

Buckhall area congregation to raise new Methodist church

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Another new Buckhall community facility is in the planning stages.

Construction on the new Buckhall United Methodist Church will be begun sometime next year, Rev. Gary L. Hulme said. Land has been purchased next to the old church on Moore Drive and architects are being interviewed, he said.

The new church will be built with funds raised by church members, grants and loans from the United Methodist Church and a bank.

Since church attendance almost tripled last year from 32 to 80 and the seating capacity of the old church has been filled, Hulme said there is a need for a new church.

The old Buckhall United Methodist Church was built in 1905 and will be used for office space, Sunday school and as a chapel, Hulme said.

Buckhall is tiny community 10 minutes outside of Manassas.

Buckhall wasn't even a community in 1900, but a farm. Mrs. Irene Thomasson, who has lived in Buckhall all her 77 years said when she was growing up in Buckhall, "It was nothing at all except the grocery store. Just a very few families. No roads at all."

Today there are a few more families and a road.

to a Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission survey the Buckhall United Methodist Church was built on land donated by the Hensleys, ear-



Members of Buckhall United Methodist Church hope to replace their existing facility, above, with a new church next door. The congregation has outgrown its present building.

ly settlers of Buckhall, in 1904-1905. It was built on a stone foundation at a cost of \$830. The church was razed in 1940 and a new cinder block foundation was laid.

The cemetery near the church is one of the oldest in the county. It's earliest marker date backs to 1806. The cemetery was vandalized in 1979, but has been restored by volunteers and Kline Monuments.

According to the survey, Buckhall school was built in 1865. The school is owned by Hallie Cornwell Kemper.

It's possible the school is the first public school in western Prince William county.

The store was inherited by Kemper from her father, William Davis, who bought it from the school board in the 1930's since it was no longer needed as a school. It is now used by the volunteer fire department and as a civic center.

Buckhall store was built in the 1940's. It is owned by Kemper, but operated by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas De Lavello since 1977.