

Updated Sept 2019  
" May 2021

## Pollocksville United Methodist Church A Brief History

The Pollocksville United Methodist Church building was bought from the Disciple Church in 1918 for approximately \$600.00. The earliest record of our church located at 403 Main Street was a deed dated November 8, 1915, Book 110, Page 530. When our church opened its doors there were 130 members during the first year. Some of our chartered members came from Lee's Chapel. In 1920 the Pollocksville Methodist Church was added to the Onslow Circuit, making six churches on the circuit. The others were Maysville, Belgrade, Hopewell, Tabernacle, and Lee's Chapel.

The original church building contained a vestibule and a large sanctuary. All the Sunday school classes met in individual sections of the sanctuary. During the time when Rev. H.R. Harris was pastor (1937-1941), new windows in an opalescent color were installed. After the adjoining property was acquired in 1950 from Leon F. Simmons, additional construction was started. The original building was moved over and back on the lot. Three new classrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen, hall and large social room were built onto the rear of the church. After completion of this work, the sanctuary was remodeled including installation of beautiful stained glass windows given in memory of past members. Robert Alridge was the architect who designed the church building. It is interesting to note that the original building, made of weatherboarding, was enclosed in the walls of the remodeled sanctuary and a new chancel and choir rooms were added to the original building.

During the years since our church was purchased we have conducted regular weekly Sunday school and church services. The Sunday school superintendents who have served were Frank (Tobe) Foy, George Hughes, William Griffin, Richard Parker, Jr., Elva Morton III, Maybelle Harriett, and Freelen Fraley.

Nellie Taylor headed the first Missionary Society; this followed by the Ladies Aid, the Women's Society of Christian Service and then the United Methodist Women. The United Methodist Women has been very active, but with declining membership has disbanded.

The Methodist Men's Club was formed in 1956 and was active for many years. Even though the Men's Club is inactive currently, they still have a breakfast every second Sunday morning for fellowship and a delicious meal.

A youth fellowship was formed in 1930 and remained active for years, but we currently have very few young people in our congregation. In 2004 a youth program named "MAD" (Make a Difference) was formed by a parishioner, Suzanne Kersbergen, and our pastor, Rev. Julia Dees. This group involved youth from the community, especially the high school. They had regular

meetings with Bible study and community activities including ministry at the local nursing home. While it lasted, the group was very effective in the community.

The following is more history and the pastors who have served at the Pollocksville Charge from 1918-2019:

Rev. T.W. Lee	1918-1919
Rev. M.H. Hester	1919-1922
Rev. C.E. Sawyer	1922-1925
Rev. E.C. Sell	1925-1926
Rev. J.C. Harmon	1926-1930

In 1930, Onslow Circuit was changed to Maysville Circuit with the same six churches on the charge.

Rev. Mark W. Lawrence	1930-1932
Rev. N.M. Wright	1932-1933
Rev. C.J. Andrews	1933-1937
Rev. H.R. Harris	1937-1942
Rev. N.P. Edens	1942-1945
Rev. D.D. Broome	1945-1947
Rev. J.D. Stott	1947-1949
Rev. Ralph H. Lewis	1949-1954

In 1954, Maysville Church became station with Rev. Robert F. Moore who was their pastor for five years. Also that year, Pollocksville Charge was formed including Pollocksville, Lee's Chapel, Belgrade, and Tabernacle churches.

Rev. P.C. Yelverton	1954-1958
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Rev. Yelverton was a young single man. There is no record of where our ministers lived until 1957, at which time Belgrade and Tabernacle churches built a parsonage at Belgrade. Both Pollocksville and Lee's Chapel churches paid rent to them for the pastor to live in the parsonage.

Rev. J.A. Cooper	1959
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In 1959, Rev. J.A. Cooper began serving the Pollocksville Charge as an interim supply, but he died after about six months. Then Rev. Cecil Ruffin came from Georgia to complete his term.

Rev. Cecil E. Ruffin	1959-1961
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After Annual Conference in 1960 the Pollocksville Charge was divided into two charges: Belgrade/Tabernacle and Pollocksville/Lee's Chapel. A parsonage was rented for Rev. Ruffin on the site where a Methodist Church was begun between 1900-1918, but was never completed. It is noted that a basement was dug for this church and brick had been purchased, however, there is no record why this church was not completed. The house was rented from Milton H. Askew, Sr. and it was located on the corner of Foy and Second Streets in Pollocksville. In 1961, Pollocksville Charge purchased the Frank (Tobe) Foy house for our parsonage. It was located on Pollock Street in front of Pollocksville Cemetery.

Rev. L.A. Green                      1961-1966

The parsonage was remodeled in the mid 1960's. The church dedication service was held Sunday, October 2, 1966. It was dedicated to all persons, living and deceased, who have given generously of their love, time, and gifts. Each contribution, small or large, being used for the glory of God whose beauty and truth is reflected, not only in the building, but also in the hearts and lives of its members.

Rev. L.C. Swink                      1966-1968  
 Rev. Lewis Dodson                  1968-1969  
 Rev. J.T. Fisher                      1969-1973  
 Rev. Cicero Etheridge              1973-1975  
 Rev. Robert Redmond               1975-1977

In 1977 the Foy house parsonage was sold and the Fannie Bell Duval house on Foy Street was purchased. This house was a smaller and more modern brick house. We paid \$15,000.00 difference after the sale of the Foy house parsonage.

Rev. Leonard Doucette              1977-1980  
 Rev. Haywood Martin               1980-1981  
 Rev. Dwight Jarvis                 1981-1985

The Ettie Bell Morton Guild was organized September 14, 1981 with the charter members listed below:

<u>Charter Members:</u>	<u>Other Members:</u>	<u>Past Members:</u>
Glenda Bynum	Nancy Barbee	Betty Batchelor
Judy Davis	Debbie Parker	Wanda Meadows McGinnis
Barbara Fraley		Diane Rzepka McCaffity
Lori Griffin		
Debbie Morton		
Libby Morton		
Ramona Harriett Thomas		

This organization was named for Ettie Bell Morton, wife of Elva Morton, Sr. and mother of Elva Morton, Jr. and Jenny Bender Banks. "Miss" Ettie Bell, as we all referred to her, was a long-time member of Pollocksville United Methodist Church and taught Sunday school for many years. To know Miss Ettie Bell was to love her.

An organized Bible study was implemented in 1994 and continues periodically until the present time. This enhances our Christian worship.

Rev. James Reed	1985-January 1988
Rev. Rudolph H. Hodge	March 1988-1991
Rev. Linwood Jones	1991-1992
Rev. Benjamin Nelms	1992-1994
Rev. Jeff Severt	1994-1998
Rev. James Hayes	1998-2002
Rev. Steve Formo	2002-2004
Rev. Julia Dees	2004-2005
Rev. John Mosely	2005-2007
Rev. David Jones	2007-2008
Rev. Martha Lewis	2008-2010
Rev Syd Stewart	2010-2013
Rev. Glenn Everett	2013-October 2014 (passed away)
Rev. Ron Gurganus	November 2014-2015
Rev. Mike Eubanks	2015-2019
Rev. Peg O. Witt	2019-present July - Dec. 2019
Rev. Joyce Reynolds	Jan. - June 2020
Rev. Carol Grantham	2020 -

We currently have occasional monthly Wednesday night meals which are opened to the community. The fellowship is enjoyed by everyone.

Judy Lewis has been our pianist for ten years. Judy has certainly been a gift to our church. She and our choir work hard to perform our Sunday morning music and our wonderful Easter and Christmas cantatas.

Throughout the years, members of the church have given greatly of their time, gifts, and love to make Pollocksville United Methodist Church a house of worship where all can find beauty, fellowship, and peace with God. We think it is wonderful that such a united effort, undergirded by prayer, has been so fruitful. Let us always turn to the Almighty God in thanksgiving.