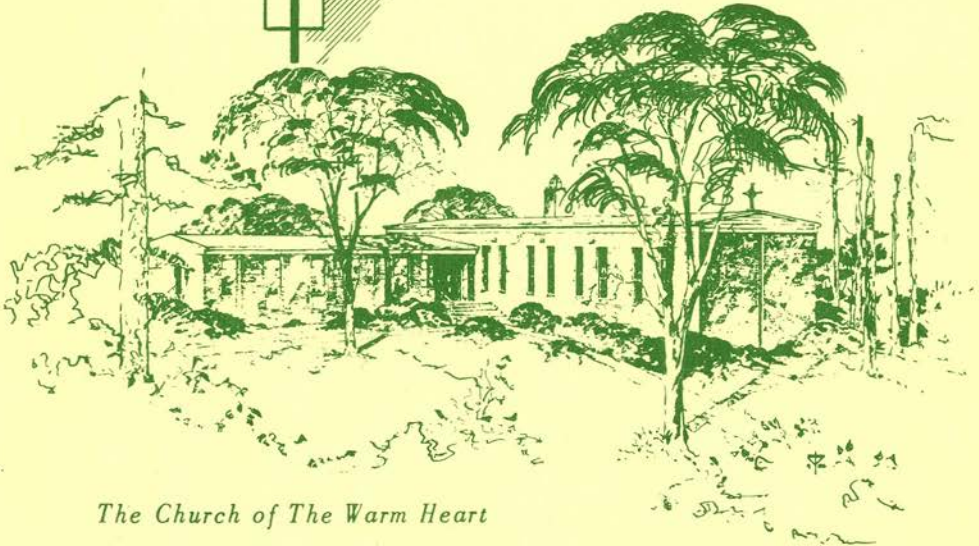
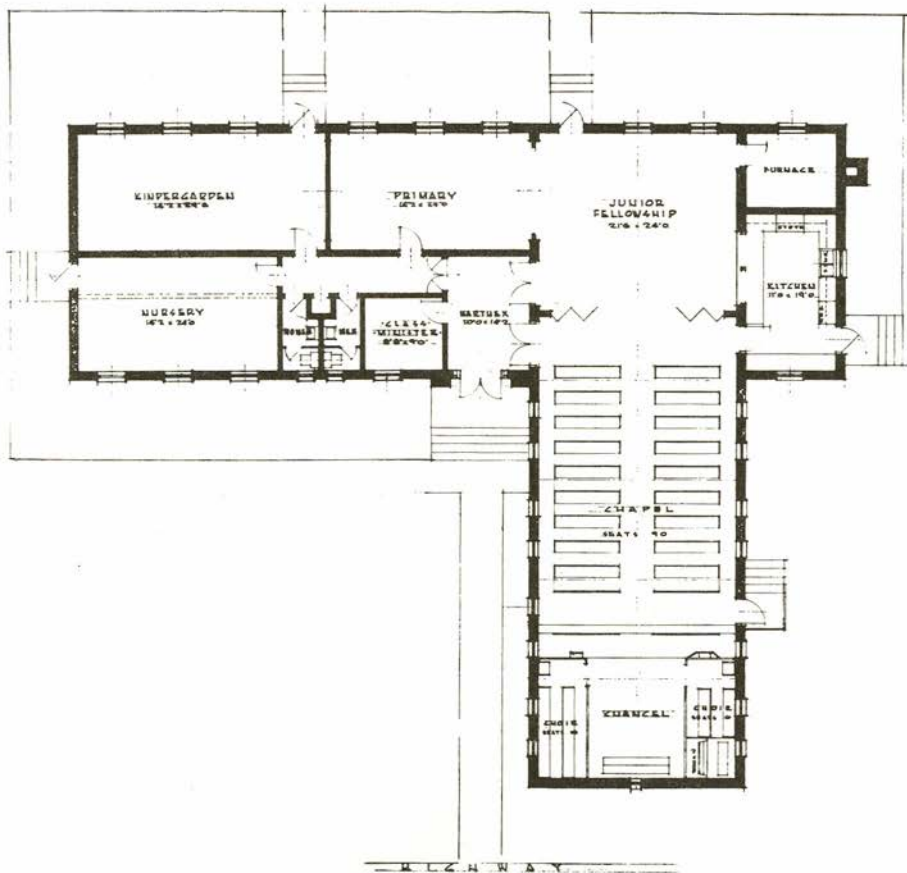


Aldersgate

**METHODIST
CHURCH**



The Church of The Warm Heart



FLOOR PLAN

ALDERSGATE METHODIST CHURCH:

The First Four Years

1955-1959

by

Katherine B. and Olin T. Mouzon

FOREWORD

This account of the early history of Aldersgate Methodist Church was prepared at the request of the Executive Secretary of the Board of Missions, North Carolina Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction of the Methodist Church, Inc. The purpose of the report is to provide a "real record of Church Extension in the North Carolina Annual Conference" which will show our problems, our achievements, and our mistakes with recommendations as to how they may be avoided.

The publication of the report in this form is to make available our early history to members and friends of Aldersgate. To increase the usefulness of this report, an annual supplement of church information and membership directory is appended.

June 1, 1959

K. B. M.
O. T. M.

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ALDERSGATE METHODIST CHURCH:

THE FIRST FOUR YEARS, 1955-1959

INTRODUCTION

For many years the University Methodist Church served the various needs of the faculty, the students and the townspeople of Chapel Hill. There were a few members of this church who felt that the expanding population of the Chapel Hill area would soon give rise to the need of a community church, in addition to the university-centered church.

In early 1955, a survey made under the direction of the presiding Bishop of the North Carolina Conference, Paul N. Garber, and Durham District Superintendent W. L. Clegg, found that another Methodist Church was needed in Chapel Hill. As a result, the North Carolina Conference, meeting in Fayetteville in June, 1955, approved the organization of a Methodist Church in the eastern area of Chapel Hill, and appointed Kimsey King as minister. Mr. King had just graduated from the University of North Carolina and had been granted a license to preach in April, 1954. He entered Duke Divinity School in the fall of 1955 and received his B.D. degree in August, 1958. The success of the initial organization and development of the church and the building of the edifice can in large measure be attributed to the choice of Mr. King. His enthusiasm, radiant Christian spirit and inspiring messages attracted 70 charter members to the stark, bare basement of the Glenwood Elementary School, where the warmth of Christian fellowship led to naming the church *Aldersgate*, the church of the warm heart.

First services were held in the Glenwood School on August 21, 1955; the church was formally organized one month later, September 27, 1955. Dr. William S. Joyner was elected chairman of the Official Board and Mr. Olin T. Mouzon was elected President of the Board of Trustees.

THE CHURCH

One of the great good fortunes of Aldersgate Church was that within such a small group, we had persons of diversified talents with experience to perform the "functional needs" of the church. Dr. William S. Joyner, a medical general practitioner, was a missionary evangel in spreading the word of the church with a warm heart.

In the *area of music*, Dr. Joyner's wife, Jane, became the church organist and even loaned her antique Mason Hamlin organ for use in the school basement. Dr. Dwight Price, a dentist, was discovered to have graduated from college with a major in music, so he became our choir director as a fully qualified Minister of Music, ordained in June, 1957. Within a three year period, the choir grew to 16 members, many of whom were trained musicians. The church received as a gift a Model 5A Baldwin organ which was installed with an unusual sound reproduction system constructed within the altar in the new building.

The *Church School* was organized immediately; classes met in the Glenwood School and the nursery was appropriately held in the Glen Lennox Laundromat. Of all those who have contributed to the successful operation of the Church School, Mrs. Frank West was outstanding in her leadership and for two summers conducted the Vacation Church School in her home. It should be noted here that in planning the church edifice, our thoughts began with the future needs for adequate Church School facilities.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service had as its first President, Mrs. Marshall Penny. Initially there were two evening Circles, but by 1958, a third Circle, meeting in the morning, was organized. Before Aldersgate was formally organized, a planning group discussed ways and means projects for the entire church; it was recommended at that time that the WSCS hold bake sales in the Glen Lennox shopping center. This had not been done before in the area, and these sales were so successful, the Women's Society was able to pay the first portion of the architect's fee and to furnish the new church kitchen in its entirety. Too much praise cannot be

given to all the members of the Women's Division, but in particular the following should be cited: Mrs. C. A. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Robert Cox, Mrs. Roy Martin and Mrs. George Rettie. Mrs. Harold Cranford was not only active in the WSCS, but also taught in the Church School, helped with the music program, and as Chairman of the Commission on Worship, she created a place of beauty and inspiration each Sunday with her improvised altar and flower arrangements in the school basement.

In the *area of lay activities*, Aldersgate in its first year proved the need for a church with a community-centered program by bringing for the first time the John Wesley film to Chapel Hill where it was shown three times on the University campus. Mr. Drury Wall was the first church Lay Leader and was active as teacher of the adult class and in the promotion of family church suppers. Of particular note is the emphasis which was placed on planned lay activities, and that the minister drew up the complete schedule and calendar of the church program for the entire year; copies of this were duplicated and distributed to all members.

THE CHURCH BUILDING

The foregoing has been an account of the growth of the "church." The selection of the church building site and the planning and building of the church edifice were under the direction of Olin T. Mouzon.

The selection of the church site was begun in October, 1955, as it was recognized that this would be most difficult due to the limited availability of land in the Chapel Hill area. After careful study, it was determined that a site should be acquired large enough to accommodate a community of unlimited growth potential in the eastern suburb of Chapel Hill. After tedious negotiations, a plot of $3\frac{1}{4}$ acres, located at the corner of Laurel Hill Road and the Bypass Highway #15-501, was purchased from the Coker estate for the price of \$10,000. Mr. Roland Totten, a member of University Methodist Church, was most helpful as agent for the Coker estate. The site was described as "one of the most beautiful church building

locations in the area" by the District Superintendent and the Executive Secretary for Church Extension.

Prior to the building of the church, a road was built on one side of the property perpendicular to Highway 15-501 and parallel to Laurel Hill Road, and another road was cut through to join this road to Laurel Hill back of the area in which the church building was to be located. This was done to provide ease of access and adequate parking facilities and to separate the church building from the remaining portion of the property which is the planned location for a future parsonage.

The property was paid for by \$3500 in cash contributions from church members and by a \$6500 loan from the North Carolina Conference Board of Missions. A large portion of Aldersgate's present limited financial problem has arisen from the necessity of such a small permanent core of people providing for the future land needs of church extension in the area.

The Building Committee was organized with three sub-committees—Planning, Finance, and Construction. Mr. C. A. Kirkpatrick was chairman of the sub-committee for Planning which was responsible for the building and equipment. Mr. Gran Childress was chairman of the sub-committee for Finance which covered only the solicitation of pledges and cash gifts. The Construction sub-committee was under the direction of the general building chairman since he had a thorough knowledge of the plans and could therefore supervise construction more adequately. Mr. Marshall Penny assisted in the inspection of construction.

The Planning sub-committee took two major initial steps: first, asked every member of the church to submit ideas, and, second, made a decision that a unit system of building would be undertaken in order to provide for the short, intermediate and long-term needs of the church. The third step was to summarize the findings and draw up a set of tentative plans. The results of the third step were that we wanted a church that "looked like a church"; we wanted an educational plant adequate for a five year period; we wanted to build the fellowship hall and kitchen for the future church plant. Yet, at

the same time, we were absolutely opposed to the dual use of one area for a fellowship hall and a worship center. This latter was solved by setting up the front and major part of the future fellowship hall as a worship center. The back portion of the fellowship hall was separated from the worship center by folding doors so that this area could be used as an expansion area for worship, as a classroom and as a present fellowship hall. Additional flexibility was provided for fellowship by separating this area from an adjacent classroom by folding doors.

Further results of our third step in planning were to project our educational needs on a person-square-foot basis for each of the departments, and the decision was made to house each department in one room with classes to be separated by movable partitions.

All these decisions were made to provide maximum flexibility with a minimum floor space. A final decision in our planning was to keep our building design as simple as possible, yet perfect in detail so that the present building would be harmonious with any architectural design (except Gothic) that might be worked out for the future church plant.

After all this preplanning had been accomplished, the services of an architect were secured in the spring of 1956 and we presented to him our plans and visions. This dream was transformed into a working reality by the genius of our architect, William Van Eaton Sprinkle. We commend him to you most highly for his technical ability and as a fine Christian layman.

Preliminary architectural sketches were presented to the Planning sub-committee the first week in September, 1956, and approved by the congregation the latter part of that month. So perfect had been the mutual understanding that only insignificant changes were required and Mr. Sprinkle was authorized to go ahead with the preparation of the plans and specifications. These were worked on with the close cooperation of the Chairman of the Building Committee and were presented to and approved by the Planning sub-committee in February, 1957.

While the plans and specifications were being developed, detailed equipment needs were worked up with priority for purchases or solicitations for gifts. The firm policy was established for gifts that only approved gifts which met the Planning sub-committee's specification would be received. We recommend this policy in order to avoid gifts that do not fit the needs and design of the building.

Also during this time the financial drive was made on a person-to-person solicitation basis and pledges were received in the amount of \$22,000 to be paid over a three-year period. We recommend that the responsibilities of the Finance chairman be expanded to include the collection of the pledges.

Separate bids were requested for the construction, plumbing and heating. This is a procedure that should be avoided. One bid should be called for under the general contractor so that he can be responsible for the coordination of all the work of the sub-contracts. Competitive bids were received for construction, but no competitive bids were asked for in plumbing and heating, as a prior commitment had been made to a prospective member of the church before the church was formally organized. The heating system was not installed according to specifications and was reworked by a heating contractor. Both the Chairman of the Building Committee and the architect were aware that one of the neglected areas of church planning is the heating system. Therefore, they did not approve the above procedures. The recommendation is that a careful study be made of the daily use of various church areas and that a heating system be designed and installed with sufficient flexibility to meet these requirements. A poor heating system is an expensive means of economizing.

In March, 1957, the Quarterly Conference authorized the Building Committee to let the building contract and the Board of Trustees to borrow up to \$35,000 for the building program.

Ground breaking exercises were held on March 31, 1957. Construction was begun in April. The first service in the new building was held on December 15, 1957. The Rev. Kimsey King, pastor, preached on the topic "A Gift at Christmas." Other opening day

activities included Sunday School and the annual Christmas program in the evening.

The Aldersgate Church building is an 80 x 90 foot structure of contemporary design which is actually the first unit of a proposed three-unit plan. In addition to a fellowship hall (part of which is arranged as a worship center with pews that seat 90 persons) there are rooms for kindergarten, primary and junior departments, a nursery, kitchen, serving area, pastor's study, rest rooms and narthex. Over 200 people can be accommodated by temporary seating. The finished fellowship hall (present sanctuary) has pine decking and pine paneling with green tones; the pews are also green. The interior brick walls are antique rose and the floor tile is beige with rose and green flecks.

The total cost of the building and equipment was approximately \$67,000.¹ The method of finance was a loan of \$32,500 from the Bank of Chapel Hill; a gift of \$15,000 from the Methodist Church Extension program (Ten Dollar Club) and \$1,000 from the General Board. The balance of \$18,500 was paid by cash and gifts.

Throughout the church building program, Mr. C. A. Kirkpatrick and Mrs. William S. Joyner made significant contributions which were most helpful to the Chairman of the Building Committee. Mrs. Joyner deserves a special citation for her assistance in the planning and purchase of the equipment and furnishings.

GENERAL APPRAISAL

The fundamental problem of Aldersgate has been the fact that the membership is made up of three groups: (1) a small permanent nucleus of about 35 families; (2) a group of business and professional people residing temporarily in Chapel Hill; (3) married students who are here for a limited time. One function of Aldersgate, of course, is to serve the two latter groups, but to do this puts a heavy financial burden on the permanent members who are a youthful group with limited incomes.²

¹ See Table 1, page 11.

² Note in Table 2, page 11, the large number of charter members who no longer reside in Chapel Hill.

One fine characteristic of this youthful group has been the sustained enthusiasm and spiritual consecration of one segment as contrasted to a smaller promotional segment who had the enthusiasm of a firecracker. This latter group attempted to overcommit the church in the building program, and as it subsequently developed, would have left the burden of responsibility on the permanent members. The lesson to be learned is that the total financial commitment, including interest, should be kept within a carefully planned budgeted income for debt retirement and operational costs of the building and church program.

Aldersgate has adopted a financial stewardship policy which recognizes that taxes and contributions take an increasing share of personal income. Therefore, we are working toward a *minimum* pledge of five percent of income after taxes. We believe that five percent of disposable income is reasonable and attainable and that our financial problems can be solved if we achieve this every-member goal.

In all our endeavors we have been working toward Christian perfection. Won't you visit with us and see to what extent we have achieved our objective?

The greatest success of Aldersgate is not to be measured in statistics and material gain, but in the everlasting joy of Christian fellowship that has come to those of us who have worked together. We recommend the sharing in church extension, not as a means of giving, but as a means of investment which has already been returned to us in full measure.

Our wish for the future is the same as that expressed by the Chairman of the Building Committee on the opening of our church building: "May the spirit of the warm heart glow and grow with Aldersgate."

TABLE 1

SUMMARY OF COSTS AND VALUE OF PROPERTY
OF COMPLETED PROJECT

May 1, 1959

	<i>Paid</i>	<i>Gifts in Kind</i>	<i>Total</i>
Architect	\$ 2,800.00		\$ 2,800.00
Building & Grounds	\$49,755.15	\$ 140.00	\$49,895.15
Heating & Plumbing	\$ 4,185.15		\$ 4,185.15
Cost of Building & Improvements .			\$56,880.30
Furnishings & Equipment	\$ 4,812.91	\$5,241.00	\$10,053.91
TOTAL			\$66,934.21
Land	\$10,000.00		

TABLE 2

CHARTER MEMBERS

*Mr. and Mrs. William M. Allen	*Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Nail
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Arthur	*Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Neelley
*Mr. and Mrs. William T. Bird	*Mr. and Mrs. J. Marshall Penny
*Mr. and Mrs. Gran P. Childress	*Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Pendergraft, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Cox	*Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Paulsen
*Dr. and Mrs. Harold Cranford	Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Pickard
*Mr. and Mrs. William B. Ellington	Dr. and Mrs. A. Dwight Price
*Mr. and Mrs. John K. Farrington	Mr. and Mrs. George Rettie, Jr.
*Lt. and Mrs. Robert A. Gray	*Mr. and Mrs. John C. Roberts, Jr.
*Mrs. Audry S. Harrington	Mrs. George F. Scheer
Miss Margaret Goodrum	Mrs. S. L. Sharp
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Williams Hicks	*Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Stooksbury
*Mr. and Mrs. James R. Hill, Jr.	*Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Stovall
Mr. and Mrs. John Paul Jones	Mrs. Frank West
Dr. and Mrs. William S. Joyner	Miss Marion Seiler
Mrs. Kimsey King	Mrs. A. W. Seiler
*Mr. and Mrs. Frank Keel	*Mr. and Mrs. William H. White
Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Kirkpatrick	Mr. and Mrs. Drury W. Wall
*Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kirksey	Mr. and Mrs. Everett Wilkinson
Mr. Olin T. Mouzon	*Mr. and Mrs. Joe Zambito

*No longer residents of Chapel Hill.

