



Grace Methodist Church

SMITH STREET AT NORTH EAST BOULEVARD
CLINTON, NORTH CAROLINA

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HISTORY OF GRACE METHODIST CHURCH Clinton, N. C. Goldsboro District

Bishop Paul N. Garber appointed the Rev. A. F. McClung of Ashland, Virginia in February, 1955 to organize a new Methodist Church in North Clinton.

A revival was held in the Britt Corporation Building, the first meeting place of the new church, under the direction of the Rev. D. E. Earnhardt, pastor of the First Methodist Church. Dr. Earnhardt's son, the Rev. E. L. Earnhardt, was the revival preacher. Out of this revival came the nucleus for the new church. First Methodist Church became the sponsoring church.

The new Methodist congregation was organized on Palm Sunday, April 3, 1955. The Rev. Howard McLamb, Goldsboro District Superintendent, was the speaker. The Britt Corporation Building, an unused auto agency-garage building, served as the church home from February, 1955 to August, 1956.

The Charter Membership drive continued through June, 1955, and at the end of this period, 106 persons had joined Grace Church. The membership today is 278 with a Sunday School enrollment of 258.

Approximately two (2) acres of land was purchased by First Methodist Church of Clinton for the site of the new church. The site is located on Smith Street between Park Avenue and North East Blvd. The Ground Breaking Service was held on the site on Sunday afternoon, February 26, 1956. The speaker was the Rev. Howard McLamb, District Superintendent. Others taking part in the service were: Rev. A. F. McClung, pastor; Rev. O. C. Melton, retired minister; Dr. D. E. Earnhardt, pastor of First Methodist Church; Rev. Thomas A. Collins, Executive Secretary of the Board of Missions and Church Extension; Rev. Robert Melvin, pastor of the Grove Park Baptist Church; and Mr. Leon M. Brock, Chairman of the Official Board of Grace Methodist Church. Also, Mrs. King Byrd, oldest member of Grace Church; Mr. J. T. Doughtie, Chairman of the Building Committee.

Work on the new building was begun the middle of May, 1956, and the first service was held on Sunday, August 12, 1956.

The church was totally air-conditioned in August, 1964.

The Church was dedicat@d by Bishop Paul N. Garger on Sunday, October 18, 1964. Assisting him were Rev. M. W. Lawrence, District Superintendent; Mr. J. T. Doughtie, original chairman of the Building Committee; the pastor, the Rev. W. C. Teachey; and two former pastors, the Rev. M. R. Gardner and the Rev. J. H. Waldrop, Jr.

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