

Nov. 5, 1965

BESTON METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

Beston Methodist Church unofficially opened in 1911, under the tutelage of Mrs. Vann May. Sunday School was conducted in the old red school house that originally stood in front of Mrs. George Eason's home. A lot was given for the construction of the church by Mr. Jim May, however, services were not held in the church as such until 1915. The minister in charge of the first services was Reverend John Piland, who served the church for two years. Many remember these early services because of the conditions under which they worshipped. The church did not even have windows installed but the groundwork for the first and only Beston church had been laid.

There is a gap in the records from 1915 until 1923 and there is no apparent information available about the church during that period. In 1923 with Reverend E. J. Lewis as pastor, our church was changed to the Seven Springs Charge from the Goldsboro Charge. There were five other churches on the charge at that time.

We had five pastors before there was any record of Quarterly Conference reports. The first on record was made by W. J. Freeman during the years from 1931 through 1934. At that time the state of the church was good. During this time B. F. Eason, Kimber Best and J. N. May were in charge of the Christian Board of Education. They had no youth organization nor Missionary Society.

R. W. Barfield, pastor during the years from 1934 through 1938, reported that there was only one organization among the five churches for the youth. The year 1935 brought the first Missionary Society to Beston, the only one on the Charge, at that time. It was only active a short time.

We have a record of the following pastors' names, but no reports as to what condition the church was in or any important happenings. They are as follows: W. E. Howard 1938-1942; James E. Rogers 1942; Ernest Phifer 1942-1943; H. R. Harrell 1943-1946; R. N. Fitts 1946-1948; and Russell Johnson 1948-1950.

H. L. Worthington came in 1950 and stayed one year. A lot happened in a short time. Plans for new Sunday School rooms were made. One of our members, the Reverend Jack Sutton, who was an architect at that time drew the plans. Funds were made available through the Duke Endowment Fund and personal pledges. During construction, services were held in the old white school house which stands within a few feet of the church today.

W. W. Clark came in the years of 1952 through 1954 but the records were not complete.

In 1954 we had a new pastor, Aaron Tyson and also a district change. We were moved from Seven Springs to Goldsboro ~~Circuit~~ with four other churches.

Leonard E. Mayo was our next pastor and during his stay, the Beston-Bethel parsonage was built. Mr. J. B. Eason gave the church a plot of land beside the church in 1956. While it was being constructed, the pastor lived in Goldsboro.

John E. Bryant came to our church in 1959 through 1962. The Young Adult Class was formed and began to put on a new face to the church with a coat of paint and a sidewalk was poured between the church and the parsonage.

The year 1963 brought Fred P. Pierce to our group. The church was in good financial condition and things were running smoothly.

Jere Rouse came to us the last of 1963 and is still with us, we are all happy to say. He has helped form the Woman's Society of Christian Service and it is now active again. The Methodist Youth Fellowship is active and we also have a Men's Club. The church has been painted inside and a sign has been erected in front of the church with the name and denomination.

Our church is small but it has grown through the years and with hard work from each member and the Lord's blessing, we hope to see it continue.