

WINDSOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1809 - 1984

In 1809, one acre of land was deeded to Peter McLain by John Fort, witnessed by Windsor Fort and Neill Beard, proved by Windsor Fort and ordered to be recorded in November, 1812. The deed is recorded in Deed Book 29, page 286, in the Bladen County Register of Deeds office. At the time this acre of land was deeded, there was a "meeting house" already on it. This land is located on what has been known as the Caleb Johnson farm, and in more modern times as the Hilary Cain Farm, now owned by the daughter of Hardy Lee Jones, deceased.

At this site now grown over with timber and weeds, the only visible signs that a church was ever there, were grave markers made of wood. This site is on what is now (1994) the Jack Richardson Road. The one grave located at this site with a stone marker, has since been moved to the second site.

This building burned, exactly when is not known. It may have been about 1844 as that is the date of the deed when another site was deeded to the church.

On April 27, 1844, David Johnson deeded to Daniel Johnson, Daniel McDuffie, Joel Johnson, Richard Tatom, and William Burdox, trustees and their successors one acre of land on the east side of Turnbull Creek for the erection of a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States of America according to the rules and discipline of said Methodist Episcopal Church and in further trust and confidence that they shall at all times forever hereafter permit Ministers and Preachers belonging to said Church to preach and expound God's Holy Word therein. (IT IS THE OPINION OF BILLIE F. EVANS THAT THIS WAS A SECOND SITE, NOT THE PRESENT SITE.) This is the site where Windsor United Methodist Church now stands.

On November 26, 1907, A. H. Cain sold to C. M. Cain, B. F. Tatum, Thos. Branch, trustees of Windsor Church, for twenty-five dollars, a parcel of land (one acre more or less) in Turnbull Township on the Elizabethtown and Clinton road between Turnbull and Ammon Store. In trust that the said premises shall be used, kept, maintained, and disposed of as a place of divine worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church South - subject to the description, usage and ministerial appointments of said Church from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church and by the

Annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises are situated. This deed, recorded in Book 50, pages 119-120, was proved before B. F. Tatum by A. H. Cain and was ordered to be recorded on December 10, 1907.

Windsor United Methodist Church is a part of the Bladen Charge, which in earlier years was known as the Bladen Circuit. In 1921, the Bladen Circuit was made up of seven churches: Antioch, Bethel, Bethlehem, Deems Chapel, Center, Live Oak, and Windsor. In recent years four of these churches, Bethlehem, Deems Chapel, Live Oak, and Windsor, made up the Bladen Charge. Deems Chapel closed in December, 1991, with most of the members transferring to Bethlehem United Methodist Church. Antioch was removed from the Bladen Charge and added to the Garland Charge between October and December, 1921.

Records that are available show that Charge Conferences were held quarterly on a rotating basis and the records date back as early as May 17, 1919. Today, the annual Charge Conference rotates from church to church on the Bladen Charge.

In the minutes of the quarterly conference in 1919, the Presiding Elder was the Rev. J. D. Bundy and the Preacher in Charge was the Rev. J. W. Dimmette. The Rev. Dimmette stated that the Sunday Schools were planning for Children's Day, that there were no missionary societies or Church Extension Missions, and that all the churches had Sunday Schools. There was no Epworth League on the Charge.

The Sunday School Superintendent in 1919 was J. M. Johnson, in 1920, G. C. Coble was appointed. The trustees of Windsor for 1920 and 1921 were F. P. Tatum, J. W. Smith, G. F. Cain, and G. C. Coble. G. F. Cain became Sunday School Superintendent for 1921 and 1922.

In the minutes of March 18, 1922, the Rev. G. H. Biggs, Pastor of the Bladen Charge, reported for the Charge. G. F. Cain, Sunday School Superintendent at Windsor, reported that the church had six officers and teachers, 46 persons on the roll who had an average attendance of seventy-five percent, seven on the cradle roll and \$8.36 spent for school supplies.

On February 6, 1931, at the first quarterly conference for 1930-1931, W. W. Watson was elected Superintendent in place of G. F. Cain, who resigned because of failing health. Others who have as superintendent of Sunday School are Empie Cain, Jesse Watson, Braxton Edge, Billie F. Evans, Bill Smith, Lonnie Harris, and Nancy Smith.

Windsor did have an Epworth League in June, 1931. They also had a Women's Missionary Society in the 1940s and 1950s. At one time there was a Men's Club. At various times, the church has had an organized youth group, presently known as United Methodist Youth.

There is much history to be known about Windsor Church and most of it is in the minds of the members and former members. In hopes that a more complete history can be written down and preserved, please write down anything you will share concerning this history and share it with present members. Also, if you have pictures or newspaper clippings that could be put in a scrap book, they would also be appreciated.