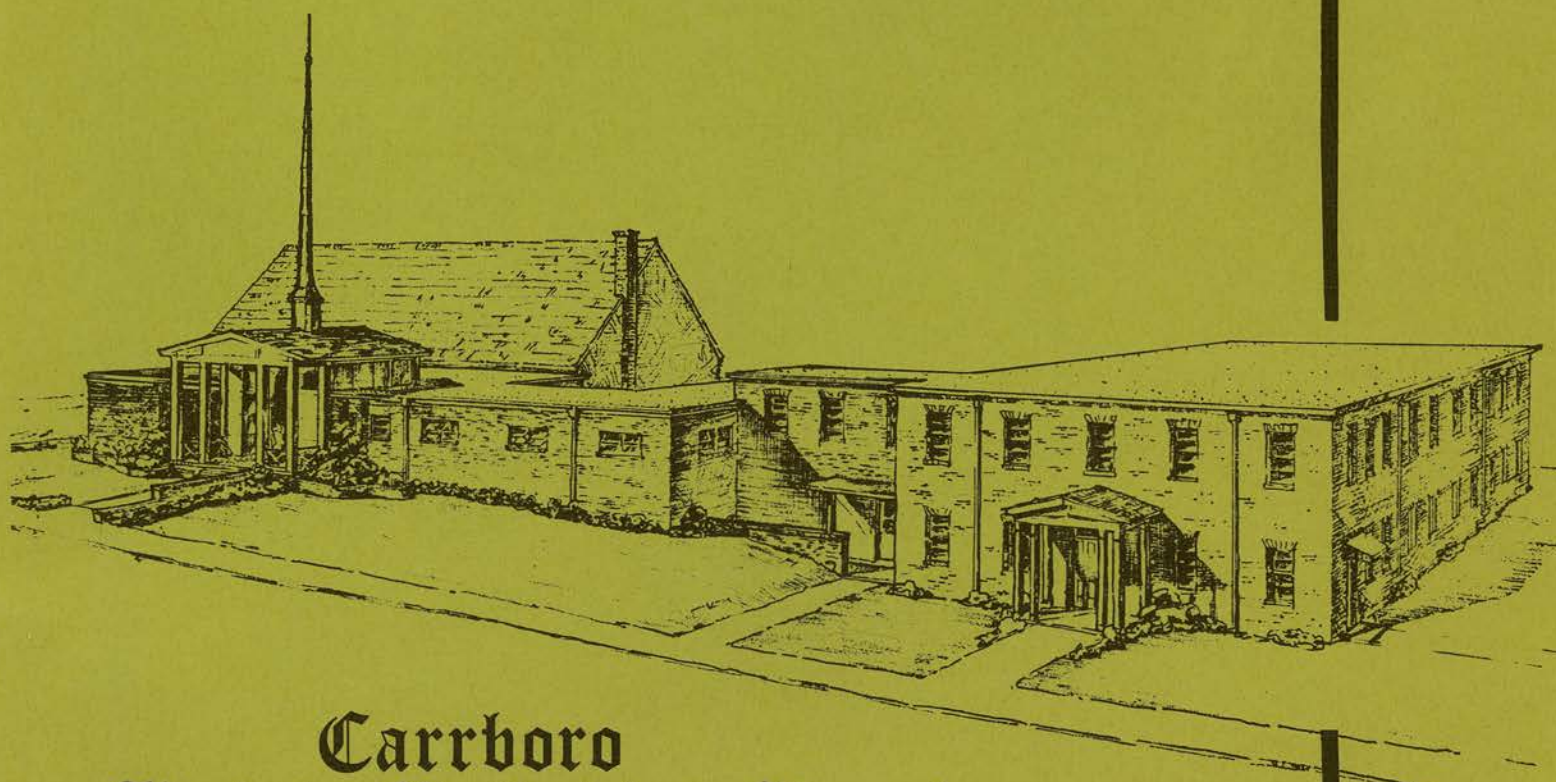


# NEW LIFE- FOR A NEW CHURCH



Carrboro  
United Methodist Church

CARRBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

## HISTORY OF THE CARRBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Carrboro Methodist Church was organized in July, 1910 with approximately thirty charter members. These included Mr. & Mr. T. N. Mann, Mr. & Mrs. Fletcher Thrift, Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Parker, Albert Bowden, F. J. Ragan and members of their families.

In the beginning, services were held on Sunday afternoons in the frame structure generally called, at that time, "The Union Chapel". This building later came to be known as "The Old Baptist Church". This building was torn down shortly after the present Baptist Church edifice was built.

Shortly after its organization, the Methodist group moved to the school building, a frame structure located on Main Street. The Church functioned as a mission of the Methodist church in Chapel Hill during the period 1910 to 1915. The late Dr. Walter A. Stanbury, while serving as pastor of the Chapel Hill Church, served as the first pastor of the Carrboro congregation. The late Dr. Walter Patten also served as pastor during this time.

During Dr. Stanbury's pastorate the late General Julian S. Carr of Durham, then President of the Durham Hosiery Mills, donated a plot of land adjacent to the school property to be used as a site for a church building. The little congregation immediately began to work, doing most of the construction itself. In early 1912 the first service was held in the new edifice. This little frame structure, located on Main Street, served as the congregation's place of worship for the following forty one years.

By the year, 1915 the membership had increased to the extent that the church's status as a mission of the Chapel Hill church was terminated. In that year, the Reverend W. R. Shelton, a young ministerial student at Trinity College was assigned as Pastor. The Reverend John R. Edwards, who



served as pastor in 1917-1918 was the father of J. Paul Edwards who later served our present church.

The Jim Potts house on Shelton Street was the first parsonage. This was not purchased by the church but simply rented for a very short period of time for the Reverend B. O. Merritt. During the pastorate of the Reverend B. O. Merritt, the church acquired its first parsonage. This house is located on Main Street and is now the home of Watts D. Sparrow. In 1922, after the completion of the old Carrboro School, now used as the Town Hall, the church purchased the old school building located on Main Street and now owned by Mrs. J. E. McDonald. A part of it was used for adding classrooms to the church building. The remainder was remodeled for use as a parsonage. This parsonage was sold by the congregation in June, 1955 and a lovely seven room brick parsonage was built on Oak Street. This parsonage was completed in December of that year and was dedicated on May 28, 1961.

During the periods 1915-1928 and 1931-1949 the Carrboro Methodist Church was a member of the Methodist Circuit, meaning a group of two or more Methodist churches constituting a "charge" served by one pastor. This circuit was from time to time during these periods officially designated as the Orange Circuit, Orange-Carrboro Charge, and the Carrboro Charge. During practically all this time historic Orange Church, the mother church of Methodism in this immediate vicinity, was a member of this circuit. Merritt's Chapel, Massey's Chapel, and Clover Garden churches were also members of the circuit at various times. By 1949 the membership of the Carrboro Church had increased sufficiently to change its status to that of a "station" church, or a church with a full-time pastor.

In 1952, during the pastorate of the late M. E. Tyson, a lot was obtained on Hillsborough Road. The congregation felt that this lot was more

in the center of town and that it afforded far more room for future expansion and for parking. The construction of the new church began in 1952 and was completed in 1953 at a cost of \$43,000.00. The first services were held in August of that year. Mr. Tyson, who had worked so long to see this new church, barely lived to see it completed, as he died a few months after it was finished.

On August 18, 1957 during the ministry of Reverend J. Paul Edwards the dedication of the Church Edifice was observed with Bishop Paul N. Garber and Dr. C. D. Barclift, District Superintendent participating in the services.

It is interesting to note that the first organ was purchased and dedicated while Reverend Johnie L. Joyce was our Minister; the present organ was purchased and dedicated while Reverend A. S. Parker was serving this church as Minister.

This has been a growing church. Its membership has grown in the past 14 years from an approximate membership of 390 to 581 and an annual operating budget of \$11,000 to \$44,415.

The church continued in its spiritual growth also and on September 26, 1965 we observed the first Homecoming that we had had in many years. This was a joyous occasion with many old friends and former ministers and members returning to make it truly a "Homecoming". Reverend James G. White, Jr. brought the morning message with John Boone and Herbert Watson participating in the service and Bobby Tyson preaching in the afternoon along with Reverend Ernest Durham sharing also in that service.

Then on October 30, 1966 after much prayer and careful planning we were able to launch out on our building program. Dr. Hathaway and Bishop Garber whose leadership in the N. C. Conference had long been an inspiration to our congregation in inspiring them to commitment, dedication and effort were with us along with the many friends of our community and others whose



encouragement and financial assistance played a tremendous part in making the beginning phase of our program possible.

Following the 11:00 A. M. Service, Groundbreaking services were held with Bishop Garber, Dr. Hathaway, District Superintendent; Reverend James G. White, Jr, Minister; John Boone, Charge Lay Leader; Dick McCallum, Chairman of the Building Committee; Van Thomas, Contractor; Dr. Ancel Mewborn, Chairman of the Commission on Education; Herbert Watson, Chairman of the Official Board; Norma Brandon, President of the W. S. C. S.; and Marvin Nipper, President of the Methodist Men's Club participating.

Work then began on the new Educational Building and renovation of the old building immediately. It was through the tireless efforts of all the members that we saw a dream come true. On October 8, 1967 we shared in another grand and glorious day with the consecration of the new building and open house.

We feel that the church has made tremendous progress in all phases of its work and it is with gratitude that we recognize this has been possible and that the church can continue to grow only through the dedication of so many laymen and laywomen.

During the past year improvements and additions which were made are: the completion of the remodeling of the Altar area, the enlargement of the sanctuary with the purchase of additional pews, painting of the church and parsonage along with the purchase of several major items for the church and kindergarten program. Also, of tremendous importance was the gift of \$25,000.00 at Christmas time. A most successful year in Youth ministry, the W. S. C. S. and Educational programs of the church have been realized. Also, our Kindergarten program has had its' most successful year thus far. These are only a few things -- we have grown not only in a material way

but in spiritual achievements which are far more important. We realize that God has richly blessed us individually and as a church. The church has grown through Christian faith and in active service to mankind. It has been a joy and pleasure to see the fulfillment of our plans, however there is still a great opportunity for service and a challenge.

As we continue to grow and serve, we know that great days are truly ahead for us. We see our dreams become reality more and more each year as we work together to the honor and glory of God.

Listed below are the Ministers who have served the Carrboro Methodist Church along with the number of years each served:

W. A. Stanbury	1910-1912
G. S. Bearden	1912-1913
Walter Patten	1913-1915
William R. Shelton	1915-1916
C. C. Alexander	1916-1917
John R. Edwards	1917-1918
B. O. Merritt	1918-1919
A. S. Abernathy	1919-1920
J. O. Long	1920-1921
J. W. Autry	1921-1925
J. F. Starnes	1925-1928
M. W. Lawrence	1928-1930
Bob L. Poole	1930-1931
F. B. Jackson	1931-1932
L. L. Parrish	1932-1935
W. Clark Ellzey	1935-1937
Floyd M. Patterson	1937 (six months)

R. L. Crossno	1937-1938
J. Kern Ormond	1938-1939
Vergil E. Queen	1939-1945
Johnie L. Joyce	1945-1948
M. E. Tyson	1948-1953
B. F. Schuller	1953 (four months)
G. W. Crutchfield	1953-1954
J. Paul Edwards	1954-1958
A. S. Parker	1958-1961
J. Claude Chaffin	1961-1964
James G. White, Jr.	1964-1968
Nathan H. Byrd	1968-