

*City Road
United Methodist Church*

*Corner Road and Burgess Streets
Elizabeth City, North Carolina*



Where the hearts that reach can touch —

God and each other.

CITY ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Elizabeth City, North Carolina

CHURCH HISTORY

Submitted by

Francis C. Bradshaw, Pastor

December 1, 1976

CITY ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Elizabeth City, North Carolina

CHURCH HISTORY

The history of City Road United Methodist Church actually began in 1828 when the first Methodist Episcopal Church, South was established in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. The first Methodist Church was located on Church Street on the site of what is now the Perry Apartments. Around the turn of the century when the congregation was overflowing the capacity of the old Methodist Church, the members realized the need for expansion in order to take care of its membership. Since Poindexter Creek divided the city north and south and the old Methodist Church was south of the creek, it was decided that a new church would be built north of the creek for all Methodists who lived in that area. In October, 1900, the cornerstone was laid for the City Road Methodist Episcopal Church, South on the corner of Burgess and North Road Streets. The church was named for John Wesley's Chapel in England.

The new church, with one hundred and seven charter members, was dedicated in September, 1902, by Bishop Kilgo. Rev. W. H. Brown was sent by the District Conference to take charge until the General Conference met in December. At that time, Rev. R. H. Willis was sent as the first full-time minister.

During the short period of time from 1902-1911 the church rapidly progressed and outgrew the original facility. It was with great optimism and a spirit of unity that the congregation undertook the

building of the annex which was completed in 1911.

City Road continued to grow in membership and in December, 1952, acquired a house and lot adjacent to the church property facing Burgess Street. After some repair work was done, the Sunday School, nursery through grade six, was moved into the house. An additional two lots were purchased in March, 1961.

Having Sunday School in the "old house" was better than being over-crowded in the church building but far from being ideal. After several years of meeting in this way, a group of interested members began to dream of replacing the "old house" with a new educational building.

In investigating the possibility of building a new building, it was discovered that the property still had an indebtedness of \$5300 which had to be paid before definite plans could be made for building a new building on it. In February, 1964, a representative of the interested group appeared before the Official Board to express the need for building an Educational Building and the immediate need of clearing the property of said indebtedness. Receiving the full support of the Board at this meeting, the group devised a plan to raise the money to pay off the note for the property. On Easter Sunday, 1964, the money was committed and the congregation enthusiastically looked forward to a time when the building of the structure would actually begin.

Committees were appointed and concentrated work began on the part of many to make the dream of a new building become a reality. On March 20, 1966, a church conference was held, with Rev. Earl B. Edwards presiding, to consider committee findings and proposals for the erection of the new building. On April 17, 1966, a Crusade to raise \$75,000

was launched under the leadership of Dr. Hiram K. King. A twenty-four hour prayer vigil was held and a canvass of members for pledges to be paid over a three year period was taken. On May 8, 1966, Victory Sunday, it was reported to the congregation that the Crusade had been successful, both spiritually and financially, and the time to begin was now. Following Victory Sunday a Building Committee was appointed with instructions to proceed with the construction of the Building. The ground-breaking ceremony took place on December 18, 1966.

With a spirit of enthusiasm and faith that never waivered, the congregation continued its full support of the project and on July 6, 1969, only two and one-half years later, the building was dedicated "to the glory of God and service of men" at a special dedication service with Bishop William R. Cannon presiding. The Fellowship Hall was dedicated to the memory of the Rev. Earl B. Edwards.

Throughout the history of City Road Church the members have been concerned with maintaining a building which is conducive to worship and which exhibits an atmosphere of friendliness and good will to all people. The church buildings have been painted periodically and repairs have been made as needed. There have been two major renovation projects--the most recent one being completed in 1974. At this time, major repairs were made on the church buildings, the sanctuary and annex were re-carpeted, and the parsonage was completely remodeled. In 1976 a move to remodel the upstairs Sunday School classrooms was initiated and work on this project will soon be completed.

In the future, as in the past, the members of this church will continue to maintain the same high level of interest and concern of their ancestors in maintaining the church property and in enhancing its total program striving at all times to make City Road United Methodist Church a place "where the hearts that reach can touch--God and each other."

CITY ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Charter Members

John A. Kramer	Ruth Parsons
Carrie E. Kramer	Susie Parsons
Theophilus T. Whitcomb	Bertha Martin
Mary Whitcomb	Benjamin F. Whedbee
Peter S. Shipp	Ladina Whedbee
Martha A. Shipp	Bessie G. Whedbee
Sarah T. Crawford	Wallace Holmes
William W. Mann	Mrs. J. W. Gilbert
Sabra E. Mann	Mrs. Lelia Davis
A. T. West	Herbert P. Jones
Fannie E. West	Cassie Krauss
Hattie Woodley	Missouri Rollinson
Patrick H. Williams	George W. Rogers
Ella K. Williams	Mary Rogers
Robert J. Williams	Stewart Rogers
Susan Williams	E. Lumer Rogers
Marinda Williams	James M. Richardson
Wesley Williams	Claudia K. Richardson
Sarah L. Williams	J. T. Richardson
Virginia Williams	Annie Richardson
Martha Sykes	Sarah M. Whitson
Phillip N. Sanderlin	Alethia Whitson
David H. Straughn	John Nichols
Mary J. Straughn	Thomas W. Swain
William S. White	William B. Swindell
A. Belle White	Fannie Swindell
S. M. S. Rollinson	Noah Trueblood
Elizabeth Rollinson	William J. Reichle
Josiah S. Rogers	Charles F. Reichle
Margaret A. Rogers	M. Caroline Reichle
Charles H. Armstrong	Cornelia Lynch
Mrs. M. F. Armstrong	Fay Lynch
Mrs. Ella Armstrong	J. Harvey Crawford
Benjamin L. Banks	Rose L. Crawford
Sallie E. Banks	Fred Davis
William S. Dunton	Maggie A. Davis
Lennie F. Dunton	Nellia Jenkins
Walter Old	Camilla Jenkins
George W. Parsons	Florence L. Bailey
Martha Parsons	F. G. Chory
John W. Martin	Mary Dozier
Ella D. Martin	Patrick Dozier
Colinda Gard	Job Forbes
Cora L. Gard	Love J. Forbes
W. Ben Goodwin	Job J. Forbes
Rosa May Goodwin	Mary Lizzie Forbes
Thomas S. Wells	Estella Forbes
M. Annie Wells	Annie Garrett
Harry G. Kramer	Mary E. Gregory
Maggie V. Williams	Bennett Land
Arthur S. Mann	Silas M. Langley
Rosalinda DeLon	Nannie Langley
William C. Parsons	Mary G. Jones
W. W. Woodley	

Our Church History



The history of City Road United Methodist Church actually began in 1828 when the first Methodist Episcopal Church, South was established in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. The first Methodist Church was located on Church Street on the site of what is now the Perry Apartments. Around the turn of the century when the congregation was overflowing the capacity of the old Methodist Church, the members realized the need for expansion in order to take care of its membership. Since Poindexter Creek divided the city north and south and the old Methodist Church was south of the creek, it was decided that a new church would be built north of the creek for all Methodists who lived in that area. In October, 1900, the cornerstone was laid for the City Road Methodist Episcopal Church, South on the corner of Burgess and North Road Streets. The church was named for John Wesley's Chapel in England.

The new church, with 107 members, was dedicated in September, 1902, by Bishop Kilgo. Rev. W. H. Brown was sent by the District Conference to take charge until the General Conference met in December. At that time, the Rev. R. H. Willis was sent as the first full-time minister.

During the short period of time from 1902-1911 the church rapidly progressed and outgrew the original facility. It was with great optimism and a spirit of unity that the congregation undertook the building of the annex which was completed in 1911.

Our Educational Building

In February, 1964, a representative of an interested group of people appeared before the Official Board to express the need for building an Educational Building. The group had discovered that the property back of the church still had an indebtedness of \$5300 which had to be paid before definite plans could be made for building a new building. Receiving the full support of the Board at that meeting, the group devised a plan to raise the money to pay off the note for the property in order to clear the way for building a new structure. On Easter Sunday, 1964, the money was committed and the congregation enthusiastically looked forward to a time when the building would actually begin.

Committees were appointed and concentrated work began on the part of many to make the dream of a new building become a reality. On March 20, 1966, a church conference was held with Rev. Earl B. Edwards presiding to consider committee findings and proposals for the erection of the new building. On April 17, 1966, a Crusade to raise \$75,000 was launched under the leadership of Dr. Hiram K. King. A twenty-four hour prayer vigil was held and a canvass of members for pledges to be paid over a three year period was taken. On May 8, 1966, Victory Sunday, it was reported to the congregation that the Crusade had been successful both spiritually and financially and the time to begin building was now. Following Victory Sunday a Building Committee was appointed with instructions to proceed with the construction of the Building. The ground-breaking ceremony took place on December 18, 1966.

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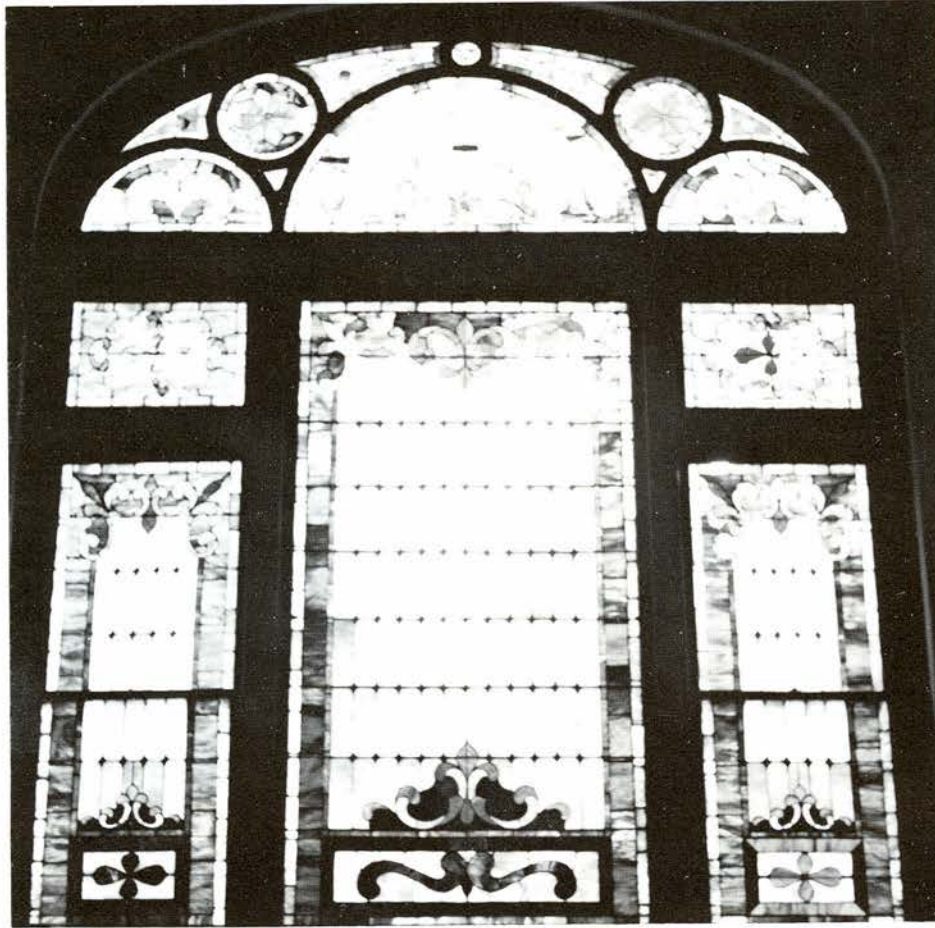
OUR
PASTORS



Rev. W. H. Brown
Rev. R. H. Willis
Rev. Harry M. North
Rev. L. T. Singleton
Rev. S. A. Cotton
Rev. C. V. McRae
Rev. J. H. Buffaloe
Rev. E. B. Craven
Rev. C. B. Culbreth
Rev. J. W. Bradley
Rev. H. E. Myers
Rev. Daniel Lane
Rev. J. W. Harrell
Rev. A. J. Parker

Rev. W. P. Watkins
Rev. J. H. Lanning
Rev. B. T. Hurley
Rev. E. D. Weathers
Rev. L. B. Jones
Rev. I. S. Richmond
Rev. J. W. Page
Rev. J. O. Long
Rev. Dermont J. Reid
Rev. G. W. Crutchfield
Rev. Graham C. Nickens
Rev. Earl B. Edwards
Rev. Cyrus B. Hutcherson
Rev. Francis C. Bradshaw

Our Future



The sun streams in through the beautiful stained glass filling our worship with warmth and light. In such a way, we, the church family in this place, pray the Son of God will fill our lives with the Spirit of warmth and light, that in turn, we may be in the world in His name, prodded by His spirit, following in His way, reaching from one life to others with His love "that keeps no score of wrongs."

Out of our past, through our present, into the future we want to be a fellowship wherein

Hearts that reach can touch ---

God and each other.