

## Road Trip for November 2016

It's that time of year once again when friends and family gather to give thanks for all their blessings. One of those blessings is that we live at the center of the universe in Newberry County. So grab a turkey sandwich and enjoy some fall color and maybe a little bit of history on the Road Trip of the month.

Begin your tour on the Square in historic downtown Newberry. The downtown and the Square are all decked out for the holiday coming up in December. In the day, be sure to notice the gold leaves of the gingko trees. When you return in the late afternoon and early evening, enjoy the festive light displays. For now, head south on Caldwell Street.

On the left between Friend and Johnstone Streets is Central United Methodist Church. Watch out for construction work as they are rebuilding their granite retaining wall. Founded in 1833, it is the oldest Methodist church and the second oldest congregation downtown. On the left at the corner of Boundary Street is First Baptist Church, the oldest downtown congregation, was founded in 1831. The handsome temple-front building is the second church on the site. Turn left on Boundary Street. On the left at the corner of Wilson Street is the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. Founded in 1853, it is the oldest Lutheran church downtown. The present sanctuary was built in 1964, but pieces of two older sanctuaries are incorporated into buildings on the present site. On the right, just beyond the parking lot is the Caldwell-Higgins House, circa 1820. This was the home of Francis Higgins who served as a state senator from 1832-1844. Facing the end of Calhoun Street on the right is the Job Johnstone House (circa 1842). Job Johnstone, a prominent Newberry lawyer, was elected a Chancellor of the state and served from 1830-1859. He is also credited with adding the "e" to the family name. Turn right on Calhoun Street and left on Johnstone Street. Continue to the end of the street. On the right, surrounded by a rock wall, is the Johnstone family cemetery. Turn right on Wilson Road.

Turn left on Walter Cousins Road and visit Lynch's Woods. Begun in 1934 as part of a WPA project this park of virgin forest is one of the treasures of Newberry County. Although the fall color is probably a bit past its peak, there is still plenty of color to be found. Driving around this time of year is like swimming through a sea of orange, red and gold, and surfacing occasionally to find green pines and blue sky. When you've completed the four miles or so of the park, return to Wilson Road and turn left. Turn left on Jollystreet Road.

Enjoy the views of field and forest. Turn left on Bearington Road. Down the road on the left is the cemetery for Cannon's Creek ARP Church. A group of Scots-Irish settlers led by Rev. John Renwick arrived in what is now Newberry County in 1770 and established the churches at Cannon's Creek and King's Creek. These were the mother churches of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church not only in Newberry, but all across the south. Take a moment to visit the cemetery and its old monuments. Turn around and return to Jollystreet Road. (In Road Trips past, we've followed the road forward until it comes back to Jollystreet, but I wouldn't recommend it now unless you have an amphibious assault vehicle.)

Turn left on Jollystreet Road. Turn right on Bachman Chapel Road. On the left, at the corner of Candy Kitchen Road, is Bachman Chapel Lutheran Church. Established in 1886, the church is named for Rev. Dr. John Bachman who, among other things, was one of the founders of Newberry College. The vistas

of hills, forests and pastures are particularly beautiful this time of year. At the end of the road, turn right on Hwy 76. Across the road from Pioneer and Kiswire (two of our modern industries) is the early-19<sup>th</sup> century Fair House. Built by James Fair, the house is reminiscent of those found in Virginia and North Carolina, featuring a central block of a house flanked by smaller wings on each side. Turn left on Colony Church Road. On the left is Colony Lutheran Church. Founded in 1845, the church is reported to be halfway between St. Luke and St. Paul. At the end of the road, turn left on St. Luke Church Road. Ahead on the right stands the old Dunker Cemetery (*with its mailbox*). The Dunkers, a sect of German Baptists, had a church near here in the eighteenth century. Later, the congregation became part of the Unitarian-Universalist church. Bear to the right to stay on St. Luke Road. Turn right on Clara Brown Road. On the left at the corner of Schumpert Mill Road is the old Schumpert House which was built in the 1890's. At the end of the road, turn left on Hwy 395. Near the intersection of Bush River is the site of Bobo's Mill, an 18<sup>th</sup> century grist mill which was once a local landmark. Bush River also marks the separation of Hartford and Utopia. Up the hill on the right is the Hugh O'Neall House (circa 1795). This was originally the home of John Belton O'Neall's (Newberry lawyer, statesman and historian) uncle. Turn right on Deadfall Road.

On the left is Hannah AME Church. Across from the church is Hannah School, a Rosenwald school from the 1930's. Down the road on the left, near the intersection of George Loop, is the old Cannon House. It was built by Dr. D.A. Cannon in 1867. Turn right on New Chapel Church Road. This road forms a loop around New Chapel Methodist Church and its cemetery (this being new New Chapel as opposed to old New Chapel). Founded in the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the church was moved to its current site in the 1830's. The present church building was begun in 1879. New Chapel marks the other end of Utopia community.

Turn right on Hwy 121. Turn right on Quaker Road. Turn left on Dennis Dairy Road. Across Bush River on the left (*at the historical marker*) is the site of the Quaker Meeting House and the old cemetery. The Quakers (*a sect of Puritans with obvious ties to Thanksgiving*) began settling in Newberry in the 1760's. Many of them traveled from Pennsylvania and northern Virginia, arriving in South Carolina by way of the Carolina Road. Most of the Quaker families moved west in the first decade of the nineteenth century, but services were held here until 1822.

Continue on Dennis Dairy Road. Shortly after Mendenhall Road, a cluster of farmhouses marks the site of the Dennis's Dairy (hence the name of the road). At the end of the road, turn right on Boundary Street and return to historic downtown Newberry.