

Clark Street  
United Methodist Church



ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

# **CLARK STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**1909 - 1994**

## **A BRIEF HISTORY**

THE YEAR WAS 1909. ROCKY MOUNT WAS A GROWING LITTLE TOWN, BORDERED ON THE NORTH BY THE ROCKY MOUNT MILLS AND ON THE SOUTH BY THE ATLANTIC COASTLINE RAILROAD SHOPS. THIS SECTION WAS THE HOME OF MOST OF THE RAILROAD PEOPLE. THERE WAS NO METHODIST CHURCH IN THIS AREA SO FIRST METHODIST CHURCH SENT ITS PASTOR, REV. D.H. TUTTLE, TO HOLD A REVIVAL. A TENT WAS PITCHED JUST ABOUT WHERE THE CHURCH NOW STANDS. GOLD BLESSED THESE SERVICES AND A GROUP OF MEN BORROWED \$500 TO PURCHASE TWO LOTS ON THE CORNER OF CLARK STREET AND REDGATE AVENUE AND ERECTED A FRAME BUILDING IN 1910.

THE FIRST STEWARDS, WHO WERE ALSO THE TRUSTEES, WERE L.B. MATTHEWS, C.H. ELLERS, AND SHADE FELTON. THE CLARK STREET METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH WAS ORGANIZED AND REV. J.B. THOMPSON WAS APPOINTED AS THE FIRST PASTOR.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ITS FIRST THREE PASTORS, REV. THOMPSON, REV. J.C. HUMBLE, AND REV. B.B. SLAUGHTER, THE CHURCH, DURING ITS FIRST DECADE FROM 1910 TO 1920, EXPERIENCED GROWTH IN ITS MEMBERSHIP AND MINISTRY TO THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY. THIS PERIOD INCLUDED WORLD WAR I AND THE INFLUENZE EPIDEMIC. SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE INCREASED RAPIDLY DURING THESE YEARS AND THE CONGREGATION BORROWED \$2,500 TO BUILD ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS. L.F.LANE WAS THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT FROM 1916 UNTIL 1951.

THE YEARS 1920-1930, WERE A PERIOD OF DEEPENING DEDICATION ON THE PART OF THE CONGREGATION. DURING THE DEPRESSION YEARS ADDITIONAL BUILDING HAD TO WAIT, BUT THE CHURCH CONTINUED ITS MINISTRY OF COMFORT, HOPE, AND MATERIAL AID WHEREVER IT FOUND A NEED IN THE COMMUNITY.

IN 1934, REV. WADE GOLDSTON WAS APPOINTED PASTOR, AND DURING THE FOUR YEARS OF HIS LEADERSHIP, THE CHURCH EXPERIENCED REVIVAL IN ALL AREAS OF ITS WORK. A STRONG EVANGELISTIC THRUST BROUGHT INCREASED MEMBERSHIP AND A DEEPENED SPIRITUAL LIFE TO THE CONGREGATION.

AT THE TIME OF THE UNITING OF THE THREE BRANCHES OF METHODISM IN

1939, THE CHURCH BECAME THE CLARK STREET METHODIST CHURCH. WITH THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STILL GROWING, AGAIN THE NEED FOR AN EDUCATIONAL BUILDING AND REMODELING OF EXISTING FACILITIES WAS FELT, BUT WORLD WAR II BROUGHT DELAY UNTIL 1945. IN THAT YEAR THE SANCTUARY WAS REMODELED AND THE CHURCH BUILDING WAS BRICK-VENEERED AT A COST OF \$2,608.34.

IN 1949 AN EDUCATIONAL UNIT WAS BUILT WHILE REV. SIDNEY BOONE WAS PASTOR. THIS ADDITIONAL FACILITY TOOK THE FORM OF A FELLOWSHIP HALL AND KITCHEN IN THE BASEMENT AND SEVERAL FIRST FLOOR CLASSROOMS. THE COST WAS \$10,569.96. WITHIN A FEW YEARS A HEATING PLANT AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM WERE INSTALLED. BUILDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE R.N. BOYD, W.C. GRAY, J.H. PATTON, AND R.L. SAUNDERS.

REV. W.S. DAVENPORT WAS APPOINTED PASTOR IN 1959 REMAINING FOR SIX YEARS. DURING THIS TIME, THE CLARK STREET METHODIST CHURCH BEGAN A WIDER AND MORE EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH. GREAT EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON THE TRAINING AND INVOLVEMENT OF MORE OF THE MEMBERS IN THE ONGOING WORK OF THE CHURCH. THIS PERIOD WAS MARKED BY SPIRITUAL AND MEMBERSHIP GROWTH AND A DEEPENED SENSE OF STEWARDSHIP. NEW AND BETTER CONCEPTS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WERE ADOPTED. EVANGELISTIC EFFORTS AND BENEVOLENT GIVING INCREASED. A BUILDING FUND WAS BEGUN FOR AN ADEQUATE EDUCATIONAL FACILITY DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH PROGRAMS. IN 1963, AN ARCHITECT WAS EMPLOYED TO BEGIN WORK ON THE EDUCATIONAL BUILDING. THE FACILITY WAS COMPLETED AND FURNISHED IN 1965 AT A COST OF \$64,486.91.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF REV. J.EARL RICHARDSON, WHO BECAME PASTOR IN 1965, THE CHURCH PUT ON ITS SECOND BUILDING FUND CAMPAIGN AND RAISED \$15,000 TO BE PAID OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD. EFFORTS WERE MADE TO BROADEN THE BASE OF THE CHURCH'S WORKING MINISTRY TO INCLUDE MORE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS IN THE MEMBERSHIP. FACED WITH THE STRAIN AND STRESS OF CHANGING TIMES, THE CHURCH SOUGHT FOR A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEANING OF CHRISTIAN MISSION TO THE WORLD. THE CONGREGATION SUPPORTED A NUMBER OF INTERDENOMINATIONAL UNDERTAKINGS.

IN 1968, CLARK STREET CHURCH TOOK ON ITS THIRD NAME. WITH THE GENERAL CONFERENCE IN DALLAS, WHICH BROUGHT TOGETHER THE METHODIST CHURCH AND THE EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH, THE LOCAL CHURCH BECAME KNOWN AS THE CLARK STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. THEY FACED THE FUTURE IN HOPE THAT, WHEREVER THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST WOULD LEAD, THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO FOLLOW.

REV. OSCAR S. WILLIAMS WAS THE PASTOR FROM 1969 UNTIL 1977. DURING THESE YEARS, HE LEAD THE CONGREGATION IN A MOST MEANINGFUL WAY. IN JUNE, 1977, THE REVEREND R.M. SMITHSON, JR. WAS APPOINTED AS PASTOR. HE STARTED A HOSPITAL SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE, COMMUNION TO MEMBERS, AND A PROGRAM FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED. THE CHURCH PURCHASED TWO ADDITIONAL LOTS ON THE CORNER OF BRANCH AND REDGATE AVENUE AT A COST OF \$10,000 TO BE USED FOR A PARKING LOT.

IN 1979 REV. RICK MOSER CAME AS PASTOR. HIS WIFE RACHEL ALSO SERVED AS MINISTER AT FIRST METHODIST IN ROCKY MOUNT AND THEN AS PASTOR OF A CHARGE. AN ACTIVE YOUTH MINISTRY ABOUNDED. REV. MOSER PARTICIPATED IN A FOREIGN MISSION TRIP DURING THIS TIME.

REV. JOHN MARSHALL CROWE BEGAN AS PASTOR IN 1983, AND THE COMMUNITY WAS BEGINNING TO SEE A DOWNWARD TREND IN GROWTH. THERE BECAME A NEED FOR THE CHURCH TO JOIN BATTLEBORO CHURCH AS A CHARGE.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF REV. CARL FRAZIER, THE CLARK STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MADE A SMOOTH TRANSITION WITH HIS THOUGHTFUL AND KEEN SENSITIVITY AND INSIGHT. REV. JOANNA MILLER STALLINGS PASTORED THE CLARK STREET AND BATTLEBORO CHARGE FROM 1989 UNTIL 1992. SHE WAS CLARK STREET'S FIRST AND ONLY FEMALE PASTOR.

IN 1992, REV. STEPHEN N. LITTLE CAME TO PASTOR THE TRINITY CHARGE. MARVIN CHURCH HAD BEEN ADDED TO THE CLARK STREET- BATTLEBORO CHARGE AND BECAME KNOWN AS THE TRINITY CHARGE.

TODAY, MAY 1, 1994, GOD LEADS US TO TAKE LEAVE OF THIS BUILDING ,TO DISBAND AS A CONGREGATION, AND TO SCATTER OURSELVES INTO OTHER AREAS TO CONTINUE OUR SERVICE IN HIS NAME. MANY ARE MOVING THEIR MEMBERSHIPS TO MARVIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WHILE OTHERS ARE TAKING THEIR MEMBERSHIPS TO OTHER CHURCHES.

THIS BRIEF HISTORY BRINGS SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OVER THE YEARS. IT CANNOT TELL OF THE YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE IN MAKING CLARK STREET CHURCH WHAT IT WAS.

CHANGE IS NEVER EASY TO EXPERIENCE, BUT MAY THE CHANGE WE NOW EXPERIENCE BE A BEAUTIFYING EXPERIENCE JUST AS THE COCOON SHEDS ITS COCOON TO BECOME A BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLY. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO LEAD AND USE US AS WE CONTINUE TO TRAVEL LIFE'S JOURNEY WITH HIM. LET US CELEBRATE BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR THIS PERIOD OF TIME.

CLARK STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
PASTORS  
1909-1994

- J. B. THOMPSON 1909 - 1914  
J.C. HUMBLE 1914 - 1915  
J. B. HURLEY 1915 - 1916  
B. B. SLAUGHTER 1916 - 1920  
J. A. DAILEY 1920 - 1921  
L. T. SINGLETON 1921 - 1923  
J. W. POTTER 1923 - 1927  
D. A. PETTY 1927 - 1929  
O. I HINSON 1929 - 1930  
J. O. LONG 1931 - 1934  
H. C. EWING 1931 - 1934  
C. WADE GOLDSTON 1934 - 1938  
J. T. SHACKLEFORD 1938 - 1939  
B. H. BLACK 1939 - 1940  
R. E. L. MOSER 1940 - 1945  
T. J. STRAWBRIDGE 1945 - 1947  
C. H. LEWIS 1947 - 1949  
SIDNEY BOONE 1949 - 1951  
J. T. BOONE 1951 - 1953  
H. F. SURRATT 1953 - 1956  
Z. V. COWAN 1956 - 1959  
WILLIAM S. DAVENPORT 1959 - 1965  
J. EARL RICHARDSON 1965 - 1969  
OSCAR S. WILLIAMS 1969 - 1976  
LIONEL C. SWINK 1976 - 1977  
RUFUS M. SMITHSON, JR. 1977 - 1979  
RICK A. MOSER 1979 - 1983  
JOHN M. CROWE 1983 - 1985  
R. CARL FRAZIER, JR. 1985 - 1989  
JOANNA MILLER STALLINGS 1989 - 1992  
STEPHEN N. LITTLE 1992 - 1994