

A Brief History Of JERUSALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In an old Advocate was the following article from the diary of Robert Williams: We finished our meeting in Brunswick County Va. the last day of July, 1772 and the next day started up the river. We moved up a narrow stream on the south-side of the river for about three miles where we found a little building near a spring and received permission to start a meeting.

As the meeting continued more and more people from both Virginia and North Carolina came bringing their families with them, as well as their servants, their cows and chickens until on the last day of August we served Communion to more people than any church in Virginia would hold. All this time people lived in a brush arbor.

Mr. Williams was sent to south Virginia and northern North Carolina by the Methodist as a missionary. It is said that Jerusalem Methodist Church started in that meeting, worshiping in a log church near Highway One near Herricks Mill Spring.

About 1800 a log church was built for this fellowship about a mile east of the first location. It was not until 1843 that a frame structure was erected at the present site. This building contained the old slave gallery; part of the old structure was incorporated into the present structure. From 1890 to the present, improvements and additions have been made to the church.

From its inception as an outgrowth of the Brunswick Circuit to membership in the large Petersburg Charge of the Methodist Church in 1774, to its membership in the Ridgeway Charge, which was further reduced to the Norlina Charge in the 1920's, and then again to a two point Charge in 1960, Jerusalem has played its part in the growth of Methodism. Throughout all these years of service many of the original families are still represented in the membership of Jerusalem U. M. Church which now numbers 227.