

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF ENFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The forerunners of the present Enfield United Methodist Church were congregations established on the fringes of Enfield. In this century the former Methodist Protestant Church moved from Franklin Street, near Highway 301, to a new edifice built on Dennis Street during the pastorate of Mr. Edwards.

The former Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, South, occupied three successive buildings on Whitfield Street. All three now stand side by side. Two have been converted into dwellings, and the last building now serves the Enfield United Methodist Church. This structure was built in 1926 on the site of the old parsonage. The nucleus of the building fund was a generous sum left by Mrs. Cottie Newberry Sherrod for this purpose. The first service was conducted in 1927 by the pastor, C.T. Rogers. The abandoned church building, which was constructed in 1901 while S.A. Cotton was Minister, was converted into a dwelling and has served as parsonage since 1927. Between 1958 and 1960, central heat was installed and the parsonage was renovated and new furnishings bought.

When Unification took place in 1939 the two congregations blended in a union that was, as one member said, "like a marriage -- now we are one." The building belonging to the former Methodist Protestant Church was sold to Branch Funeral Home and the "M.P.s" brought the proceeds with them to help redeem the debt under which the "M.E." church had been struggling throughout the depression years. Additional money was raised and the mortgage was burned in 1942.

When the two women's organizations merged Mrs. James Rives was elected first president. Mrs. Rives was in the unique position of having been active in both societies - her church and her husband's church.

Ministers serving this church since unification were:  
B. D. Chricher, E. C. Crawford, P. F. Newton, J. J. Boone, Carl Barbee, D. W. Charlton, Leon Crossno, W. A. Tew, and W. E. Tisdale.

The Church is now at work on a more comprehensive history of both congregations, and are trying to collect old records for this purpose. We hope to include in this record many recollections of our members, in order to make it a more meaningful document for future generations of Methodists in Enfield. For instance, some members recall that when District Conference met at Trinity M.E. Church, South during the 1930s it was a two day affair and the ministers and delegates had to be housed as well as fed. Another member recalls that she was the first woman on the Board of Stewards of Trinity, circa 1928 - 1930, and that the Board consisted of only four members.

Enfield United Methodist Church has long served the Lord in this area, its history is a great testimony to the faithfulness of the people and ministers.

We are delighted to welcome this session of the Rocky Mount District Conference; the Rev. Mr. Paul Carruth, District Superintendent, to Enfield United Methodist Church.