

Epworth United Methodist
408 Willard St.
Wilmington, NC 28401

Bladen Street United Methodist Church was organized in January 1887 with C.W. Godwin pastor and 38 members. The church started from prayer meetings held in the home of J.G. Darden on the corner of 7th and Harnett Streets beginning the last week in November 1885. This continued to be held there every Thursday night until March 1886 when they moved in a store building across the street from the Darden home. They remained there until 1887. Under the leadership of Rev. C.W. Godwin between 1887 and 1913 the first building was built facing Bladen Street. The first service was held Easter Sunday, March 23rd with Rev. W.L. Rexford as pastor.

In 1920, the sanctuary facing 5th Avenue was completed and paid for. When Bishop Darlenton asked "What shall the name of this church be?", the pastor Rev. E.C. Sell stood and said the name of this church shall be "Epworth Methodist."

The Rev. J.A. Snow followed Rev. Sell. Then C.N. Phillips from 1925 until 1930.

Rev. H.L. Davis – 1930-1934
Rev. O.L. Hathaway – 1934-1938
Rev. W.R. Stevens – 1938-1940
Rev. Walter Pavey just a few months
Rev. Christian White – 1948-1952

During this time, the lots at 5th and Willard were purchased for a new church. Rev. E.H. Smotherman – 1952-1956. During this time, the church at 5th and Bladen was sold and services were held in the Education Building of Immanuel Presbyterian Church. On March 6, 1955, the first service was held in the new church. Rev. Virgil Queen, the District Superintendent, delivered the message.

Rev. P.C. Browning – 1956
Rev. Jack Newsome – 1956-1960
Rev. R.C. Hamilton – 1960-1961
Rev. Paul Callahan – just part of 1961
Rev. C.G. King – 1961-1963
Rev. Shackelford – a short time
Rev. Bruce Garner – 1964-1971
Rev. Paul Granger – 1971-1974
Rev. T.M. Mason – 1974-1978
Rev. Arthur Wesley – January 1, 1978 to June, 1978
Rev. Charles Hause – 1978 – 1982
Christopher Adylett is the present pastor.

Prepared by Vivian Lockamy - 1982