

A small angel looks toward Ebenezer United Methodist Church, which celebrates its 200th anniversary Sunday. The church is located in Randolph County near the Cedar Square community.

# Randolph church celebrates 200th birthday

ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

**RANDOLPH COUNTY** - A Randolph County church is entering its third century of existence.

Ebenezer United Methodist Church, located in the New Market Township near the Guilford County line and a few miles north of Cedar Square, celebrates its 200th anniversary Sunday.

The church was founded on March 13, 1806, when land was deeded by Williamson and Rebecca Gossett to a group of trustees. The first church was called Gossett's Meeting House and was used both for educational and worship services. Sometime later, its name was changed to Ebenezer,

and it became a Methodist church.

The existing church was built at the same location as the original meeting house in 1858.

The Rev. Brantley A. York was one of the first ministers at Ebenezer Church. Under his leadership, the church school thrived, and the one church class was divided into three.

In 1920, Ebenezer was on a Randolph circuit with six churches. In 1936, the circuit was divided, and Ebenezer was put on with two other churches, Mt. Vernon and Mt. Gilead.

In 1946, under the Rev. Vernie Stanley, new classrooms and a basement were added to the

church. From 1946 through 1964, many improvements were made to the building, and memorial windows were installed by six families.

In 1954, a vestibule was added, and from 1955-59, the church was redecorated on the inside with new pews, pulpit carpet, organ and lighting.

To complete the job, the church was bricked, and a new roof installed. A few years later, the educational building and facilities were completed.

One of the oldest readable grave markers shows an 1818 burial date, and it's also believed that one section of the cemetery holds several slave graves.