Washington and District of Columbia of the one part and Joseph M. Davis, Joseph H. Drooper, J. W. Davis, M. Reynolds, J. Serran, John ... and P. J. Davis, Trustees of the M. E. Church in Washington, D.C. (called Lyon Ind. E. Church) Cedar Creek Howard ... and their successors for ever of the other part, witness the trustees of the said Church and in the year A.D. 1855, purchase of the said Samuel Drooper a lot or piece of land upon which they then built a new house or church, building and for which lot of land the trustees then in office paid to the said Samuel Drooper the full sum of ... dollars and no more, the said lot containing about one Acre. But as the said Drooper failed in in his life time to make or execute a deed of conveyance for the same - was having as pointed this wife in the year A.D. (1877) leaving a will in which he devised and bequeathed all his estate both real and personal to his said widow Hester O. Drooper during her natural life and then to his Brother the said Samuel Drooper to him his heirs and assigns forever. Therefore this Indenture further witnesseth that the said Parties of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of ... Dollars hereunto paid to the said Samuel Drooper and the further sum of one dollar lawful money to be used and to be paid by the said Trustees to the parties of the second part of conveyance the sealing and delivery of these Presents. Receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged from granted, bargained sold, aliened, conveyed, released conveyed, confirmed and by their presents do grant, bargain sell, alien, convey, give and convey unto the said Trustees and their successors. All that certain tract, piece or parcel of Land Situate and located as follows to wit: Beginning at a marked Red Cedar Tree standing on the North East side of the Public Road leading from the Bridge Ferry to Waples ... also a corner for lands of Samuel Gulman and running with the line N 84 1/2° W 27 1/2' perches to the old church lot and Captains ... 15° W 10 1/2' perches to said Public Road then thence N 71° E 1/2' perches to a ... used as a Gate Post and corner ... on the South side of said Road, thence with ... to a Red Cedar tree and corner for said ... Gulman, on said ... thence with Gulman's line S 88 1/2° E 3 1/2' perches to the place of beginning, containing one Acre of Land ... of the said Public Road. Witness my hand and seal of office the day and year first above written.

= *Heirs and Affiliations, whatever things belonging or in any way pertaining*  
*and the Return and Returner, Parts Dues and Profits thereof and all the Estate,*  
*Right Title Interest, Property Claim and Demand whatsoever of them the said Parties of*  
*the first part in Law Equity or otherwise however of in and with the same and every*  
*part and parcel thereof. To Have and to Hold the said Est. piece or parcel of*  
*Land Heirs and Affiliations and Purveys, heirs, executors, administrators or assigns of*  
*Affiliations unto the said Parties of the second part and their successors and assigns*  
*for in only proper use and behoof of the said Parties of the second*  
*part and their successors forever In witness whereof the said Parties of the first*  
*part hereunto set their Hands and Seals. Dated the day and year above written.*

Signed Sealed and  
 Delivered in the Presence of

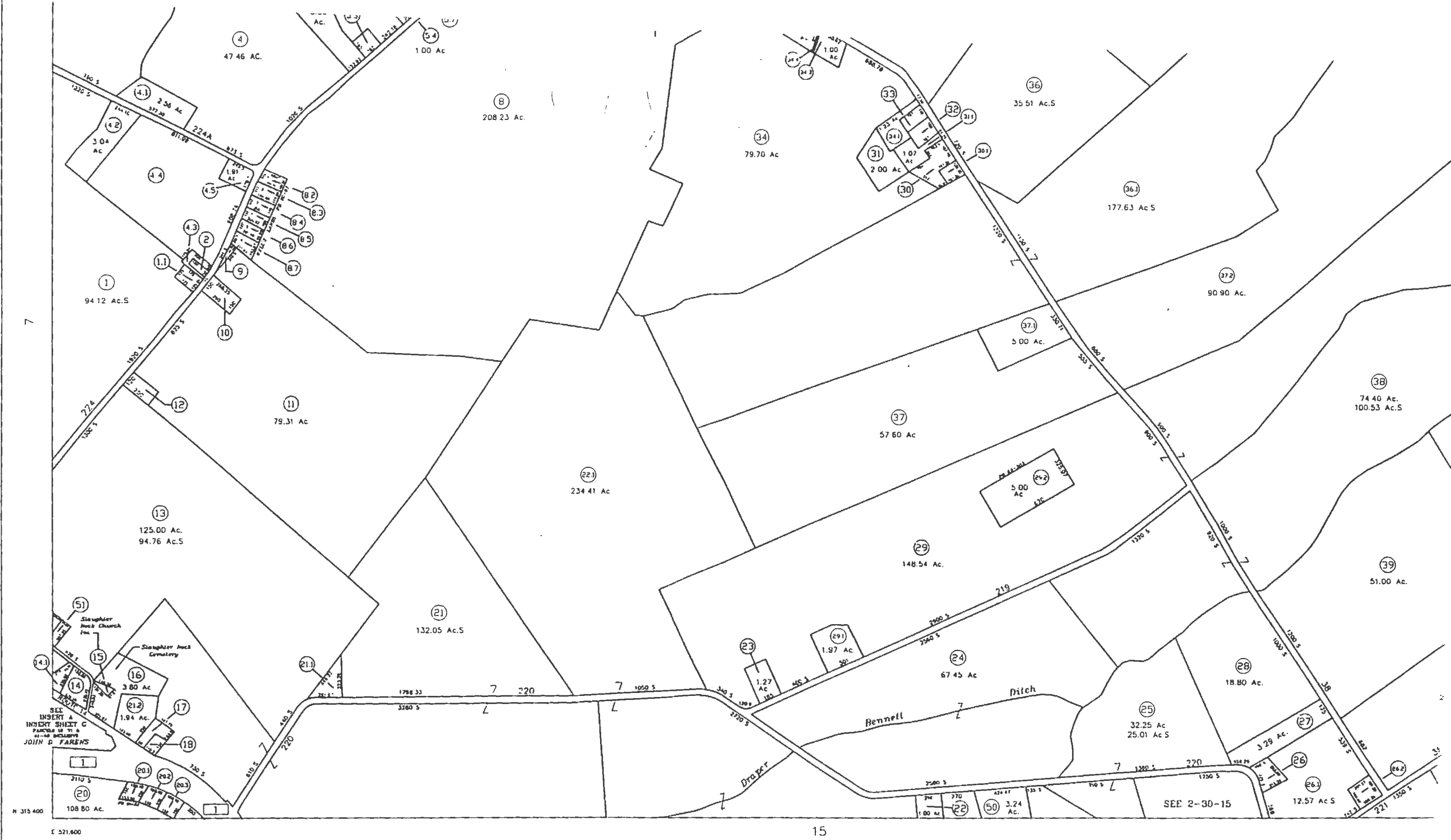
Hester O. Draper. *(Seal)*  
 Samuel Draper. *(Seal)*  
 Aaron T. Draper. *(Seal)*

J. J. Davis  
 R. H. Davis

700 it Remembred, that on this first day of May  
 in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred  
 and eighty (1880.) personally came before me, Robert  
 H. Davis, a Notary Public for the State of Delaware, Hester  
 O. Draper, Samuel Draper and Aaron T. Draper his wife,  
 parties to this Indenture, known to me personally, who said  
 severally acknowledged this Indenture to be their deed, and the  
 said Aaron T. Draper being at the same time personally exam-  
 ined by me apart from her husband acknowledged that she executed the  
 said Indenture willingly, without compulsion or threats or fear of her hus-  
 band displeasure, given under my hand and seal of Office the day and  
 year aforesaid.  
 Received for Record April 13<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1888  
 J. G. Morris, Recorder.

Robert H.  
 Davis  
 Notary Public  
 at the City of  
 Dover, Del.  
 May 25 - 1880  
 Samuel O. Draper  
 7 years  
 in time  
 of the  
 said  
 Indenture

*Deed* Herman Davis, ety. To Julia H. Real.  
 This Indenture, made the Twenty fourth (24<sup>th</sup>) day of May, in the  
 year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eighty eight,  
 Between Herman Davis of Cedar Creek Hundred, Sussex County,  
 and State of Delaware, and Elizabeth Davis, his wife of the first  
 part, And Julia H. Real of the City of New York, State of New  
 York, "Trustee" of the second part. - Witnesseth: That the said  
 Herman Davis and Elizabeth Davis his wife, for and in consideration  
 of the sum of Forty four thousand (44,000.00) Dollars, Lawful Money  
 of the United States of America, to them in hand paid by the said  
 Julia H. Real, "Trustee" as aforesaid, before the sealing and delivery of  
 these presents, the receipt whereof is truly acknowledged above, and each of  
 them hath granted, bargained and sold, aliened, enfeoffed, released, con-  
 =veyed and confirmed, and by these presents do, and each of them doth  
 grant, bargain and sell, alien, enfeoff, release, convey and confirm unto  
 the said Julia H. Real, "Trustee" as aforesaid his successors and  
 Assigns, All that certain farm, tract, piece or parcel of Land, situate  
 in Cedar Creek Hundred, Sussex County, and State of Delaware -  
 adjoining Lands of Abel S. Small, and Land formerly owned by Spen-  
 =cer Shornaker, and others lands, Bounded as follows, Beginning in  
 the middle of a Public road, leading from said Shornaker's Residence to  
 Johnson's Mill and a line of said Shornaker's Land, thence with said  
 Road South fourteen Orques and fifteen minutes, west ninety (90) per-  
 =ches to a stone, thence South nine Orques, east, thence perches two Red-



DATE OF REVISION: 8-26-94  
 DATE OF COMPILATION: 7-18-74  
 SHEET LAYOUT BASED ON THE DELAWARE  
 STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM

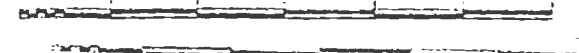
THE INFORMATION SHOWN HEREON  
 HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM DEED  
 DESCRIPTIONS, IF AVAILABLE,  
 TAX MAPS AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS.  
 THE ACTUAL BOUNDARIES CAN ONLY  
 BE DETERMINED BY AN APPROPRIATE  
 SURVEY



### SUSSEX COUNTY DELAWARE

SCALE 1 INCH = 400 FEET

0 400 800 1200 1600 2000



LEGEND	
	County Line
	Hundred Line
	District Line
	City or Borough Line
	All Purpose Line
	Original Lot Line
	Property Line
	Map Parcel Number
	Original Lot Number
	Map Scaled Dimension
	Denotes Same Owner
	All Dimensions Shown in Feet

MAP:

Property Line All Dimensions Shown in Feet

St. Matthews P. E. Church was located about four miles s. e. of Milford near Draper's Pond. At the crossroads beyond the mill, on a knoll in a field, is the graveyard that marks the site of old St. Matthew's. The first church was built in 1707, being the first church of that denomination erected in Sussex County. It was a timber building 20 ft. by 30 ft. by 12 ft. high, had a cypress shingle roof and cypress board sheathing. It contained the usual pulpit, desk, communion table and pews. A small gallery was added later. The branch close to the church is known as Church Branch. A second church was built in 1768. It was 36 ft. by 40 ft. and high enough to have galleries and two tiers of windows. "A church-house thereon erected" is mentioned in a survey made by Caleb Cirwithin on Apr. 10, 1770.

The church was incorporated on June 28, 1788 with the following trustees: Nehemiah Davis, Thos. Evans, Isaac Beauchamp, Geo. Walton, Jacob Townsend, Bethuel Wattson and Mark Davis. The church site of more than two acres was transferred by David Thornton to the new trustees on Oct. 28, 1788. The deed states that the church-house is erected and is located near Draper's Mill Pond. The consideration was "his pious love for the church, etc.," and five shillings.

After being reconditioned, the church was consecrated on May 29, 1836, by Bishop H. U. Onderdonk. Beginning in the winter of 1844-45 services were suspended and reopened during the summer with meetings once a month. In 1851, the church was finally closed. The rector, the Rev. John L. McKim, transferred the services to schoolhouses in different locations. Meetings were held in a nearby school during 1868-69.

On Nov. 19, 1860, the land was leased to John Ingram for a term of 33 years beginning on May 1, 1858, at a rental of \$2.00 per year. It was stipulated that he could erect nothing on the land but that he could use the old church building and that the burying-ground was to be undisturbed and unbroken. In 1864, Hiram Barber purchased the building, moved it to Milford and used it as a saw-mill until December 12, 1871, when it was burned. The old graveyard, rather poorly kept, contains old gravestones dated as early as 1773. A few broken grave markers are still standing, badly rotted and with the carved inscriptions indecipherable except for a few letters.

Cedar Creek M. E. Sunday School. Cedar Creek was formerly a thriving village and as late as 1908 there were many children for whom there was no provision for religious training. To remedy this situation, Mrs. Wm. T. Sockler opened a Sunday School in her home in 1908. This effort prospered and on Dec. 3, 1913, Geo. W. Clendaniel sold to Hubbard Macklin, Jas. F. Pierce and Jos. L. Chipman, trustees, a one-acre site which included a dwelling. This house was located nearly opposite to the present store of Hubbard Macklin. The trustees altered the first floor to make it suitable for Sunday School purposes. For about five years this Sunday School was conducted with Mr. Macklin as superintendent. When the Sunday School was closed the building was used as a dwelling and was later torn down.

Slaughter Neck Methodist Church (M.E.) is located four miles s. e. of Milford on the Rehoboth Highway. In 1777, a Methodist Society was formed at Cedar Creek in the home of Mr. Shockley by a Presbyterian Minister whose initials were "J. K." This was the seed from which Slaughter Neck Church grew. On July 26, 1810, a meeting was held and trustees were elected and incorporated under the name of "Zion Trustees." On Oct. 7, 1810, Wm. Hick-

man, preacher, donated 70 perches of land upon which a meeting-house been built.

It was called "Hickman's Meeting-House." It was a frame structure with galleries on three sides. This building was used until 1855. An acre near the old site, was purchased from Lemuel Draper and a new frame church was built in 1856.

Mr. Draper died in 1877 and "he had failed, during his lifetime," to transfer the land to the church trustees. His widow, Hester O. Draper remedied this oversight by giving the church a deed on May 1, 1880. In 1888, the church was practically rebuilt. More land for the graveyard was purchased on May 1911, from Amos G. Bennett. In 1918, major improvements were made. The present church was built of cement blocks in 1929.

The corner-stone was laid and the church was dedicated on Nov. 24, 1880. The first sermon was preached by the Rev. Otis P. Jefferson, a native of Slaughter Neck. The corner-stone was laid at 10 A. M., by Jos. E. Holland, who was also a native of Slaughter Neck. The afternoon service was led by Dist. Sup. W. E. Habbart. The music was furnished by the choir of Bethel Church, Lewes. The choir of the First M. P. Church of Milford, under the leadership of Wm. H. Richardson, furnished the music at the evening service. The dedication service was conducted by the Rev. W. E. Habbart. The memorial windows from the old church were installed in the new church. The coal-oil lamp at the pulpit and the altar rail were also from the old church.

There is a large and prosperous congregation and the large graveyard is well laid out and is kept in fine condition. The writer believes that the original meeting-house stood to the left in the rear of the present graveyard. It is here that the oldest graves are located. The earliest of the inscribed tombstones is over the grave of Mary W. Hickman, who died on Sept. 9, 1828. She was probably a member of the family for whom the first meeting-house was named.

Siloam A. M. E. Church was originally located on the road to Cedar Creek Mill a short distance west of the Rehoboth Highway. On Oct. 27, 1827, Joseph Young donated 87 perches of land on the west side of Turner's Branch as a church site. A church was built and a graveyard was laid out. The old site and graveyard are overgrown with trees and brush and cannot be located from the road.

Two acres of land were purchased at a Sheriff's sale on Apr. 6, 1921. In 1940, the church was moved a half-mile to the west on higher ground. There is a modest social-hall beside the church.

Wesley M. E. Church, colored, is located within sight of the Rehoboth Highway, six and three-quarters miles s. e. of Milford. The first church was built in 1853. The half-acre church site was donated by Anthony Shockley on Oct. 4, 1856, with the timber reserved. They were incorporated on Mar. 3, 1888. On Nov. 12, 1895, they purchased one and one-half acres of land from Molton H. Shockley. The present church was built in 1906 and is a well-kept building.

Lincoln Methodist Church (M.E.). In common with the Methodists in many communities the members at Lincoln held their early meetings in private homes. Later, a newly-built hall was rented for Sunday School services with occasional preaching. They were incorporated on Mar. 7, 1867. On May 7, 1867, Abel S. Small donated a church site on the cor. of 2nd and Baltimore



Edward Stapleton.  
Ann Shaver.  
William Sullivan.  
Jesse Spencer.  
Daniel Sturgis.  
Joshua Sturgis.  
Richard Stockley.  
Donavan Spencer.  
Thomas Stapleton.  
Levin Shaver.  
Elizabeth Smith.  
David Simmons.  
Lulke Townsend.  
Solomon Truitt.  
John Truitt.  
Zadock Truitt.  
Stephen Townsend.  
Zachariah Tharp.  
Levi Turner.  
Sydenham Thorue.  
Jacob Townsend.  
Littleton Townsend.  
Wm. Townsend.  
Joseph Truitt.  
Solomon Townsend.  
Joseph Truitt.  
Benjamin Truitt.  
Collins Truitt.  
Boaz Truitt.  
Isaac Townsend.  
Elius Townsend.  
Wm. Tharp.  
Joseph Tharp.  
George Van Kirk.  
Solomon Veach.  
Wm. Veach.  
Elias Veach.  
Beannet Van Kirk.  
Levin Vinnin.  
Thomas Vinnin.  
Andrew Vight.  
Thomas Veach.  
Levin Willey.  
David Williams.  
Benjamin Whittington.  
Isaac Watson.  
Thomas Wilson.  
David Watson.  
John Wilson.  
George Watson.  
Wm. Watson.

Luke Walton.  
Wm. Willory.  
George Walton.  
Wm. Woods.  
Joseph Watson.  
Jesse Watson.  
Jonathan Williams.  
John Williams.  
Richard Watson.  
Thomas Watson.  
Wm. Wheeler.  
Lemuel Williams.  
Moses Williams.  
John Wheeler.  
Wrixham Warren.  
David Warren.  
Levi Warren.  
Bernard Warren.  
Alexander Warren.  
Absalom Warren.  
Joseph Williams.  
Wm. Winslow.  
Wm. Williams.  
Charles Williams.  
Jacob Webb.  
Sylvester Webb.  
Eli Wharton.  
John Webb.  
Dornan Webb.  
Hewitt Wharton.  
Robert Walker.  
David Walton.  
Benjamin Wynkoop.  
Luke Watson.  
Robert Watson.  
Bethuel Watson.  
Anslow White.  
Aaron Williams.  
John Walton.  
Joseph Walton.  
Nathaniel Young.  
Robert Young.  
Mary Young.  
John Young.  
Benjamin Young.  
Albert Hudson.  
Alexander McCay.  
Nathaniel Paynter.  
Ratcliff Paynter.  
Thomas Paynter.  
Thomas Vinson.

meeting-house to Shovel Branch; thence up said branch to the main branch of Cedar Creek, at Clement Hudson's mill; thence down said branch to David R. Smith's mills, at the head of Cedar Creek; thence down the creek to No. 1. District No. 4, in Slaughter Neck, on the bay, from Cedar Creek to Slaughter Creek and west to David R. Smith's mills. District No. 5, in Prince Hook and Slaughter Necks. District No. 6, in western part of hundred.

These districts have subsequently been sub-divided and now retain very little of their original shape. Well-built and commodious school-houses, under the supervision of competent teachers, now afford excellent advantages for pupils of all classes in this hundred.

RELIGIOUS MATTERS.—*St. Matthew's Episcopal Church.*—The first church was in process of erection in 1717, and was mentioned by Rev. George Ross, when at Lewistown in that year. He wrote "There are two houses of worship, one sixteen miles from Lewes, the other in the upper part of the county, not finished." This church was built on what was called Church Creek, a branch of Cedar Creek, which empties into it at Coulter's mill. No vestige of the old church now remains. On March 13, 1769, there was conveyed by bond from David Thornton to Isaac Watson, Stephen Townsend and Levin Crapper, a tract of land on the south side of Cedar Creek, near Draper's old mill-pond. This was "surveyed and divided off for two acres and five and a half square perches of land the tenth day of April, 1770, by Caleb Cirwithen, together with a church-house thereon erected."

On June 16, 1788, Nehemiah Davis, Thomas Evans, Isaac Beauchamp, George Walton, Jacob Townsend, Bethuel Watson and Mark Davis were incorporated trustees of the church, and on October 28th of the same year, the property was conveyed to them as trustees. In 1805, the trustees were Bethuel Watson, Isaac Wattson, Ratliff Poynter, Nathaniel Poynter, William Davis, John Bennett and Lawrence Reiley. Services were last held in this church in 1854, by Rev. J. L. McKim. In 1858, the building was sold to John Ingram and the land leased to him. In 1864, the building was purchased by Hiram Barber, moved to Milford and used as a saw-mill until Dec., 1871, when it was burned. The land is still owned by the society, and in the old grave-yard, surrounded by cedars, stand tombstones erected to the memories of the following persons: Sarah, wife of Samuel Draper, who departed this life in 1775; "Nelley Draper, who departed this life April 17, 1790, aged 14 years;" Reynear Williams, who died April 2, 1773, aged 26 years and 7 months; Abigail, wife of Sylvester Webb, who departed this life 17th December, 1785, aged 25 years.

*Slaughter Neck Zion Methodist Episcopal Church* was formerly known as Hickman's Meeting-House. The first members were William Hickman, William Shockley, Homer Smith, William Kendrick, Daniel

SCHOOLS.—There were subscription schools held in the several parts of the hundred previous to the adoption of the free-school system. A few of these pioneer teachers were Stephen B. Loffand, Solomon Truitt and Eliazer Gorham. In a few places the schools were held in regular school houses and in others in improvised buildings. When the common schools came into use the buildings which were suitable were converted to that use.

The commissioners, George R. Fisher, Ebenezer Walter, Henry Bacon and Thomas Jacobs, appointed to apportion the county, in 1829, separated the hundred into six districts. District No. 1 lay on the bay, between Mispillion and Cedar Creeks, and extended westward to Peter F. Causey's mill-dam, on Herring Run, and to the Brick Granary. District No. 2 included South Milford and extended from No. 1 to "Shawnee bridge." District No. 3 began at "Shawnee bridge, on road leading from Milford to St. Johnstown; thence along public road leading to Smith's

Godwin, Noah Morris, John Riley, Nathan Young, Linford Truitt, Thomas Metcalf, Nehemiah Davis, Mored Draper, Selutha Lewis, Eli Shockley, Joseph Hickman, Thomas Draper, Swan Goden and William Reding. On July 26, 1810, they met and elected William Shockley, William Kendrick, Daniel Godwin, Nathan Young and Eli Shockley the first trustees. On October 7th, the trustees purchased of William Hickman, seventy square perches of land "whereon the said meeting-house is built." The first church was a frame structure twenty-five feet square, with a gallery on three sides. The church was originally connected with the Milford Circuit and for many years services were held in Wednesday. The old church remained until 1855, when an acre of land was purchased of Lemuel Draper, and a new two story building, twenty-five by thirty-five feet, near the old site, was erected at a cost of one thousand and fifty dollars. The building committee was Thomas J. Davis and John Bennett. In 1852 the church was transferred to Lewis Circuit and afterwards to Milton Circuit, and now forms a part of the Lincoln Circuit.

It is in a very prosperous condition. The present Board of Trustees is composed of the following persons: J. M. Davis, J. H. Draper, L. W. Davis, J. Calhoun, T. R. Wilson, Robt. Rooche, J. W. Bennett, J. A. Argo, Wm. J. Hickman.

On June 29, 1821, David Smith conveyed to Joseph Hudson, Curtis Shockley, James Butler, Lowder Layton and Walter Sipple, a tract of eighty perches about six miles from Milford, on the road from Milford to Concord, known as the "Townsend Road." On this land was erected Smith's Chapel. It was a one-story frame-building, twenty-six by thirty feet, and remained till 1873. In that year it was removed and the present edifice begun. The corner-stone was laid December 14, 1873, and the new building dedicated May 3, 1874, as the Union Methodist Episcopal Church by Rev. Enoch Stubbs. It is a one-story frame structure, thirty by forty feet, and was built at a cost of one thousand, three hundred and fifty dollars. The building committee was Jehu H. Clendaniel, James B. Deputy and Solomon I. Betts. There are at present thirty communicants. A Sunday-school under the superintendence of John H. Deputy is connected with the church. The church has been connected with the Ellendale Circuit since the organization of that Circuit in 1873, and has been served by the following pastors: Rev. James Conner, Rev. D. W. C. McIntyre, Rev. A. A. Fisher, Rev. Valentine Gray, Rev. A. P. Prettyman, Rev. N. McQuay, Rev. I. D. Johnson, Rev. D. F. McFall, Rev. J. M. Collins, Rev. Wilmer Jaggard, Rev. J. T. Prouse.

*Ellendale Methodist Episcopal Church.*—On July 16, 1873, William McColley granted to Alfred Heavelow, William Short, James M. Jester, Bevans Morris and Alfred Short, a tract of land for a church, parsonage and school. A school and parsonage costing five hundred dollars were soon after erected. The church was commenced in 1882, and dedicated De-

ember 31st of the same year by Rev. Jonathan S. Willis. The building committee composed of Elias B. Reed, Alfred Short and Benjamin E. Jester, erected a neat frame edifice thirty by forty-four feet, at a cost of twelve hundred dollars. The membership now consists of twenty-five communicants. There is in connection with the church a Sunday-school, containing twenty scholars, under the superintendency of James H. Jester. The church has always been connected with the Ellendale Circuit, and the pulpit has been filled by the pastors of that circuit.

*The First Methodist Church* in Cedar Neck was built on land now owned by Stephen M. Ellis. It was a one-story frame building, which many years afterwards was moved to a place near the site of the present church. In 1875, Curtis C. Watson donated an acre of land to the trustees, and on it the present church was built at a cost of eleven hundred dollars. It was connected with Milford Circuit till 1872, when it became a part of Lincoln Circuit. The pastors connected with these circuits have served this church. It has a present membership of about thirty-five. The present board of trustees is composed of Miles T. Mills, Jno. W. Potter, Henry Pierce, Isaac Cirwihin, John Tease and William Townsend.

The Methodists in the immediate vicinity of Lincoln first held meetings in a private house, and after a hall was built in the village, resorted to that. Sabbath-school was held regularly, and occasionally preaching services were conducted by the clergymen of adjoining churches. In 1869 it was decided to build a church, and J. Houston, J. B. Tracey, David Stout, A. S. Small and B. W. Truitt were appointed a building committee. The corner-stone was laid October 10, of that year, by Revs. S. L. Gracey and E. Stubbs. The building was completed and used as a house of worship till 1885, when the present structure was erected. The church is in a flourishing condition, and connected with it is a prosperous Sabbath-school, under the superintendence of B. M. Cain. The present board of trustees is composed of James Houston, B. W. Truitt, A. S. Small, A. W. Small, Elias Shockley and J. N. Lecompte.

The following pastors have ministered to the congregation: Rev. J. A. B. Wilson, Rev. John E. Smith, Rev. I. N. Foreman, Rev. G. S. Conoway, Rev. E. L. Hubbard, Rev. I. N. Foreman, Rev. Edward Davis, Rev. J. M. Collins, Rev. I. L. Wood.

The first Methodist Episcopal Church, at New Market, was erected at an early period. Dr. Wallace, of Ocean Grove fame, was once stationed in charge of the circuit with which this church was connected. In a recent article, he characterized its members as "shouting Methodists." The old building remained until 1881, when it was replaced by the present structure. It formerly was connected with Milton Circuit, but now forms a part of Lincoln Circuit. The church is in a good condition and is well attended. The Sunday-school is in charge of James Warren.

The present board of trustees comprises the follow-

- Rudolph—Lived in Elkton, Cecil County, Maryland. Visits there May 8, 1787.
- S. . . . , I. . . . —Lived somewhere in Kent County, Maryland. Preaches there December 14, 1777.
- Salem Chapel—Near Christiana, New Castle County, Delaware. Preaches there May 1, 1810; April 16, 1811; April 6, 1813.
- Salisbury—Town of, in Wicomico County, Maryland. Visits there July 29, 31, 1779; August 11, 20, 25, 1779; September 8, 1779; Preaches there November 14, 1779; May 18, 1799; March 22, 1806; April 19, 1802; April 3, 1806; June 3, 1806; March 22, 1807.
- Scott, Doctor—Lived in northern part of Kent County, Maryland. Dines there April 5, 1811.
- Scotten—Lived in neighborhood of Kenton, Kent County, Delaware. Preaches there January 4, 1778; February 2, 1778; August 19, 1779; February 29, 1780; December 1, 1780.
- Severson's Chapel—Located east of Smyrna toward Leipsic, Kent County, Delaware. Preaches there November 30, 1780; October 15, 1789.
- Shankland—Lived in lower part of Sussex County, Delaware. Visits September 25, 1779; Preaches November 27, 1786; Visits and preaches October 20-21, 1787; Preaches October 24, 1788; Dines July 19, 1796.
- Sharkleys—Neighborhood of Milford, Delaware. Visits there October 22, 1790.
- Sharps—Lived in Nanticoke Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware. Preaches there January 18, 1780.
- Shaws, Richard—Lived eight miles west of Dover, Delaware. Preaches there January 8, 1778; February 8, 1778; June 28, 1778; August 10, 1778; January 12, 1779; Visits February 7, 1779; March 30, 1779; April 2, 1779; Preaches June 17, 20, 1779; Visits July 29, 31, 1779; Preaches August 3, 11, 20, 25, 1779; September 8, 1779; Visits November 13, 1779; Preaches February 23, 28, 29, 1780; Visits March 24, 1780; Preaches April 13, 16, 1781; November 21, 26, 1780.
- Sheredine, Daniel—Lived in Principio Furnace, Cecil County, Maryland. Lodges there October 14, 1794; Visits October 12, 1795; July 12, 1797; October 17, 1797; August 1, 1801; Lodges April 7, 1802; August 2, 1802; April 1, 1814.
- Shockleys—Lived in Slaughter Neck, Sussex County, Delaware. Preaches July 13, 27, 1778; August 10, 1778; January 14, 1779; July 14, 1779; Lodges and preaches September 28-29, 1779; Preaches January 15, 1781.
- Short, A.—Lived in New Castle County, Delaware. Somewhere between Bohemia River and Smyrna. Visits August 10, 1815.
- Simmons—Lived in Kent County, Maryland. Preaches there July 30, 1778.
- Sipples, Jonathan—Lived near Jones Creek, somewhere back of Barratt's Chapel, Kent County, Delaware. Preaches there December 26, 1779.
- Sipple, Waitman—In same neighborhood as Jonathan Sipple. Visits there March 20, 1780.
- Sizer—North West Fork Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware. Preaches his funeral January 26, 1785.
- ✧ Slaughter's Neck—Located between Milford and Lewes, Sussex County, Delaware. Preaches there July 13, 1778; February 15, 1780.
- Smith, Mr.—Lived in Smyrna, Delaware. Lodges there November 29, 1780; April 17, 1815.
- Smith, Samuel—Near Crisfield, Somerset County, Maryland. Visits May 21, 1799. Lodges April 20, 1802.
- Smyrna—Town of, in Kent County, Delaware. See Duck Creek Cross Roads, its former name, for additional information. Preaches there March 28, 1807; March 23, 1809; April 25, 1810 (Collected money for Boston, Mass. Chapel) Preaches April 9, 1813; Lodges April 20, 1813; Exhorts April 17, 1815.
- Snow Hill—Town of, in Worcester County, Maryland. Preaches there November 7, 1784; November 20, 1786; April 24, 1802 (Speaks of a

**THE HISTORY OF  
SLAUGHTER NECK U.M. CHURCH**

*Doris Clifton Argo*

*"That it might present it to himself a glorious church,  
not having spot, or wrinkle or any such thing;  
but that it should be holy and without blemish."*

The United States of America was barely a year old when religion was taking root into the lives of rural Milford, Delaware. There was no organized religion in Cedar Creek Hundred, nor were there any houses of worship. There was no name to geographically define a small farming village in 1776. However, it is believed that a landowner with the surname of Slaughter dwelt in the area and as a point of reference, this stretch of land became known as "Slaughters" or even "Slaughter's Neck."

The roots of early Christianity in America did not spread rapidly. That became a concern of the religious leaders back in England. They felt responsible for the migrated souls who had left the folds of their motherland over the past century. Several itinerant preachers were dispatched to America to aid in the rescuing of souls. Some of those early disciples were Francis Asbury, Thomas Coke, Freeborn Garrettson, Robert Strawbridge and several others.

Yet, God-fearing folks did reside in Slaughter's Neck. John Cooper was the first known Methodist to preach in the area. William Clendening and Joseph Cronwell assisted in spreading the Gospel and the doctrines of Methodism throughout lower Delaware.

A handful of area farmers, who had been meeting occasionally in the confines of their own homes in the community heeded the call from Above and set out to establish a religion for the community. They sought out the expertise of a person from the town of Milford who was a Presbyterian minister. Recorded simply as "J.K.", he didn't seek recognition for this theological tutelage for evoking the work of God outside his own faith. He sought to do the will of God. This mentor and several interested parties met in the home of William Shockley of Cedar Neck and the proverbial seed of Methodism was planted in the area in 1777.

Itinerant preacher, Francis Asbury, came to the new colonies on October 27, 1771, to spread the Gospel and win souls for the Lord. Rev. Asbury would often set out on his horse and traverse to any location where there were a few people who were willing to listen to him. On a summer day, July 13, 1778, he rode into the area south of Milford, near the beach, and was befriended by Mr. Shockley. A crowd of mildly-interested residents gathered and Asbury proceeded to preach. While his heart was intent on spreading the Word, his eyes focused on the people in attendance and observed the behavior of the ignorant.

Francis Asbury was a voracious note keeper and paid strict attention to details. In his journal he recorded locations he visited, the people he encountered, and how well he was received. Some entries in his journal showed his total disillusionment at the contempt of his audience. His first visit in the area was not successful.

*Monday, 13. Preaching in Slaughter's Neck, there appeared to be some impediment in the family: I therefore removed the preaching and found the children were openly wicked. We shall now meet the people at Mr. Shockley's whose family appears serious; and I hope the work of God will go on in this neighbourhood.*

Throughout the next year, the Methodist Society continued in their services and their faith grew. Rev. Asbury returned for a follow-up visit on July 14, 1779. The children, he noted, and others, had redeemed themselves and he rejoiced!

*Wednesday, 14. Set out for the sea-side, in a double carriage, brother Alfrey with me. We rode thirty miles, and came to Shockley's a little after twelve o'clock. Preached to about one hundred people, all serious; a great alteration since I was there 12 months back. So does God work. I am in growing health, my voice much restored; feel a springing hope that this journey will be attended with a blessing to myself and others. I am overcome with a sense of the goodness of God, in so suddenly raising me up. O! What I laboured under this week! How great the change! I find all my afflictions divinely sanctified to me: I am kept in great peace, and a Divine serenity all day. A sweet peace sits upon my soul. I read some psalms, and a little of Haliburton's Life, as I rode in the chair. O how good it is to strive to do a little for God! My friends were frightened at my going out so soon, but the Lord will help me on my way. I spoke at Shockley's on Eph. ii, 8-10.*

The seed of Methodism had been sown. Rev. Asbury's efforts were finally reaping rewards.

There has always been much speculation about the derivation of place name called Slaughter Neck. Rev. Asbury deserves a little credit to helping to ferret out the real reason for the name. It is interesting to note in his journal that he distinctly made references to being in this particular location. He deliberately penned "*Slaughter's Neck*" with an apostrophe "s". This documents that there was a family named Slaughter in the area and used the name as a point of location during his travels. Some folks guessed that the word referred on a Indian massacre in the area, thus creating a *slaughter*. That version is a myth. Even today, people shudder when they hear the word *slaughter* and wonder why any place would adopt such a foreboding name to call itself.

Rev. Asbury probably felt he had laid the foundation for organized Methodism in Slaughter's Neck for he did not return to lend his God-given talent. Inspired, the area residents took it upon themselves to pick up where Asbury left off. For many years, they continued meeting in homes on Wednesday, under shade trees or near Delaware Bay as they watched the sun rise over the horizon, assisted by local preachers, visiting clergy and laity.

Feeling confident about the Lord's will for them, a group meet on July 26, 1810 and decided to organize an official church. The first trustees were elected using the name of

**“Zion Trustees.” They were Daniel Godwin, William Kendrick, Eli Shockley, William Shockley and Nathan Young. The following list comprises the first membership in the area and named the newly-formed congregation as “Zion Church”. The 18 devoted stewards were:**

<b>Davis, Nehemiah</b>	<b>Metcalf, Thomas</b>
<b>Draper, Moreh</b>	<b>Morris, Noah</b>
<b>Draper, Thomas</b>	<b>Reding, William</b>
<b>Goden, Swan</b>	<b>Riley, John</b>
<b>Godwin, Daniel</b>	<b>Shockley, Eli</b>
<b>Hickman, Joseph</b>	<b>Shockley, William</b>
<b>Hickman, William</b>	<b>Smith, Homer</b>
<b>Kendrick, William</b>	<b>Truitt, Linford</b>
<b>Lewis, Selutha</b>	<b>Young, Nathan</b>

**Witnessing the Christian growth and realizing the need for a house of worship, William Hickman who was a local preacher and member of the society, donated 70 perches of land on October 7, 1810 “whereon the said meeting house is built.” Services were held on Wednesday for many years.**

**The first established church was given the name of *Hickman’s Meeting House* which honored the donor for his gift of land. The building, very basic in design, was constructed of local hand hewn timbers and estimated to be about 25 feet square with galleries on three sides. There are no photographs or drawings or remnants of this plain structure. It is believed to have stood several yards to the rear of the present church. There remains a vacant spot, now surrounded by tombstones, which is believed to be the hallowed ground of this first church in the area. It was connected to the Milford Circuit.**

**The adjoining cemetery had begun in an seemingly obscure fashion. Mary Hickman, a six year-old, had died on September 9, 1828. She is thought to have been the daughter of Eliza and William Hickman who had previously donated land for the church building. Perhaps, the bereaved parents deemed it appropriate to bury the child near the church. Her tombstone still stands as a memorial to the loved one to the rear of the present church. Local people began the practice of burying their loved ones on grounds sanctified instead of entombing them in barren fields or under a tree in the middle of a farm.**

**For miles, people from surrounding hamlets rode horses and loaded up their carriages and traversed to Slaughter’s Neck to worship at Hickman’s Meeting House. This was the only church around for many many years. The crudely-constructed building had begun to show signs of deterioration. There was talk among the congregation and the powers that be, that maybe a new larger church should be built to accommodate the masses. In 1852, the church became a part of the Lewes Circuit and later, was a parish within the Milton Circuit.**

**In 1855, landowner, Lemuel Draper, sold one acre to the trustees for \$40.00 a “lot or piece of land upon which they then built a new house of church”. This new parcel joined the existing church property and the new church would be erected in close proximity of the former church. Mr. Draper, however, had failed in his lifetime to execute a deed to the**

Trustees. The slate of officers elected under "Trustees of the Zion M. E. Church in Slaughter Neck" were Joseph M. Davis, Joseph H. Draper, Lott W. Davis, M. Reynolds, I. Cirwithian and I. A. Calhoun. The new frame structure was built in 1856 at the cost of \$1,050. The building measured 25 feet x 35 feet with a second story. The exterior was wrapped in clapboard siding. The building committee was Thomas J. Davis and John Bennett. In other words, they were the carpenters.

It is interesting to note that the boundaries to the new deed were set "*beginning at a marked red cedar tree...and...a dead oak tree used as a gate post.*"

The interior was designed with wooden floors and the center aisle was the focal point. The altar was elevated by one step. Located to the side of the pulpit, the "Amen Corner" was established. The deacons and elders sat there and proclaimed "Amen, Brother, Amen" when they agreed to the minister's points of his sermon. On the opposite corner, Mrs. Ella Bennett played hymns on the pump organ and choir members sat erect in straight wooden chairs.

Nearby in Cedar Neck, religious followers had grown and saw the need for their own house of worship. It was dedicated in 1859. Nearby in Lincoln City, there was a Methodist following with itinerant preaching in homes until a church was built in 1869.

In 1871, Zion M. E. Church, became connected with the Lincoln Charge, which included the Lincoln Church. Rev. John A. B. Wilson was the minister with Joseph W. Hudson assigned as a Junior Preacher.

Mr. Draper died without conveying a deed to the Trustees. After his death, it was incumbent upon his widow, Hester, and his brother Samuel, who was residing in Washington, D. C. at the time, to rectify the oversight. On May 1, 1880, the property was legally transferred to the trustees who had settled on a new name for the church: Slaughter Neck Zion Meeting House.

Officially, or unofficially, the name soon became altered. The words "Zion Meeting House" were discarded in favor of "Slaughter Neck M. E. Church". *Slaughter* was adopted instead of *Slaughter's*. An old photograph taken before the building was dismantled, shows a sign high above the stained glass transom. This half-moon wooden tablet stated:

SLAUGHTER NECK  
METHODIST  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
1856      1888

Those dates were exclusively significant to this building. The church was built in 1856. Later, the church coffers enabled the congregation to go ahead with plans to make improvements to the church. It was extensively remodeled in 1888 at a cost of \$1600. Records are non-existent, but it is believed that the six large stained-glass windows, shipped from Philadelphia, were installed at this time. New furniture, such as 30 long wooden pews, pulpit and altar pieces were also added. The plain interior received a decorative touch with the addition of a metal ceiling.

The church was prosperous with a large active congregation. They had instituted the Women's Temperance Circle. Strawberry festivals were held in June in a grove of trees near the church. At night, bonfires were built to ward off mosquitoes while folks enjoyed assorted desserts such as homemade strawberry ice cream.



The present Board of Trustees was comprised of the following men: J. M. Davis, J. H. Draper, L. W. Davis, J. Calhoun, T. R. Wilson, Robert Rooche, J. W. Bennett, J. A. Argo, and William J. Hickman.

There was one wedding known to have taken place at the second church. Annie Argo, daughter of John and Hester Donovan Argo married Frank Potter of Cedar Neck on July 17, 1896. The minister at the time was Rev. T. S. Williamson. Also, parents began bringing their children to church to be baptized.

Methodism in Slaughter Neck had survived for well over a hundred years and the new 20th century lay just beyond the horizon.

Two local newspapers, The Delaware Democrat and The Sussex Journal, publicized the funeral of William Jefferson, one of the church's parishioners. It took place on November 17, 1906 and stated that "from seven to eight hundred people were present." It had been the largest one that residents in neighboring towns could recall.

The space allotted for burials near the church had been consumed. On May 1, 1911, local farmer, Amos Bennett, sold land to the Trustees of the Church for the sole purpose of using it as a cemetery.

During the era of 1915, several organizations were instituted at the church. The Christian Endeavor for adults would meet every Sunday at church. The Epworth League for the youth also became part of the religious framework.

There is a story of evangelist, Elsie Reems, who had come to the community for a tent meeting. The nightly services were held near the Slaughter Neck School, which was situated on the Slaughter Beach Road. Now Elsie was a large-framed woman, always wore white, and traveled alone. Local resident Starkey Gooner attended one of her meetings and listened as she condemned the use of alcohol, cigarettes and other such vices that young men succumbed to during the pre-Depression era. Mr. Gooner, not heeding her word, lit up a cigarette at the end of the meeting. Well! The wayward man was soon in the midst of a mini sermonette as Miss Elsie Reems "reemed out" the errant gentleman for smoking those tools of the devil.

The church was well attended and prosperous. In 1918, improvements were made again to the church. It isn't known what the exact enhancements were. Church records for that time period had been totally destroyed many years later as the house and contents of the church treasurer went up in smoke.

On September 8, 1918, the local order of the Masons worshipped en masse at the church and presented the congregation with a Holy Bible. It still has a place of honor upon the altar. It was engraved for the presentation:

Presented to Slaughter Neck Methodist Episcopal Church  
by Enterprise Council 16 Jr. O. U. A. M.  
Milton, Del  
September 8, 1918

After the worship service was over, the enclave gathered for a group picture.

With the appointment of a new minister in 1922, came the introduction of organized meetings with a mission. Rev. George Wood's wife assisted in forming the new Ladies Aid. Mrs. Helen Collins became its first president. Later, after the new church was built, they meet on a regular basis on the first Tuesday of the month for years. A business meeting

was held and, according to a rotation schedule, a woman offered devotions and inspiration at the meeting. After the meeting was adjourned, a second lady played a round of games. Still another woman acted as hostess for the meeting. While the ladies attended the meeting, their husbands would spend a couple of hours at the corner store where they challenged each other to games of checkers, horseshoes, or caught up on the area farming or events. Do you think they gossiped at all? When the store closed, some of the men stopped by the church basement, paid their pittance, and enjoyed refreshments with the women. Dessert sometimes included homemade ice cream and cake. When Mrs. Logan, who came here from the city, joined the circle, she introduced the ladies to a innovative variety of early evening snacks with style and grace.

The earliest record of a meeting of the Board of Trustees was February 26, 1925. Their minutes noted "Balance on hand \$2.30."

One lovely spring day in June 1926, six-year old Betty Belle Steen, who lived in a farm house situated near the main highway, was lured by the presence of pretty daisies that grew along the dirt shoulder. She knew her father was just down the road a bit, attending to his farming duties. She walked along gaily and proceeded to pick a bouquet of daisies, probably entertained the idea of giving the flowers to her mother, who was back in the house. Suddenly, a car came down the road and scared the little girl. Betty Belle made a quick dash toward the direction of the car. The driver saw the child as she bolted toward the highway, but there was nothing he could do to prevent from hitting her. She was killed by the automobile driven by Mr. H. Brittingham of Lewes.

The funeral service for Betty Belle was held at Slaughter Neck Church. Young girls from the church were selected to be honorary ball bearers. They sat on the front pew attired in their white Children's Day dresses. They carried fresh bouquets of flowers as they followed the casket to the cemetery where the darling child was laid to rest. The sad-eyed attendants were Margaret Adams, Doris Argo, Luella Bennett, Grace Draper, Olivia Draper, and Sarah Short. On a warm afternoon, Rev. J. T. Thornton delivered the sermon to a packed church for the somber occasion.

Ironically, nearly four years later, the same scenario was sadly repeated. The Steen family had moved from the fateful farm after their daughter's death. Willis Gooner moved into the house with his wife and young son, Francis. It was spring time and the fresh smell of farming was intoxicating. Eight-year old Francis, was outside pretending he was farming like his father. He was dragging a hoe in the dirt behind him and he soon ventured out to the dirt highway. He seemed oblivious to the occasional traffic, but, he, like Betty Belle, became a highway fatality as he was struck and killed by a passing automobile on April 21, 1930. Francis was buried at Slaughter Neck Cemetery next to his baby sister. A concrete wall was later erected in front of the house. The pretty house, after years of tenants and disrepair, was torn down.

It was another sad occasion that saw the demise of the second church building. During the funeral service of local farmer, Mr. Joseph Stormer, which was held at the church on October 21, 1928, one of the main supporting beams in the church's foundation cracked, adding terror to the grief-stricken assembly. The church was deemed unsafe and plans were immediately underway to build another, albeit, sturdier building. Worship services were then held in the Prime Hook School for the following year.

There was no prior mention in the minutes that the Board suggested that a new church had to be built. Instead, the area residents took it upon themselves to construct one to fulfill the needs the community.

Parishioner Mr. Herschel Bennett had just built a house for himself of cement blocks, and feeling somewhat confident about his choice of building material, said that if cement blocks were good enough for his house, then they would certainly be good enough for a church. Mr. Thomas Logan and Mr. Z. T. Farens joined Mr. Bennett and the three built the new church, constructed of cement blocks. Other men also worked in the construction, namely Richard Reynolds. Many years later, a calling card was found on the pulpit. It read:

Rev. Robert L. Kirby  
Sherwood, Maryland

On the back side was the following handwritten message:

*In here July 17, 1960  
quite please with your church. Helped  
to build same*

It had never been recorded in present-day church chronicles that Mr. Kirby worked on the church. That little-known visit with its bit of tangible evidence offered documentation that wasn't known to exist. What a treasure he left upon the Bible that day!

Using the basic design and size from the precedent churches, the builders elaborated on the architecture. This church would have a few, new features. First, the church would be built over a full-sized basement, with a interior entrance. The basement would provide space for Sunday School classes. It would also provide the means for a furnace with a floor vent to the sanctuary and there would be the luxury of "central heat" during the winter months. A pitcher-handled pump would be installed in the far corner of the basement, for an occasional drink or water to freshen up flowers on the nearby graves.

A vestibule would be added to the front which could serve many purposes. A ladder, placed on the landing of the basement steps, led upwards to the belfry, where, in time, the church bell would peal. Also, one could gain stately access to the chancel through double wooden swinging doors. This structure would duplicate the tried and tested previous floor plan.

Elizabeth Argo Clendaniel, whose mother, Annie was the steward for the church, was outside one fall afternoon going through the pile of rubble that had accumulated as the old building was being dismantled in favor of the new one. There was an oil lamp outside the entrance to the church. Annie Argo discovered the cranberry-colored globe that had been discarded. She salvaged it and kept the treasure in her home for many years before passing it on to her daughter.

Furnishings from the precedent church were transferred from the old to the new. These treasured pieces can still be seen today upon the altar. They include the altar railing, the matching trio of altar chairs, 30 wooden pews, a marble stopped stand, the pulpit, the metal ceiling and the beautiful stained glass windows.

The cornerstone of the new Slaughter Neck M. E. Church was laid at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, November 24, 1929 by Rev. James E. Holland, a native of Slaughter Neck. Three dates are engraved on the commemorative time capsule: 1856 - 1888 - 1929. The Rev. Otis Jefferson preached the first sermon from the pulpit. The Rev. W. E. Habbart, District Superintendent, conducted the afternoon service.

The stock market crash of 1929 had ruined many people throughout the nation. Money was tight but collections taken up during the course of the day reaped enough funds to pay off the building debt entirely.

These persons contributed to the success of the building program:

George Draper	\$500	Chester Short	\$50
Theodore Bennett	400	Herman Argo	35
Horace Bennett	300	Carlton Clifton	25
Willis Carey	200	Marshall Roach	25
Lib Cirwithen	200	Clara Argo	25
John Isaacs	100	Edgar Bennett	25
Sallie Prettyman	100	Willard Clifton	25
Fred Bennett	100	Layton Bennett	25
John Waples	100	Joe Calhoun	25
Charles Reed	50	Vinal Carey	15
William Jefferson	50	Carlton Argo	15
Ellwood Argo	50	Sara Bennett	15
John Argo	50	Arthur Boyce	10
Thomas Logan	20	Harrison Collins	10
Zed Farens	50	Tom Ingram	10
J Noble	50	Mr. Sipple	10
John Ament	50		

That amount totaled \$2,715.00. This, however, was no indication that this figure represented the total price for the construction of the new church building - although it could be! Nor can it be sure, that this is an aggregate list of all contributors, even though the people were staunch supporters of the church - not only monetarily but also in spirit.

Three services were held throughout the day.