



CLARKS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

1986-87 Directory
of
Clarks United
Methodist Church

100 Clark Road
New Bern, North Carolina

Richard A. Stanley Jr., Pastor
Telephone 523-9938

THE HISTORY OF THE CLARKS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The land for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Clarks, North Carolina was donated by Carolina Brick Company and deeded to the first trustees: Jay L. Humphrey, Clara J. Humphrey Foscoe and Cassie A. Eubanks on October 30, 1905. In 1905, Jay and Clara Humphrey began collecting funds and buying materials for a sanctuary that was erected during the summer of 1906.

On September 2, 1906, the first Sunday School was organized: John Humphrey, Superintendent; W. T. Civils, Assistant Superintendent; J. L. Humphrey, Secretary and Treasurer; M. K. McKeel, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer; G. T. Eubanks, Cassie A. Eubanks and Clara J. Humphrey were teachers.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was officially organized October 20, 1906 by The Reverend G. B. Webster, pastor of the Craven Circuit. The church was dedicated on October 3, 1909 by The Reverend R. F. Bumpas, Presiding Elder. This building was a frame structure thirty-four feet by forty-nine feet, consisting of a sanctuary, foyer and two rooms at the front. The original pews were made of heart pine and had straight backs and seats. When the present pews were purchased in 1958, and bought from the Daniels Memorial United Methodist Church in Goldsboro, the old church furnishings were given to a black congregation in the New Bern area.

Carolina Brick Company was located at Clarks, and its employees, local farmers, saw mill workers with their families lived in this community. The organizers of the church wanted this community to have its own place of worship; they wanted these people to hear about Christ and receive Him as their personal Saviour. This is the purpose of the Clarks Church yesterday, today and, we hope, forever.

At the Raleigh Conference in 1909, the Clarks Church was placed on the Bridgeton Circuit and remained a part of that circuit for five years. At the Washington Conference in 1914, Clarks was returned to the Craven Circuit and remained on the circuit for ten years. At the Wilmington Conference in 1924, the new Beech Grove Charge was formed,

and Clarks was a part of that charge for fifty-nine years. In the late forties, the charge consisted of six churches: Beech Grove, Bridgeton, Clarks, Reelsboro, Rhems and Riverside. At the Durham Conference in 1953, the Beech Grove Charge became a three point charge with Beech Grove, Clarks and Rhems. At the Fayetteville Conference at Methodist College in 1983, Clarks became a two point charge with Dover.

From 1917 until 1932, the parsonage was located in the Clarks Community. It was a small frame house located between the two brick houses just south of the present church. We hope in the future, Clarks will be able to have their parsonage in the community once again. We have a parsonage fund of over ten thousand dollars with The Methodist Foundation, and as the interest accumulates we hope to have a good beginning for a parsonage in fifteen to twenty years.

From 1946 to 1952, Charles Prevost remodeled the inside of the old sanctuary. He built a block building that was divided into three Sunday School classrooms. Over the years the church went through many changes; at times it seemed as if it would not survive. The congregation ventured to purchase more land in November 1961 and in January of 1962. Mr. & Mrs. Ely J. Perry and Mr. & Mrs. Clifton F. West from Kinston donated part of the land. There were two houses on this property. One to the right of the old church and one to the left of the old church. One of these houses was moved and the other house torn down. Approximately two acres now exist with the hope of more land being donated/purchased this year from the Perry and West heirs.

In November of 1974, a new sanctuary, kitchen, classroom and two restrooms were started and completed in May of 1975, at a cost of \$81,676.00 This amount was paid in full by 1979. This occurred because of a faithful congregation, Duke Endowment and Mr. Bill Humphrey.

The present pews, pulpit desk and altar from the old church were moved to the new church. The Communion Table came from the Gethsemane Free Will

Baptist Church. Margaret Wethington's grandmother, Lilla Wetherington Stewart, and her great aunt, Bert Stewart Avery, gave this table to the Gethsemane Church, and when they purchased a new one, Margaret requested the Communion Table be given to the Clarks Church.

The second edition of four classrooms was started in September and completed in December of 1981, at a cost of \$18,678.00. This amount was paid in full by August 30, 1985 and the note burned at Homecoming Service on September 8, 1985.

In 1954; "The Women's Society of Christian Service" was organized; and its name was changed in 1968, to "The United Methodist Women". Mrs. Margaret Watson came to the Clarks Church and organized a new Women's Society. Mrs. Hazel Pitts was the first President and Mrs. Joyce Manning the first Secretary.

On March 29, 1957; "The Methodist Men" was organized with eighteen charter members. One of their first projects was to build folding doors for the block Sunday School building. These two organizations have been very faithful in various works in the church, raising and donating money to many worthwhile needs of the church.

Since the spring of 1979, we have had a Tee Ball, Minor and Major League baseball teams. Mr. Marion Morton wanted to see the children of this community participate in wholesome competition, so he requested the organization of the ball teams to the Administrative Board. Permission was granted to use the Clarks name.

In November of 1982, the Beech Grove Charge reorganized The Boy Scout Troop, and the following August a Cub Pack was organized by the Clarks Church. The Girl Scout Troop was organized in April of 1985. We are very proud of the great accomplishments of these three worthy organizations in our church.

In December 1981, "The United Methodist Women" presented us with the first Chrismon Tree, and we have had one every year since.

From the very beginning we have had a Sunday School. The following have served as Superintendents: John Humphrey, C. M. Pittman, Bump Humphrey, Charles Prevost, Everette Carpenter, Billy Ormond, Herbert Eubanks, Wade Davis, Kenneth Vernelson, Hugh Vernelson, Dan Vernelson, Boyce Carpenter, Marion Morton and Durwood Bizzell.

Over the years several people stand out in our memory: Charles and Robert Pittman, who could be likened unto Elijah and Elisha. Both of these men were determined to keep the church in the community. When Mr. Charles died it was Robert who picked up his father's mantle and wore it all the days of his life. When they closed the church in 1935, Granddaddy Charles Pittman kept the Sunday School going until the Presiding Elder put the Clarks Church back on the charge. When they closed the church the second time in 1945, they asked Mr. Robert where he wanted his membership and he replied, "I'll carry it in my pocket".

Mrs. Mattie Stevenson was the Sunday School Secretary and Treasurer for over twenty-five years. She had her little table and bell and kept the records of the Sunday School even to the report of the weather. She helped to establish a building fund for the new church. Her legacy has been to leave children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to live out her Christian Faith in this community.

Mrs. Florence Wetherington was a first grade school teacher and taught as many as four generations among our church families. In her we saw the example of a "Praying Saint".

Mr. Jay Humphrey was a faithful Christian gentleman that supported the church with his presence and offering. Anytime there was a financial need he was always willing to give all he could, for he truly loved the ministry of the church.

The Bible teaches us that where our heart is our treasure will be also. When we look at the progress of the past ten years, several families have been leaders in Christian Stewardship. Many of our people have followed their example in tithing, and the church has made great gain. To God be the glory!

The following is a list of devoted Ministers with the dates of their service:

G. B. Webster	1905-06	E. A. Brown	1945-50
W. B. Humble	1906-08	R. L. Vickery, Jr.	1950-52
J. M. Wright	1908-12	R. M. Gradeless	1952-53
R. E. Pittman	1912-13	R. L. Fleming	1953-56
J. W. Autry	1913-17	W. N. Bass	1956-59
F. B. Noblett	1917-21	E. J. Bedsworth	1959-61
D. A. Futrell	1921-23	C. E. Vale	1961-62
W. L. Dawson	1923-25	H. F. Pollock	1962-63
W. R. Barfield	1925-28	V. N. Moore	1963-64
R. M. Price	1928-32	J. G. Lupton	1964-65
J. B. Thompson	1932-37	R. D. Shinkle	1965-69
W. F. Elliott	1937-40	C. T. Wilson	1969-77
E. W. Downum	1941	J. D. Butson	1977-80
W. A. Tew	1941-45	R. A. Stanley, Jr.	1980

Through the years many gifts have been contributed toward the use and beautification of the church. The following gifts are in memory of these people:

Flower Urns	Mrs. Louise Dail Junkin
Brass Cross & Candle Holders	Mr. S. L. Pittman, Jr.
Brass Offering Plates	Mr. C. M. Pittman and Mr. Robert Pittman
Brass Communion Set	Mr. Joe C. Stevenson
A set of Paraments	Mr. Robert Pittman
Baptismal Bowl	Mr. George D. Stevenson
Baptismal Font	Mrs. Florence Wethington
The Organ	Mr. & Mrs. Jesse B. Wethington, Sr.
Picture of old & new Churches	Mr. & Mrs. H. C. McKeel
Organ Hymnal	Mrs. Clara H. Foscue
Stain Glass Window	Mr. Robert Pittman

The following gifts are given by these people:

Pulpit Bible	Mr. & Mrs. Hodges Parker
Flags	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Vernelson
Piano	Mr. Richard Stanley III
Candlelighters	Mr. & Mrs. Terry Wethington
Acolyte Apparel	Mrs. Hazel Pitts & Mrs. Margaret Wethington
Advent Wreath	Mrs. Margaret Wethington
Love Seat	Mrs. Hazel Pitts & Mrs. Margaret Wethington
The Methodist Hymnals	Church Families & The United Methodist Women
Bicentennial Banner	United Methodist Women