

A HISTORY OF THE EUREKA METHODIST CHURCH

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A dream became a reality to many interested and devout people when in 1880 the Eureka Church had its beginning near the present site. Reverend N. W. Journey and Reverend W. H. Call served as circuit rider preachers prior to the erection of the present building.

The church now known as the Eureka Methodist Church was erected in 1884. The land for the site was donated by W. Absalom Sauls. Rev. R. C. Beamon was the pastor of the new church, and for a time the church was known as Beamon's Chapel, but later changed to its present name Eureka Methodist Church.

The late R. C. Beamon was pastor of the Fremont Circuit and was removed from Fremont to Eureka, it being the center of charge at that time. He resided in the homes of W. A. Martin and H. J. Sauls during his stay.

Mr. Beamon became very much interested in building this church which now stands as a "Living Memorial" to him. The stewards and interested people were responsive and eager to push forward in making this building possible. It is said that Mr. Beamon had the old, the middle aged, and the young men and women busy at work. Even to day in the twentieth century, every one fully appreciates the skill displayed in the architecture of the interior of the sanctuary. It is superior, for certainly near perfection was attained in the intricate designing. The effect has been pleasing to all, for every one admires it.

At present the structure of the building has undergone some physical changes. A modern educational building with a furnace has been added to the sanctuary. This was done in 1940 during the pastorate of Rev. C. W. Robbins.

In the construction of every building, there are pillars. Credit should be given especially to these people who no longer survive for

their outstanding work in promoting the construction of the Eureka Methodist Church. I'm sure there are others but these names are available as doing outstanding service. Namely, W. A. Martin, Robert Yelverton, H. J. Sauls, N. D. Minshew. L. D. Minshew and R. D. S. Becton. There were others of course who gave liberally for the cause.

Thus far the church has had 33 pastors.

Date unknown.	N. W. Journey	1926-1927	H. B. Strickland
1882-1883	W. H. Call	1928-1929	R. E. Pittman
1884-1887	R. C. Beamon	1930-1933	K. F. Duvall
1888-1889	J. W. Crowson	1934-1937	E. R. Shuler
1890-1893	W. W. Rose	1938-1941	C. W. Robbins
1894-1895	W. W. Puckett	1942-1944	B. P. Robinson
1896-1899	C. P. Jerome	1945-1947	C. W. Williams
1900-1901	T. B. McCall	1947-1948	L. C. Varen
1901-1902	T. J. Dailey	1948-1949	J. D. Cranford
1903-1906	D. L. Earnheart	1949-1953	W. E. Howard
1907-1908	Charles Taylor	1953-1954	David Lewis
1908-1908	Bridges	1954-1956	C. H. Beale
1909-1910	B. H. Black	1956-1958	James Snipes
1911-1914	R. R. Grant	1958-1960	R. A. McLean
1915-1918	J. L. Rumley	1960-1963	J. J. Juren
1919-1921	W. T. Phipps	1963-	H. F. Crawley
1922-1925	A. Dailey		

Many of these pastors have contributed much to the spiritual life of the church and community. Some have departed this life but still have living memories which linger with many who gained spiritual inspiration from them. Such a one was J. C. Williams who died while Eureka was a member of the Fremont Charge. In 1954 Eureka and Yelverton became a charge building a parsonage at Eureka. Rev. and Mrs. C. H. Beale were the first

family to reside in the parsonage.

The Sunday School has had many able Christian gentlemen to serve as its superintendents. Mr. H. J. Sauls served for nine years, and following his death he was succeeded by W. A. Martin and Fred E. Sauls. Mr. Perry Coley served two years and was succeeded by Jessie Becton. All of the above superintendents are deceased. Following Jessie Becton, Wiley Sauls, Henry J. Sauls. Bernice Davis and Joe Chase have been superintendents. Joe Chase is at present superintendent and Aaron Sauls is assistant superintendent.

Mr. E. G. Oglesby, presiding Elder organized the Missionary Society in the year 1889. officers were Mrs. Hiram Best, President, Miss Lily Edmundson, Recording Secretary, Mrs. Mary Exum Treasurer. After the first Officers the following were presidents of the Society.

Mrs. Minnie M. Yelverton 17 years	Mrs. Selby Yelverton
Mrs. Nora Davis	Mrs. Paul Mooring
Mrs. G. E. Yelverton	Mrs. Joe Chase
Mrs. Wiley Sauls	
Mrs. Marvin Bogue	
Mrs. John B. Chase	
Mrs. Sam Martin	
Mrs. Freeman Pelt	

Mrs. Missouri Yelverton received a certificate of Life Membership in the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, Methodist Episcopal Church South September 19, 1905.

In 1940 when the organization was changed to the Womans Division of Christian Service, there were 35 charter members. The officers for the new organization were, President-Mrs. John B. Chase. Vice President Mrs. Carl Becton. Recording Secretary Mrs. Will Becton. Treasurer Mrs. T. E. Yelverton.

Soon after the new adoption of the W. S. C. S. the organization expanded and during Mrs. Marvin Bogues presidency the Mary Yelverton and the Bessie Howard Circles were organized. Many of the ladies have held district officies. Mrs. John B. Chase was distrist president six years and was awarded the distinction of Life Honorary Patron. Others who have held district positions are Mrs. Charles Davis Sr. Mrs. Wiley Sauls, and Miss Virginia Sauls.

Since 1950 the church has undergone many changes, making it more beautiful, more worshipful, and more convenient. In 1950 a pulpit was given in memory of Samuel J. Martin. In 1955 a baptismal font was given in memory of Mr. N. D. Minshew and Susan Overman Minshew. In 1960 a kitchen was built and furnished and rest rooms added. In 1962 the following memorials were given. The chimes that we now enjoy so much were given in memory of Mr. John B. Chase, the bell in memory of Mrs. Evelyn Sauls Bogue, and the public address system in memory of Mrs. Mary Jones Yelverton. In 1964-65 the sanctuary and educational plant both were renovated. New pews were installed and a bulletin board was built in the front church yard in memory of the deceased members.

Through the years of the church, the young people have been active and have made many contributions to its program. The Eureka Church to day is much revered by its present and past membership. Every one takes pride in the church, It remains a church with a warm heart and a spirit of friendliness.