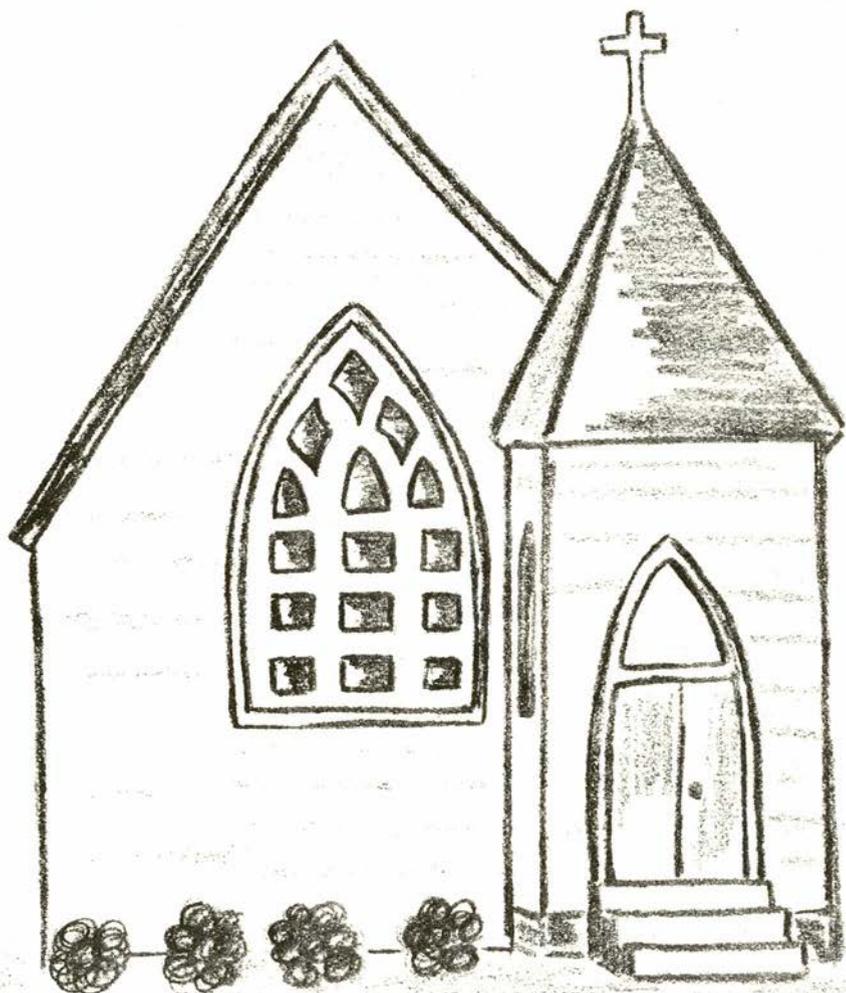


Speight's Chapel United Methodist Church



1877-1977

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1877---1977

Speight's Chapel Methodist Church came into being in the mid 1800's under the leadership of G. A. F. Whitaker, with services being held under a brush arbor. Then in 1877 the building, which now stands, was built and furnished with pews, also now in use. that had been hand carved by slaves. John Francis Speight (born November 18, 1804) an American M. P. Minister for whom the church is named, died in 1840. In 1877, his widow, Emma Lewis Speight, gave the land on which the church was built. The church is located between Whitakers and Tarboro, and was dedicated by William H. Wills (who is buried at Bethesda Church at Brinkleyville)

Speight's Chapel was a Methodist Protestant Church and was affiliated with Whitakers Chapel and other Methodist Protestant Churches up until the time it ceased to function as a congregation. There are references to Speight's Chapel in old minutes at Whitaker's Chapel. These are minutes of the Quarterly Conferences of the old Roanoke Circuit of which Speight's Chapel Was a member. Some of the Churches included:

Whitakers Chapel
Bradford
Eden
Corinth
Roseneath

The pastor of these churches had to travel from church to church to deliver his sermons. The first pastor to serve the church was George E. Hunt, serving from 1877-1878. Some pastors serving Speight's Chapel in its' early days are as follows:

George E. Hunt 1877-1878
E. A. Wilson 1879
R. H. Wills 1880
W. H. Wills 1881

J. P. Simson	1882
Sat Harris	1883-1885
E. S. Wood	1886-1888
J. G. W. Hollowad	1889
C. S. Whitaker	1890

The church ceased to function in the late 1940's and remain closed until May 1956, when the Methodist Conference saw a need for church in the community and sent to us, Mr. Roy L. Turnage, a lay leader from Ayden, N. C. Under his most capable leadership, the church grew and was turned over to Mr. Wade A. Mullikin, then a layman in a Tarboro Methodist Church. We grew larger in number and through the help of the Duke Foundation a fellowship hall, three classrooms, two baths, and a kitchen was added to the sanctuary. Speight's Chapel was then put on the charge with Hart Methodist Church in Tarboro, with Rev. James E. Sutton as pastor. After some time we were transferred to the Battleboro Charge then to the Whitakers Charge, of which we are a member now.

This year is a very special year for us, for by the help of the Conference Board of Missions and Mr. C. Franklin Grill we were able to being renovation on the Church structure. These funds are made possible through the Single Figure Asking that is a part of our budget in the Methodist Church. Other donations from our dear friends helped us to continue the work. A very special thank-you goes to Mr. John Francis Speight and to Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Tedder for their most generous help.

As we close this day with good food and fellowship, we hope all of you have enjoyed this day as much as we have, and will look forward to seeing you next year.

Please don't forget the Song Fest following the picnic --- and there will be a three day revival that will begin on Monday, September 5.