

WESLEYAN CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
SCOTT'S HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

The Methodist Church at Scott's Hill is one of the older Methodist churches in North Carolina.

Bishop Francis Asbury, born in England, was the most active of the early Methodist leaders. He came to America in 1771, and traveled from New England to Georgia on horse back preaching the Gospel. He reached North Carolina in 1780, and records the events of his travels in his Journal. He does not refer to Scott's Hill by name, but does record staying with families who were living at Scott's Hill at that time. He records staying with Brother Nixon, preaching, and then going to Stump Sound the next day. Another time he records leaving Zion at Town Creek in Brunswick County, traveled about twenty miles to Brother Nixon's, and "Preached a little sermon to a little flock, since they had only one-half day notice." On December 22, 1796, he records stopping at Brother Nixon's, "Here I found a kind people, but the preachers had left them, because they did not immediately join in fellowship." At another time he refers to staying at Brother Nichols. We know that both the Nichols family and the Nixon family were living at Scott's hill at that time. Therefore, this shows without a doubt that there was a congregation prior to 1796.

A deed recorded in 1815, in New Hanover County transferring property from James Foy to Frederick Foy exempts one acre of land on which the "Meeting House" stands.

Another deed recorded in 1819, in New Hanover County, transferring the same piece of property from Frederick Foy to Lewis Loftin exempts one acre of land on which the "Meeting House" stands. This meeting house stood on the East side of what is now Highway 17 North on Scott's Hill Branch where the Scott's Hill AME Church now stands.

The earliest Conference Records found so far are in 1824, when Joseph Carle was named pastor of the church at Scott's Hill with 126 white and 131 black members. This church was in the Virginia Conference. Since it was the only Methodist Church in the area, people came many miles by horse back, walked, in wagons and carts to worship here.

Although the Conference Records doesn't show the church here before 1824, other records show it was here much earlier.

In the early 1840's, a committee was appointed to see how much it would cost to build a new church or have the old one renovated. At this time the name of the church was The Scott's Hill Methodist Episcopal Church.

In January 1850, Joseph M. Foy gave the church a parcel of land with house to be used as a home for the preachers.

In 1873, a parcel of land was secured from R. K. Bryan, Sr., and wife, Susan Loftin Bryan, and a new sanctuary was built. This is the site of the present Wesleyan Chapel United Methodist Church. This new church was dedicated August 23, 1874, and named Wesleyan Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church South.

In January 1930, this church burned. Construction began on the present sanctuary April 1, 1930. This new church was dedicated August 23, 1931.

The present parsonage was completed in August 1945. The Rev. J.M. Carroll and his wife were the first to occupy it.

Pictures of the first parsonage and the first church on the present site are hung in the vestibule of the sanctuary. They were reproduced and enlarged by Nathan R. Skipper, Jr., in 1976.

Between 1985 and May 11, 1986, twenty one members from Union Chapel United Methodist Church became affiliated with Wesleyan Chapel. Because of the age and ill health of the members and the lack of young members at Union Chapel, the Conference did not assign a pastor to Union Chapel.

It is hoped that a much more detailed history of our church including pictures of early members and their homes will be published in the near future.

Rev. David Goehring, Pastor of Wesleyan Chapel U. M. Church

This paper written by Mrs. N. R. Skipper  
Wesleyan Chapel United Methodist Church