

WENDELL METHODIST CHURCH

PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED THIS CHURCH

The Rev. F. F. Eure 1903 - 1906

The Rev. A. D. Wilcox 1906 - 1910

The Rev. P. D. Woodall 1910 - 1911

The Rev. T. J. Dailey 1911 - 1912

The Rev. G. B. Perry 1912 - 1915

The Rev. G. W. Starling 1915 - 1917

The Rev. G. W. Fisher 1917 - 1921

The Rev. W. L. Loy 1921 - 1924

The Rev. E. M. Hall 1924 - 1926

The Rev. E. H. Davis 1926 - 1930

The Rev. N. B. Johnson 1930 - 1934

The Rev. C. L. Reade 1934 - 1936

The Rev. J. W. Bradley 1936 - 1938

The Rev. B. F. Boone 1938 - 1942

The Rev. C. E. Vale 1942 - 1947

The Rev. Paul Carruth 1947 - 1949

The Rev. S. E. Mercer 1949 - November, 1954 died in service

The Rev. Troy J. Barrett Nov., 1954 - June, 1955

The Rev. Sidney G. Boone 1955 - 1959

The Rev. H. L. Rogers 1959 - 1961

The Rev. W. Allen Wentz, Jr. 1961 - 1967

The Rev. Norman Knight 1967 - 1972

The Rev. Samuel L. Wood 1972 -

## THE HISTORY OF WENDELL METHODIST CHURCH

The history of Wendell Methodist Church begins in the year 1903 when a group of Methodist Christians gathered in the old Wendell School building for worship and fellowship. The Rev. F. F. Eure held worship services for the small group once a month for a period of about 3 years. It was from this group that the church was officially organized.

On March 31, 1906 at a quarterly conference held at Pleasant Grove Church, J. Braudwell, Daniel Braudwell, and Bryant Richardson, all of Wendell, were appointed as trustees to build a Methodist Church in Wendell.

Under the leadership of the Rev. A. D. Wilcox it was decided to build the church in Wendell. On January 16, 1907 at a quarterly conference held at Earpsboro Church (now discontinued) a building committee composed of the Rev. A. D. Wilcox, R. B. Whitley, J. Braudwell, Bryant Richardson, and W. H. Hester was elected to plan for the new church. During this time there were five churches on the Wakefield Charge. The Zebulon Methodist Church was organized in 1906 and added to the circuit after which it was called the Zebulon Charge.

In 1907, the Rev. A. D. Wilcox became the pastor of the new Zebulon Charge, of which Wendell was a part. It was under his leadership that plans were made for the construction of the first Methodist Church in Wendell. A lot on Third Street, just east of the present home of C. M. Clark was selected for the church building. With the building materials and much labor being donated by the members and people of the community, the first Methodist Church in Wendell was constructed and completed. Dedication services were held on March 22, 1908 with the Rev. J. C. Kilgo of Trinity College (now Duke University) delivering the dedicatory sermon.

On the same day of the dedication, revival services were begun with the Rev. J. O. Guthrie as the visiting preacher. The ten charter members enrolled were: Mr. & Mrs. J. Braudwell, Daniel Braudwell, Willie Braudwell, Julia Braudwell Biggs Mr. & Mrs. Bryant Richardson, Fred Richardson, Bell Richardson Maden, and William Henry Hester. It was Mr. Hester who organized and served as the first superintendent of the Sunday School. Also among the charter members were: Miss Jennie Hester (now Mrs. Oscar Griswold), Furney G. Baker, Miss Esther Braudwell (now Mrs. J. D. Cox), and Miss Retha Braudwell (now Mrs. W. A. Vick).

The only marriage solemnized in the first church on Third Street was that of Miss Jennie V. Hester to Oscar Griswold on September 14, 1910.

The Rev. W. L. Loy was appointed to the church in 1921 and it was during his pastorate that a decision was made to build a new Methodist Church in a new location in Wendell. Work on the new church was begun under the direction of the building committee composed of R. B. Whitley, Chr., M. T. Roberts, W. L. Wootton, O. L. Rowland, J. Braudwell, and C. R. Stott. The church was located, as it is today, at the corner of Main Street and Wilson Avenue, so at a called meeting of the members of the church in the summer of 1923 by the Rev. Mr. Loy, it was agreed to name the church, Main Street Methodist Church. The church was ready for occupancy early in 1924 and the first Sunday School was held on January 18, 1924.

Other firsts for the church were: A funeral service for J. C. Collins on September 23, 1924, the marriage of Miss Cora Lee Hinton to Eddie Stott (son of C. R. Stott) on July 15, 1927, the marriage of Miss Eloise Whitley (daughter of R. B. Whitley) to Douglas Bain in October 1927.

Early in the 1930's the name of the church was changed from the Main Street Methodist Church to the Wendell Methodist Church and the Zebulon Charge was now called the Zebulon - Wendell Charge with the Zebulon Methodist Church and the Wendell Methodist Church comprising the charge.

In 1948, during the pastorate of the Rev. Paul Carruth, Sunday School classes and other improvements were made in the basement of the church. In November of 1954, the Rev. S. E. Mercer, a much beloved pastor, died in his sixth year as pastor of the charge. The Rev. Troy J. Barrett was appointed to serve out the remainder of his year, which was to close in June, 1955 due to the voting action of the conference in changing the conference year to run from July to June instead of from November to October. During the pastorate of Mr. Barrett the church lot on Third Street was sold and at the 4th Quarterly Conference in Zebulon Methodist Church on June 17, 1955 a very historic event took place: the conference voted to dissolve the Zebulon - Wendell Charge and to make each church a Station. So Wendell Methodist Church became a station with the arrival of its new pastor, the Rev. Sidney G. Boone in July, 1955.

At a called conference on November 22, 1955 the officials (with the members concurring beforehand) approved the purchase of a house from D. T. Bailey, Sr. on Pine Ave. to be used as a parsonage for the Wendell Methodist Church. The house was paid for by the close of the conference year in June, 1956!

During the pastorate of the Rev. H. L. Rogers in 1960, the sanctuary of the church was completely remodeled at a cost of about \$6,000.00. Mr. W. C. Burgess was the architect and Mr. J. W. Dale contracted the work. The job was completed and paid for in the summer of 1961 and the sanctuary opened for worship on Sunday, July 9, 1961 with the new pastor, the Rev. W. Allen Wentz, Jr. in charge. Since the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Wentz several improvements have been made including painting at the church and parsonage as well as the reroofing of both plus the purchase of new equipment for the parsonage. A monthly "parish paper" was begun in September, 1961 and continues as of this date.

Rev. Norman Knight was sent to serve the United Methodist Church in June 1966. One of the first things Rev. and Mrs. Knight did was to relandscape the parsonage grounds. They cut out some of the trees, and planted new shrubbery.

Mr. Knight moved the pastors study from the parsonage to the church. He had a very attractive study at the entrance of the church.

While Mr. Knight was here all the childrens classrooms in the basement were painted, and some of them carpeted.

The pulpit committee with the help of the women of the church purchased new linen cloths for the communion table, and paramounts.

Mr. Knight with the aid of the men of the church completely remodeled the kitchen. This job had been needed for many years, and we were all very proud of it when it was finished.

The members of the church surprised Mr. and Mrs. Knight with a gift of a trip to "The Holy Land" in 1970. They were most appreciative of the gift, and brought back many pictures. With the lectures and pictures shown they made the members of the church feel that they had almost been to "The Holy Land" themselves.

During the five years that Rev. Knight served the Wendell Church, he and Mrs. Knight shared their musical talents with the church, which meant so much to our worship services. During his five years of pastoral work 30 members were received into the church.

The Rev. Samuel Wood came to Wendell in June of 1972 to serve as pastor of Wendell United Methodist Church.

The sanctuary was repainted during the summer of 1972. Pew cushions were given by Mrs. Alvin Dew and Mrs. Willard White in memory of their husbands Alvin Dew and Willard White. A new Guest Register and a Book of Memorials were given by the W.S.C.S.

The church's basement was completely renovated by the men of the church. The center beam of the church was replaced by a new beam, the ceiling was covered with celotex squares, the sides were panelled, the floor tiled, new lights were installed, and much of the old wiring was replaced with new wire. New tables and steel folding chairs were also purchased. The cost of the renovation was given by members of the church through a special fund. Upon completion of work, the Fellowship Hall was named in honor of Jimmy Greene, who did most of the work.

The hallways and stairways were repainted and new treads were placed on the steps and landings in memory of Mrs. Margaret Todd.

Two Junior High class rooms upstairs were painted, carpeted, and furnished with new curtains.

A speaking system was placed at the pulpit to enable the services to be heard by the attendants in the nursery. This was given to the church in the memory of Linda Wootton.

The Men's Fellowship was started in November of 1972 with 22 men present.

Bushes and trees were removed on the south side of the church and replaced by shrubs and new grass.

The parsonage was repainted inside and out, and new wiring was installed for a dryer and an air conditioner.

Rodney Hamm, one of our fine young new members, answered God's call to go into the ministry. He began his studies at Duke in 1973.

Rev. Wood was instrumental in organizing a Senior Citizens Club in Wendell and many of our Methodist Ladies are members and officers of this group.

The first Lay Witness Mission was held at Wendell United Methodist Church on April 27-29, 1973. Beginning on Friday night and ending on Sunday afternoon, a

team of lay people from North Carolina and Virginia came to share their testimonies and worship with us. On Sunday there were 133 in Sunday School and 190 in Worship.