

Alexander Chapel Baptist Church and Cemetery

Annual Updates Newsletter - December 2024

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.

Highlights for 2024

This has been a wonderful year, with descendants becoming engaged with several community events!

March - At the Leicester library, Annette Coleman made a presentation about the history of Alexander Chapel Baptist Church & Cemetery and the community it served. The presentation was well attended and shared on the library's Facebook page.

May - With event partners the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC), Pathways to Parks, and several clubs and organizations, we hosted a bike ride, history talk, and luncheon on Saturday, May 18. Cyclists gathered at the SAHC Community Farm in Alexander, NC and rode to the church and cemetery site, where church community/family members met them to talk about our history. Present were Annette Coleman, Kim Coleman, Deborah Sloan and Craig Sloan. Cyclists, led by Larry Pender of Pathways to Parks and Travis Bordley of SAHC, then returned to the SAHC Community Farm along with the church family descendants to enjoy lunch and fellowship. Among the cycling organizations represented were Riding in Color, Major Taylor Cycling Club, Momentum Bike Club, Blue Ridge Dirt Skrrts and Cane Creek Cycling - and The Flying Bike brought bikes for those who needed one.

Later in May, Annette also attended the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy's 50th anniversary event in TN. We are grateful to continue our partnership with SAHC!

September - The Land of Sky Regional Council hosted a 9/11 Day of Service through The Remembrance Project. Through the project, Land of Sky provided tools and materials to help restore the grounds and honor the memory of our veterans. We attended an evening reception followed by a work day, during which volunteers helped clean up around the church and cemetery. Special thank you to volunteers: Jamie Harvey, April Berman, Kristin Underwood, Robert Eggleston, Carol Eggleston, William Hutchison, Annette Coleman, Jessica Bond Lost, and Paul Moon - and also to Land of Sky staff Vicki Jennings (Strategic Initiatives Director) and Phyllis Utley (The Remembrance Project Program Coordinator).

October - Zebulon (Zeb) Wells, Principal Engineer in the Building Solutions Group for SKA Consulting Engineers, completed his structural assessment of the church building. We're grateful to Zeb for generously donating his time in performing this assessment, to Janet Whitworth for referring him to us, and to Park Greer of SAHC for assisting.

November - Chad Halliday of McGuire, Wood & Bisette Law Firm in Asheville, NC donated time and legal expertise in reviewing documents for the church trustees.



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

We Salute Our History

Supporters in 2024, Thank You!!

Frank & Martha Reece
Darrell Jamerson
Rev. Patricia Bacon
Elder William Hutchison
Belinda D. Skelton
Margaret Larmore
Charles McElrath
Judy & Jimmy Rickman
Earnestine and Bonnie Turner
Rebecca Anderson
Gary & Lisa Allen
Rebecca Anderson
Annette & Kim Coleman
LaTiece R. Eggleston
Deborah & Craig Sloan
Land of Sky Regional Council
Southern Appalachian Highlands
Conservancy
Attorney Joseph McGuire
Attorney Chad Halliday
Zebulon Wells, Jr.



Mance McAfee

Mance is the son of one of the original trustees of the Alexander Chapel Baptist Church – Rev. Thomas McAfee.

Thomas helped build the original church building by hewing wood from the property, and he was one of the pastors who helped shape the direction of the church and its people.

Photo provided by Diane McAfee.

Katie Barnard Worthy (1916-2016)

Aunt Katie, as called by all that knew her, was born on March 20, 1916 in Leicester, NC to Henry Barnard and Etta Flack Barnard. Aunt Katie had a hand in rearing many family members. She retired from Swannanoa Cleaners and did daywork for several prominent families. Aunt Katie was an excellent cook and enjoyed preparing meals for her family, neighbors, and friends. She was a trustee of the church and instrumental in keeping Alexander clean and in good shape until a few years before her death (at 100 years of age!).

We honor these memories.



We Remember Our Alexander Veterans

We are developing a list of known veterans buried in the Alexander Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery as well as living family members of the church/cemetery family who have served. Please let Annette Coleman know the names of those who have served, as we want to have all the names as part of our record. We are planning on installing a flag in honor/remembrance of our community veterans.

To date, the names we have on record are: Sterling Roberts, Everett Roberts, Harrison Lowery, Doyle Roberts, Derek Robinson, Richard Barnard, Earl Barnard, France Barnard, James Barnard, Charles Barnard, Lloyd Gudger, Glenn Penland, Joseph Lowery, Frank Lowery Jr., Robert McAfee, Darrell Jamerson, Eleane Jamerson, Craig Sloan, Gary Allen, and Eugene Eggleston.

To add names to this list of recognition, please contact Annette Coleman (contact info below).

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