

ALEXANDER CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY

Newsletter Update December 2019

The Alexander Chapel Baptist Church and Cemetery, located at #39 Short Sluder Branch Road (off of Alexander Rd in Leicester, NC) is a historic site with cultural and personal connections for many in the region. Family members of those who are buried here may remember the homecoming



gatherings and happy events once held on the property — or fondly think of visiting the church site and cemetery as “going home.” Family names of those buried in the cemetery include: Barnard, Penland,

Gudger, Lowery, Roberts, Horne, McElrath, McAfee, Whitson, Love, Steven, Butler, and more.

But now this important “home” needs our help. In 2015, Annette Penland Coleman went to the church and cemetery to visit family grave sites and found the grass was growing up to waist height.

“The area was very grown up and it was difficult to get to the grave sites,” she remembers. Annette became inspired to help with clean up around the church. She hired someone to cut the grass and has been helping to keep the access repaired, putting down gravel in the drive so visitors can reach the cemetery. However, this is an important place that needs more hands and support to give it the care it requires.



Updates from 2019:

- Grass around the church and cemetery was mowed three times this year, with a total of \$750 spent on mowing and upkeep.
- A bank account has been set up with three acting trustees to oversee and manage. Donations will help with upkeep and preservation efforts.
- Bike ride visit in April with outdoor recreation ambassador Daniel White (The Blackalachian) and the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Community members met the cyclists at the site to share history and stories about the church, cemetery, and former school which once stood nearby.

Looking forward to 2020:

- Service work day planned to clean up around the cemetery site.

The grass needs thorough cutting at least 3 times per year, and the gravel for the drive restored periodically. The structure of the church building is also in need of repairs. We are grateful to folks who have helped out so far this year, and need more to step up in 2020 for preservation and restoration efforts. The 2020 season is approaching, and we need donations to help with management.



The annual goal is \$1,000 to be able to cover basic upkeep.

Additional funds will allow us to do more with restoration efforts.

Can you help?

We welcome all participation.

For questions or more info, contact Annette Coleman at (828) 230-0629 or annette-coleman@att.net

2019 Budget Recap:

\$500 in donations
– \$750 spent for upkeep
\$250 “in the negative”

Supporters in 2019, Thank You!!

Ray's Funeral Home
Charles Barnard
The Bostic Family
Annette Penland Coleman
LaTiece Roberts Eggleston
Charles McElrath
William H Hutchison
The Scronce Family
Deborah & Craig Sloan

And to many who answered the plea for donations from 2015-18 to the sum total of \$385

Make Donations to:

Alexander Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery Fund
PO Box 6082
Asheville, NC 28816