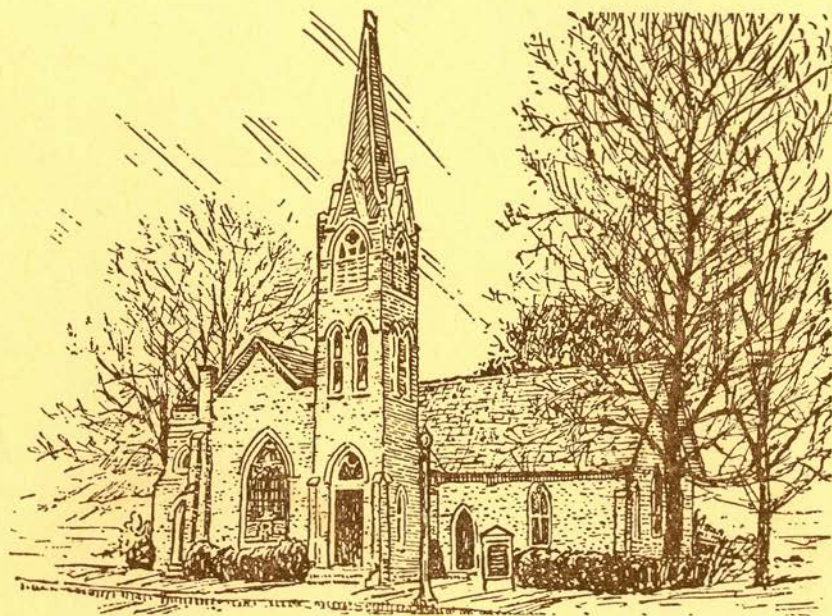


Sesquicentennial Celebration



Edenton Methodist Church

1808 - 1958

EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA, OCTOBER 12, 1958

J. EARL RICHARDSON, MINISTER

EDENTON METHODIST CHURCH

EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA

J. EARL RICHARDSON, MINISTER

SESQUICENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE

OCTOBER 12, 1958

PRESENTATION OF HONORED GUESTS.....	10:30 A. M.
MORNING WORSHIP.....	11:00 A. M.
DINNER	12:15 P. M.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE "Ave Verum".....*Gounod*
The people in devout meditation.

HYMN 162 "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing".....*Glaser*
The people standing.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Minister: Serve the Lord with gladness.

People: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.

Minister: O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

People: He is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Amen.
Here let the people be seated.

INVOCATION *The minister.*

COLLECT *Here let the people unite with the minister in prayer.*

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continued help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM "While the Earth Remaineth".....*Maunder*

RESPONSIVE READING "The House of God," Page 581
*To be led by the Reverend C. Freeman Heath. Here let
the people stand and remain standing until after the Af-
firmation of Faith.*

GLORIA PATRI

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "The Apostle's Creed"

SCRIPTURE LESSON Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21. *To be read
by the Reverend C. Freeman Heath.*

PRAYER *The Reverend H. I. Glass.*

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY SOLO: "The Prayer of the
Norwegian Child"Kountz
Miss Jane DuLaney.

CHORAL DEDICATION OF GIFTS *Here let the people
stand and remain standing until after the hymn.*

HYMN 372 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling".....Zundel

PRESENTATION OF BISHOP PAUL N. GARBER—
The Minister.

SERMON *Bishop Garber.*

HYMN 381 "The Church's One Foundation".....Wesley
The people standing.

BENEDICTION WITH CHORAL RESPONSE

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE "Glory Be to God".....Bach



MRS. MARY LEGGETT BROWNING, *Director of Music*

MRS. J. J. ROSS, *Organist*

History of Edenton Methodist Church 1808 - 1958

*"AND UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH,
AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL
AGAINST IT."*—MATTHEW 16:18.

On Christmas Eve, December 1778, the Venerable Bishop Francis Asbury, pioneer Methodist in America, visited Edenton. His journal, now in the possession of the Duke University Library, reads as follows: "Left Camden early, preached in a Hertford tavern, reached Charles Pettigrew's about six o'clock. Preached in Edenton to a gay, inattentive people. Pleased with Pettigrew, heard him preach and received the Lord's Supper at his hands." Through Bishop Asbury's efforts to establish Methodism Areber Davis was sent to Edenton in 1793, Joseph Moore in 1804 and John Lattimore in 1807.

But it was not until 1808 that missionary zeal accomplished its purpose in Edenton. One of the prominent Presiding Elders of that time was Philip Bruce, a zealous American patriot, an ex-Chaplain of the Revolution, and spoken of in existing records as "an old and faithful servant of God". At his instigation Enoch Jones established the first Methodist Church, or "Society" as it was originally termed, in Edenton, consisting of nine whites and nine blacks.

At this time no house of worship of any denomination was functioning in the small town, but by 1809 the members of the Methodist Society had erected a church, later called Sycamore Chapel, on the corner of Church and Oakum Streets. Here services were held regularly, even when there was no resident minister. The Society was divided into classes, somewhat of the nature of prayer groups, each with its own leader. These classes had assigned times for meeting in the homes of various members during the week.

Membership in the Society was on definite profession of faith, and a candidate was required to serve a probation period before admission to full membership. Probationers or even members were expelled from the group for such things as non-attendance, drinking, gambling, "unseemly conduct", and even in several instances for what the records succinctly refer to as "sufficient cause".

In 1810 Robert Thompson, "a man of ordinary talents, but a pious and humble soul" followed Enoch Jones as leader of the Edenton Society of Methodists. The church register of that date lists thirty white members. During the year "a powerful revival of the work of the Lord broke out in Edenton with people flocking in crowds to the chapel and to prayer services in private homes, often in numbers so great that the houses could not contain them." William Manning was named the first steward of the Edenton church, James Hathaway second, and James Norfleet third. The early leaders of the church deserve more than ordinary attention for their great perseverance and industry and while it is impractical to attempt to list all their names, we feel impelled to add to the above three the names of John G. Hawkins, Henderson Standin, Richard Howett, Thomas Flury and Thomas Crowder, for these were the loyal laymen who laid the foundations of Methodism in Edenton. The Reverend Overton Bernard comments quaintly in his journal concerning these men. Of James Hathaway he says, "He is quite exemplary in his deportment and much devoted to the Lord"; of James Norfleet, "This brother was attached to the profession of Law, said by some not to be favorable to religion, but he contributed liberally from his private funds and was in all ways very serviceable to the church." Concerning Henderson Standin, it was said, "By his godly example and the influence which his standing in society gave him, he was of essential service to the church. When in the discharge of what St. James so justly says is a part of pure religion, 'to visit the sick,' Brother Standin had gone to see Brother Holmes, who lay violently ill of the Epidemic, he was taken with the same disease, was carried home where he only survived a few days. From the fatality of the disease with which Brother Standin was attacked and which many thought was infectious, numbers of his friends

neglected to visit him for fear they might take the disease, but happily for him the Lord was with him, and when all medical aid had failed and only two or three female friends were found to surround the bed of the dying man, he could declare his confidence in the Lord and say 'I shall soon be at rest'. A few minutes after he uttered this expression his happy spirit left the body, and no doubt but that it went to the 'Mansions of Glory'."

The first marriage on record was that of the Reverend Pleasant Thurman to Mary Allen, daughter of Colonel Nathaniel Allen. The ceremony was performed by the Presiding Elder, James Boyd. An interesting side-light on this marriage exists in the account of Pleasant Thurman's request that the church appropriate funds to pay his wife's board, which request was refused; since he had come to the church as a single pastor, the stewards did not feel that they were obligated to support Mrs. Thurman, especially since money was still owed on the Chapel.

The first infant baptized in the Chapel was Elizabeth Mary Flury, daughter of Henry and Patsy Flury; she was christened on March 4, 1811.

In the early days of the Edenton church, preachers came and went regularly, according to the Methodist custom. Some remained six months, some one, or even two, years. The Reverend Henry Holmes was three times assigned to the Edenton Station, married here, and eventually made Edenton his permanent home. Throughout the countryside several mission churches were established, at Skinner, Billups, and Sandy Cross. In 1827 it was resolved that the Meeting House on Virginia Road, built by the industry and zeal of Brother Zachariah Evans, be known henceforth as Evans Meeting House.

In 1838 the Edenton church observed the centenary of Methodism. Special services were held, and a collection of \$110 was received. The donors are listed, and the amounts given range from twenty-five cents to forty dollars, given by "a stranger from Kentucky".

The Quarterly Conference Record for December, 1845 refers to a Sabbath School with two superintendents, fourteen teachers, and a library, which later grew to 500 volumes.

In 1855 a committee was appointed to raise funds for the erection of a new Methodist Church in Edenton. This was accomplished shortly, for by 1857 the new church, a wooden structure, had been erected on Magnolia Street (now Eden Street). The old church, Sycamore Chapel, was turned over to the colored Methodists as a place of worship, and an influential white steward, known as "the Missionary to the colored people", supervised their worship and made regular reports to the Quarterly Conference. In 1866 Sycamore Chapel was leased to the A.M.E. Zion Church, with the stipulation that they keep the fence around the graveyard in good repair. The chapel is said to have burned in the decade around 1890-1900.

From the fall of 1861 to the summer of 1866 the Quarterly Conference Records of the Edenton Church are blank. History tells us that Edenton was occupied by Union Forces early in 1862, and that many of the citizens fled to safer territory. In response to General Beauregard's appeal for bells to be made into cannons, the Methodist bell was donated. It became one of the four cannon of the famous Edenton Bell Battery, and was named the "Fannie Roulhac", after a devout and patriotic churchwoman. In 1866 the church reorganized, and though its ranks were depleted, the members strove to achieve stability and growth.

In 1891 the Epworth League was organized with Mrs. W. M. Bond as president, Mrs. J. R. Cofield, and Mrs. Ida Burton, vice-presidents, Miss Lorena Hathaway, secretary, and Mrs. M. F. Bond, treasurer. These and other persevering women now lent their efforts toward raising money for a proposed new church. They held ice cream saloons, strawberry festivals, and measuring parties. There were mite boxes, cake, apron and rummage sales, and much, much pulled sugar candy. In 1892, a committee composed of the Reverend W. R. Proctor, Theo Ralph, A. L. White, and R. J. Mitchell bought the present site on Main Street. At first the committee considered moving the wooden structure from Magnolia Street, but that was not

deemed advisable, so a new brick structure was planned, "to be a model of elegance and arrangement". In 1895 the new church was ready for use, with the Reverend W. M. Watson in charge. Bishop John C. Kilgo presided over the dedication, using as the text for his sermon the passage from St. Matthew quoted at the beginning of this account.

The first mention of a Methodist Parsonage in Edenton occurs in the records for 1897, and the Reverend L. T. Mann is listed as its occupant. Later a parsonage located on Main Street, less than a block from the church, was purchased. This was sold in 1931 and the present parsonage on Gale Street was acquired. The Ladies Aid Society borrowed the money for this project, and assumed full financial responsibility for the purchase of the home and its furnishings and equipment.

The story of the Church in the last half century has been a record of faithful men and women, lay and clerical, who have loved and served it. Their names are still familiar to many of the present members. Soon after the Methodist Conference of Unification in 1939, changes wrought by union were evident in the Edenton Church. The various women's organizations combined as the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild, and the old Epworth League gave place to the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

By 1945 it was increasingly evident that the Church projects, particularly the Sunday School, had outgrown the facilities provided by the structure of 1895, and the possibilities of an Educational Annex to the church were considered. The actual project of this annex, however, was not undertaken until 1953, and was completed in 1954, giving the church, in addition to the much needed Church School facilities, a modern kitchen, rest rooms, dining area, dressing rooms, nursery and much-needed storage space.

Since the Educational Building was made available, the educational work of the church has expanded in a marked degree. It includes instruction for all age levels, from the very old to the very young. There are now home study opportunities for two groups, the shut-ins and parents of young children who are

unable to get to Sunday School. There are three adult classes, a Youth Department and a Children's Division. A new Junior Fellowship has just been authorized by the Commission on Education.

One of the most active organizations in the Church is the Methodist Men's Club. This group has a supper meeting one night each month. The members devote themselves to many worthwhile projects in behalf of the overall church program, and work carefully to relate the local church to Methodism at large.

The Edenton Methodist Church had one of its cherished desires fulfilled last June when the Quarterly Conference recommended Leonard Lewin for a local preacher's license. Leonard Lewin came to Edenton as a Marine stationed at the local Naval Air Station. A native of Syracuse, N. Y., he found in Edenton a church home where he made his decision to accept the call to the Christian Ministry. As the first candidate from the present generation to be sent out by the Edenton Methodist Church as a ministerial student, Leonard Lewin will be followed in his work by the prayers and interest of the people in his new church home.

In 1813, James Boyd, Presiding Elder of the Borough of Norfolk, wrote a letter of encouragement and admonition to the young church in Edenton, one paragraph of which seems particularly worthy of application to the church which today proudly celebrates its Sesquicentennial:

"Live in peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you. As you have put your hands to the gospel seals, do not look back. You are called Methodists, act a part worthy of that high character. Live like your venerable fathers who have labored, suffered, and died in this glorious cause. Wait before God with humility of heart, and He will be with you. Your souls shall be refreshed and comforted abundantly."

The Edenton Methodist Church is justly proud of its past, but it looks forward, not back. It faces the future with confidence; it is built upon a rock.

PASTORS SERVING EDENTON METHODIST CHURCH
1808 - 1958

Name	Year Appointed	Name	Year Appointed
Enoch Jones.....	1808	C. B. Riddick.....	1857
Robert Thompson.....	1810	William I. Norfleet.....	1858
Pleasant Thurman.....	1811	I. H. Amiss.....	1859
Henry Holmes.....	1812	T. G. Cash.....	1860
Samuel White.....	1815	I. L. Chamberlain.....	1861
Richard Lattimore.....	1816	C. V. Bingley.....	1866
John T. Brame.....	1817	P. F. August.....	1867
Henry Holmes.....	1818	R. A. Compton.....	1869
William H. Starr.....	1819	B. W. Daughtry.....	1870
Thacker Muire.....	1819	James C. Reed.....	1873
Ichoraken Sayne.....	1820	W. H. Gregory.....	1874
Allen R. Bernard.....	1821	W. P. Jordan.....	1875
Henry Holmes.....	1822	B. F. Woodward.....	1876
Edwin Chapman.....	1823	W. G. Bates.....	1880
(Appointed But Never Served)		P. F. August.....	1883
Christopher Thomas.....	1823	J. T. Lumpkin.....	1885
Overton Bernard.....	1824	R. A. Armistead.....	1886
Thacker Muire.....	1825	Ernest Stevens.....	1888
James Morrison.....	1825	W. R. Procter.....	1892
Abraham Harrell.....	1827	J. K. Joliffe.....	1893
Philip Anderson.....	1828	N. M. Watson.....	1894
James Dey.....	1829	J. L. Rumley.....	1896
Thomas Barnum.....	1830	L. T. Mann.....	1897
Irvin Atkinson.....	1831	R. H. Willis.....	1898
Thales McDonald.....	1832	C. L. Reed.....	1902
G. W. Langhorne.....	1833	W. E. Hocutt.....	1904
James McDonald.....	1834	L. P. Howard.....	1905
Thos. V. Hathaway.....	1835	J. W. Potter.....	1907
S. T. Moorman.....	1835	C. S. Bearden.....	1910
W. Closs.....	1836	P. D. Woodall.....	1912
Benjamin B. Miles.....	1837	W. A. Cade.....	1916
John R. Bennett.....	1839	H. I. Glass.....	1918
James Riddick.....	1840	J. V. Knight.....	1922
James D. Coulling.....	1841	W. B. North.....	1926
John Bailey.....	1842	J. A. Guice.....	1930
W. W. Kenneday.....	1843	T. A. Sikes.....	1932
John M. Saunders.....	1845	W. F. Walters.....	1933
Thomas Crowder.....	1847	G. W. Blount.....	1935
Wesley Rohr.....	1848	W. C. Benson.....	1938
W. H. Wheelwright.....	1849	H. F. Surratt.....	1943
Penfield Doll.....	1850	W. L. Freeman.....	1947
Jas. L. Spencer.....	1853	E. B. Edwards.....	1950
T. L. Williams.....	1854	J. Earl Richardson.....	1954
Edward M. Peterson.....	1855		

THE CHOWAN HERALD, EDENTON, N. C.