

LIST of Pastors in Order

SALEM METHODIST CHURCH

In the late seventeen hundreds, there came a man from Uxbury, Worcester Co., Massachusetts by the name of Arnold Taft (B. March 8, 1784 - D. Sept. 19, 1844 buried Taft Cemetery on S.D. Tucker farm) to what is now known as Chicod Township.

He bought much land in the community, including all land on the Tar River where Johnnie Hardee Heirs now live. He built his home on the site where S.D. Tucker now lives. His large store, gin and saw mill were built at what was known as Taft's Landing.

Being a public spirited man, he built a schoolhouse to serve his ten children and other children who wished to attend school. The house was known as Taft's school house and stood about a quarter of a mile below the present home of Winfield Tucker.

The years passed; Arnold Taft went to his reward, but his son Holston Taft inherited Taft's landing and with his wife ^{Catherine} ~~Mrs. Taft~~ and her two sisters, Annie Hoover and Miss R.H. Horne lived there for many years. These three sisters having no place to worship nearer than Greenville decided to organize a Sunday School in the latter part of 1875 and 1876. The little Sunday School was as you might say, derided and spit upon, but these three sisters along with a brother--in-law, W.H. Horne, kept plodding on. Being the daughters of a Methodist Minister, they were strong in their efforts for the master.

In the Methodist Conference at that time was a noted Methodist preacher by the name of William Closs, who feared neither man or devil to carry on the Masters' work. He being a personal friend of these sisters, they appealed to him to help them out. Whenever he could get a Sunday or week day or night off for his regular charge, he would come and hold services at Taft School House.

Rev. L.L. Nash was invited to hold a revival at the school. The crowd was so large, a bush shelter was constructed across the road suggested by William Wright. ^{Tucker} There was a great awakening for the need of a church building. Several joined and the church was organized.

Land located near Juniper Run and on land now owned by Snodie Arnold heirs was given by Mary Tucker Nelson Campbell. In 1879, the Greenville Methodist were busy making plans for a new church. It was decided to give their old church St. Paul to the Methodist at Simpson.

In the History of Jarvis Church by Wyatt Brown, it was described as a "modest forty by sixty foot chapel simply constructed without adornments." The building was dis-assembled and moved by raft down the Tar River to the Taff Landing and then hauled by mule or horse and cart. This was the first Salem Church.

Many memories have been handed down of this first little church-- traveling by horse and buggy or surry to attend Sunday School each Sunday and church first and third Sunday morning, singing to the Pump Organ, drinking water from the nearby spring, receiving a small card with bible verse for perfect attendance, Childrens Day Programs, Picnics (no tables) spreading tablecloths on the ground and many weekends spent with family and friends who lived nearby.

After 1908 when the village of Simpson was established and the railroad came through, it was decided to build a new larger church on land donated by William E. Tucker where the present Church stands. A frame wood church was built by Sam Lupton contractor 1916 with lumber donated by the neighborhood. Rev. Daniel Lane continued as Pastor, being the Pastor when it was moved. The last chartered member Mrs. Bryant H. Hardee, passed away December 4, 1960.

In May, 1953 the old church was sold to W.L. Clark and moved. The foundation for the present church was poured the first part of September, 1953. The first service was held in the brick church July 19, 1954 with Rev. N.B. Hill as Pastor. The dedication Service was held October 7, 1956 by Rev. J.J. Grimes pastor. In 1975, Salem United Methodist Church observed its 100th Anniversary with Rev. Richard G. Arno as pastor.

The following pastors have served Salem United Methodist Church since 1875.

Salem Pastors - 1875 - 1982

Rev. William Closs	Rev. W.C. Feltmen 1946-1949
Rev. B.E. Stanfield	Rev. E.G. Nickens 1949-1952
Rev. H.E. Tripp (1907 N.C. Conf. Journal)	Rev. N.B. Hill 1952-1955
Rev. Bridges	Rev. J.J. Grimes 1955-1958
Rev. Singleton	Rev. A.S. Lancaster 1958-1963
Rev. L.L. Nash	Rev. John Blue 1963 - 1967
Rev. Daniel Lane 1914	Rev. Max Dulin 1967-1968
Rev. Ipock -1918 (N.C. Conf. Journal)	Rev. Thomas House -1968-1970
Rev. J.C. Harmon 1922-23	Rev. Harley Owens 1970-1972
Rev. J.J. Lewis 1923-1926	Rev. R.G. Arno 1972-1976
Rev. G.S. Whitehurst 1926-1928	Rev. James G. Lupton 1976 - 1982
Rev. J.T. Starnes 1928-1929	Rev. Thomas Hoogerland 1982 - 1985
Rev. W.B. Humble 1929-1931	Rev. C.B. Owens 1985-
Rev. I.J. Strawbridge 1931-1936	
Rev. F.E. Dixon 1936-1937	
Rev F.R. Davis 1937-1939	
Rev. W.A. Crowe 1939-1941	
Rev. R.L. Vickery 1941-1943	
Rev. C.B. Harris 1943-1946	

Their labor is not in vain, can not be in vain in the Lord. The seed does not die.

Lucille E. Sumrell