

A History of  
EPWORTH METHODIST CHURCH  
Winfall, North Carolina  
Perquimans Charge

Epworth Methodist Church in Winfall on the Perquimans Charge was built in 1903 and finished and organized in 1904. G. B. Starling and F. L. Church were the pastors.

The land and much of the rough lumber was given by Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Winslow, Sr. Mr. Frank Humphlett gave much labor in building the church. The children of the church gave the bell and the present lights that are in the Sanctuary.

The church was dedicated in 1906. C. R. Taylor was the pastor.

Mrs. Sarah White, who now lives in the Methodist Home in Durham, raised the first \$1.00 for the building fund; she was also the first organist. Mrs. Walter Nowell and Mrs. Durwood Barber, Sr. are the organists in 1965.

The charter members came from two churches: Seven from Bethany Church, which was on the Perquimans Charge at that time, and fifty-seven from Cedar Grove. Two charter members are still active members: Mrs. J. H. Baker and Mrs. J. L. DeLaney.

The first marriage was that of Miss Estelle Boswell and Mr. Aubrey Onley. The first funeral was for Mr. R. B. Kirby, Sr..The first baby baptised was Dona White.

A children's missionary society, "The Bright Jewels" was organized in 1904 by our pastor's wife, Mrs. F. L. Church. This society under different names has been kept active through the years by our local church women and pastors wives who gave of their time and talents to keep the missionary spirit alive in our church. Today's leader is Mrs. D. L. Barber, Sr.

Until 1916 the women of the church had only a Ladies Aid Society. A new pastor's wife saw the need of a greater service and organized a Woman's Foreign Missionary; today this is a Woman's Society of Christian Service. Mrs. J. L. DeLaney from this group served as District Secretary for the Elizabeth City District from 1934 to 1940. Mrs. Belle Proctor is the President in 1965.

The men are part of a charge-wide Methodist Men's Club. We also have a \$10.00 Club.

A Young Woman's Circle was organized in 1936 by our pastor's wife, Mrs. J. W. Dimmette. Miss Pattie Dimmette, who is now Mrs. Inman Townsley, with her husband is a missionary to Africa, was a charter member of this group. Today this is an active Wesleyan Service Guild. Mrs. Ray Harris is President.

Through the years our young people have been organized: First, a Dorcas Society under the leadership of Mrs. W. W. Trueblood; then, Epworth League with Mrs. Ruth Winslow as leader; later, MYF with Mrs. J. D. Cranford, Mrs. Tom White, Mrs. Raymond Stanton and Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Barber, Jr. as leaders. We regret that we have had no ministers to go from our church but we have sent out many young people who have established Christian homes and are active in the churches where they attend.

Frank Humphlett was the first Sunday School Superintendent. Others who have served are: Elihu Chappell; J. L. DeLaney, who served two periods, making a total of twenty years; E. B. Daughtrey; Mrs. W. L. Jessup; D. L. Barber, Sr., fifteen years; Marvin White, ten years; D. L. Barber, Jr., two years; Ray Harris, one year; and Wayne White, who is the present Superintendent, two years. J. L. DeLaney taught the Adult Class for about forty-five years; Mrs. J. Van Roach is the teacher in 1965.

Claude White has served about forty years as Church Treasurer and David R. Trueblood has been Secretary for twelve years.

In 1943 Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Trueblood gave to the church a United States and a Christian flag.

In 1949 and 1950 a Christian Educational Building was added to church and was dedicated July 9, 1950 by Bishop W. W. Peel. E. B. Edwards was the pastor at the time. Central heat was installed in 1956.

In 1957 the Perquimans Charge, made up of five churches, was divided. Epworth, Oak Grove and Cedar Grove were left in the Perquimans Charge. Earl Meekins was pastor. An electric organ was installed in 1959 sponsored by Horace Baker, Jr. He also gave flower vases for the altar. A picture for the altar, "Christ, the Good Shepherd," was given in memory of Mrs. Mattie White Daughtrey by her nephew, Shelton White. N. A. Gore, Jr. was the pastor.

Homecoming was celebrated in 1963. Clyde Pearce was pastor.

Rest rooms were installed in 1965, given by Mrs. Elbert Jordan, in memory of her brother, Robert Ellis, and Raymond Jordan, in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elex Jordan. A lovely cross was given by the children of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Winslow, Sr., in memory of their parents. Candlesticks were given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Jessup and Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Kirby, Sr. by Frank Kirby and Mrs. Sallie Jessup Kirby. The Communion table is in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Humphlett given by their children, Mrs. C. D. White and Walter Humphlett. The pulpit stand and carpet was given, with the help of some members, by the Wesleyan Service Guild; and the pulpit settee by Mrs. Arthur Chappell.



Space forbids that we mention a long list of men and women who have been faithful and worked under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that the love of God might be shown and the name of Christ be glorified in all that we did; so, today Epworth Church stands as a beacon light to guide all who enter her doors for worship.

Two names we must mention: A. White, Jr. who was a charter member, and until his death in 1950, was faithful to his church; and Ray Elliott, also a faithful member, to whom we are in debt for much of this history.

Frank Parham is our pastor in 1965.

PASTORS OF EPWORTH CHURCH

G. W. Starling	1903
F. L. Church	1904 to part of 1906
C. R. Taylor	part of 1906
R. L. Davis	part of 1907
G. B. Webster	part of 1907 & 1908
J. H. Giles	1908 part of 1909, died
William Towe	part of 1909 to 1911
B. P. Robinson	1911 to 1913
C. W. Smith	1913 to 1914
J. Y. Olds	part of 1914 to 1916
W. L. Loy	1916 to 1919
C. P. Jerome	1919 to 1921
W. T. Phipps	1921 to 1923
T. J. Stanford	1923 to 1927
A. J. Parker	1927 to 1928
J. L. Smith	1928 to 1933
J. W. Dimmette	1933 to 1936
G. W. Lowe	1936 to 1939
J. D. Cranford	1939 to 1946
J. D. Stott	1946 to 1947
E. B. Edwards	1947 to 1950
J. C. Chaffin	1950 to 1951
H. M. Jamieson	1951 to 1955
E. R. Meekins	1955 to 1957
Max W. Dulin	1957 to 1958
A. N. Gore, Jr.	1958 to 1961
Lester W. Hall	1961 to 1963
Clyde P. Pearce	1963 to 1965
Frank Parham	1965