

HISTORY OF THE BROADWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In 1906 the Methodists of Broadway decided to organize a Methodist Church. The organization was completed in 1907 and construction of the church building was completed in 1908. The new church became a part of the Jonesboro Circuit which consisted of Jonesboro, Poplar Springs, Morris Chapel, Memphis, and Concord. The Broadway Methodist Episcopal Church, South was admitted to the North Carolina Conference in 1909.

The first church was a one room building with a belfry. The land for the building site was donated by Mr. and Mrs. M.A. McLeod. Records show that the land was deeded September 30, 1907 for the sum of \$1.00 to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The trustees of the first church were J.O.A. Kelly, J.L. Thomas, J.F. Jones, John A. Ragland, and R.E. Marks. The members of the first building committee were J.L. Thomas, Bragg McLeod, J.O.A. Kelly, and John Ragland.

Rev. L.H. Joyner, pastor of Jonesboro Circuit, was the first pastor. In 1910 Concord Church was discontinued and most of the members of that church moved their membership to Broadway.

During the pastorate of Rev. B.E. Stanfield the church was remodeled. A wing was added to each side of the church for Sunday School rooms. Sliding doors to these rooms provided more space to the sanctuary when needed. A large front porch was added and the belfry removed. Six large memorial stained glass windows were installed. Also, a window was given in honor of Rev. B.E. Stanfield.

In 1933 a basement was added which provided a small fellowship hall, a kitchenette and three class rooms. An educational building was built adjacent to the church in 1942. This building, known as "The Methodist Hut," has been used extensively by the church and community for both civic and religious affairs. Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Davis gave a piano for the Hut.

In 1936 during the pastorate of Rev. J.W. Bradley the Jonesboro Circuit was divided and Broadway Charge consisted of Broadway, Morris Chapel, Poplar Springs, and Memphis Churches. A parsonage for this charge was built at Broadway. Rev. and Mrs. Walter E. Smith were the first occupants of the new parsonage. Prior to the building of the parsonage an upstairs apartment in the home of Miss Ida Gray served as home for the ministers.

In 1949 the church was again remodeled. The wide front porch was enclosed providing a vestibule, a pastor's study, and a class room. A steeple was added and the entire building was brick veneered.

The Rives Bible Class renovated the chancel area in 1960. The circular altar was removed and a straight altar rail was installed. A new lectern was also added to the chancel furniture.

Throughout the years many memorials have been given to the church. An altar set consisting of a cross, two candle sticks, and two vases was given in memory of Carlos McNeill by his family. A communion table and one chair was given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Thomas by their family. One pulpit chair was given by John A. Ragland in memory of his wife Annie McNeill Ragland. One pulpit chair was given by the O.T. Cox family in memory of Mr. O.T. Cox, Sr. The baptismal font was given by the children of Mr. Sion F. Kelly in his memory. A silver urn was given by Mrs. Blanton Hartness in memory of her mother, Mrs. Gus Hunter. Five folding tables were given in memory of S.H. Rosser by his family. Linen cloths for the communion table were given by Mr. and Mrs. Dan Cameron. The communion

service set was given in memory of Mrs. Gertrude Cox by her family. Two offering plates were given by the children of Mr. and Mrs. S.H. Rosser. New Methodist Hymnals were purchased by the church members. Two loose leaf hymnals for the piano and organ were given by Mrs. Jack Arnette in memory of her husband. The carpet in the sanctuary was purchased and installed as a gift to the church by Mrs. Blanton Hartness.

The first Bible that the church owned was given by Mr. Porter Stedman. The Bible in use at present in the sanctuary was given by Mrs. I.J. Stephenson in memory of her husband. The Bible in the Hut was presented to the church by Rev. Charles Bryant and family.

Rev. Johnny Joyce went to ministerial school from this church. He has had a successful ministry and has served several churches in the North Carolina Conference.

Pastors who have served Broadway United Methodist Church are as follows:

L.H. Joyner
H.M. Eure
J.G. Johnson
C.W. Robinson
T.H. Sutton
C.R. Ross
B.E. Stanfield
O.I. Hinson
I.T. Poole
J.E. Blalock
J.W. Bradley
Ray S. Cody
Jack W. Page
W.L. Freeman
Roger Tucker
A.R. Bell
R.R. Miller
A.S. Lancaster
W.E. Smith
K.W. Bedenbaugh
T.J. Barrett
C.J. Tilley
M.D. McLamb
C.V. Bryant
R.E. Fowlkes
W.D. Wise
C.E. Woodruff, Jr.
and
N.D. Holcomb, Jr. (current)