

*Emmanuel  
United Methodist  
Church*

BURLINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

NOVEMBER 3, 1974

*“. . . it was in my mind to build a house unto  
the name of the Lord my God”  
I Chronicles 22:7*

*“. . .and they shall call his name Emmanuel”  
Matthew 1:23*

**EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

2331 La Vista Drive  
Burlington, North Carolina 27215



Greetings and congratulations to you, members and friends of Emmanuel United Methodist Church. I truly rejoice with you in this your day of celebration. It is always fitting that the people of God give thanks with joy for that which God has accomplished in and through them.

Your church facility is a dream come true, a vision realized, a labor of love which is representative of a faithful people. It represents years of planning, praying, working and waiting. It has cemented into its structure the great heritage brought to it by its people. This heritage of Webb Avenue, Trinity, Webb Avenue-Trinity, has enriched the lives of each in countless ways.

Your faith and courage, which has brought you through merger and building program to this great day, is to be commended. You have found your faith sufficient to venture risk and so have you done with hope.

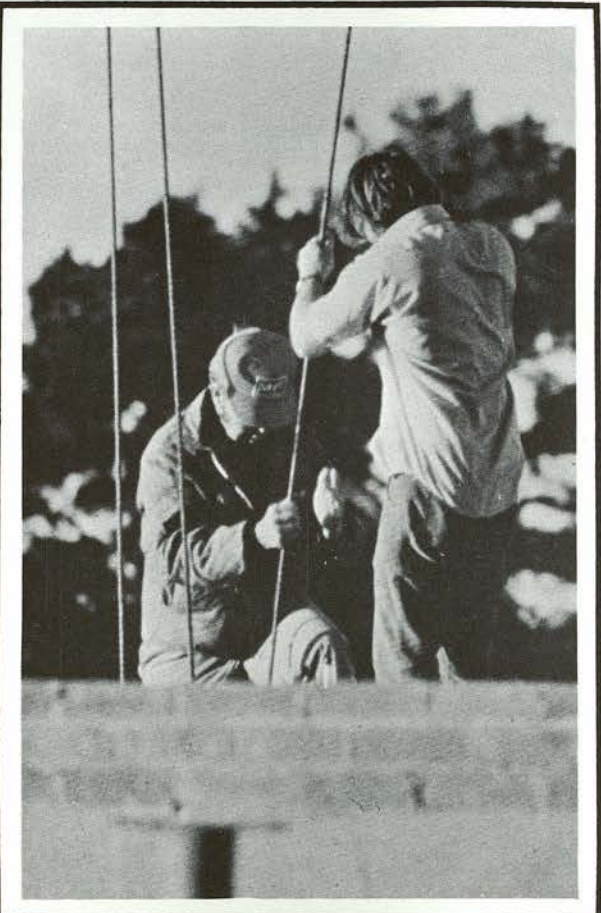
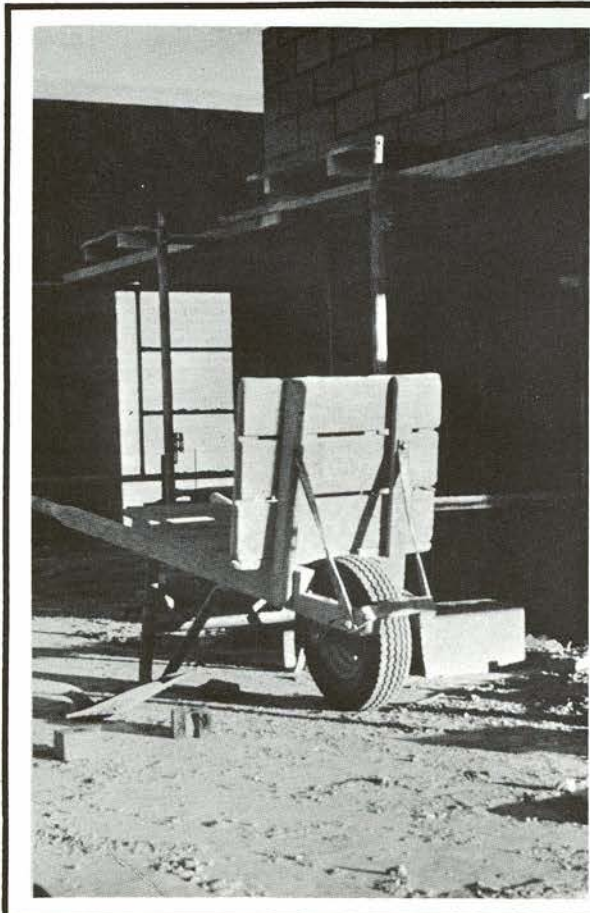
It is with assurance therefore, that you can look toward the future. The foundation upon which you have built and continue to build is Christ. It is an unfailing foundation with room for growth both within and without. I am confident that you shall continue to do the work of the Lord in this, the house you consecrate to him.

Finally, let me thank you for the love and support given to me and my family as we have lived and worked among you. It is a joyful adventure to be with you in your ministry.

Peace and Love,

*George W. Johnson*

George W. Johnson  
Pastor



**EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

2331 La Vista Drive  
Burlington, North Carolina 27215



I want to give thanks to God for the strength and support He has given to me so that I have been able to carry out the task of serving as Building Committee Chairman.

I want to thank the members of this congregation who supported the building program, for without your prayers, giving of tithes and offerings and the sweat of your brows we could not have built this place that we consecrate here today.

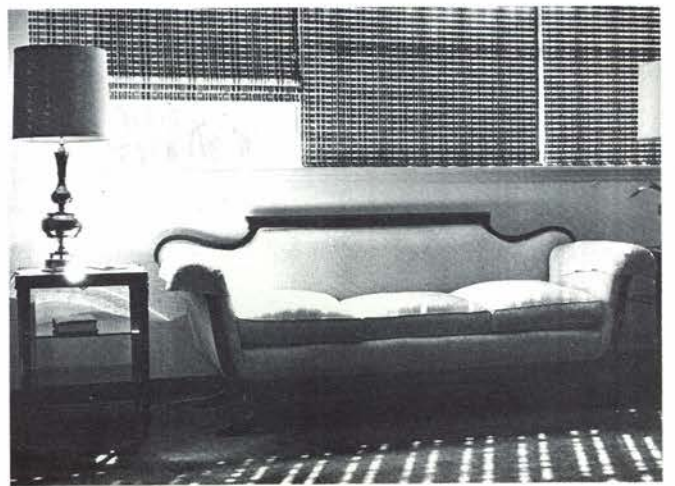
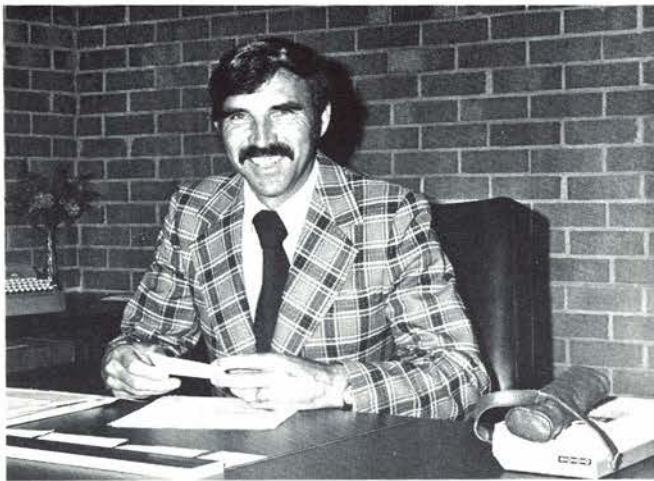
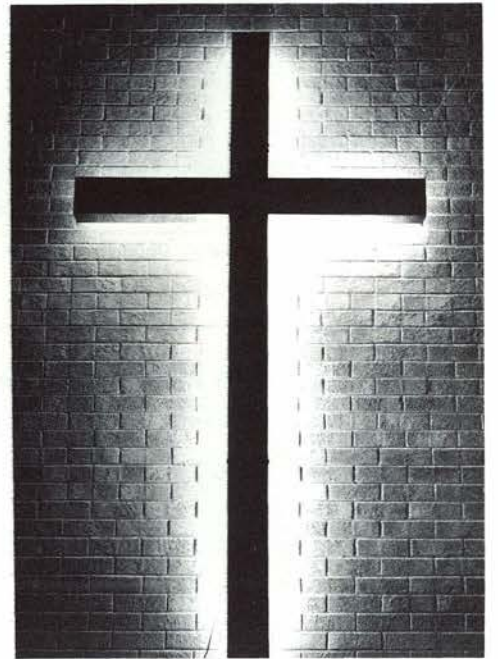
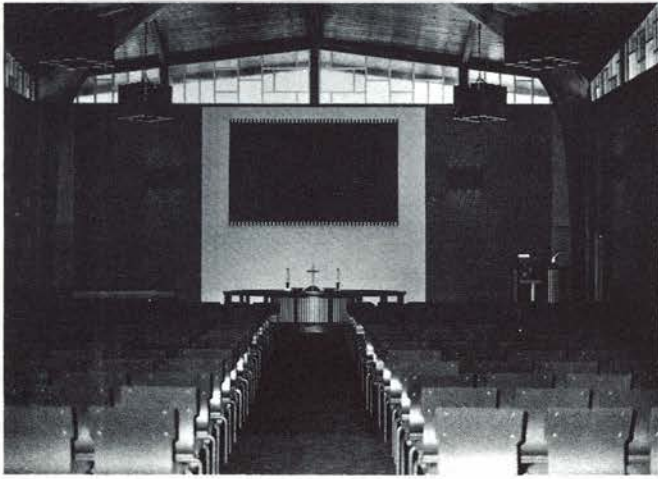
My prayer is that we use this building as a place of service, committing ourselves to mission, remembering that we, and not the building are the church.

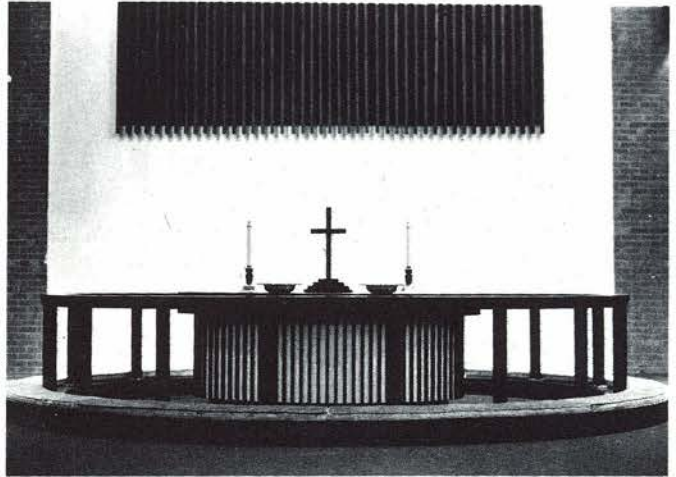
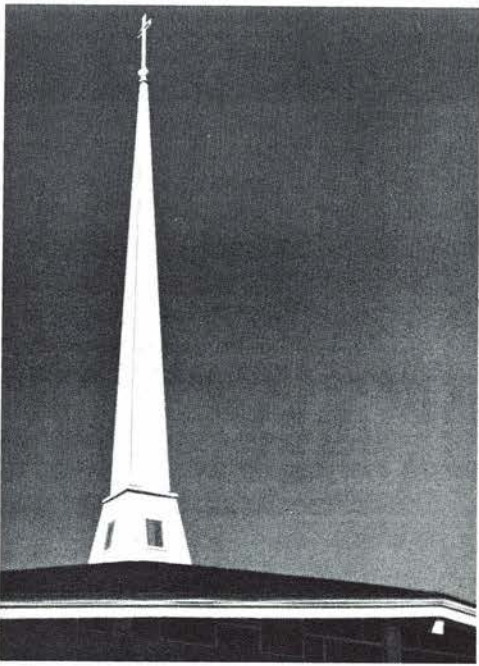
Let us dedicate ourselves now to support the church with our prayers, our presence, our service and our gifts to the program of the church and the bond redemption program.

Your Brother in Christ

*Raymond Pack*

Raymond Pack  
Building Committee Chairman





# *Service Of Consecration*

## ORDER OF SERVICE

NOVEMBER 3, 1974

Seven Thirty O'clock in the Evening

PRELUDE ..... "Now Thank We All Our God" ..... Karg-elert

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 71 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" ..... Holden

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Serve the Lord with Gladness

**Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.**

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

**For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

### INVOCATION

### THE COLLECT

**Blessed be thy name, O Lord, that thou has given to thy servants a holy will and sacred desire, to erect and sanctify to thine own worship this building, which we now open for thine honor and glory. Grant that we, and all who come within these portals, shall ever make right use of it, and that the splendor of thy presence shall be manifest therein, and the hearts of thy people be ever blessed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE ANTHEM ..... "Holy Art Thou" ..... Adult Choir

### \*THE CANTICLE

Arise, shine; for your light has come,

**and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,

**and thick darkness the peoples;**

but the Lord arise upon you,

**and his glory will be seen upon you.**

### \*THE GLORIA PATRI

### \*THE APOSTLES CREED NO. 738 Hymnal

LESSON FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT ..... I Kings 8:22-30

LESSON FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT ..... Romans 12:4-21

PRAYER ..... Dr. N. W. Grant

### THE RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY ..... "Walk With Me" ..... Children's Choir  
Lisa Brown -(Flutest)

### THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION



A SOLO ..... "23rd Psalm" - Malotte ..... Dr. James A. Davis  
 Guest Soloist

INTRODUCTION OF THE BISHOP ..... Dr. N. W. Grant

THE SERMON ..... Bishop Blackburn

PRESENTATION OF THE BUILDING FOR CONSECRATION ..... Dewey Blackman, Lay Leader  
 Raymond Pack, Building Chairman

We present this building to be consecrated to the glory of God and the service of humanity.

By what name shall this church henceforth be known?

It shall be called the Emmanuel United Methodist Church.

In holy reverence, and in confidence that God our Father will accept that which we do in his name, I now declare Emmanuel United Methodist Church to be open for the worship of almighty God; for the preaching of God's Word; for the due administration of the holy Sacraments; for the conversion of sinners, the edification of believers, and the salvation of the world; for nurture in the truth of the Holy Scriptures; for Christian teaching, fellowship, and service, we reverently set apart and consecrate this building; in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

A PRAYER BY THE BISHOP

\*A HYMN No. 20 ..... "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" ..... Riley

\*THE BENEDICTION (sung by congregation to tune of Edelweiss)

**We are all joined in Christ  
 Called by God to live with Him.  
 Joined with Christ . . . and through Christ  
 Praise our Father forever!  
 Honor and glory we give to Him,  
 Give to Him forever;  
 Joined in Christ, and through Christ,  
 Praise our Father forever!**

POSTLUDE ..... "Concerto in A minor" (1st movement) ..... Vivaldi  
 Bach



# *Our Former Ministers*

## **WEBB AVENUE CHURCH**



R. Grady Dawson (1935-1938) • retired in 1968, living in Morehead City, N. C. • began ministry in Rocky Mount at St. Paul in 1926.

C. J. Andrews (1940-1945) • retired 1972, living in Hillsborough, N. C. • pastor at time of dedication of Webb Avenue building • began ministry at Scotts Hill in 1932.



M. W. Maness (1954-1958) • retired 1970, living in Fayetteville, N. C. • began ministry at Kennekeet in 1933.

J. K. Bostick (1958-1962) • currently serving Mt. Sylvan in Durham • began ministry at Marvin in 1945.



Grady L. Kinley (1962-1966) • currently serving Tyrrell in Columbia, N. C. • began ministry at Bladen in 1950.



H. Worth Pearce (1966-1969) • currently serving Union Chapel in Raleigh  
 • led church in study of merger with Trinity • transferred from  
 the Western N. C. Conference in 1957.

## TRINITY CHURCH



R. L. Nicks (1951-1956) • currently serving Ann Street United Methodist  
 in Beaufort, N. C. • first Trinity minister • began ministry on  
 Burlington circuit in 1947.

Norwood Jones (1956-1961) • currently District Superintendent of Eliza-  
 beth City District • began ministry at Southport in 1950.



Gayle T. Alexander (1962-1969) - merger 1969 - 1969-January 1972) • cur-  
 rently Unit Coordinator of Alamance County Mental Health Cen-  
 ter, Burlington, N. C. • transferred from Kentucky in 1950.

## DECEASED MINISTERS

Trinity: Ralph Fowlkes

Webb Ave:

J. A. Dailey  
 B. C. Thompson  
 G. R. Rood  
 G. O. Green  
 W. B. Green  
 C. M. Lance  
 G. D. Langston  
 W. T. Sanford  
 T. G. Vickers  
 M. M. McFarland  
 B. T. Hurley

F. B. Noblitt  
 E. C. Durham  
 R. E. Atkinson  
 E. C. Glenn  
 J. F. Starnes  
 N. E. Coltrane  
 L. V. Harris  
 J. W. Autry  
 Robert L. Jerome  
 O. I. Hinson  
 I. S. Richmond



# *Our Church History 1893-1974*

## **WEBB AVENUE METHODIST**

**I**n 1893, a few Methodists living in East Burlington decided to organize a Sunday School. Led by Mr. Daniel Humble and his three sons, John, Bynum, and Hiliary, a Sunday School was started in Floral Hall on the old fairground site. It is interesting to note that all three of these Humble boys became Methodist preachers in the North Carolina Annual Conference.

On a site donated by Mr. George W. Anthony, a member of Front Street Methodist Church, the people built a modest "chapel" one block from the present site of Webb Avenue Church. To this chapel, Rev. J. A. Dailey came as the first pastor in 1895. He remained as pastor for four years, while preaching also at Haw River and Graham.

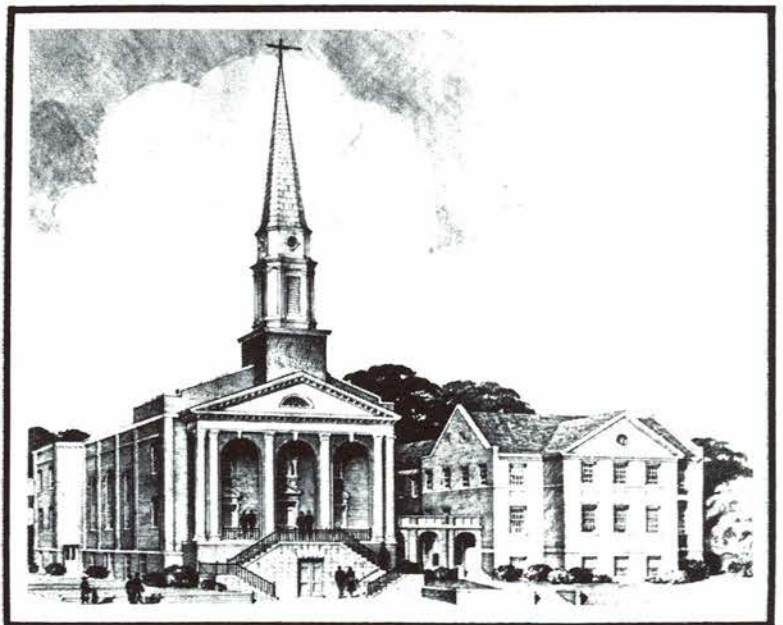
In 1899, Rev. B. C. Thompson became pastor and stayed one year. In 1900 the name of the charge was changed to East Burlington, Graham and Haw River. Rev. Thompson was succeeded by G. R. Rood. The next year, Rev. G. O. Green came to serve the church and died before the year was out. His brother W. B. Green of Graham, a local pastor, supplied for over a year. In 1903 Rev. C. M. Lance came and spent two years on the charge and was succeeded by Rev. G. D. Langston who spent only one year on the circuit. Next Rev. W. T. Sanford was sent to the charge for two years and in 1908 Rev. T. G. Vickers came and remained for two years. Most of these pastors lived in Graham while preaching at East Burlington Church.

In 1910 the church was placed in the North Alamance Circuit which was being served by Rev. M. M. McFarland, who died during the year. He was succeeded by Rev. B. T. Hurley who remained for one year. During the pastorate of Rev. F. B. Noblitt (1911-1912) the church was moved from the original site to its present location. A lot was bought,

and funds were collected for a new church building. The work progressed slowly.

In 1914 while serving the Mebane circuit, Rev. E. C. Durham preached at East Burlington. In 1915 East Burlington became a station, and Rev. R. E. Atkinson was the pastor for two years. He was followed by Rev. E. C. Glenn, for two years, Rev. J. F. Starnes for two years, and Rev. N. E. Coltrane for two years.

During Rev. Coltrane's second year the station was changed to Webb Avenue. In 1923, however, the church went back with Graham and Haw River. Rev. L. V. Harris was made pastor of Webb Avenue Church which again became a station. Rev. J. W. Autry was pastor for two years, and in 1927 the church was placed with West Burlington and served by Rev. E. C. Durham in his second pastorate at the church. During this year the present church building was finished as far as funds would permit. Rev. Durham served only the Webb Avenue Church his second and third years. Rev. E. G. Overton served the church for one year, and was succeeded by Rev. Robert L. Jerome who came in 1931. At this time Webb Avenue and Haw River were served as a charge. Rev. Jerome served the charge for four years. He was a great worker with the young people, and the first Boy Scout Troop at Webb Avenue was organized under his leadership. He was followed by Rev. R. Grady Dawson in 1935. He served Webb Avenue and Haw River for three years. Many members were added to Webb Avenue Church during his years of ministering. Rev. O. I. Hinson followed Rev. Dawson in 1938. He stayed for two years, at which time Haw River church was withdrawn from the charge and Fountain Place was added to it. Rev. C. J. Andrews came to serve the charge, succeeding Rev. Hinson in 1940. He served for five years. During his service as pastor, Webb Avenue Church again became a station church and has been since that time. The church was dedicated during the pastorate of Rev. Andrews on September 13, 1942.





Rev. I. S. Richmond followed Rev. Andrews and served Webb Avenue for nine years. This was an honor both for the pastor and the church. During his pastorate, many outstanding things were accomplished. A pipe organ was given by Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Griffin and family. It was installed and dedicated in 1947. Beautiful stained glass windows were given by members and families in honor and in memory of various members of the church. They were installed and dedicated in 1948. The floor covering of asphalt tile in the basement was given in honor of Miss **Blennie Way**, who served for many years as superintendent of the Children's Department. During Rev. Richmond's ministry a large number of members were added and a building fund for an educational building was started to accommodate the increased number of members.

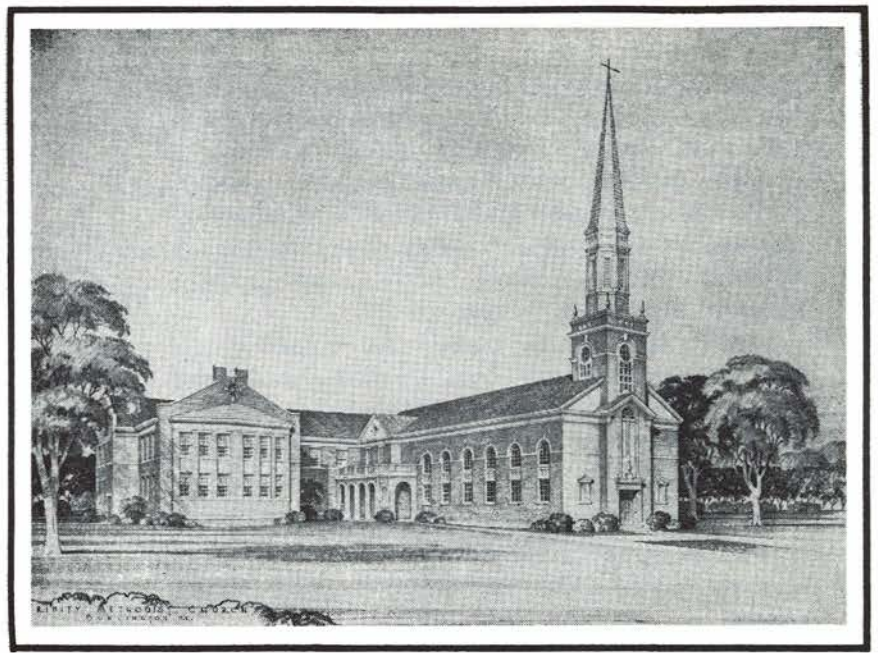
It was at the beginning of the Conference Year 1954 that Rev. M. W. Maness came to serve as pastor for four years. During the last years of his service, the educational building was started. It was completed in the fall of 1957.

Mr. Maness was followed by J. K. Bostick, who served the church for four years ending his term here in 1962.

In 1962 Grady L. Kinley came as pastor and continued his ministry here until the summer of 1966.

H. Worth Pearce was appointed to the Webb Avenue Church in 1966 and served the church until the first of June, 1969. During his ministry he led the church in its study of the advisability of merger with the Trinity United Methodist Church and continued to work with them until the merger was consummated following Annual Conference in June of 1969. His leadership during this important decision making time in the life of the church was outstanding.

At Annual Conference, 1969, the church formally became the Webb Avenue-Trinity United Methodist Church with the Rev. Gayle T. Alexander being appointed as its pastor. To the above history should be added the names of four Duke Divinity School students who rendered useful

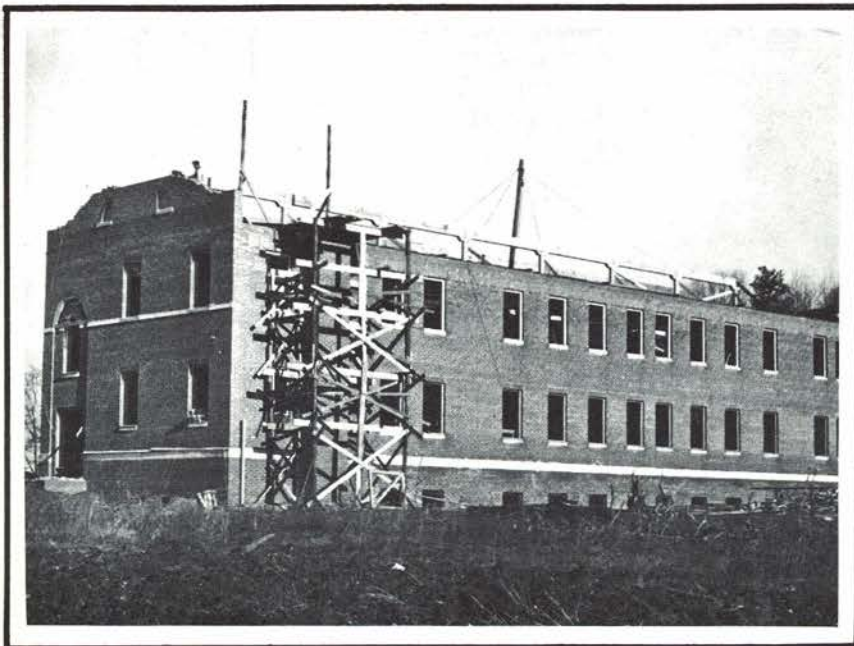


service to the church while serving as Youth Directors-Russell Montfort, Earl Crow, Don Welch and Joe Morris.

Also, Webb Avenue Church was fortunate to have as its Organist and Choir Director for nine years (1949-1958), Mrs. E. Leonidas Smith.

## TRINITY METHODIST

**T**he birth of any church is preceded by enthusiastic concern, hard work, and much prayer. Those people instrumental in the birth of Trinity Church were O. L. Hathaway, minister of Graham Methodist Church, I. S. Richmond, minister of Webb Avenue Methodist, and Dr. E. L. Hillman, District Superintendent of the Durham District.



A survey was made in the area surrounding the Maple Avenue-Harden Street intersection showing 356 Methodists, 127 persons with no church affiliation and 968 belonging to other churches. With this background information, Trinity United Methodist Church of Burlington became an appointment at the Annual Conference in Wilmington in November, 1951, with Bishop Paul N. Garber appointing Robert L. Nicks as the first minister.

Within a few weeks the Durham District Board of Missions and Church Extension, and the Methodist Churches of the Burlington and Graham area bought and paid for a two-acre tract of land, located close to the intersection of Highways 54 and 49.

The first service was held in January, 1952, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Holt, 1906 Maple Avenue. It was a mid-week prayer service and there were twenty-seven persons present.

The original structure was a frame building partially donated by Front Street Methodist Church. From the beginning this building was called "The Hut". The first official service was held at Trinity Methodist Church on February 10, 1952.

In April, 1952, Trinity Methodist Church was officially organized with 136 charter members. At the charter service the property, which was to be the site of the new church, was deeded to the Trustees of the church and their successors by the Durham District Board of Missions and Church Extension.

Soon afterward the church began giving consideration to the construction of a permanent plant to house the congregation. Mr. R. R. Markley was employed as the consulting architect. The Quarterly Conference, authorized by Dr. E. L. Hillman, approved preliminary plans for the educational building. The basement was to provide a temporary sanctuary and a permanent fellowship hall for the church. Plans called for an expenditure of \$65,000.00

On July 8, 1953, groundbreaking services were held for the construction of the educational building. Mr. John Wood, was hired as construction foreman and the building became a reality. At the end of this year there were 182 members, a church school membership of 216 and the church had raised \$35,000.00 on its building fund. The church was moving ahead by leaps and bounds. However, by the time the sanctuary (fellowship hall) and classrooms were ready for use, it was found that the building cost had doubled over the original estimate of \$65,000.00. On Easter Sunday, April 18, 1954, the new building was opened for services.

It was realized that a parsonage was needed and in March, 1955, the Trustees were authorized to purchase a parsonage for the church. A frame building of thirteen rooms and two unfinished rooms was purchased on 243 Harden Street.

By the end of the year 1955 the membership had grown to 234 with a church school membership of 214.

The Rev. Robert Nicks was followed by the Rev. Norwood Jones, who served the church for five years; he was followed by the Rev. Ralph Fowlkes, who served the church for one year. The Rev. Gayle T. Alexander came to serve the church in 1962 and served as Trinity's Pastor until



a merger with Webb Avenue in 1969. Under his leadership the church grew spiritually and knew some of its best years in attendance, finances and concern for others.

In the summer of 1968 the church was approached by a business concern as to the availability of the church property for a proposed shopping center. This was discussed and the Official Board and congregation voted to give the I-85 Investors an option on the property. In Nov. 1968, the corporation exercised their option and paid the Trinity congregation \$200,000.00 for the property plus the option money. The church then purchased a six-acre tract of land on LaVista Drive and began to make plans for the building of a new plant.

Upon sale of the church property, the Trinity congregation began discussions concerning the disposition of the church building which had been given to them by the I-85 investors. They voted to move it to the new site on La Vista Drive by Widenhouse Movers. It was placed on a new foundation there on August 14, 1969. It was decided that it was to be used for service to the community and service wherever there was a human need.

Mr. Walter Burgess of Raleigh was consulted as a prospective architect and worked with the church for several months. Due to his failing health he could not continue with the work and Mr. Robert Connors of High Point was employed as the architect. Many meetings were held in the various areas of work and a document of ideas was presented to the architect. Then he began work on the new plant plans.

## THE MERGER

**I**n the meantime a suggestion was made that perhaps a nearby church, Webb. Ave., might possibly want to merge with the Trinity congregation since they had no room at their present site for growth. This was discussed by the pastors, Rev. Gayle T. Alexander and Rev. H. Worth Pearce. Then some laymen were called in and it was presented to Dr. Fisher, District Superintendent, for approval. After his approval, it was brought back to the respective Official Boards and congregations for final acceptance. At congregational meetings, the Webb Avenue congregation voted in favor of the merger with only a few dissenting votes; the Trinity congregation voted in favor of the merger with no dissenting votes.

From this point on many meetings were held with officials working out the details of the merger. On June 1, 1969, the two church schools were merged with a worship service for the Trinity congregation at 8:45 A.M. and the worship for the Webb congregation at 11:00 A.M. On June 8, 1969, following the annual conference the churches were officially merged and continued from then on as one church. The Rev. Gayle T. Alexander was appointed as the minister of the merged congregation and the Rev. H. Worth Pearce was assigned to a New Bern appointment.

The first year many adjustments had to be made in the Webb Avenue membership roll since it had not been brought up-to-date in several years. After this work was completed there were 759 members in the newly merged Webb Avenue-Trinity United Methodist Church. Two

hundred eighty from the Trinity congregation and four hundred seventy-nine from the Webb congregation.

The congregation continued their work on plans for a new plant and the architect worked with them during the year 1969.

In February of 1972, Rev. Gayle Alexander left the church on special appointment and was replaced by Rev. George Johnson of Faith United Methodist Church in Burlington. Rev. Johnson led the merged congregation through the final phases of preparation for beginning the new building. In 1973, ground was broken on the La Vista Drive site to mark the beginning of construction. The new building was begun in July 1973 and was completed for occupancy in July 1974. The first worship service was held July 7, 1974. Five days later, a fire was started in straw stacked on the north side of the sanctuary. Extensive fire and smoke damage was done. A major effort by members of the congregation and community was made during the following summer months to return the newly completed structure to its former condition.

After much prayer and deliberation, the name Emmanuel, meaning "God with us" was given to the new truly united congregation.

## **Facts About Emmanuel United Methodist Church**

**Approx. 20,000 sq. feet floor space**  
**600 seat modular sanctuary • Approx. 1000 seat sanctuary - fellowship hall**  
**Kitchen • Choir room • Minister's study • Church office**  
**21 classrooms • Library • Lounge with kitchenette and restroom**  
**Prayer room • Sacristy • Covered walkway and semi-enclosed courtyard**  
**Covered loading-unloading drive**  
**Electric hot air heat and air conditioning**  
**Licensed day care center • Situated on 6½ acre site**  
**Fully carpeted • Three manual Rogers organ**



