

## HISTORY OF GARRIS CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH

In the year 1908 Reverend J. J. Boone came under the conviction that a Methodist Church was needed in the area now served by Garris Chapel Church. Under sponsorship of the LaGrange Charge, Rev. Boone held a Revival in the Glenwood School. The result of this meeting was the organization of Garris Chapel Methodist Church. In 1910, with Reverend R. F. Bumpass as Presiding Elder, Rev. Boone was officially appointed to serve as the first Pastor.

Plans were made to erect the first Church building. Building materials were donated by Ransom Garris, J. J. Sutton, and other members and friends of the Church. Friends and members also gave their labor and Mr Garris gave the land on which the Church was built, and the Church was named in his honor.

Garris Chapel remained a part of the LaGrange Charge until 1924 when a transfer was effected and with five other Churches Garris Chapel made up the Seven Springs Charge. Under this arrangement there was one afternoon and one evening Service each month with Sunday School each Sunday afternoon. After several years a morning service each month was worked out and the Sunday School was moved to the morning--immediately after the Worship Service on preaching Sunday.

In 1939, under the leadership of the wife of the pastor, Mrs. W. E. Howard, the W. S. C. S. was organized and has been a very important part of the Church ever since.

In 1943, Reverend H. L. Harrell was appointed to serve Garris Chapel Church. He was followed by Reverend R. N. Fitts and Rev. W. R. Johnson. The people were unhappy on a six point Charge so with B. B. Slaughter as District Superintendent, W. R. Johnson as pastor, and with the help of the Commission on Rural Work. the 1950 Annual Conference removed Garris Chapel from the Seven Springs Charge and a two point Circuit was formed. On the two point Circuit Rev. Harrell was sent to serve Garris Chapel a second time.

The need for a new and larger Church plant became the concern of the people. The W. S. C. S. started it off by turning over their small treasury to the building fund. To this was added funds raised by Church Suppers, Lord's Acre Projects, Harvest Sales, and tithes and offerings of members and friends of the Church.

In 1953, N. B. Hill who had served as treasurer of the building fund went out from Garris as a Minister of the Gospel. Brother Hill is still serving in the North Carolina Conference.

A building Committee was appointed. A new location was selected. Needs of the Church for Worship, Fellowship, and Education were carefully examined, plans were drawn up by Mrs. H. L. Harrell, and in March 1952 ground breaking was held at the sight of the new Church for a new Church building. In August 1954 the first Worship Service was held in the Fellowship Hall of the new building.

During the pastorate of Reverend Earl Tyson donations were received from Duke Foundation (\$1,250.00) and from the Board of Missions (\$500.00). With McGee Creech as pastor another \$1,250.00 was received and a loan of \$5,000. was secured from the Mission Board.

