

ASBURY METHODIST CHURCH
MARKHAM AVE. AND CLARENDON ST.
DURHAM, N. C.

SIDNEY G. BOONE

MINISTER

OCTOBER 10, 1965

HISTORY OF ASBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Asbury Methodist Church started back in 1893 when the Erwin Mills were being built. Mr. B. N. Duke saw the need for a church in this area, and asked the Rev. Reuben Hibberd, a florist and lay preacher, to start a Sunday School. This Sunday School was held in a grandstand where part of the Duke Woman's Campus is now located. In the summer of 1894, Rev. Hibberd held a revival in this grandstand and a church congregation was organized with 44 members. This congregation was called the West Durham Methodist Church.

In December 1896, Mr. B. N. Duke donated to this new congregation a lot on the corner of Main and Ninth Sts. A chapel and parsonage were also donated. When the congregation had outgrown this building in the 1920's and for the third time needed more space, they decided to build a new church building and to move their location to the corner of Markham Ave. and Sixth St. (later changed to Clarendon St.) where the Church now stands.

In 1926, the new church building was completed and the congregation moved. It was not until 1944, however, that the congregation voted to change the name of the Church to Asbury Methodist Church. In this building the sanctuary has been redecorated twice, and in 1947 the white frame house beside the Church was purchased for more Sunday School rooms and office space.

In 1954, it was necessary to acquire more space for classrooms, so a campaign for building money was begun. The present educational building was begun in April 1956, under the leadership of the Rev. W. B. Petteway, and was occupied in January 1957. The old building was renovated and redecorated at this time.

Asbury's congregation now numbers 1187 members and the total property is valued in excess of \$450,000.00

During 1962-63 the entire Church plant was air conditioned, the organ was expanded to about four times its previous capacity, and a new parsonage at 2011 W. Club Blvd., was purchased.

The high water mark of last Conference year was having Bishop Garber dedicate our new educational building, the new ranks of pipes on the organ and the air conditioning on April 4, 1965. An attractive storage building was erected behind the parsonage last summer, and another piece of property on Clarendon St. for parking has been acquired, bringing the total to five lots. Our Board of Trustees with keen foresight have planned ahead for acquisition of still more property for parking space. In modern church building programs, parking facilities are a must, so our congregation must be alert to this need and back up our Trustees in this respect. The Senior High MYF has, with the help of some of the adult classes, furnished a most attractive lounge adjacent to their classroom on the ground floor, and the Marvin Reep Class painted their classroom and the nursery.

The following men have served as pastors
of Asbury Methodist Church:

1894-1898	Rev. R. W. Bailey
1898-1902	Rev. G. D. Langston
1902-1904	Rev. C. P. Jerome
1904-1908	Rev. J. H. McCracken
1908-1910	Rev. W. P. Constable
1910-1913	Rev. A. J. Parker
1913-1916	Rev. J. A. Dailey
1916-1920	Rev. W. C. Martin
1920-1924	Rev. J. W. Bradley
1924-1927	Rev. J. A. Martin
1927-1928	Rev. C. T. Rogers
1928-1932	Rev. R. E. Brown
1932 Finished by	Rev. J. M. Ormond
1932-1934	Rev. J. M. Culbreth
1934-1936	Rev. W. C. Ball
1936-1938	Rev. M. Y. Self
1938-1942	Rev. W. L. Clegg
1942-1944	Rev. W. V. McRae
1944-1948	Rev. M. W. Lawrence
1948-1952	Rev. B. D. Critcher
1952-1958	Rev. W. B. Petteway
1958-1961	Rev. L. C. Vereen
1961-1964	Rev. J. T. Maides
1964-	Rev. Sidney G. Boone