

CHURCH HISTORY

In the Register of Deeds Office of Wake County, Book 15, page 402, the deed to Ebenezer Church is recorded. This deed was drawn up on the twenty-first day of May 1840. Polly and Rebecca Poole gave the land to the trustees of Ebenezer Church. The trustees that received the gift were: Bennett T. Blake, Needham Price, Turner Pullen, William F. Smith and Theophilus Poole. This acre of land was located on the South side of the Neuse River and on the South side of the Rocky Mount road leading from Raleigh to Smithfield. It joined the land of Dr. John Jones and William Powell. This grant was made to the Methodist Episcopal Church according to the law of the State providing for the security of Church property and further, (quote) "That the trustees here-in named and their successors in office shall permit the preacher or preachers who shall be appointed from time to time by the North Carolina Conference or presiding officers of the said Conference freely to use the said house as a place of Worship for the said Methodist Church".

With this property and a small membership, Ebenezer had its beginning in this community. As soon as the church was fully organized things began to stare her in the face. In the year 1844 the Northern and Southern sentiment was hopelessly divided. This event affected the growth of this Church because many slave holders lived in the community. The following year (1845) the Southern delegates met and organized the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. When this new Church was completed from the standpoint of organization Ebenezer became a part of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

After the formation of the new Church, Ebenezer continued to grow. The Church grew until the question of slavery became such an issue that there was a growing unrest between the North and South. Many of the members moved away and those left were not giving much consideration to the Church. Before war between the States broke out the Quarterly Conference saw fit to discontinue Ebenezer. The benches were taken to Beulah Church near Garner. Mr. Ferrebeau and his slaves came on the ground early one morning to pull down the Church and haul it to his plantation. Mr. Ferrebeau was greeted that morning by Mr. Alpheus Poole and his shot gun. Mr. Poole threatened to shoot the first man that pulled a board from the building. The Church was not torn down. During the Civil War some Yankees set fire to Ebenezer one morning. Mr. Jim Bauch Poole drove them off with his axe and put out the fire.

In the year 1862 or 63 Captain Charles Nichlos Allen moved into this community. He was a staunch Methodist and he wanted to see the Church reorganized. He began to inquire around and found that the benches were over at Beulah Church. He took his team and some of his men and brought the benches back to Ebenezer. He found that there were possibly six members living; Mr. Berry O. Bagwell and wife, Mr. N. B. Bagwell and wife, and Mr. Rance Poole and wife. There may have been others but these are all we know the names of. These few members under leadership of Captain Allen revived Ebenezer. Mr. Allen would go to Raleigh and bring out the preacher on preaching Sundays. Mr. Allen was not satisfied with just reorganizing the Church but wanted to help the community in another way. He realized that other things were affecting the social life of the people. His next plan was to get rid of a liquor still that was located within a stone's throw of the Church. He and the people of the community were able to get rid of this evil.

In the year 1870 the Cary Charge was formed and Ebenezer became a part of that Charge. Under the leadership of Rev. T. B. Reeks, Rev. A. R. Raven, J. J. Harris, B. B. Colberth, J. E. Johnson, W. N. Jordon and others Ebenezer grew in strength and influence. When the preachers were unable to meet their appointments at Ebenezer they had a faithful member in Jack Bagwell, who would always give his time to the Church. Mr. Bagwell would always have prayer meeting at the Church. He was faithful to the Church and attended its services. In the year 1898 the Quarterly Conference elected Mr. J. S. Holder superintendent of the Sunday School. Mr. Holder was superintendent of the Sunday School until his death in 1940 with the exception of a period of two years during which time Mr. G. W. Williams served as superintendent. Mr. Holder had a fine record for during those years he missed less than ten services.

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After the turn of the Century the people felt the need of a larger Church and some improvements. In 1902 the third quarterly conference met at Hollands, August 16. Rev. J. T. Gibbs was the presiding Elder and Rev. A. L. Ormond. The following were appointed on a building committee for Ebenezer: Messrs. J. S. Holder, C. N. Allen, Willie Bailey, Sell Poole, and Sanders Gattis. This group of men drew up plans and decided to remodel the Church. The Church was turned around facing the road in its present position and the pitch of the roof was changed. A new roof was put on and the belfry was built. The Church was enlarged by making it fourteen feet longer. This gave ample room for the attendance.

In 1913 the Garner Charge was formed and Ebenezer became a part of the Garner Charge. Rev. G. W. Fisher was the last pastor to serve this Church from the Cary Charge and Rev. J. H. Buffaloe was the first to serve Ebenezer on the Garner Charge.

In 1916 the Church was not able to take care of the growing Sunday School. Under the leadership of Rev. E. B. Craven plans were made for Sunday School rooms. The rooms were added and some other improvements were added to the Church.

We do not have in our records where a single one of its membership has entered the ministry but we have one that was granted license to exhort. The Quarterly Conference held October 27, 1906 licensed Mr. C. N. Roberts. He held this connection until his death.

The Quarterly Conference held in the Garner Church, April 16, 1926, appointed another building committee. Rev. M. T. Plyler was the Presiding Elder and Rev. W. G. Pratt was the pastor. The following committee was appointed to build a new Church: Rev. W. G. Pratt, W. C. Holder, and John Allen. Before this group could get their plans for a new Church, the people were beginning to feel a change in the business world. Ebenezer felt the depression and they did not build a new Church and the plan was abandoned.

In 1948 the following persons were appointed on a building committee: Messrs. Walter L. Bagwell, M. P. Wall, Mortimer Poole, Herman Williams, Leon Vinson and Eugene Holder. Plans were drawn for a new building to be constructed on the same site. The old building was moved Westward approximately 150 feet in June 1948. The ground was broken on June 28, 1948 for the new building. The last regular Church service in the old building was held on Sunday night, June 12, 1949 with Rev. R. G. L. Edwards as preacher. The first service in the new building was on Sunday, June 26, 1949.

PASTORS OF EBENEZER

There are no records of the pastors prior to 1899.

A. L. Ormond	1899		
J. D. Pegram	1906	E. R. Shuller	1932
G. B. Starling	1903	T. B. Hough	1933
G. W. Starling	1905 & 1922	B. H. Black	1937
J. H. Buffaloe	1914	D. D. Traynham	1940
E. B. Craven	1916	E. B. Craven	1943
M. B. Cox	1919	N. P. Edens	1945
J. G. Johnson	1920	R. G. L. Edwards	1947
J. C. D. Stround	1921	R. E. L. Moser	1950
G. W. Fisher	1924	H. F. Leatherman	1953
W. G. Pratt	1926	H. B. Baum	1959
W. L. Clegg	1928	L. R. Sparrow	1963
B. H. Houston	1931	J. W. Hamilton	1968