

History of CONCORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

On May 21, 1972, smoke rose from an aluminum tray and the mortgage on a beautiful new church building became a tiny heap of ashes. Another milestone had been reached in the history of Concord United Methodist Church.

Concord Church had its beginning in 1832 when Rev. Alson Gray and a Rev. Christie started preaching in the home of Daniel Foust. About a year later a "class" was organized and Concord Methodist Protestant Church was born. The name given to the new church means unity, peace, and accord. As for the denomination, it was Methodist because that was the dominant belief of the founders and Protestant because the group agreed with the protesting group within the Methodist Episcopal Church. The group which had broken away from the parent church believed in more local voice in church government and greater freedom from Conference control.

A site for the first church structure was procured from Robert Cheek and Bartley Walden. The deed was dated 1835. The building was made of logs donated by Daniel Foust, Thomas Thompson, Samuel Stockard, and Merriet Roberson. The log house of worship was used until 1890 when the need for a larger and more comfortable building became apparent.

The account of the building effort of the 1890's describes the erection of the church as a community-wide undertaking with members being assisted by contributions of labor and materials "from the Baptist, Presbyterians, M.E.'s, Quakers, and even some of the non-professors."

The frame building served the congregation until 1951 when a brick educational building was added. Then in 1960-61 the frame portion of the building was removed and a modern brick church was built. The educational building was incorporated into the new edifice. The result is a building which stands, not only as a useful facility, but as a monument to our faith.

For a number of years Concord was a part of the Saxapahaw charge along with Orange Chapel, Salem, and Saxapahaw. At the present time (1973), our church is a part of the Whitney Cross Charge along with Clover Garden and Orange Chapel.

With Church union in 1939, the word "Protestant" was dropped and our denomination became simply "Methodist." A more recent unification has labeled us United Methodist.

From log to frame to brick have our buildings grown. From Methodist Protestants to Methodist to United Methodist has our denomination been identified. Physical and organizational milestones remind us of our past.

The real milestones have been social and spiritual: Preaching services for almost a century and a half; Sunday School for a century; revivals, Bible Schools, "Children's Days", Christmas pageants, Sunrise Services, Harvest Festivals; proud christenings and joyous weddings; heart-rending funerals and poignant home-comings. These make up the Church. Concord is more than a building; it is the heart of our community.

Mrs. Revere Mogle,
Historian

CONCORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Concord United Methodist Church began in 1832 when Reverend Alson Gray and Reverend Christie started preaching in the home of Daniel Foust. This continued for a year or more. During this time, some of those attending started a class and decided to build a church in which to worship.

Land for this church was procured from Robert Cheek and Bartley Walden. The deed for this land was dated 1835. This first building was made of logs donated by Daniel Foust, Thomas Thompson, Samuel Stockard, and Merriet Roberson. This log church, named Concord Methodist Protestant, was used until 1890 when the need for a larger and more comfortable building became apparent.

Though the church in 1890 was small and weak financially, the decision was made to erect a new building. The pastor, W. W. Amick, donated his year's salary to help in the effort. Donations of labor and materials came from other groups. The Baptists, Presbyterians, M. E.'s, Quakers, and even some non-professors pitched in and helped Concord realize its dream of a new building.

The frame building erected in 1890 served the congregation until 1951 when a brick educational building was added. In the late 1950's the congregation decided to replace the frame part of the building with a new modern brick structure. In 1960-61 a new brick sanctuary was added to the brick educational building. On May 21, 1972, another milestone was reached when the mortgage on this building was burned.

From its beginning in 1832, our church has grown until today in 1977 it has 213 members and a budget of \$12,196.36.