Brief History
and Church Roll of
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
Rockingham, North Carolina

"SINCE 1786, A CHURCH
WITH A VISION AND
A MESSAGE."

Rev. Joyce V. Early, D. D.
Pastor

Rev. Paul N. Garber, Ph. D.
Bishop

Rev. Millard C. Dunn, B. D.
District Superintendent
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This brief history could not have been realized without the help of Dr. Early, our pastor; Isaac S. London, editor of The Post-Dispatch; and a history of Methodism which was written by the late Lillie Moore Everette. To all those who contributed in any way to this common endeavor, we express our immeasurable appreciation.

Published by
CIRCLE NO. ONE
OF
THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
(February, 1962)

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Mrs. R. Harvey Hough, Assistant
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First Methodist Church, Rockingham, N. C.

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Mrs. Billy Capps
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One hundred and seventy-seven years ago, December 24, 1784, the Methodist Church was formally organized in America. Just two years later this historic First Church was organized. The year was 1786.

The Revolutionary War had been won and the ties with England had been broken. Methodism could no longer continue as an outpost of a British organization. The American preachers and people no longer relished the dictatorship of John Wesley, revered and loved as he was. America was growing to the West and to the South, across mountains and plains. A strong, tightly bound organization was needed.

Thus a conference of the preachers was called to meet in Lovely Lane Church, Baltimore, December 24, 1784. Dr. Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury had been designated by John Wesley as bishops. These were formally elected by the group. The group remained in session for ten days and did many important things. The first thing they did was to vote to have a Methodist Church independent of British Methodism.

The appointments were made and the preachers dispersed rapidly, almost as though some of the men leaped through the windows of the Chapel on to their horses to be on their way. The King's business required haste and got it. Bishop Asbury rode the next day through rain and snow fifty miles to Fairfax, Virginia. Bishop Coke began a six months preaching tour of the South.
In 1786 our Methodist congregation was organized by two young pioneer circuit riders, Hope Hull and Jeremiah Masten, assigned that year to the new Pee Dee Circuit, which embraced the Pee Dee Valley on both sides of the river, extending from within a few miles of Salisbury, N. C., to Georgetown, S. C.

The first church building, known as "Night's Chapel", stood either on or adjacent to the lot now occupied by the residence of Judge F. Donald Phillips and served the entire community for more than a quarter of a century. It was during this time, in January of 1789, that Bishop Francis Asbury, the first Bishop consecrated in America at the Baltimore Conference, came in his travels to Richmond County. He preached here in 1790 and 1801. Bishop Asbury came back on January 8, 1806, and would have preached but he said, "Here the people would have assembled, but there was a wedding afoot; this is a matter of moment, as some men have but one during life, and some find that one to have been one too many."

Soon the Chapel was abandoned, and until a new building was erected on the present site, the Methodists used for their House of Worship the old Academy which stood on the lot now occupied by the Winn-Dixie Store.

The present property was acquired in 1832-33 and a church building built soon thereafter. Replacing this structure, a much larger one, facing north, was erected and dedicated in July of 1863, serving a growing congregation for approximately thirty-five years. It has been said that when the cornerstone of this church was laid, MRS. ANN LEAK (grandmother of the late H. C. Wall) PLACED THE FIRST BRICK
IN A MORTAR MIXTURE WHICH SHE HAD SPREAD WITH A SILVER PIE KNIFE. Mrs. Leak and her husband, lived just opposite the Church on Washington Street. In 1879 the Sunday School Chapel was built on the church property and presented to the Church by this Mrs. Ann Leak. The 1863 church building was a frame building in the simple old style of church architecture of that early day, the love-liest examples of which are to be seen practically everywhere throughout the New England states. One of the deceased members of this congregation related, "The method of taking up collection was most interesting. A long pole with a little bag attached to one end, into which to place the offerings, was extended along each pew, from the aisle, by the ushers."

In 1879, our Church, having been on circuits within the South Carolina Conference from 1786 until its inclusion in the North Carolina Conference in 1850, was made a station with a full-time pastor of its own.

In 1899 the third building was torn down, and work was started on this present structure and dedicated June 21, 1903, by Bishop A. Coke Smith. It is of interest to note that the frame building erected in 1862-63 was so sturdily built that great difficulty was had in tearing down the steeple, pegged instead of nailed. The carpenters got part of it down, then tried to pull the rest with a team of four horses from Old Roberdel. They couldn't budge it, but that night a heavy wind swept across this section and blew it down into the preacher's garden and nobody was hurt. At this time, too, the Chapel given by Mrs. Ann Leak was sold and moved to the triangular lot between Washington Street and Fayetteville Road. Here it was made a residence and it is the house stand-
ing there now next to the Esso Service Station.

This present building dedicated in 1903 was completed at the cost of $14,000. The lovely windows that were placed in the sanctuary at this time are still enjoyed by all worshipers today. All the windows, copies of famous paintings, in the sanctuary, were donated as memorials to honor loved ones who for years had been prominent and influential members of the Church. (It is interesting to note here that the two largest windows cost $500.00 each in 1903. Several years ago it was necessary to have some repairs done on these windows. An expert was called here from New Jersey and he placed a $75,000.00 evaluation on all of these windows. He also said that they could not be replaced in this country but maybe in Europe. The Church was advised to seal up the windows to protect them. This was done.)

Since 1903 much has been contributed to our Church: a pipe organ, three sets of chimes, a rose window in the choir loft, a brass altar set, and many other loving gifts including the restoration of the steeple to be undertaken in the near future.

In the year 1924, for the sum of $52,000 an Educational Building was added which is still in use today and has just undergone improvements and a new coat of paint.

Ground-breaking ceremonies launched a recent program of growth when, on July 13, 1958, the New Educational Building was begun. Occupied in August of 1959, it stands a $219,000 monument to the progress of Methodism in our community. Countless tributes are being presented with this addition in memory or in honor of cherished loved ones. However, furnishings in the Ladies’ and Men’s Bible Classes,
the windows in the chapel, the several pianos, a kitchen complete in every detail, etc. serve to exemplify the efforts and loyalty of our members.

The present church membership is one thousand and its pulpit is served devotedly by Dr. Joyce V. Early, the eighty-ninth pastor since 1786. God has always helped this congregation for 175 years. Hope Hull and Jeremiah Masten planted; the other ministers, together with this fine congregation, have watered; and God has given the increase. Our Church today looks to a future of spiritual advancement and re-dedication to the beliefs for which Methodism stands.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Pastors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hope Hull</td>
<td>1786</td>
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<td>L. Andrews</td>
<td>1787</td>
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<td>Thomas Humphries</td>
<td>1788; '89; '98</td>
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<td>William Glassaway</td>
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<td>Henry Ledbetter</td>
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<td>Joseph Moore</td>
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<td>G. Clark</td>
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<td>Richard Pasey</td>
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<td>John Russell</td>
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<td>Tobias Gibson</td>
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<td>Samuel Douthet</td>
<td>1800</td>
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<td>Thomas Nelson</td>
<td>1801; 1802</td>
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<td>Jeremiah Russell</td>
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<td>Thomas Shaw</td>
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<td>John Porter</td>
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<td>John Gamewell</td>
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<td>Robert Porter</td>
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<td>Griffin Christopher</td>
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<td>David S. McBride</td>
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<td>A. Leatherwood</td>
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<td>John W. Norton</td>
<td>1818; 1822</td>
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<td>Nicholas McIntyre</td>
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<td>Nicholas Ware</td>
<td>1820; 1824</td>
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<td>John Boswell</td>
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<td>Charles Sinclair</td>
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<td>Isaac Hartley</td>
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<td>Phillip Groove</td>
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<td>John H. Robertson</td>
<td>1829; '36; '37</td>
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<td>Noah Laney</td>
<td>1830</td>
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<tr>
<td>William King</td>
<td>1831; '32</td>
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<td>Joel W. Townsend</td>
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<td>Charles S. Walker</td>
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<td>Theo Huggins</td>
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<td>W. T. Harrison</td>
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<td>A. Hoyle</td>
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<td>Ira L. Potter</td>
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<td>J. B. Anthony</td>
<td>1843; '44</td>
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<td>Michael Robbins</td>
<td>1845</td>
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<td>Dennis J. Simmons</td>
<td>1846; '47</td>
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<td>J. W. Wrightman</td>
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<td>M. A. McKibben</td>
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<td>W. L. Pegues</td>
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Evan E. Freeman 1851; '52
Ira T. Wyche 1853
Lemon Shell 1854; '55
Peter Doub 1856; '57
S. D. Adams 1858; '59; '64; '65
John Tillett 1860; '61
H. H. Gibbons 1862; '63
Joseph Wheeler 1866; '67; '72; '73;
T. W. Guthrie 1868; '69; '70; '71
J. W. Jenkins 1876; '77
H. T. Hudson 1879
H. P. Cole 1880
J. B. Bobbitt 1881; '82
J. H. Guinn 1883
J. H. Page 1884; '85; '86; '97
M. L. Wood 1887; '88; '89; '90
W. B. Boub 1891; '92; '93
J. T. Lyon 1894; '95; '96
F. M. Shamburger 1898; '99; 1900; '01
John H. Hall 1902; '03; '04
J. E. Underwood 1905; '06; '07; '08
E. H. Davis 1909; '10; '11; '12
J. B. Hurley 1913; '14
G. F. Smith 1915; '16; '17
A. L. Ormond 1918; '19; '20; '21
J. D. Bundy 1922; '23; '24
C. M. Hawkins 1925; '26; '27
J. M. Daniel 1928
H. L. Hendricks 1929
W. R. Royal 1930; '31; '32; '33; '34
J. F. Herbert 1935; '36; '37; '38; '39
J. H. Barnhardt 1940; '41
B. B. Slaughter 1942; '43; '44; '45
D. E. Earnhardt 1946; '47; '48; '49
J. H. Lanning 1950; '51
L. A. Tilley 1952; '53; '54; '55; '56
W. R. Stevens 1957; '58; '59; '60
J. V. Early 1961; '62

(First church was on a circuit until 1880. Circuits had a pastor and one or more assistants. The assistants are not listed.)
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February 1962

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Miss Meta Hall
Miss Minnie Hall
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Miss Patricia Joyner
Miss Mary Lucille Humber Kanipe
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Miss Miriam Lassiter
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Mrs. Nancy P. Leak
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Mr. Bill McColl
Mr. & Mrs. M. C. McCollum
Mr. & Mrs. S. H. McCracken, Sally Jane
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Mr. & Mrs. Marvin McCutchen, William Marvin
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Mr. & Mrs. B. F. McGilvray
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Mr. & Mrs. J. A. McIntyre, Jr., John W., Lucy
Mr. R. P. McKeithan
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Mr. & Mrs. J. W. McKenize, Jr., Mary Augusta, J. W. III
Mrs. Cecelia Scholl McLaurin
Mr. & Mrs. Charles McLaurin
Mrs. Octavia Phillips McLeod
Mrs. A. R. McPhail
Mrs. W. P. McRae
Miss Julia MacGregor
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Marks, Miriam Wray, Jacquelyn Frances
Mr. & Mrs. E. R. Marshall, Ray Wilson, II
Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Martin
Rev. & Mrs. E. J. Martin
Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Martin
Mrs. W. C. Mathis
Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Matson, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Matson, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mauldin
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Meacham
Mr. & Mrs. H. A. Meacham, H. A., Jr., Jane Cooper
Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Meacham, Jerry Ann, Judy Carol
Mr. & Mrs. R. G. Miller
Mr. & Mrs. M. S. Millikan, Jeanne
Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Mills, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Mintz
Mr. & Mrs. C. G. Monroe
Miss Mamie Monroe
Miss Maude Moore
Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Morgan
Mrs. Virginia Blalock Mormon
Miss Maude Morrison
Mrs. R. M. Morrison
Mrs. Benford Morse, Peggy Ann, Linda Kay
Mr. & Mrs. Clinton Morton
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Mulkey, Michael Stephen
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey C. Munn, Charles Ray,
    Mary Alice, Cecelia Ann
Mrs. Lizzie Hamer Nance
Mrs. George D. Neill, Nancy Kay
Mr. I. J. Newberry
Mrs. Gertrude Moore Nelson
Mr. William Newberry
Mr. & Mrs. John Nichols
Mr. & Mrs. W. L. North
Mr. & Mrs. G. L. Norwood, William Lee
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. O'Brien, Harold Franklin
Mr. Walter Thomas O'Brien
Mr. & Mrs. O. L. O'Brien, Jr., O. L. III
Miss Sara O'Brien
Mr. & Mrs. W. W. O'Brien, John Franklin
Mr. John S. Ormsby
Mrs. Clyde Osborne
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Osteen
Mr. & Mrs. L. L. Osteen, L. Lawson, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Page
Mrs. J. T. Page, J. T., Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. L. V. Page
Mr. & Mrs. Talmadge Page
Mrs. Sybil Morrow Pakzer
Mrs. Manie Leak Parsons Palmer
Mrs. Anna B. Parsons
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Parsons, Glenda Mae,
    James Bethel
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Peedin, Jimmy, Linda
    Gail, Bonnie Mae
Mr. & Mrs. A. D. Pegram, Jerry Kenneth
Mr. & Mrs. A. H. Pegram
Mr. Heath Penegar, Elbert
Mrs. Johnnie Monroe Penegar
Mr. & Mrs. C. D. Phillips, Linda Louise,
    Mickey Cheryl
Judge & Mrs. F. D. Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Phillips, R. L., Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Poe
Mrs. Claude Polk
Mr. Kenneth Ray Ponds
Mrs. J. A. Porter
Mr. John W. Porter
Mrs. P. N. Powell
Mr. & Mrs. T. L. Powell
Mr. & Mrs. Fleming Privett, Molly, Ila Catherine
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Pryce, Sr., Henry
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Pullen
Mrs. H. C. Rancke
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Rast
Mr. Oscar Ratliffe, Julia Marshall
Mrs. J. B. Rawls, Sr., Harry L.
Mrs. O. G. Reynolds, Dorothy R.
Mrs. Tracey O. Reynolds, Elizabeth McRae
Mr. McNair T. Riddle
Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Rideoutte
Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Riggan
Mr. & Mrs. Grover Rodgers, Laura, Grover
    Tilghman, III, Robert Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Rogers
Mr. A. H. Rohleder, Milton Arnold
Mrs. H. J. Rollins, Dr. H. J., Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. R. F. Rush, Stephen
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Satterfield
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sauls
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Saunders
Mrs. Walter L. Scales, W. L., Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Scales
Mrs. R. M. Schein
Mr. & Mrs. P. V. Scholl, P. V., Jr.
Mrs. W. F. Seago, William T.
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sedberry
Mrs. Lottie Sedberry
Miss Lila Stansill Shannonhouse
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Shepard
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Shepard, Jr.
Mrs. John D. Sheppard, Shelia Ross
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Shores, Susan Draughn
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Shuler
Miss Betty Sigle
Mr. & Mrs. K. W. Simmons
Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Simpson
Mr. Wilford Sisk
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Skreen, Danell, Maxine
Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Slack
Mr. & Mrs. B. T. Smith, Emma Jane, Lucy Shores, II, Linda Catherine
Mrs. Carl Smith, Kathryn F.
Mr. & Mrs. Feltz Smith, Harrison
Miss Margaret Smith
Mrs. H. M. Smithey
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Snauffer
Mr. & Mrs. E. G. Snipes, Eddie, Judy Christopher, Susan Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Snuggs, Helen Patricia, Paula Kay

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Mr. Jack Snuggs
Mrs. J. K. Sowell
Mr. & Mrs. G. B. Spence
Mrs. Anna Babette Stadler, Adelthia

Anna
Mrs. Robert N. Stansill, R. N. Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. H. D. Steadman, H. D., Jr.
Mr. Armistead Steele
Mr. Robert L. Steele, IV
Mrs. Samuel S. Steele
Mr. Stephen Steele, Jr.
Mrs. W. C. Steele
Mrs. William L. Steele
Mrs. Joseph Stephenson
Mr. W. R. Stillwell
Dr. & Mrs. J. M.Stubbs, J. M., Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. W. B. Stubbs, Jr.
Mrs. W. L. Stubbs
Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Taylor, Jr.
Mr. J. Fred Taylor
Mr. Ned F. Taylor
Mrs. Jane E. Taylor
Mr. Willard S. Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Teal
Miss Bessie Terry
Mr. & Mrs. B. L. Terry
Mrs. Blanche Terry
Mrs. C. G. Terry, Patrick, C. G., Jr.
Mrs. E. B. Terry, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Terry
Mrs. Josephine Terry
Mrs. Barbara Jean Pegram Thomas
Mr. Dover Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Thomas
Miss Eva M. Thomas
Mrs. Henry L. Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Thomas, Janice Sue
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Thomas, Jr., John Wesley, III, Patsy, Mary Carol
Miss Mary A. Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Thomas, Scott, Jr.
Mrs. William C. Thomas, W. C., Jr., Edmund
Mrs. Walter S. Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. H. A. Thompson
Mrs. D. C. Thrower
Mr. & Mrs. S. T. Thrower
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Tilley
Mrs. L. E. Tolan
Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Tremon, Terry Ann
Mrs. Joseph C. Vandevere
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Vick
Mr. & Mrs. A. M. Waddell
Mr. & Mrs. Myers Waddell
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Walker
Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Walker, W. G., Jr., Franklin Madison
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Wall
Miss Lila Walsh
Mr. & Mrs. Julian Warrick
Mrs. Katie Brigman Watts
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Waugh
Mr. & Mrs. A. A. Webb, Alden Brannon
Mr. John Stancil Webb
Mr. & Mrs. T. B. Webb
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Webb
Mrs. W. P. Webb
Mrs. David Nelson Wendt
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Wentz
Mr. & Mrs. H. A. West, Harry A., Jr., Eve
Mr. & Mrs. T. P. Wheeler, T. P., Jr.
Mrs. Joyce Ann Pegram Wheliss
Mrs. C. A. Whitlock
Mrs. A. E. Whittemore
Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Williams, Nan Elizabeth
Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Williams, Roger
Mr. Carl R. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Williams, Edward, Glenn
Fox, Wilma Terry
Mrs. L. L. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. L. M. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. L. M. Williams, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Williams, R. G., Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. W. K. Williams, Judith Lynn,
Thomas Howard
Mr. & Mrs. W. V. Wilson
Mr. Carlos Womack, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. John Womack
Mr. & Mrs. M. L. Wood
Mr. & Mrs. T. P. Wood, T. P., Jr., David T.
Mrs. John Angus Yow
Mr. & Mrs. T. S. Yow, Tommy, Charles

We are trying to keep our Church roll correct. Our present pastor has recently marked off eighteen names of persons who have joined other churches and have not notified Church office. We hope this roll is now correct.
CHURCH ROLL AS OF AUGUST, 1962

Cathy Aleise Ackerman
M. L. Adams, Jr.
Marcia Ann Baxley
Julia Kay Blalock
Mr. J. B. Bullock
Larry Cheek
Steve C. Chilton
Miss Nena DeBerry
Deborah Ann Denny
Mrs. Cora Duehring, Victor and Raymond
Mrs. J. W. C. Entwistle, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Gene L. Farnell
Barbara Lynn Freeman
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hinson, J. C., Jr. and Beth
Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Holland, Jackie
James M. Iseman, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Jackson
Benford E. Morse, Jr.
Mrs. Charles R. Munn
Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Myers
Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Nance, Sena Kay
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Payne
Amy L. Pegram
Beverly Ann Poe
Carl J. Riggan
Joyce Rigsbee
Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Roberts, Britton
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Rohleder, Ann
Mrs. Milton Rohleder
Mrs. Paul V. Scholl, Jr.
Mr. Ralph Shoemaker
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith, Michael
Mrs. Levi Watts
Mr. Neil H. Williams
Mr. Carlos Womack
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Young, Antonia
Carol