



**The History of Halesford
United Methodist Church
1601 Lakewood Forest Rd, Moneta, VA 24121**



The rich history of Halesford United Methodist Church was carefully preserved by Mrs. Mealie Dudley, who served as secretary, treasurer and program director.

Her handwritten records began in the 1920s and include records dating back to 1895 likely kept by her father, J.W. Gill. Mrs. Mealie was born in 1890, the same year the church was founded. She lived to be 106 and served as secretary until age 90.

Halesford United Methodist Church was established in 1890 when W.C. and Elizabeth Mitchell donated half an acre of land to the Methodist Episcopal Colored Church. Deacons J.W. Meadors, Henry Swain, and Willie Gill were listed on the deed.

In 1917, new land was acquired, and a frame church was constructed with leadership from Willie Gill, Joe Saunders, Joe Edwards, Emmitt Dudley, A.M. Starkey, and John D. Jordan.

The current structure was completed in 1976 under the direction of Rev. George Fowler, supported by deacons John L. Jordan, William Dudley, Fougley Dudley, Robert Ferguson, and Roy Ferguson, Sr.

From 1977 to 2006, Halesford was led by a series of ministers including Rev. Connie Lee, Rev. Luther Bond, Rev. Shirley Lancaster, Rev. John Miller, Rev. Ralph Harris, Rev. Willie Smith, and Rev. Dennis Moody.

In the early years, Halesford, Mr. Olivet UMC in Boones Mill, and Mt. Zion UMC in Penhook would take turns hosting worship services. Later, Halesford held services twice a month, on 2nd and 4th Sundays. Initially part of a 4-point charge, Halesford was later assigned to a 2-point charge.

In 2016, the Danville District office restructured Halesford into a multicultural cooperative parish. Now part of the Washington Cooperative parish with Epworth UMC, Halesford holds worship services every Sunday at 11:00am, while Epworth worships at 9:30 AM



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Rev. Kelvin Edwards, Sr. served as pastor from 2006 to 2022. Under his guidance, many upgrades were completed, including a handicap ramp, paved parking lot, new carpeting, choir chairs, and a fully renovated kitchen. The church also engaged in community outreach such as food drives, Lenten devotion books and a card ministry.

July 1, 2022, were blessed with Rev. Jeffrey White as pastor.

Together with First Lady Jennifer, they have expanded the church's digital presence through Facebook livestreams and Zoom-based Bible studies, Sunday School and prayer meetings. The church has taken part in community projects such as Operation Christmas Joy, donations to Carillion Children's Hospital, Franklin County Humane Society, and outreach to Raleigh Court Health and Rehab, where member Carolyn Crider resides.

Most recently Halesford partnered with the Washinton Parish Youth in their mission projects to provide donations to the Franklin County Humane Society and inspirational cards, donations and a meal for families at the Ronald McDonald House in Roanoke.

In 2025, we were blessed to add wheelchair-accessible bathrooms on the sanctuary level – an important step toward making our space more inclusive and welcoming for all.

Current leaders include

- Trustees: Danny Ferguson, Roy Ferguson, Jr. Michael Goad, Diane Taylor and Jimmie Hancock.**
- Treasurer: James L. Jordan.**
- Lay leader: Betty Johnson.**
- Secretary: Kaye Hancock.**
- Choir Director: Valerie Jordan.**
- Musician: Melodi Huston.**
- Hospitality Lead: Brenda Goad.**



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Over the years, we have suffered great loss.

Many of our leaders have passed away.

They were all great inspirations to our church during their lifetimes. They are thought of often and missed dearly.

We give thanks as we continue to grow, worship and love in the way of those who paved the way that helped to make our church what it has become today. We remain committed to unity, service, and the work God Continues to call us to.

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.



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