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# HISTORY

by

Mrs. Katherine Taylor McKeel



**EVANSDALE METHODIST CHURCH**

Route 3, WILSON, NORTH CAROLINA

~~Lawrence~~ E. Lugar, Minister

EVANSDALE  
METHODIST CHURCH

# HISTORY

WILSON  
NORTH CAROLINA

The history of the Evansdale Methodist Church is closely identified with the early history of Wilson County and its first settlers. The names of Barnes, Graves, and Simms, who had owned land in the Evansdale community since 1761 and who assisted in building Wilson County, are linked with the building of the Evansdale Church. Therefore, the history of this Church is interesting to all Wilson County people.

The Church had its beginning in 1885 when Miss Betty Graves started a Sunday School class in the parlor of the old Edwin Barnes home place. Although this particular class lasted only a short time, the classes were resumed a short time later by Dr. James Thomas Graves in the old Simms one-room school house. Reverend D. H. Tuttle, who was pastor in Wilson at the time, went out and preached occasionally for the people, although there was no place of worship for sometime in the community.

One snowy Sunday in late February 1913, Miss Sallie Graves, looking out over the fields, saw a group of hunters. She had the thought that the "fields were white and the laborers few", that there was no place for the people of the community to go to worship. From then on Miss Sallie lost no opportunity to carry out her ambition that the community should have a Sunday School, but a Church building was needed immediately.

Previous to this, though, the District Conference met in Stantonsburg, and Rev. H. E. Lance was a

guest in the Graves's home. There was discussion of Miss Sallie's dream of a Church for the community, and sometime later Rev. Lance was sent as Pastor to the Stantonsburg Church and assisted in organizing a Sunday School in the old Simms school house with Mr. Henry Jones as the first superintendent. Miss Sallie taught a class and was organist for 27 years from 1913 to 1940 when her health compelled her to give up the work.

Then the Church itself began to have a real nucleus. Rev. H. E. Lance held a series of services with the assistance of Rev. C. Rowland of Texas, who made the first donation toward the building of the Church. At that time it was decided to erect a Church. In 1914 the Church was built. The dedication was conducted by Dr. T. H. Tuttle in December, 1914, with Reverend D. A. Futrell as Pastor.

Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Graves and Dr. & Mrs. S. H. Crocker gave the land on which the Church is erected. Mr. Graves gave freely toward the building.

The building was designed after an edifice located in Concord, Massachusetts, and the Andrew Carnegie Foundation donated half the cost of the new organ that went with the Church. The First Methodist Church of Wilson and others gave liberally toward the new Church.

The first stewards of the Church were John Rose and W. H. Jones. The trustees were W. H.

Jones, W. A. Rose, J. W. Finch, L. T. Coley, and W. W. Graves.

The first member to join this Church was Mr. W. A. Rose. Miss Bannie Finch was the second.

Many of the Charter Members are deceased, but today their faithfulness to God and their loyalty to the Church linger in our hearts on this fiftieth anniversary as cherished memories.

The following are Charter Members of the Church organized in 1913:

W. A. Rose, Labanna Finch Beasley, Virginia Finch Griffin, John W. Finch, Arch Finch, Gray Finch, Edward Lawrence Finch, Emma May Bowen, Lonnie Taylor, Connie Taylor, James H. Taylor, Maggie Coley Finch, Maggie Bowen, Marver Coley Page, Ernest F. Webb, E. R. Whitley, Sallie Whitley, James L. Mattox, Hattie Mattox, James M. Bass, Daisy Bass Amerson, Frank Lucas, Sallie Graves Bagley, Lizzie Glenn Rose, Alma Lee Rose, Rebecca Rose Finch, Francis Joseph Finch, Nora Elizabeth Taylor, Tanner Poythress, Willie Poythress, Marion Poythress, Effie Poythress, Ben Howard, Mrs. J. T. Poythress, W. Henry Jones, Theodore Coley, Mrs. Ida Price, W. E. Price, Berta Rose.

There have been many faithful members who have contributed to the growth of this Church at its beginning and through the years that have followed.

Each name deserves special mention but time prevents giving more detailed information of individual contributions of service. However, there is one who labored so earnestly for the cause of Christ in this particular field that he deserves special mention, The Rev. C. W. Goldston. He was a great inspiration to this Church and served as its first full-time Pastor. It was under his leadership and guidance that the Harvest Day plan for our Church was begun. The Lord's Acres of Cotton grown on four acres of land loaned to the Church by Mr. Graves in 1946 was also under the leadership of Mr. Goldston. Through his untiring efforts the work of this Church grew, many members were added, and a Sunday School building, dedicated in 1942 by Bishop Blake, was constructed while he was Pastor.

In 1945 on October 7th with an appropriate ceremony, the new parsonage was dedicated. The lot was donated by Mr. W. W. Graves. On that occasion Mr. Adrian Phillips gave a statement of the cost of the parsonage as \$4,365.75. The Rev. H. E. Lance, the first Pastor, was present for the ceremony. In his remarks on that day Rev. Lance's remarks were: "The purpose of the Church is not only to worship God but to bring the people closer together in the spirit of holiness." He referred to the great influence of the Church in the community. "Since every blessing comes from God," said Mr. Lance, "we must give of our time and substance to His Cause."

At the fourth quarterly Conference at Evansdale,

on September 27, 1949, the trustees of the Evansdale Charge were authorized to accept the land for a Church which was called South Tarboro Street Church until it could be organized and named. Later it was named Winstead Methodist Church.

In 1954 another edifice was erected that has served the Church well. The Community Building, designed by the Rev. C. W. Wooten, who was Pastor at that time, was built through contributions of lumber, money, and labor of many faithful members and friends.

It has been through such generosity that the Church has received many gifts that are endearing and will forever be cherished by its members for years to come.

The first communion cloth which has been in use until recently, was given by Mrs. Rebecca Rose Finch. These have been replaced recently - one in honor of Mr. Kinsey Amerson by Mrs. Kinsey Amerson and children, the other in memory of Mrs. Rebecca Rose Finch by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Beasley and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Finch.

The pulpit Bible was given to the Church by Mrs. Elsie Taylor Potter (1942). The first offering plates by Mrs. Jim Mattox. These were replaced in later years by Mr. and Mrs. David Beamon and Mr. and Mrs. W. B. McKeel. The beautiful reproduction of a famous painting of Christ which hangs behind the

pulpit was a gift from Mr. Will Graves, Jr.

The baptismal font given by Mrs. W. W. Graves, and the altar set and vases by the family of W. A. Rose (1953).

In 1956 an organ was added to the Church by members and friends. The organ lamp was given recently by Mrs. J. H. Taylor.

The new lectern scarf and communion table runner were donated recently by Mrs. M. P. Whitley and were made by Mrs. Dow McKeel.

The new hymnals were added to our worship service by the Young Adult Class and the M. Y. F. members.

The carpet was donated by the Woman's Society of Christian Service which from time to time has made many contributions.

In 1961 a Church marker was presented to the Church by the children of Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Taylor.

The lovely furniture that beautifies our sanctuary was presented to our Church in 1961 by Mrs. W. W. Graves and the members of her family. Words can never express our gratitude for such a beautiful gift.

And now we are reminded along with these gifts those Pastors who gave such untiring efforts in the

guidance and spiritual work of the Church for these fifty years:

- Rev. H. E. Lance ----- 1912-1913
- Rev. D. A. Futrell ----- 1913-1916
- Rev. C. O. Armstrong ----- 1916-1918  
(Died near close of 1918.)
- Rev. J. B. Thompson ----- 1918-1920
- Rev. Daniel Lane ----- 1920-1923
- Rev. B. H. Black ----- 1923-1925
- Rev. I. T. Poole ----- 1925-1929
- Rev. J. Vincent Knight ----- 1929-1931
- Rev. S. E. Mercer ----- 1931-1936
- Rev. E. E. Wiley for Mercer ----- 1934
- Rev. P. D. Woodall ----- 1936-1939  
(Health broke in 1939, year filled  
out by Mr. Baumgardner.)
- Rev. C. W. Goldston ----- 1939-1943
- Rev. P. O. Lee ----- 1943-1944
- Rev. C. W. Goldston ----- 1944-1948
- Rev. W. N. Vaughn ----- 1948-1951
- Rev. L. A. Greene ----- 1951-1953
- Rev. C. W. Wooten ----- 1953-1958
- Rev. J. B. Speight ----- 1958-1962
- Rev. Lawrence Lugar ----- 1962-~~64~~
- Rev. R. M. Gradeless ----- 1964-

NOV. 20, 1965 EVANSDALE - SUPPLEMENT

Gifts Continued:

1963. The light fixtures in the sanctuary were given by the Graves family.
1963. The bread plate for communion service was presented to the Church by Mrs. Maggie Bowen in memory of her husband Mr. P. B. Bowen.
1965. A bell tower erected by the W. Y. S. The bell was given in a will to the church by Mr. H. H. Graves and his his sister Mrs. Sallie Graves Bagley. The gift was made in the year