



**Wilson Temple UMC History: A sanctuary for 156 years
1023 Oberlin Rd. Raleigh, North Carolina 27605**

Pastor Willie Murray Jr.

Rev. Dr. Toby Bonar, Deacon, M Div. JD/MBA, Psy.D.

Mrs. Phyllis McLeod, Director of Music Ministry

2020 Theme: Christ, Commitment, Community

This update to the church history was compiled by Cheryl Williams of the 2020 Homecoming Committee covering the years from 1997 through 2021. Previous pastors were asked to share their reflections and are included.

Most of the historical records of Wilson Temple United Methodist Church were destroyed in 1954 when Hurricane Hazel damaged the building. The State Department of Archives and History has on record information given by the Rev. W. S. McLeod,

Pastor, in 1997, that the church was organized in 1865. The date on the cornerstone is 1873, thus it appears that a period of seven years passed from the time of organization and the time the building was completed. Land for the building was given by Wilson Morgan and the church was named for him, Wilson Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church.

The record lists the following persons as officers in 1885: L. B. Hinton, Robert Hogan, Willie M. Graves, Larkin S. Hall, Frank Thornton, Jacob Marrit, A. W. Morgan, Anderson Person, O. Curtis, J. D. Morgan, R. L. Pettiford, Willie Haywood, Charles Lockhart, John Molory, J. F. Flagg, and others. Many of these families are members today. The first recorded wedding dates December 17, 1885, when Larkin S. Hall and Octavia P. Hinton were married by the pastor, E. M. Collect. The first record of persons being baptized is dated August 7, 1887 when the following persons were baptized by the pastor, Daniel Brooks; Mary Person and Mamie Powell (adults); Mamie E. Person and T. E. Morgan (infants). The first death recorded is that of John Flagg, Sr. on June 1, 1887.

The membership roll of 1890 lists fifty-five names including family names of: Allen, Alston, Andrews, Brown, Chavis, Flagg, Graves, Hall, Hardy, Haywood, Ivery, Ligon, Lockhart, Lucas, Malory, Manuel, Marritt, Moody, Morgan, McLeaugh, Page, Person, Pettiford, Powell, Robinson, Smith, Thornton, White, and Williams. Two lists appear before 1890 with sixty names. A 'List of Known Members' for 1898 lists seventy-six names and another for 1899 lists ninety members.

The Gothic Revival style building was erected in 1910, replacing an 1873 wood frame church structure. When Hurricane Hazel came through Raleigh in October 1954, the church sustained heavy damage. During the 1955 rebuilding of Wilson Temple, a two-story bell tower with battlements replaced the steeple, the side entrance was expanded, the upper brick wall gables were made with new brick and stained-glass windows replaced the original clear and colored glass windows. The pulpit, pews, choir loft, stair railings and banisters were replaced. The congregation raised funds and worked in groups through Service Societies like the Triangle Circle Club which held afternoon teas to raise funds to complete the renovations. Subsequent renovations and additions were completed in 1914, 1964, 1971, 1989 and 2008.

Lemuel Hinton was Sunday School Superintendent until 1900; James Morgan from 1900 to 1929; Miss Nannie Morgan from 1929 to 1971. Mrs. Cornelia Haywood was Superintendent of the Study Program. Miss Mildred Graves, Miss Christine Graves, Mrs. Margaret T. Haywood, Mr. Leonidas Haywood, Sr. and Mrs. Mattie Kelly served as organist for several years. Later Mr. Leonidas 'Sonny' Haywood Jr, and Darlene

Coleman served as organists. Presently, the 360 Music Ministry led by Phyllis McLeod provides the music and praise programs the church enjoys.

Between 1916 and 1968, the church hosted sessions of the annual conference of North Carolina's black Methodists. After 1968, the United Methodist Church and the United Brethren Church both united to form the United Methodist Church, whereby the denomination integrated its black and white churches.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized around 1784 in America. Before that time small groups coming from England had organized religious societies under the direction of their leader John Wesley as early as 1750. On November 29, 1758, Wesley baptized two blacks. This was the first record of blacks being considered a part of the religious groups. In 1766 the first Methodist congregation of five people met in the home of Philip Embury in New York. Among the five was a black servant named Betty. Francis Asbury, the first bishop in America, came from England in 1771. As he traveled through America, Harry Hosier, a black man (Black Harry) traveled with him and aided the bishop, sometimes preaching. Henry Evans, a black man, was greatly responsible for helping to establish Methodist congregations from Virginia to South Carolina.

Between 1820 and 1860, the Methodist Episcopal Church separated into several denominations. The major denominations were the Methodist Episcopal Church, North, The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, The Methodist Protestant Church, The African Methodist Episcopal Church, The African Methodist Episcopal Church Zion, and in 1870, The Colored (now Christian) Methodist Episcopal Church. The Methodist Church came into being when there was a union with the Methodist Episcopal Church, North and South and the Methodist Protestant Church in 1939. The United Methodist Church was formed in 1968 when the Methodist Church and the United Brethren Church united. Thus, Wilson Temple organized as a Methodist Episcopal Church, became a Methodist Church in 1939 and the United Methodist Church in 1968. At its centennial, Wilson Temple had 221 members, the Rev. Jack Page was District Superintendent of the Raleigh District, and Bishop William R. Cannon was Resident Bishop of the Raleigh Area.

The record of Pastors follows: M. G. Groom-1873-74; N. S. Farrar-1874-75; David Cornell-1875-78; Daniel Brooks-1878-81; H. M. Murphy-1881-82; W. H. Smith-1882-83; Alex Newsome-1883-84; D. Brooks-1884-85; E. M. Collett-1885-86; W. P. Hayes-1886-88; W. H. Harriston-1888-90; H. Evans-1890-91; J. D. Harrison-1891-93; R. C. Campbell-1893-95; J. F. Foust-1895-96; L. G. McDonald-1895-98; M. C. Rogers-1898-99; John Wells-1899-1900; John Thorne-1900-01; W. R. Zeigler-1901-04; W. F. Allen-1904-08; A. C. Hill-1908-09; J. C. West-1909-10; J. C. Robbins-1910-14; G. H.

Caldwell-1914-17; E. I. Swann-1917-18; D. L. Thomas-1918-22; J. C. Cook-1922-24; James Harris-1924-26; S. A. Peeler-1926-30; W. C. Scarborough-1930-36; W. S. McLeod-1936-41; W. J. Cameron-1941-47; H. C. Woodland-1947-48; W. T. Bworn-1948-51; E. M. Whaley-1951-53; C. L. Gidney-1953-58; O. W. Burwick-1958-74; S. E. NeSmith-1964-66; K. C. McNeill-1966-67; K. E. Frazier-1967-68; S. T. Gillespie-1968-69; James H. McCallum-1968-72; Theodore V. Carter-1972-83; William E. Cummings-1984-85; Alvester I. Gales -1986-87;

Rev. Dr. Jesse Brunson, June 1987-June 1997) I provided pastoral leadership and service at Wilson Temple United Methodist Church for ten years. Worship services were exciting and a blessing. Some of the most memorable highlights include church growth as a result of reaching out to young families with children and youth. We celebrated the growth and development of a stronger youth group with engaging young people with a heart to serve. We were able to develop the children's ministry to provide activity for younger children. Many of the young parents presented their children for baptism. Another blessing was the growth of the United Methodist Men and their ministry. We developed a ministry that we called Men to Boys that reached out to mentor boys in single mother homes. Several of our youth sons volunteered with the men to mentor younger boys. The volunteers did activities with the boys and attended events that the boys were involved in. It was indeed a blessing to experience church growth, both spiritually and numerically, during my term as pastor. While serving Wilson Temple the Trustees led the congregation in building an addition that includes church offices, fellowship hall, kitchen and rest rooms. This was a needed addition to the beautiful historic sanctuary. The day that the building was dedicated was a wonderful experience for me as well as the Wilson Temple Church Family. The Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration Committee gave me the opportunity to serve with leadership in the larger Raleigh, Wake and Triangle area. I was invited to serve on this committee the same summer that I started at Wilson Temple. I was honored to serve as co-chair along with Mr. Bruce Lightner for eight of those years. This committee met at Wilson Temple several months each year to plan the yearly celebration. The Martin Luther King Jr. All Children's Choir would rehearse at Wilson Temple. Our son was a member of this choir. Another highlight of my service was with the Oberlin Village Neighborhood Association. I was honored to provide leadership in the organization of this group which started as a task force. I chaired the Community Festival Committee which organized and produced the First Annual Oberlin Village Festival in May 1996 to foster community unity and cultural awareness. This group gave new life and interest in historic Oberlin Village. Additionally, I served on the Raleigh Historic Commission and was instrumental in getting Wilson Temple United Methodist Church listed in the historical registry. When our family arrived at Wilson Temple United Methodist

Church our children were ages six and nine. When we left our son Wayne was in college and our daughter Margaret was a senior in high school. Through the years they attended Lacy Elementary School, Daniels Middle School and Broughton High School. My wife Doris and I were active with the parent groups at each school and visited the schools often during the day. I served as a member of The Race Relations Committee at Broughton High School for five years. I was able to lead this committee in developing effective racial reconciliation activity for the school community. It was indeed an honor for our family to serve this beautiful congregation for ten years. We cherish the memories and will always remember the love that we experienced.;

Walter E. McLeod -1997-2011; In July 1997, the Reverend Walter E. McLeod was appointed pastor of Wilson Temple UMC. A church rich in tradition and order. Driven by the Great Commission in the gospel of Matthew which says in part “Go ye therefore and teach all nations” And driven by the United Methodist theme: Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors, Rev. McLeod wanted the church to live out the Commission and the themes. With the support and permission of the church Administrative Council, the Pastor and the outreach ministries began or revisited the following ministries: Operation Sure Foundation Tutorial program was started to help the children and youth meet their educational requirements at grade level. The idea was to include all the churches on Oberlin Road making this effort ecumenical, regardless of faith. We planned together and encouraged participation in all activities as well as monetary giving. The annual Wilson Temple picnic was opened to all Oberlin Road churches and residents. Annual Lenten and Easter Sunrise worship services were started by the churches. A non-perishable food pantry was established to help those in need. The Mayview Public Housing was supported by Wilson Temple. These ministries are still supporting the Oberlin community. After 14 years of having the blessed opportunity to pastor Wilson Temple UMC Rev. McLeod thanks God for all the members who used their gifts and graces for the advancement of the mission and ministry during these years. Thanks to all our Oberlin Road church friends who collaborated with us to make lives better.

Regina Henderson- 2011-13; On July 1, 2011, under the leadership of Bishop Al Gwinn, District Superintendent John Strother, and Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Chair Hermena E. Hunter, Rev. Regina Henderson was appointed to serve as our pastor. In preparation for her arrival, the church parsonage underwent a major renovation. Under Rev. Henderson’s leadership, the church renewed its commitment to community engagement and spiritual formation in the Wesleyan tradition. The church resumed Confirmation Classes, expanded the food pantry ministry with a grant from Faith in Partnerships, launched a moving StepUp Ministry special Sunday, developed the 360° Music Ministry under the direction of Mrs. Phyllis McLeod, and Jason Sims , which composed an original welcome song

and continued quality sacred music in the Black Church tradition, designed the Morgan S. Throckmorton Memorial Garden in front of the church, planted a community garden in the Mayview Community, and was introduced to asset-based church leadership training with 5th Sunday congregational meetings. In addition, a Wednesday midday Bible study was added, six-week community Lenten services and Holy Week foot washing service were offered, a Couples' Ministry workshop and covenant renewal service was held, and the church even held an early morning traditional worship service for a brief period. Rev. Henderson was the first female lead pastor appointed to serve this congregation, and she led the congregation with grace and humility. The church received her well and responded to her leadership with increased worship attendance and a boost in community and conference-wide involvement. In 2013, she was recognized as the Women of the Year by the Omicron Zeta Alumnae Chapter (Raleigh) of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated for her valiant leadership at the church and in the community. "It was an honor to serve the beautiful people of the Oberlin Community and the Mayview Community during a season of change and tradition in the city. Our common goals of social justice and experiencing an unfettered hope that only salvation in Jesus Christ can bring coupled with our differing approaches to live into our faith made us a diverse community committed to being the hands and feet of Jesus with neighbors near and far. By God's grace, souls were saved, folk were baptized, and people were introduced and re-introduced to Christ. I'm deeply grateful for the privilege to have pastored at Wilson Temple United Methodist Church for two great years!" Rev. Regina H. Moore;

Toby Bonar, our first cross racial Deacon;

When I ponder God's calling to ministry, I can see evidence of God's inspiration from moments at age five. Over time I have become much more aware of how God has been calling me to be present with those who are hurting and to listen to their stories with compassion for God's healing. I have learned how God blesses others by offering freeing alternatives to our cultural narratives that suggest we are alone in our suffering and grief. Through the ministry, I am aware of how God has equipped me and led me to the challenge of journeying with others through their resistances and defensiveness to create a safe space where others might be free to be themselves without shame or fear and have their burdens lightened by the Holy Spirit in our midst. It is in those sacred moments when I most feel the presence and power of God's transforming grace.

I have been blessed beyond measure through Wilson Temple UMC, and I am grateful for how welcomed I have felt from the church's kindness and openness. Wilson Temple UMC has shared with me God's gifts of loving care, generosity, teaching, and hope. The church has invited me to grow as a minister and to understand better the

care of souls. It has been a joy to watch the church embrace a mental health ministry in the midst of cultural stigma against mental healthcare. I hear the gospel profoundly when in the midst of the Wilson Temple's saints, and I am excited for the future God is going to proclaim the good news through this congregation. I look forward to the ways Wilson Temple will continue to inform and form the community of Oberlin, the United Methodist Church, and beyond, through its mission and ministries. I envision God calling the church outside of its comfort zones (because that is what God does!), and I hope that the church will heed the call to imagine much more than was once thought possible.

and Chris Brady was named pastor in 2013.

WTUMC membership is 275 @ February 2020

Charge Conference Leadership Chart 2021

Bishop of North Carolina Conference UMC: Hope Morgan Ward

District Superintendent (Capitol District) Rev Chris L Brady

District Co-Lay Leaders: Roxie Floyd, Lawrence Bradley

Appointed Clergy: Pastor, Rev. Willie Murray Jr, Ordained Elder; Deacon, Toby Bonar

Certified Lay Servants: LaTercha McKnight

Co-Chairpersons: Kimberly Coleman & Karen Throckmorton

Lay Leader: Latercha McKnight (2021)

Charge Conference Recording Secretary: Rosemary Pinder

Nominations and Leadership Team (BoD Required):

Chris Brady, Team Lead(By Order BoD)
LaTercha McKnight 2021 (BVO)
Gwen Graham 2021
Lay Leader – BVO (By Virtue of Office)
Velma Boyd (2021 BVO)

Pastor-Parish Relations Team (BoD Required)

Velma Boyd Lawson (2022)
Lallia Faison 2021
Jaalil Hart 2021
Cathy Peebles Brown (2022)
Lula Ghafour (2022)
Al Richmond (2021)
Council Co-Chair
Lay Leader (BVO)
Pastor (BVO)

Finance Team (BoD Required)

Clement Quintyne, Team Lead 2021
Stephanie Coleman, Treasurer 2022
Darryl Peebles 2021
Roxie Floyd (2022)
Lay Leader (BVO)
Pastor (BVO)

Trustees Team (BoD Required)

Johnny Faison, Chair (7/1/2022)
Kay Lucas 2021
Richard Haywood 2021
Cathy Peebles Brown (2021)
Jimmy Alston (2022)
Roxie Lee Floyd (2022)
Pastor (BVO)
Lay Leader (BVO)
Church Council Co-Chair

Youth Coordinator/MYF: Lallia Faison
Youth Representative (BoD): Heather Faison
Higher Education: Gwen Graham
Older Adult Coordinator: Phyllis McLeod
Auditor: Marsha Sherrod
Food Pantry: Clement Quintyne

President UMW 2020-21: Evangeline Subaney

President UMM 2020: TBD

Project Hope Liaison: Phyllis McCleod

Small Grp Ldrs: Cheryl Williams, Lula Ghafoor

YMCA: Gabe Crudup (YMCA)

Community/FOV Liaison: Cheryl Williams/Karen THrockmorton

In 2021, Rev Christopher Brady was named District Superintendent for the Capital District. He leaves WTUMC after several years of leading this historic church in their ministries of serving those who are food insecure, tutoring the community youth, supporting those with mental health concerns, comforting the sick and elderly, cooperating with worship and cultural reconciliation programs between neighboring churches and supporting the spiritual needs of the congregation. During this time of worldwide spiritual upheaval due to the Covid 19 pandemic, Pastor Brady and our Administrative Council directed the pivot from face to face worship to offering virtual services proved to be crucial to keeping the church family connected and involved. His successor is Pastor Willie Murray, Jr.

As we continue on this journey of worship and ministry during an extended pandemic we are grateful that the church has been supported by the tithes and donations of the faithful. The faithful servants who kept our ministries going inside and outside the church showed how God's hand was covering us all.