

HISTORY OF THE HOPE MILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Hope Mills United Methodist Church was organized out of the Cotton Methodist Church, in 1901; which was part of the Cumberland Charge. Services were held in the Masonic Lodge Hall for a period of about three years. This building was destroyed by fire and in 1904 the old church building was begun and completed. Up to 1915 the Hope Mills Church was part of the Cumberland Charge and after that the Parkton Charge until 1952.

At that time several of the leading men of the church appealed to Bishop Garber to take Hope Mills off the Parkton Charge and allow it to become a station appointment. Permission was given and Hope Mills was a church unto itself with its own preacher. The following Ministers have served the church since that time: Bob Barefield; Ralph Fowlkes; Lawrence Watts; Jack Crum; Odell Walker; Amos Stone; Clyde Tucker; and the present Minister, R.S. Brodie.

In 1961 the Church purchased a three acre tract of land on Legion Road. The ground breaking ceremony for the new church was held on Easter Sunday, 1963, and the first service was held Christmas Eve of the same year. The congregation did not move into the new facilities until February, 1964. A great deal of sentiment lingers when we move from an old place into a new, and the old bell came from the old church and stands proudly in front of the new.

Since that time, steady growth has been noted in membership and giving. It is expected that even greater things are in store for the Hope Mills United Methodist Church.

