

Alexander Chapel Baptist Church and Cemetery

Annual Updates Newsletter - December 2023

Vision: To maintain the cemetery and restore the grounds, and to educate the community on contributions that people buried in the cemetery and their families have had in the rural communities of Buncombe County.

Juneteenth Gathering

We held a gathering at the church and cemetery for Juneteenth this summer, organized by Carol Eggleston. In attendance were also Deborah Eggleston Clark, Robert Eggleston, Deborah & Craig Sloan, children Emory & Mavrick Eggleston, Evelyn Hudgins, Carole Eggleston, and Annette Coleman.



We are planning to do it again next year! Contact Carol Eggleston at cdegg78@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.

We Salute Our History



Margaret Penland Jamerson and daughter Priscilla

Family of Jesse Penland

Jesse Penland was a well-known farmer in Leicester. There is a road named Penland Lane in the Newfound area named for the Penland Family. Uncle Jesse provided the creek on his property as the baptismal for the church. He also helped dig graves for people buried in the cemetery.

This is a picture of Margaret Penland Jamerson and her daughter Priscilla. Margaret was the granddaughter of Jesse Penland. The late Gene Penland (Margaret's brother and also grandson of Jesse Penland) was a gospel singer with the Harrington Chapel Senior Choir of Southern Pines NC. The choir regularly performed for Alexander Chapel Homecomings. Neighbors, including Eric Gaddy, have shared that they enjoyed the homecomings and would sit on their front porches and listen to the spirited gospel music.

We honor those memories.

**Make Donations to: Alexander Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery Fund
c/o Annette Coleman, PO Box 6082 , Asheville, NC 28816**

Supporters in 2023, Thank You!!

Rev. Pat Bacon

Kimberly Coleman

Richard Hurley

Sandra Robinson

Martha & Ronnie Reece

Rebecca Anderson

Betty Barnard Lytle

Shirley Barnard Hobbs

LaTiece R. Eggleston

Clements Florist – John Grooms

Tamika Patterson

Linda McDaniel

Groce Funeral Home – Dale Groce

George Fitts

Melissa Thompson

Malik Smith

Linda Spears

Annie Craddock

Robert Eggleston

Magnolia & Robert Thomas
in memory of Wilbur Eggleston

Carol Eggleston

Deborah & Craig Sloan

Margie Parham

Deborah Eggleston Clark

Sandra E. Chestnut

Haywood County NAACP

Beth F. Snyder

Janet Whitworth

Charles McElrath

Richard Butler

Winslow Lowery

Gary & Lisa Allen

GeKara Allen – Research Ready LLC

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Special thanks to the volunteer helping us keep the grass mowed this summer - Marti Hooper! And thank you to Deborah Sloan for providing a beautiful new wreath arrangement for the door. And another special thank you to Janet Whitworth, a new community volunteer who has roots in Leicester.

We are very grateful for your support in any way – whether it is your prayers, good wishes, monetary resources, or time that you spend helping out. Thank you for honoring our history in this special place.

Info Update: *This year, Annette attended an information session on preserving historic Black cemeteries, presented by the Resourceful Communities initiative of The Conservation Fund.*

Long-range plans — What do YOU envision for the future of this historic place?

How do we go from here, to honor our ancestors? What are your thoughts about the future of Alexander Chapel Baptist Church and Cemetery? Contact Annette (info below) with your thoughts, and share your email address to be part of future plans.



Thank you all. May God Bless you for not forgetting our history!

For questions or more info,

Contact Annette Coleman at (828) 230-0629 or annette-coleman@att.net

Driveway Paving – Success!

You may recall that last year we were raising funds to pave the driveway. The original access to the church and cemetery ran alongside the former school (which no longer exists) at a gradual slope. With the school gone, the access was rerouted up a steep, curved drive, and maintaining the access has been an ongoing issue and constant cost for replacing gravel.

This year, an anonymous donor contributed a matching grant from **The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina** to help improve the driveway to the site. Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy was proud to be the fiscal agent for this grant.



Now, that paving project is complete! Thank YOU!