

Falling Creek Methodist Church
Route 1, Goldsboro, N.C. 27530

The church was organized in 1874. There had been Methodist in the community prior to this date. They held meetings in their homes, or where ever they could, when a visiting minister came into this section. One of these was the Rev. John Andrews, who held a revival in 1870, in the old school house across the road, where the church is located. His sermons were so spirit filled that many were inspired to join the Methodist and organize a church. In 1877 a building site was donated by Mrl Hiram Grantham and wife Abrigail. By the efforts of their family, the Cox's the Hood's, the Bridger's the McCullens and several others, the church was built on this hill, among a lovely setting of long leaf pines. The same spot our church stands today. The first trustees were Dr. John B. Kennedy, John R. Hood, Sr. David A. Grantham, Richard A. Cox and Solomon P. Hood.

The first church was built right after the civil war. No one had very much money. Those who did contributed for the material that had to be bought. Others gave timber and their labor. When completed, it was dedicated to the glory of God. The group who gathered for worship were very thankful and grateful. For many years the church services were held on the first Sunday in each month. The Baptist across the way, were on the third Sunday. Each congregation made it a point to go to each other's church on preaching Sundays. The first pastor was probably Dr. J. R. Finley, who was preaching at Providence Methodist Church at that time, however this could not be verified.

The Sunday School was organized before the first church was built. The people met in an oak grove, at a store, on the old Kirkpatrick place. This was just across the road from Mrs. M. A. Pennington's home place. This was sometime around 1865 and was organized by Methodist who had moved in the community. Among them were Mrs. N. B. Stevens and Capt. Bridgers' wife.

This first church was used as they built it in 1887 until 1910. Under the direction of Mr. M. E. Cox, it was remodeled in the interior and a pulpit and vestibule added. Mr. Cox was the father of Mr. Haywood Cox our beloved Superintendent of Sunday School for twenty nine years. There are no records of the early Superintendents until Mr. Charlie Taylor followed by Mr. Lewis Gainey, Ex-Sheriff E. A. Stevens, R. A. Cox, Billy McCullen, Jean Hood, Jerry Grantham, Ralph Pennington, and now our present, dedicated Superintendent Mr. Albert Perkins.

The old building was torn down in 1934 and our present structure begun. For a long time Mr. M. A. Stevens, Sr. and Mr. M. E. Cox, who were now patriarchs of the church, encouraged the youth leadership to begin making plans and working for this goal. Mr. Matt R. McCullen was elected chairman of the building committee, with the aid of Mr. Mangum Brock (Gurney Laws' Uncle) Joe M. Grantham, Sr. and R. H. Cox. Mrs. Eliza Stevens Cox was Secretary and Treasurer of the Building Fund.

The new building was constructed for approximately six thousand five hundred dollars, with Duke endowment fund contributing Onethousand and five hundred dollars. The church was dedicated the first Sunday in October 1935. Our pastor the Rev. E. R. Clegg was in charge of the program. The morning service was by Prof. J.M. Ormond of the Duke Divinity School. At three o'clock Bishop Paul Kern preached the dedication sermon. We were honored to have him. The first sermon was preached in it, July 7, 1935. The building consisted of our present sanctuary, five Sunday School rooms and a basement, we were justly proud of our church.

For many years Falling Creek was on the Mt. Olive circuit. From 1880 to 1951. This was a six point charge. It consisted of the following churches: Smith's Chapel, Rènes, Brownings, Bethel, Providence and Falling Creek. Our Parsonage was located in Mt. Olive. It was built in 1899. Rev. J. M. Carraway was the first pastor to occupy it. In 1952 we were put on a four point charge called the Wayne Circuit. This included Providence, Elm St., a new Bethel near Green County line and our church. Rev. Daniel Shores, Jr. was our pastor and lived in the Parsonage at Elm Street Goldsboro. The charge was devided again in 1954, with Providenc and Falling Creek forming a unit. Rev. Tommy Tyson was our Pastor. The two churches built and furnished a parsonage on Highway 102 (now 13). However in 1960 Providence went full time and we were again with Elm St. We are now a two church charge.

In 1957 we had our first church "Homecoming." Sudie Cox gave the welcome and Mr. Gurney P. Hood of Raleigh responded with a short talk, edifying our church. Many friends and former members attended. The love offering was such as to inspire us to plan building a recreation room, additional classrooms, kitchen and bathroom facilities. This has been accomplished at the cost of twenty eight thousand dollars.

In 1963 Mrs. Katherine Jackson established a nice library in the pastors study here in memory of her mother, Mrs. Annie Sprinkle. At Homecoming in 1964, Miss Sudie Cox presented a wonderful gift to the church, a lovely organ. The same year Rev. Jean Hood and wife gave the cross with candle holders to match, in memory of Elizabeth's mother, Mrs. Lela Cox. The rugs were placed in the sanctuary in memory of Mrs. Eliza Stevens Cox, by Mrs. E. A. Stevens, daughters and others. *Mr. F. M. Goodman presented the choir seats to the church.*

mbec
-choir
In 1965 Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Warrick deeded half an acre of land on the road front, from the church boundaries to the swamp. There have been many many more memorial gifts. For all gifts we are humbly gratefu..

This is April 1966 and we have come to the close of our sketch. Rev. Geogge E. King is our beloved pastor and has been for the last four years. He too, is a spirit filled man as was Mr. Andrews of 1870 who organized our church.

There are so many interesting things that have happened in our church history that have not been recorded, that we wish we had known and could relate. We wish we could have put into it all the prayers of love and devotion, the efforts of dedication and consecration, of the lives of the Christians who have passed through its portals. God bless their memory and help each of us who are here, now to strive to bring others to Jesus and a better way of life. Our church will grow and we will grow in grace as we grow in age. "For thine, Dear Lord is the Kingdom and Power and Glory forever more". Selah.

(By Stella B. Stevens -)

Mrs. D. Edgar Stevens
Mr. R. H. Cox
Mrs. E. A. Stevens

Pastors

Unknown from 1877

Mount Olive Circuit-Five and six point charge.

J. T. Abernathy	1887-3	years
M. H. Tuttle	1891-1	"
N. M. Journey	1893-4	"
W. M. McFarland	1897-1	"
J. G. Johnson	1898-1	"
J. T. Bagwell	1899-1	"
J. M. Carraway	1900-4	"
F. E. Dixon	1904-1	"
B. F. Deloach	1905-1	"
Peter Greening	1906-3	"
R. F. Taylor	1909-2	"
J. J. Boone	1911-1	"
W. H. Piland	1912-2	"
F. B. McCall	1914-2	"
R. E. Pittman	1916-4	"
W. T. Craven	1920-2	"
R. E. Atkinson	1922-1	"
K. S. Cook	1923-1	"
H. C. Erving	1924-1	"
R. E. Pittman	1925-2	"
E. N. Harrison	1927-4	"
E. R. Clegg	1931-4	"
W. C. Benson	1935-3	"
J. L. Joyce	1938-3	"
W. E. Howard	1942-4	"
H. A. Chester	1946-2	"
W. C. Wilson	1948-4	"

Goldsboro Circuit

<i>Yanick</i> W. M. Schores, Jr.	1952-2	years
Tommy Tyson	1954-1	"
N. B. Hill, Jr.	1955-2	"
J. E. Mahoney	1957-1	"
Gordon Allen	1958-3	"
Wesley Noble	1961-1	"
George E. King	1962-4	"

Brogden- Falling Creek Charge

Virgil Moore	1966-68
Clarence Mason	1968-3-14-70 (Date of Death)
R.E.Walston (Ret)	Mar.70 - June 70
Thomas House	1970-74
Hillard Bryant	1974-1976
Henry G. Jinnette	1976-1980
Walter Gaskins	1980-1983
Otto Hardt	1983 to Date