



# THE WHITTTLERS BENCH

SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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## OLD JAIL SITE FOR "ARRESTING" MEETING

At the Old Jail on Nash Street on April 15th the Southport Historical Society will have its quarterly meeting with a candlelight reception and tea beginning at 6:30. Dr. Alan Watson, history professor at UNC-W and an authority on colonial North Carolina, will speak on "Benjamin Smith: The General and the Governor" following the tea. The public is invited to visit the jail, share the refreshments and attend what should be an especially interesting meeting.

## MEMBER TEACHING LOCAL HISTORY AT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Susie Carson, former editor of the Whittler's Bench, and Membership chairman, began the first of eleven sessions on Southport history April 5th at the Brunswick Tech Annex on Lord St. The class meets each Monday (skipping Easter Monday) from 7 to 9 p.m. The registration fee is \$8.00 for those under 65 - free for those over that age.

**1982 OFFICERS:** Although they've been serving for about six months, our publication hasn't mentioned the names of the new officers who are: President, Elizabeth Watkins; Vice President, Jean Prevost; and Pauline Swain. Secretary-Treasurer.

## "NEW" ST PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH FINALLY MAKES IT

On March 25, 1982 St. Philip's, Southport, celebrated its admission as a full parish church (for the non-Episcopalians, that means self-supporting financially with no outside fiscal help) to the Diocese of East Carolina with a dinner at the Ship's Chandler. It's taken the church a while to accomplish this - perhaps unconsciously copying old St. Philip's at Brunswicktown which was authorized by the N. C. Colonial General Assembly in 1745, but on which construction wasn't completed until 1768. It was consecrated May 24th, the same year. Only 8 years after its completion, it was destroyed by the British and fire in 1776. Southport St. Philip's was built in 1843 and admitted as a mission to the Diocese of North Carolina in 1851. Since part of it was built on Dry St., an act of the N. C. Legislature was required to give the church clear title to its property and enable it to be consecrated on April 22, 1860. Only occasional services were held during the Civil War, but in 1867 the church was reorganized and began to grow with the help of Union officers and men stationed at Fort Johnson in the 1870's. So it's taken "new" St. Philip's 131 years to be on its own - but, at least, now it doesn't need to worry about the British.

## NEVER TOO LATE TO PAY YOUR DUES...PLEASE DON'T FORGET!!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (All dues and contributions are tax deductible)

Dues: ☐ Individual - \$5.00 ☐ Student (thru high school) - \$2.00  
☐ Business, institutional - \$15; ☐ Sustaining - \$25.00; ☐ Life - \$100.

