

"The History of
Asbury Methodist
Church"

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The Asbury Methodist Church is one of the oldest churches in the Lumberton community. Asbury was organized about 1911 by the reverend E. M. Hoyle. Mr. Hoyle came to the community and started a revival. It was held in a vacant house on what is now called Pate Street. The house, at that time was owned by the Mansfield Mill Co. The Mill Co. gave permission for the revival to be held in the house. The house was cleaned and fixed up with benches and chairs for the people to sit in. During of the revival many people were converted. The revival was a success. Soon after the revival was over a Sunday School was organized. The Sunday School was held every Sunday in the auditorium of the Old East Lumberton School building. The Sunday School was first called "East Lumberton National Mill Sunday School." Mr. George F. Britz, then the Superintendent of Mansfield Mills, served as the first superintendent of the Sunday School. There was no regular preacher for the Sunday School, but on Sunday evenings preachers would come and have worship service. The service was held at 3:00 p.m. each Sunday evening.

On November 27, 1911, the Sunday School joined the M.C. Methodist Conference and Rev. R. L. Carroway,

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Became the first pastor of the New East Summerton Methodist Sunday School. There were nine (9) churches on the Summerton Circuit which consisted of Abbottsburg, Buie, Clarkton, Pine Grove, Bladenboro, East Summerton, Barbero, Smith's, and Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. East Summerton was the strongest of the nine churches. There were 49 members of the East Summerton Sunday School before pastor Carroway took over. Under him 18 new members were added.

During the year of 1912, a split-up developed in the church. The Ervin Britt family did not like the way the church was handling things. He and his family pulled out of the church and formed the first Holiness Church in Summerton.

On December 18, 1912, the Summerton Circuit was lessened to eight churches when Buie Methodist Church was transferred to the Red Springs Circuit.

On December 2, 1912, Rev. N. L. Seabolt became the pastor of the Summerton Circuit.

In 1915, the Mansfield Mill Co. deeded a plot of land to the Sunday School. Many means of raising money to build a new church on the land was carried out. The most important was having box suppers made by the ladies of the church.

to sale. In the last of Nov. 1915, with 88 members the East Lumberton Methodist Sunday School began its new building. Rev. Sealbolt and others members of the church worked hard on the building of the church, and it paid off.

On May 14, 1916 was dedication day. It was a big and glorious occasion for the people of the Church to celebrate. They served lunch on the church grounds and an all-day service was held.

On December 11, 1916, Rev. G. H. Biggs became the pastor of the Lumberton Circuit.

On December 17th 1917, the Rev. R. A. Bruton became the fourth pastor of the church.

The first marriage performed in the church was that of Mr. Walterman F. Tipp to Miss Jane Fowler on Feb. 13, 1919.

At the Annual conference in 1920 the Clarkton Methodist Church was transferred to the Elizabethtown Circuit, leaving East Lumberton on a seven point circuit.

The Rev. Linzy Fraser became the 5th pastor on December 5, 1920. During his two years he added 27 new members to the church.

In Nov. of 1931 Rev. C. H. Coviness became the pastor of Asbury. He was at the East Lumberton Church for two years. The Rev. O. C. Melton was pastor

of the church from November of 1933 to November of 1935.

From November of 1935 to November of 1939, the Rev. N. B. Patrickland served as pastor of the church.

At the annual conference of 1939, the Badenboro Methodist Church was discontinued and the Regan Methodist Church was put on the Summerton Circuit making a total of six churches on the circuit.

The Rev. M. D. McNamee became pastor of East Summerton Church in November of 1939.

For one year from November 1943 to November of 1944, the Rev. F. L. Hill served as pastor of the Summerton Circuit.

From November of 1944 to December 4, 1948, the Rev. M. D. McNamee served the Summerton Circuit for his second time.

From December 4, 1948-1952 the Rev. John C. Cooper was pastor.

In 1948, the Sunday School superintendent started a M. Y. F. for the youth of the church. It was an success until he left in 1956. A new M. Y. F. was started in 1952.

The Rev. F. H. White served as pastor for one year during 1952 and 1953.

In 1952, Pleasant Grove was removed from the Summerton Circuit.

From 1953 to June 28, 1956, the pastor of the church was Johnnie D. Aycock.

From June 28, 1956 to June 30, 1960,
the pastor was the Rev. R. C.
Hamilton Jr.

In 1957, the church name was
changed from the East Lumberton
Methodist Church to Asbury Methodist
Church in honor of Frances Asbury.
Ms. Asbury was an American Methodist
missionary, born in Hamstead Bridge,
England.

From June 30, 1960 to June 21,
1962, the pastor was the Rev. William
Carson Lewis.

A Youth Choir was organized in
1961 by members of the church and
did a splendid job for several months.

A new choir was started in
1982 but lasted only 6 or 7 months.

A great deal of money was
pledged to purchase land to
build a new church on. When
the money which was pledged
was being collected a terrible
tragedy struck on Oct. 15, 1961, the
Lumber River Cotton Mill burned
and with it many peoples jobs.
Many of the pledges could not
be kept. The efforts of buying the
land and building a new church
failed.

From June 21, 1962 to June 20,
1963, the pastor was the Rev. D.
Hermit Norris.

On June 20, 1963, a new pastor
was appointed, the Rev. Nathan
Hooks Byrd.

Under Rev. Byrd the old church was rebuilt and remodeled. A building committee was formed because there was land to be cleared, a building to put up, money to make, and remodeling to do. But they did it. On May 9, 1964, the finishing touches were put on the sanctuary.

On opening Sunday, May 10, 1964, a total of 115 attended Sunday School, 125 for the morning worship. The Pastor, Rev. Nathan Hooks Byrd, spoke on "Joshua Building a Great Temple".
Asbury Methodist Church is now located on Orange Street in Lumberton, N.C.