

History of Orange Chapel United Methodist Church

The Methodist Protestants organized a church at Flint Hill school house before or about 1850. This church is reported to have been organized by Rev. Alson Grey, who was then a Circuit Rider of Orange Charge. Afterwards, the church was annexed to Orange Circuit.

The preachers who served this work were: Daniel Thompson, a local preacher; C. F. Harris, G. E. Hunt, G. A. T. Whitaker and J. R. Ball.

See Deed About 1887? the decision was made to build a new church building.

Daniel Foust donated 3 3/4 acres of land to the church for a building site. The new church was built one mile west of Flint Hill on the Hillsborough and Pittsboro Road, the location of the present church.

Some names suggested for the church were "Daniel's Chapel" for Daniel Foust, and "Grey's Chapel" for Rev. Grey. It was named "Orange Chapel" for Orange County. The men in charge of the building hewed out the framing by hand. The following pastors served this church: W. W. Amick, R. R. Micheau, C. A. Cecil, C. A. Pickens, W. C. Kenneth, D. A. Highfill, and J. D. Williams. The Saxapahaw Circuit was organized about the year 1894 and Orange Chapel was added to it.

In 1901 a new church was built and the following year it was painted. The pastors who served this church were: G. H. Austin, W. M. Pike, J. H. Bowman, G. W. Holmes, H. S. B. Thompson, J. C. Awman, T. A. Williams, J. M. Ridenhour, D. M. Loy, E. A. Bingham, M. C. Henderson, H. J. Harris, D. D. Traynham, and C. C. Wiggers.

In 1948 Mr. and Mrs. Onslow Thompson donated 1 1/2 acres of land to the church and Mr. and Mrs. Foust Thompson donated an additional 1 55/100 acres.

In 1952 the church was taken from the Saxapahaw Charge and put on the Whitney-Cross Charge.

Under the pastorate of Rev. C. C. Wiggers the present church was built. In August, 1952, the building program was started. The building committee appointed by the church was Colon Thompson, chairman; Floy Ferguson, secretary; Walter Lloyd, Clem Crawford and Kerney Rogers. The pastor and building committee drew up plans which were accepted by the congregation and the Conference. The contract was given to the Ingle Construction Co. of Burlington, N.C. The construction was started in April, 1953. The pastor and the members worked hard to raise money and pay for the church. Suppers, picture plates and memorial plaques were sold, and there were many donations from the members and friends of the church. The building was completed in September, 1953, and the first service was on September 13, 1953.

The Duke Endowment gave \$3,500.00 which enabled the building to be free of debt in November, 1954. At this time, the building and furnishings were valued at \$29,500.00. The Orange Chapel Methodist Church was dedicated on September 18, 1955.

The pastors who have served this church are: Daniel D. Sain, James Waggoner, Thomas Sigmon, Paul Walters, Joseph D. Bailey, Charles N. Burgess, and Charles E. Woodruff.

In 1968 under the pastorate of Rev. Joseph D. Bailey the new educational building was constructed.

Orange Chapel is on the Whitney Cross Charge with Concord and Clover Garden United Methodist Churches. The present pastor is Dr. Billy F. Seate. Orange Chapel has a membership of 185, an active Sunday School, two United Methodist Women's groups, Methodist Men, and an active MYF.