

1950 History 1993

of

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church

The Raleigh Board of Missions was organized in 1948. Since its inception, it has been a co-operative agency with all our churches and the North Carolina Annual Conference to found, organize and nurture new churches, as well as to give aid to the older but needy churches.

Wesley Memorial was the first church to be formed under this administration.

Many of you do not realize that a church was in the planning "B. C.", that is before Collins - the Reverend Thomas Collins.

Mr. Robert Merriman, a Duke divinity student, visited a few families in the Hi-Mount area on Saturdays. We held Wednesday night prayer services in several homes, and on Sundays we attended our regular churches.

The Board of Missions contacted Mr. Merriman about acquiring a quonset hut from Camp Butner to be put on our land. But the trip was cancelled before he and three of the men of the church had planned to go for the hut. The city of Raleigh had zoned this site. where our church now stands, against quonset huts.

Several weeks later Mr. Merriman dropped out of sight, never to be heard from again.

In the latter part of 1949 the Reverend and Mrs. Thomas Collins came to us from Gatesville, N. C., and that was the beginning of our church.

Those who are acquainted with Mrs. Collins know what a great worker she is, and a Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized in February, 1950. The first meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Collins with ten ladies attending. We were a Woman's Society before we were a church. Some years later the name was changed to United Methodist Women.

On Easter Sunday morning, April 9, 1950, several families met together in the home of Reverend and Mrs. Collins for the first time in a formal Sunday Worship Service. This was the beginning of what is now known as Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church. It was known then as Hi-Mount Methodist Church.

On July 16, 1950 we began holding services in Hayes Barton school (what is now known as Myrtle Underwood School.) It was complete in every way from a nursery to a full choir. Sessions continued at the school for over a year.

Once again meetings were held in different homes. Every Wednesday night there was a prayer service followed by choir practice.

On Oct. 22, 1950 a Charter Day Service was held with the late Reverend E. B. Porter, District Superintendent, presiding. Sixty-six members composed the initial charter roll.

The Raleigh Board of Missions purchased the land, where our church now stands, and helped with the planning and financing of the building program in those first years.

