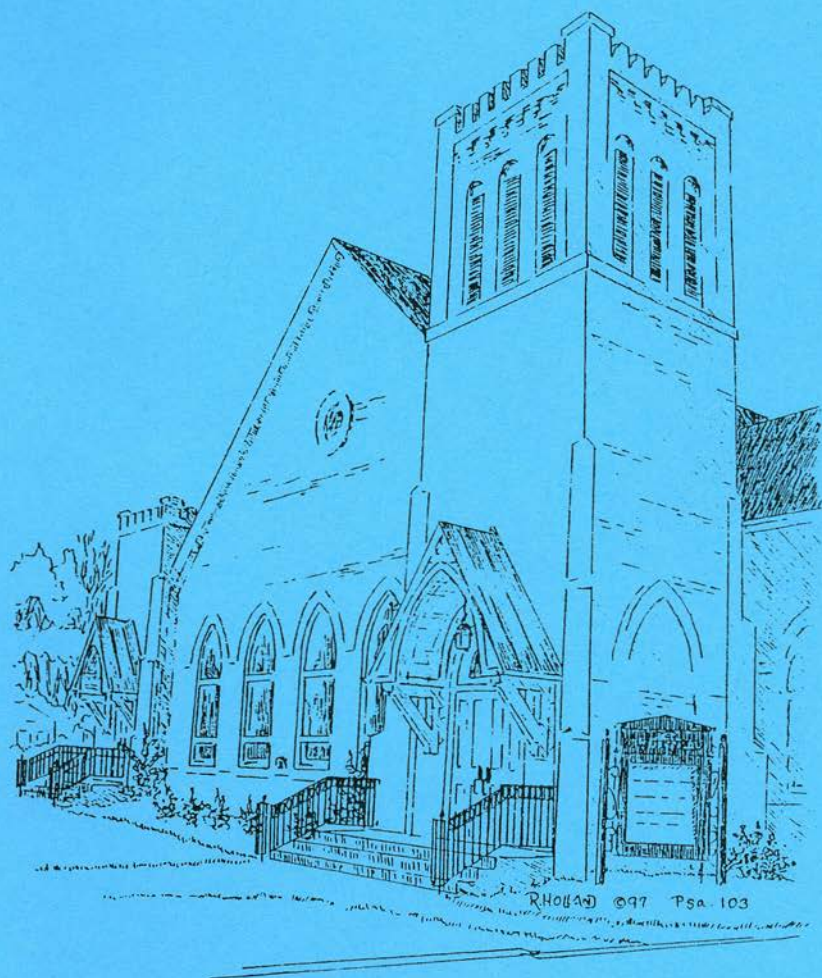


First United Methodist Church

*208 Sampson Street
Clinton, North Carolina*



1854 - 2004

Special thanks to

Ruth Grigg Holland

for the artwork

on the cover



Mrs. Isaiah (Grace Crumpler) Vann

DEDICATION

It is with much appreciation that we acknowledge the work of Mrs. Isaiah (Grace) Vann, the daughter of the late Reverend A. B. Crumpler, (a former member of the North Carolina Conference) and dedicate to her memory these efforts to bring to the present the history of Clinton First United Methodist Church.

In 1954, as part of the centennial celebration of the building of the Clinton Methodist Church, Grace Vann took the initiative to research and bring together in one written booklet the early history of Clinton First Methodist Church. Again in 1979, she updated her history as part of the church's one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary celebration. Without her efforts, much of the beginnings of Methodism in Clinton would have been lost as early historical records of our church have either been lost, burned or discarded.

Doris Register Thornton, Church Historian, assisted by Kay Williams Raynor and Betty Gene Caison Best, has tried to incorporate Mrs. Grace's efforts with later happenings to make members more aware of their heritage as a part of the First Homecoming Celebration on April 27, 1997.

CLINTON
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1854-1997

BEGINNINGS

First United Methodist Church did not arrive full-fledged and in complete working order but is the culmination of the efforts of people working together over a long period of time. Some of the organizations and names of leaders have been remembered by Mrs. Grace or taken from written reports and are mentioned in the following pages.

An early organized effort found in a church record of 1776 stated:

"On the 21st of March 1776 at a conference held in Baltimore a circuit called **Carolina Circuit** was organized embracing an indefinite extent of territory and allowing the preacher in charge large liberties for his efforts in spreading spiritual holiness throughout this hitherto unoccupied field."

Andrews Chapel Church, near Roseboro and once known as John Parker's Meeting House, records a **Black River Circuit** as early as 1815 which was a part of the **Virginia Annual Conference**. From this same record book is listed the handwritten obituary of the first John Parker and is most detailed. It relates that John Parker, a godly and devout man, came to this section in 1812 or 1813. He immediately began to hold prayer services in his home, to which the neighbors were invited. He insisted that his slaves desist from all labor and attend services. Itinerant preachers often expounded the Word of God at these meetings. For the visit of Bishop Asbury, who held several services there, a moveable pulpit was built. The stand resembled a Roman chariot without wheels. After John Parker's death, all but one of his several sons continued their father's religious activities. However, the home place, which was the cradle of

Sampson County Methodism, went to the youngest son who was said to be rather wild.

At the first Quarterly Conference held February 23rd, 1815 at Johnson's Old Meeting House, the **Black River Circuit** included these congregations:

Johnson's Old Meeting House, Riley's Creek Meeting House, Ebenezer Meeting House, McLain's Meeting House, Mars Bluff, Bethlehem, Parker's Meeting House, Charity, Carlton's Meeting House, Mount Zion, Fussell's Meeting House, Nahunta Meeting House, Bryant's Meeting House, Providence Meeting House, Dark Branch Academy, Bethel (later Roseboro) Thunder Swamp Meeting House, **Clinton**.

Around this time Clinton Methodists had services - Sunday School and preaching - downstairs where the Graves Memorial Presbyterian Sunday School rooms are now. The Masonic Lodge held their meetings upstairs in the wooden building. There a wooden church was built left of the present church. That church was burned one Sunday morning while they were getting ready to go to Sunday School.

Contained in the old ledger pages of the Black River Circuit was information about persons who, after having been recommended to the Virginia General Conference (after 1838 the North Carolina General Conference) were ordained or licensed to preach. From October, 1829, through November, 1845 there were eleven preachers, or preaching deacons, ordained to wit:

Daniel McDuffie on October 17, 1829
D. Culbreth on November 15, 1830
Raeford Autry on July 9, 1831 - at Clinton
James Larkins on April, 1832
Stephen Autry on May 5, 1832
Daniel Cox on October, 1833
O. H. Johnson on February 17, 1844
C. K. Parker on April 28, 1844 - John's son
John Owen on November 8, 1845

Love Culbreth on November 8, 1845

Miles P. Owens on November 8, 1845

Following the Virginia General Conference, held late in 1832, the Black River Circuit was divided and **Clinton** was placed in the **Duplin Circuit**. The first Quarterly Conference for the Duplin Circuit was held at Bethel Academy April 6, 1833. According to the Quarterly Conference, the churches composing the circuit were:

Bethel Academy, **Clinton**, Thunder Swamp Meeting house, Parker's Meeting House, Providence Meeting House, Goshen Meeting House.

Beginning with the Quarterly Conference held April 2, 1836 at Parker's Meeting House, the following congregations are listed as being in the **Sampson Circuit**:

Goshen, Winsor, Bethlehem, Pleasant Union, Sandy Creek, Rosemary Hill, Antioch, McGees, Wesley's Chapel, Cokesbury Chapel, Andrews Chapel (known as Parker's Meeting House until 1848), Love's Chapel, Mt. Zion, **Clinton**.

In 1837 that part of North Carolina within the Virginia Conference, with the exception of what was known as the Chowan and Roanoke territory, was set off and organized as the North Carolina Conference. On January 31, 1838 the first session of the NC Conference of the Methodist Church was held at Greensboro. During that Conference, six preachers were received into full connection. Among them was William M. Walsh who was to preach on the Sampson Circuit in 1855.

By 1840 there were sixty members of the Conference, forty-six of whom were married men. There were forty-nine Stations and circuits.

In 1841 the Conference consisted of five Districts: Raleigh, Salisbury, Danville, Washington, and New Bern. The **Sampson Circuit** was at that time in the **New Bern District**.

W. Grey was assigned to preach on the Circuit for the year 1842.

The Conference of 1850 was held at Warrenton. The Districts had been increased by the addition of one call "Wilmington" and this year the **Sampson Circuit** belonged to the **Wilmington District**.

Jeremiah Johnson was assigned to the Sampson Circuit for the year 1851 and was given the same appointment for 1852.

More congregations were added and in September 1851 at the last Quarterly Conference held at Pleasant Union, the Circuit was again divided into the Sampson Circuit and the South River Circuit. Clinton remained in the **Sampson Circuit**.

At the Conference held at Salisbury, NC , November 25, 1852; the Sampson Circuit was divided into the lower Circuit called South River Circuit and the upper end called **Sampson Circuit** and included Pleasant Union (1836), **Clinton** (1838), Cokesbury (1841), Bethany (1848), Wesley Chapel (1847), Salem (1851), McGees (1844), and Goshen. Added to this list was Averysboro, Kings, and Cedar Creek.

According to record, the Quarterly Conference of the Sampson Circuit for the year 1852 was largely concerned with the subject of a parsonage. A Committee composed of J. C. Blocker, G. Bullard and S. R. Hawley was appointed to work with a committee from the new South River Circuit in regard to evaluation and disposal of the parsonage jointly owned. The value was eventually set at \$300 with Sampson Circuit's equity valued at \$200 and South River's at \$100. Pending disposition of the matter it was decided by the Sampson Circuit with regard to a parsonage for their use: The committee on the parsonage location more convenient than the present, beg leave to report that they have bargained and bought of G. W. Bullard one acre of land lying on the stage road that leads from Fayetteville to Clinton just below J. C. Blocker residence on the other side of the Branch, on the level and north side of the road, including the 12-mile post from Fayetteville. Also, 1/2 acre land for an academy to be located near the above. All for \$15. Alex Maxwell was added to the parsonage committee membership. Membership records for the entire circuit this year shows:

"received in full connection two whites; expelled three blacks,"

In 1853 the Clinton Methodist Church was assessed \$35 for all Conference obligations. At the second quarterly conference held in

Clinton on May 21, 1853, a building committee composed of L. C. Hubbard, Jacob Underwood and Frances Pugh was appointed to procure a lot and build a house of worship.

The church lot on Sampson Street was purchased for a Clinton Church from Alex E. Mckoy and James H. Robinson for ten dollars, secured by deed dated July 5 1854 and made to Langdon C. Hubbard, Jacob Underwood, Allmond H. McKoy, William L. Berry, Sion B. Killett, Trustees for the Clinton Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Only one of the original Trustees of the church--Jacob Underwood--has descendants now holding membership here.

A recent article in the United Methodist Church Bulletin refers to this same property and is quoted:

"According to the introduction story printed in the Sampson County Court Minutes 1784-1800, compiled and edited by Oscar M. Bizzell and Virginia L. Bizzell for the Sampson County Historical Society, Richard Clinton's home was on the west bank of Cat-tail Branch (now the site of First United Methodist Church). I talked with Oscar Bizzell about this and he told me that he and the late Claude Moore had studied the court records and determined that information to be about correct. He also said there was a cemetery on the Richard Clinton property. I guess that is how we came up with the idea that Richard Clinton (for whom our city is named) was buried somewhere on the church property; possibly, where our Fellowship Hall is now located. I also read in the Court Minutes that the fourth and fifth terms of Sampson County Court were held in Richard Clinton's home." --Doris Thornton, Church Historian¹

¹Thornton, Doris, Church Historian, "Remembering Our Heritage", First United Church Bulletin, November 3, 1996.

Clinton Methodist Church, now First United Methodist Church, Clinton, NC. built their sanctuary in 1854, affirmed on the plaque on its outside wall which says:

"CLINTON M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH; BUILT IN 1854, REBUILT IN 1890, REBUILT IN 1908."

Clinton paid \$27 for all circuit and Conference obligations that year.

The third quarterly conference was held at Clinton on August 9, 1856. Ten congregations were on the circuit at that time. The Circuit paid the preacher \$696.70 and the Presiding Elder \$65. **Clinton Church** which usually paid nothing or a nominal sum, this year paid \$100 for its conference obligations. This contribution was exceeded only by Cokesbury with \$105 and equaled only by Cedar Creek. L. Culbreth, who was traveling preacher and Circuit Sabbath School Superintendent, was instructed to give up his position of Sabbath School Superintendent and preach more.

In 1857 A. D. Betts, as a traveling preacher, came to assist the regularly appointed acting Deacon, Joseph Martin. From that time until his death Uncle Betts was sincerely loved by the people of Sampson County. Stories are still remembered and often repeated of his great consideration, sympathy, loyalty and devotion, not only to his God but to all the people whom he served. During this year money was tight, contributions were small--only three churches on the circuit made any contribution. Clinton was not among them. Notice was given to sell the circuit parsonage to satisfy unpaid claims. The second quarterly conference of this year was held at Clinton on April 20.

The parsonage was not sold according to the notice given in 1857, and in 1858 the Trustees were instructed to borrow money and give their note for the amount due J. C. Blocker and try to collect the money on the circuit In 1858 this report was also made:

To the Quarterly Conference, Sampson Circuit, the Trustees of the M. E. Church South of Clinton, N. C. beg leave to report as follows: The property belonging to the said church consists in one church building and lot worth about \$2000.00. The building is still

unfinished being neither plastered or painted. The debts owing by said church amount to about \$950. All of which is respectfully submitted. Clinton, October 6, 1858. L. C. Hubbard, Almond A. McKoy

It might be interesting in these times of high cost of living, to know that the payment to the traveling preacher that year was:

Table expense for A. D.

Betts.....	\$2.25
Servant hire.....	.50
Quarterage.....	3.50

Included in a report dated October 7th, 1859, and submitted by trustees, L. C. Hubbard and Jacob Underwood of the **Clinton Church**, to the second Quarterly Conference of that year is the following statement:

"Our church is nearly complete and will probably be finished the present month. Value of building and lot \$2,500. We have nearly sufficient funds raised and pledged to pay all of our debt and complete the building. Shall probably fall short between one and two hundred dollars."

The record for 1862 noted L. C. Hubbard, as Sabbath School Superintendent at Clinton. Frank Pugh resigned as Trustee of the Clinton Church and T. L. Pugh was elected in his stead. Elected also was R. A. Mosley as Trustee to fill the vacancy caused by the removal of Dr. W. J. Berry. This year Junius Underwood, son of Trustee Jacob Underwood, joined the church.

In 1864 the third Quarterly Conference was held at Clinton on July 23. At the end of the year it was reported that Clinton Church received on probation 84 white and 31 colored persons.

The year 1865 was a hectic one for the South. The first Quarterly Conference of Sampson Circuit was not held on account of excessive rains. The others were not held because the county was occupied by Federal troops.

Eighteen-hundred and sixty-six was a rather interesting year for the Sampson Circuit. First of all there were resolutions passed which revealed the strict attitude of the Conference, to wit:

"Whereas we are positively commanded by Almighty God to remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy--therefore: Resolved that we the members of this Quarterly Conference of Sampsons County do most respectfully and earnestly invite the attention of all our people to the absolute observance of the Sabbath. Resolved that the running of railroad trains, steamboats, stage coaches, etc., on the various lines of travel except in case of absolute necessity is a violation of the command of God and tends to the demoralization of our people inasmuch as it prevents tens of thousands from observing the Sabbath Day. Resolved that visiting on this day for the purpose of attending to worldly business should be discontinued by all Christian people. Resolved that attending the house of God for the purpose of transacting temporal business is also a violation of the Holy Day. Resolved that we call on all Christians and good citizens to speak out earnestly and constantly against all desecration of the Day of the Lord and appeal to all who are guilty of this sin to cease their violation. Resolved that we request our pastor to read these resolutions at each appointment on the circuit and make such remarks as he may think proper."

The fourth Quarterly Conference was held at Clinton, October 6. T. L. Pugh was elected steward at Clinton. It was noted that Clinton Church received five members by certificate. Incidentally, there were five expulsions from the church at Goshen for violation of the seventh commandment.

Following the Quarterly Conference recording of the year we find:

"At the ensuing Annual Conference held at Fayetteville, November 7, 1866 the Sampson Circuit

was divided into Cokesbury and **Clinton Circuits**. Cokesbury being formed of the following churches: Cokesbury, Averysboro, Bethany, Wesley Chapel, Halls, and Bethel Churches. **Clinton Circuit** being formed of the following churches: **Clinton**, McGee, Goshen, Andrews Chapel, Johnson Chapel. Cedar Creek was added to the Bladen Circuit."

J. H. Robbins, last preacher of the Sampson Circuit, was appointed to the Clinton Circuit for 1867.

There are no further Quarterly Conference reports for the Clinton Circuit. However, from the Cokesbury records we know that Cokesbury, according to agreement, took possession of the jointly owned parsonage. Was noted that in 1875 at the Fourth Quarterly Conference of the Cokesbury Circuit they had recorded the parsonage property and secured the property to the Church.

EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

An early report of a Sunday School class was made in 1855 by W. M. Walsh , pastor, and stated: "five Sabbath Schools and two Bible Classes in pretty good condition."

In 1858, it was again reported that five Sabbath Schools were in prosperous condition, but added that two of these were union schools.

An 1859 pastor's report stated:

"Sabbath Schools are kept at most of the churches during the warm seasons of the year. During the winter, however, they are discontinued. There are more than 200 Sabbath School scholars with 36 teachers. There is also a Sabbath School at **Clinton**, well conducted on the union plan which is succeeding finely. Our members are patronizing the school and are assisting in conducting it, as well as members of other churches. Two subscriptions to the Sabbath School Visitor are within the Circuit. We hope for a more extensive work of revival on the circuit."

As noted elsewhere, an 1862 report shows L. C. Hubbard as Sabbath Superintendent.

A Clinton Union Sabbath School secretary's book with the first entry as of January 5, 1868 records the adoptions of a Constitution and by-laws drafted by a committee composed of Messrs. W. W. McKenzie, Henry Giddens, and T. H. Groves. In addition to the usual provisions of such a document the tenth and last sections provide:

"The anniversary of this school shall be held on the first Thursday of May each year."

The moving spirit in this Sabbath School undertaking was L. C. Hubbard, a Methodist. With Mr. John Wemyss acting as Chairman, Mr. Hubbard was unanimously elected Superintendent. Other officers were: A. F. Johnson, Asst. Superintendent; C. P. Johnson, Secretary; Miss L. Clute, Treasurer; J. H. Hubbard, Librarian; T. H. Groves, Asst. Librarian.

Mr. Hubbard was re-elected Superintendent January 3, 1868. It was noted that :

"the next meeting will be held in the Baptist Church to which the School will be removed for the year."

In addition to his administrative duties, Mr. Hubbard also taught a class. There were 14 classes; some of them with only two members and others with as many as fourteen.

At the first Quarterly Conference in 1869 it was noted by the preacher that:

"The Sabbath Schools of the circuit are discontinuing until spring except Clinton Union School which continues to prosper."

On October 7, 1869, Mr. Jeffrey H. Robbins, pastor of the Circuit to which Clinton belonged since 1866, died and was buried on the Hubbard lot at the Clinton Cemetery.

In 1872 the North Carolina Conference records show that Clinton Circuit had 415 members and 175 Sabbath School scholars.

John James was pastor on the Clinton Circuit in 1872 and the next year was sent to the Topsail Circuit.

In 1873 Clinton Circuit gained 54 members but "the Sabbath Schools, in which there are 14 teachers, lost 35 scholars. This does not include Clinton's Union School. " An interesting fact recorded this year shows that the North Carolina Conference led National Methodism with 178 infant baptisms and 28 Sabbath Schools.

Mr. L. C. Hubbard was re-elected Superintendent of the Union Sabbath School at Clinton each year through 1879. He was so honored again in 1882 and 1883. On January 13, 1884, with W. B. Stewart as Superintendent, the following resolutions were offered and unanimously accepted:

"That as Mr. L. C. Hubbard has so efficiently acted as Superintendent of the Clinton Union School for so long: That we tender him our sincere gratitude and hereby express our high appreciation of his services: That we earnestly solicit his continued cooperation with the Sunday School work; that these resolutions be placed upon the record of the school."

With service such as this and his long and active part in the early days of the Clinton Methodist Church, it is most fitting that one of the Memorials of our present church should bear the name, L. C. Hubbard.

The early Sunday Schools were not so highly classified as ours today. One outstanding evidence is the fact that the infant class of those early years was composed of children between the ages of four and eight years.

Among the names listed as teachers or scholars in the old secretary's book are: Mrs. D. A. Culbreth, Eva Culbreth, Mabel Culbreth, and a number of surnames such as Hubbard, Bizzell, and Mosley. These for the most part were Methodists. Also there appeared the names of Martha Johnson and Mary Johnson; the last named later married Enoch Wells Alderman; and their children Maude Alderman, Albert Alderman, Mrs. F. J. Vann and Mrs. Joe Reynolds who were valuable members of this church as were their granddaughters, Mary Ann Register and Mary Louise Alderman.

In 1874 two of the teachers in the Clinton Union Sunday School were Millie Alford and Lelia Alford. These were the daughters of the Methodist preacher, J. B. Alford, who served the local church 1874-1877 inclusive. Lelia Alford died early in 1876 and the record contains a lengthy "Tribute of Respect" to her. All the Sanford, Ivey and Thompson children attended the Union Sabbath School during the time their father was pastor of the Methodist Church here.

It is evident from the record that the school met for a year at the time at the house of worship of one of the participating denominations. However, 1876 was the only time when it was stated definitely that the school met at a church other than the Baptist or Methodist. At the beginning of the year 1876, on January 23, W. Allie Hubbard was paid \$2.23 for services rendered as Sexton for the Sabbath School since the spring of 1875. The collection on that day was \$.47. Each Sunday of the year 1876, subjects for Bible verses for the next Sunday were given out. One month period revealed these subjects: "Invitation to Christ", "God's Threat to the Wicked", "Wickedness", "God's Mercy".

The last recording in this interesting secretary's book was of April 12, 1885. Therefore, we assume the individual churches organized their own Sunday Schools about that time although no mention is made in the book of any such plan.

Since the organization of the Clinton Methodist Sunday School, those serving as Superintendent, as nearly as it has been possible to ascertain were: W. R. King, A. Kenneth Parker, Henry Register, Frank Dameron, C. M. Faircloth, John Blaney Williams, Sr., Paul Herring, Dr. O. L. Parker, Bill Barrow, Norman Larkins, Jr., H. L. Swain, Norwood Parker, William Hobbs, Ed Williams, Edwin Johnson, W. M. Johnson, Jr., L. G. Crumpler, James Rose, Seth Parsons, Lewis Talton, and the present incumbent, Stewart Raynor(1974---). All of these men served their church faithfully and efficiently.

Mary Louise Rawls Chenoweth became Sunday School Secretary in 1950 and continues to serve.

Although Sunday Schools always enjoy singing, Dr. O. L. Parker is recalled to have been outstandingly interested in singing and to have attributed his liking to his rural church relationship. He is said to have remarked in this connection:

"You can take the boy out of the country, but you cannot take the country out of the boy."

Some of those who have so satisfactorily contributed to the Methodist singing in the Methodist Sunday School were: Mr. A. K. Parker, Mr. Strickland, Archie Newman, James Parker, William Hobbs, Harrison Fisher, and Jule Doughtie.

In connection with the Sunday School, request has been made that we mention the old time annual Sunday School picnic. These occasions took place about five miles from Clinton at what was then Boykin's Mill. The children and adults were transported to the site in large wagons, the body of which was padded with clean hay, and drawn by two mules or horses. Each family fixed a big basket of good things to eat. After the children enjoyed a frolic in the mill pond or a race according to their ages, the mothers spread the bountiful dinner and all had a wonderful time. After dinner, games were played with the adults often taking active part.

Clinton Circuit had eight churches in 1880 and only four in 1883. The churches comprising the Circuit in 1883 were **Clinton**, Goshen, McGee, and Keener.

During the ministry of J. T. Kendall in 1885;"Bright Jewels", a Conference-sponsored children's organization, was formed under the leadership of Mrs. Kendall. Children of other churches derived pleasure and benefit from membership as well as Methodist children. As often as not, children of other denominations held office. Mrs. Florence Hubbard Stewart, whose father and grandfather, Mr. T. L. Hubbard and Mr. L. C. Hubbard were devoted Methodists, was once secretary. She recalls sending her reports to "Aunt Mary Black" who was Conference director. Much later Miss Zora Culbreth had charge of Bright Jewels and was the beloved teacher of the cradle roll class for many years.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL, CHURCH, AND PARSONAGE

The original Clinton Methodist Church building was destroyed by fire in 1890 and was rebuilt the same year.

The Methodist parsonage was first located at Clinton around 1875. The first parsonage was immediately east of the present one and was occupied through 1898. When the parsonage was built it was

comparable to other local dwelling and ample for existing needs. The exterior was painted a glaring yellow which caused much comment. Both members of the congregation and other townfolk were frequently heard to remark that the only good thing about it was that time would fade that awful color. The first preacher to occupy that parsonage was H. E. Tripp who served here in 1899 and 1900.

We do not know much about the personal life of our early pastors. However, we do know that Y. E. Wright, who was pastor in 1901 and 1902, was not married. He created quite a stir among the modest young ladies of the town, be they Methodists or not. In those days sentimental valentines were the vogue and were sent anonymously to the object of one's affection. But not so our young pastor! He wanted the object of his affection to know that he sent sweet missives and boldly signed his name.

In October 1907, the Baptists of Clinton were to be hosts to their Association. Because of unavoidable delay their church in the process of rebuilding was not nearly ready for the occasion. The Methodists offered their church for use and the offer was gratefully accepted.

On the second Sunday in February, 1908, while folk were getting ready to go to Sunday School, fire was discovered in the Clinton Methodist Church and the church was quickly reduced to ashes. According to recollection, one entered from the street, as now, pews and an amen corner on each side of the narrow chancel. The choir occupied the space to the right facing the pulpit.

After the fire, a portion of the present Sanctuary was started immediately and was ready for use before the end of the year.

About 1910 an Epworth League was started in Clinton Methodist Church. This was an organization for the teen-age group of the church. With a minimum of literature but a tremendous amount of ingenuity on the part of the leaders and some of the members, programs were worked out for the spiritual growth of the young people to inform them about their church and to furnish wholesome entertainment. A social meeting was held once a month at which attendance was generally quite good.

After the organization of the Clinton Methodist Sunday School, it began to grow steadily in membership. In the middle nineteen-twenties, a typical Sunday School session was bedlam. There were four classes meeting in the main body of the church, one

in each vestibule, one in each ante-room off the pulpit, and one in the choir loft. The Men's Class, curtained off the rear section of the church for their use and there were two classes meeting in the parsonage. Something had to be done!

Because of the need for Sunday School space, as well as the desire for better living quarters for our preacher, the wooden parsonage was moved to the rear of the church in 1930 to be used as Sunday School rooms and a modern parsonage was begun.

Festus Lee Turlington was made chairman of the building committee and remained in that capacity until his death. While the whole membership worked and struggled toward their goal, Mr. Turlington was the one who gave safe guidance to the end. His good business judgment, the unselfish contribution of his time, as well as his means, and his sincere devotion to his church will never be forgotten. His two sons, their wives and children remain to help carry on in his valued way.

The parsonage was completed in the summer of 1931 and was occupied first by the family of Dr. C. C. Alexander. His report at the quarterly conference held July 19, 1931 contains this:

"Since last quarterly conference the new parsonage at Clinton has been completed and the pastor and his family have moved into one of the best and most attractive homes in the little city of Clinton. We are very proud and exceedingly thankful for such a good and attractive home."

Dr. Alexander's untimely death on January 21, 1932, brought to a close his useful life. He was the second incumbent pastor of the Clinton Methodist Church to die and be interred in the local cemetery.

On May 10, 1939, after years of negotiation, a plan of union was agreed upon, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South (Clinton was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South) and the Methodist Protestant Church united to form the Methodist Church.

Rev J. R. Edwards is fondly remembered as a pastor who was appointed to First Methodist in 1941 (41-45). Fund raising for a sorely needed educational plant was begun in March, 1941 at which time members made thirty monthly pledges. In December of that

same year the United States was brought into World War II by the attack on Pearl Harbor. The years that followed were trying with loved ones away fighting and the rationing of sugar, butter, gas felt by all. In 1944 funds from pledges made in 1941, amounting to \$11,943.29, were used for badly needed renovations to the Sanctuary. The cost of the renovated Sanctuary totaled \$15, 000.

In 1944 **Clinton Charge** had two church buildings and two Sunday Schools. They were at Clinton and Keener. Among the changes in boundaries for the conference year 1945 we find this:

"Take Keener from Clinton and put with Goshen."

THUS, SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE 1946 CONFERENCE YEAR, CLINTON METHODIST CHURCH HAS BEEN A STATION WITH A FULL TIME PASTOR.

The Rev. Jesse H. Lanning (45-49) replaced Rev Edwards and was serving First Methodist at the end of the War in September, 1945. Afterwards, as families began to readjust to a peace time economy, fund raising for the needed educational building was given renewed effort and in 1949, Lanning led a victory campaign for the additional building funds required.

The Rev. C. Freeman Heath (49-53), who was sent as pastor by the 1949 Annual Conference, was here when construction of the Educational Building and Fellowship Hall was begun March 1, 1950. The building was completed the last of September of that year. During the seven-month construction period the phenomenal amount of over \$50,000 was raised. The final debt was liquidated by holding Victory Dinners in February, 1951, and September, 1951. On October 1, 1951 the mortgage on the one hundred-thousand dollar Educational Building and Fellowship Hall was paid in full. A newly begun class of young married couples was named The C. Freeman Heath Sunday School Class in honor of Rev. Heath.

The completed plant was an Educational Building of fireproof brick construction, designed by the architects of the Methodist Church to meet the needs of the church for the following twenty-five years. The structure consisted of a classroom building two stories high, 96 x 60 feet with 18 class and assembly rooms. A kitchenette and parlor were included in the Junior Wesley Sunday School Class to be used by the Class and Woman's Society for lectures and teas of

smaller attendance. The Fellowship Hall, a one-story annex 92 x 48 feet included a modern kitchen, furnace room, projection room, dressing rooms, stage and fellowship hall with a seating capacity of over 500. 300 people could be comfortably seated and served at tables. All the rooms were furnished and decorated by personal memorial gifts and donations of individual members at an estimated cost of 14,000. Led by Bishop Paul N. Garber on December 16, 1951, the Educational Building and Fellowship Hall were dedicated at a special service followed by a basket lunch brought by each family and served in the new Fellowship Hall²

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

Record of a Missionary Society in the early days of Clinton Church is not available. Mrs. H. J. Hines who married and moved to Clinton in 1901 does not recall such activity as more than prayer groups until about 1910. Then the going was an uphill process. The idea of a more adequate parsonage and a limited contribution to missions was the only goal of that early organization.

And how did they raise the funds? Money was raised in many small but cumulative ways, such as: Mite boxes, measuring parties at which waist-lines measured and a penny contributed for every inch, birthday parties at which each person gave a penny for every year of their age, sunshine bags into which was put a penny for each sunny day, visiting baskets which passed among the members who were supposed to buy an article, increasing your talent in which each member was given a quarter and asked to invest it for an increase, rummage sales, bake sales, apron sales. Those were the days of the Sampson County Agricultural Fairs. Each year Methodist women had a booth from which mountains of food were sold. Mrs. G. W. Waller and Mrs. G. W. Fleming had charge of the booths and the Society members worked in relays. Some stayed at home and cooked; others collected food by the hour to deliver to the booths. Fair week was a busy time! When it was over, every body was exhausted but the funds of the organization had been satisfyingly increased. Some of the people most active during those days in addition to Mrs. Waller and

²Powell, Robert, Clinton Church Ceremony, Letter to Christian Advocate, November 30, 1951.

Mrs. Fleming were: Mrs. Frank Dameron, Mrs. H. J. Hines, Mrs. J. R. Parker, Mrs. Henry Register, Mrs. T. J. Barber, Mrs. J. P. Parker, Mrs. John B. Williams, Sr., Miss Louise Dameron, Mrs. J. H. Packer, Mrs. A. K. Parker, Miss Ella Mae Packer, Mrs. N. H. Larkins, Sr. Mrs. Floyd Rawls, Mrs. Alvin Royall, Mrs. Charlie Warren, Mrs. J. L. Hathcock, Mrs. R. A. Turlington, Mrs. Guy Ross, Mrs. C. M. Faircloth, Mrs. C. W. Petty, Mrs. Gordon Lee, Mrs. David Turlington, Mrs. Festus Turlington, Mrs. F. J. Honeycutt, Mrs. Percy Vann, and Mrs. Isaiah Vann.

No consideration of women in the Clinton Methodist Church would be complete without special tribute to Mrs. George W. Fleming. When her family moved to Clinton in 1913, Mrs. Fleming immediately moved her membership to Clinton Methodist Church. Until her death Mrs. Fleming in her quiet, unassuming but efficient way gave her complete devotion and service to her church. So much so that when the Board of Stewards was opened to women, **Mrs. Fleming was the first woman to be chosen a member of that Board.** Until her death, Mrs. Fleming was outstanding in her consecrated dependability toward her church.

Mrs. Guy Ross and Mrs. Ethel Waller each served faithfully and for long terms as organist of the church. and Mr. John Haislet was choir director.

Eventually the Conference began to emphasize organization in women's work, to provide program literature and to set goals. With the consolidation of Methodism, Missionary Societies became Women's Society of Christian Service. A division was added for working women called, The Wesleyan Service Guild. These two groups of women made themselves felt in the community in a powerful way and were certainly no longer an auxiliary but an integral part of Clinton Methodist Church

The local Women's organization was not without recognition on the District and Conference level. Mrs. J. T. Doughtie held District and Conference offices in the Woman's Society of Christian Service for a number of years.

Miss Elizabeth Gooding had been connected with the Conference Division of the Wesleyan Service Guild for a number of years and was Secretary of Promotion in the Wilmington District of the North Carolina Conference.

In 1968, at the time First Methodist became First United Methodist, the Women's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild were joined and became United Methodist Women. United Methodist Women today have comprehensive programs surpassed by no other woman's group anywhere. Circles are now called Fellowship Groups and are: Bernice Ballance (morning group); Carolyn McDowell/Polly Blackburn (night group); Eleanor Powell, named for local member active both in church and mission work. She also held District and Conference offices in United Methodist Women (Wednesday night); June Megill (afternoon group); Ruth Merritt (afternoon group); Kathryn Mitchem (morning group); and Margaret Heath, named for local member [Methodist minister's wife who was active in all phases of church] (noon group).

CLINTON MEMBERS OF BROADER SERVICE

With the growing pains and difficulties of the local situation, Clinton Methodist Church has not been lacking in greater contribution. Some of her members have given themselves to broader services, to wit:

A. B. Crumpler joined the North Carolina Conference in 1888. He transferred to the St. Louis Conference and returned to the North Carolina Conference in 1895. He accepted duty for a few years and felt God had called him to a still broader mission. Therefore, he became an evangelist, traveling in this and other states to spread the gospel. Later, when preachers were scarce he returned to circuit work until younger preachers were available. Mr. Crumpler passed away October 23, 1952 at the age of 89 years.

W. R. Royal joined the North Carolina Conference and spent thirty-five years in pastoral duty endearing himself to the people of the charges he served and living for his Master. When Mr. Royal retired he moved to Hendersonville, N. C. where he lived until his death in January 1957.

D. E. Earnhardt joined the North Carolina Conference in 1916, was ordained a deacon in 1918 and became an elder in 1920. In addition to his service in the Conference, Mr. Earnhardt served most efficiently a term as Presiding Elder (District Superintendent) and was in 1954 assigned as pastor.

Percy Lee was admitted to North Carolina Conference in 1925. He was ordained a deacon in 1927 and elder in 1929. He is now retired and living in Raeford. He has served a number of pastorates and endeared himself to those among whom he worked.

Clarence Warren joined the North Carolina Conference in 1951, received his deacon's orders the same year and in 1953 became an elder. He also served Trinity Church in Belhaven, NC.

Charles Sparks was recommended for a license to preach in 1957 and served as minister of Rose Hill Methodist Church³

At the June 18, 1961 NC Annual Conference held at Durham, NC., James Lee Hobbs, better known as Jimmie, was ordained a deacon. Jimmie was ordained a full preacher at the Annual Conference in 1963. Jimmie's dedication to his church was fostered by his devoted parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hobbs and influenced by the dedicated preachers who served the church in his early days.

³History of First Methodist Church, Clinton 1954-65.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1961 Harold Stanley, who with his wife, moved to the community about ten years previous, was granted Local Preacher's license. Hal and Jean, while they lived here, gave their time and their interest to the church of their adoption.

LATER CLINTON MINISTERS AND GROWTH DURING THEIR MINISTRY

In 1954 Bishop Garber led the congregation in celebrating their one-hundredth anniversary.

Rev D. E. Earnhardt served First Methodist from 1954 to 1957. He is remembered as an inspiring speaker in the pulpit and often published his sermons in the local paper.

The Methodist Men, an organization to unite the men in the church, was chartered on January 27, 1956.

During Rev. Earnhardt's tenure, it was realized that First Methodist Church had grown to such an extent that a sister church was needed. With the help of the \$10 club of the North Carolina Conference and a lot given by First Methodist, 85 members of First Church united with 50 new members and the pastor, Rev. A. F. McClung, to start Grace Methodist Church.⁴ The bulletin for the special groundbreaking services in February 1956 for the new Church, relates these words:

"In February 1956, formal ground breaking services were held for the new Grace Methodist Church, Clinton, NC, on one of the most desirable lots in fast growing North Carolina. The lot was given us by our "mother" church, First Methodist of Clinton, Rev. D. E. Earnhardt, pastor. We are grateful for these fine friends who gave us 85 of their members and are cooperating in many ways toward the establishment and growth of our Church."

In 1957 Rev. Clyde Boggs (57-61) was appointed as pastor of First Methodist Church. In 1960 the Commission on

⁴Ibid.

Education saw the need for a Junior choir and made plans to secure a director for this choir. The plans for a choir director did not work out but the Official Board did obtain its first Director of Christian Education, Miss Margaret Dunlap (later Mrs. Spivey). A concentrated youth program was then begun with revitalization of the Junior High and Senior Hi MYFs. The Commission on Education also began teacher training programs and held a Christian Worker's School.⁵

Mr. Boggs served the church until the NC Annual Conference in 1961 when he became District Superintendent of the Wilmington District. During his ministry James Lee Hobbs was recommended for license to preach.

In July 1961, Dr. J. E. Garlington (61-74) came to First Methodist from the Wilmington District. Records in the charge conference books indicate these years were characterized by an intensified period of pastoral visitation, with an average of 500 visits entered each year, the establishment of a new young adults class and a strengthening of the connectional program of the church.

Due to increased church attendance, plans were started to enlarge the church sanctuary. R. E. Williams was made chairman of the Building Committee and Frank Ballard of Wilmington drew up plans for renovation. The front page cover feature story in the NC Christian Advocate on August 15, 1963 tells the story of the 1961-63 years in capsule form. It is entitled: First Methodist Church, Clinton opens New Sanctuary. The caption below the full page picture says:

"This is the interior of the beautiful new sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church of Clinton, recently completed. It is one of the most adequately planned, best arranged, and well equipped sanctuaries in the entire conference. Dr. J. E. Garlington is the pastor."

Seating capacity of the new sanctuary was doubled taking care of 600 people comfortably. An \$11,000 Allen Console organ was located in a unique choir loft with theater type seats and a well concealing the director. The renovation and enlargement, together

⁵Ibid.

with the organ, carpeting, pews reached a total cost of \$150,000 and was the first major renovation of the sanctuary since around 1908.

At the time the church choir was composed of 40 members and was under the direction of Mrs. Martha (James Earl) Vann. Mrs. C. C. Tart, Jr. was the organist.

In December 1964 one of the church parking lots was paved and a canopy constructed next to the educational building so that cars could unload passengers in rainy weather. The project was under the sponsorship of the Methodist men of the Church.

In July 1965, Dr. Garlington reported an enrollment of 1109 members in the church and 720 in the Sunday School. First Methodist led the District in Sunday School Attendance which was attributed to the formation of two new classes in the Sunday School--a young adult class, and a nursery for infants⁶

Conference Church School records in 1966 shows a peak enrollment in Sunday School of 750 and an average attendance in 1966 of 449.

An average attendance at worship in 1968 was 487.

IN 1968 AFTER YEARS OF EFFORTS AT CHURCH UNION, THE EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH AND THE METHODIST CHURCH UNITED AND FIRST METHODIST CHURCH BECAME FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

The same records show a cleaning and updating of the rolls and the 1970 records show a church membership of 885 with average attendance at 415 and a Church School enrollment of 688 with average attendance of 318.

The records for 1974 show a church membership of 916 with average attendance at 289 with church school enrollment at 625 and 216 in average attendance. 1977 records show 920 members with 299 average attendance and 538 members in the church school with average attendance at 202.

Illness began to curb the many activities that had endeared Dr. Garlington, not only to First Church, but to the community as well. This illness, many feel, may well have been hastened by the fact that he additionally gave his whole life and his energy to the larger

⁶Ibid.

ministry of the state and national church, where he received many honors, notable among them his selection to represent his church as a delegate many times to both General and Jurisdictional Conferences, and as President of the Conference Board of Missions. In 1972 John Paschal (72-74) was assigned as his associate and Dr. Garlington continued to serve as senior pastor. John served with distinction for two years in this role and endeared himself to the church members. In 1974, he was appointed to Southern Pines.

Rev. Ben Wilson (74-77) came in 1974 and his ministry was characterized, drawing from the pastor's report in the Charge Conference records: "general visitation," more involvement on the part of more church members in the leadership role of the church," and "a larger ministry among the shut-in and elderly." The present Friendship Circle for older adults was started and nurtured during Mr. Wilson's ministry here.

Rev A. D. Byrd, Jr. (77-81) was appointed to First Church in 1977, and the Church began an effort to revitalize our programs, attendance and support of the "total program of the church."

Records indicate that the Charge Conference that fall accepted all the askings of the general church and a program of a lay visit in every home was begun as well as the upgrading of attendance.

In 1978, the pastor's report to Annual Conference showed: 920 members with average attendance of 296 and Church School enrollment at 476 with 188 average attendance.

In 1979, First United Methodist Church celebrated its one hundred and twenty-fifth year.

"Mom's Morning Out", a nursery one morning a week provided by mothers for mothers who are not employed out of the home, was begun during Byrd's tenure.

Rev Odell Walker(81-88) came to First Church in 1981. He is remembered by his warm smile and friendly manner. After a Sunday sermon in the summer of 1984, he was stricken with a heart attack. Shortly before the first Lenten Lunch of 1988 on Ash Wednesday, February, 1988 a second heart attack took Odell's life.

Some of the occurrences and/or accomplishments during the time of Odell Walker are: beginning of the Lenten Lunch Ministry that helps prepare the church for Easter; the Children's Moment added to the morning worship service; the addition of a Grand Piano

to the sanctuary and installation of protective glass over stained glass windows.

In the community, members became involved in "Meals on Wheels"; "Opportunity Unlimited"; the migrant ministry; "Soup and Sandwich Kitchen" headed by Peggy Gunter and plans for a Crisis Center.

A dream of Margaret Adam MacQueen was to have a Prayer Garden at Clinton First Methodist. After her death from a car accident, her family (Peg MacQueen Broyhill and Peter MacQueen, III) with the help of Mildred Turlington supervising the actual work and the generous donations of friends and memorials, completed the Prayer Garden. The Garden was dedicated to the memory of Peter and Margaret MacQueen at a special service on April 13, 1984.

A St. Francis statute with his inscribed prayer is the focal point of the garden. Dr. K. A. Powell of NC State University, Joan Harris, retired professor of State and Peter Westerbeeck made the spearhead design. Louis Mariner, a master craftsman did the iron work at Tryon Palace. Kitty Black and Helen Dubose coordinated with Caldwell Williamson and Mariner on the brick work. Cuyler Heath spent extra time establishing grass. During its construction and since; many, many members have contributed and continue through their time and money to contribute to the Prayer Garden to keep it beautiful and blooming all seasons.⁷

The Renovation Project of the Education Building and Fellowship Hall was authorized in 1987 under Odell Walker's guidance.

After the death of Odell Walker in February 1988, the Building Committee under Rev. Paul Edwards, interim minister(1988), hired D. S. Simmons Construction Company of Goldsboro, NC as the general contractors.

The work was divided into three phases. The First Phase was the renovation of the back entryway, foyer, kitchen, bathrooms and stairwell to the second floor. The Second Phase included the Fellowship Hall and second floor of the Educational Building. Both the first Phase and the Second Phase were completed while the Reverend Dennis Ricks was pastor(1988-1991).

⁷Brisson Claire, The Sampson Independent, April 1984.

The Second Phase completed in 1990, was paid off and the Third Phase begun in 1991 after Rev. Don Phillips (1991-1995) became pastor. The Church Office replaced the Junior Wesley Sunday School Class, Kitchenette, and Parlor and contained the Pastor's Office and Study, the Program Coordinator's Office, the Secretary's Office and the workroom. The former Secretary's Office became the ladies restroom. Also renovated were the Sunday School classrooms for the Nursery, 2-3 years old, 3-4 years old. The Library and Junior Wesley Class were combined in one room and a new Sunday School Superintendent's office provided. New doors(both classroom and outside), replaced outside windows in the Fellowship Hall, carpet, dropped ceilings, lighting, furniture, display cases, painting and decorative touches were added to complete this project. The Choir-music room, "an area of extreme pride and joy" was planned under the leadership of Dan Holland, Choir Director. On March 26, 1992 a 7-foot ebony Baldwin concert grand piano was donated by the Nance children and grandchildren in honor of Dr. and Mrs. John W. Nance. Approximately \$600,000 was spent on the three phases.⁸

Some events and /or occurrences during Don Phillip's ministry:

Kay Williams Raynor was appointed Program Coordinator in 1992. Youth Breakfast served once a week to the youth of the community, begun in our church is now a joint project with the Baptist church.

The "Thursday Methodist Bunch", children from ages 3 years to the fifth grade, come to the church from school on each Thursday. They are provided with a program of bible, crafts, and music followed by supper for everyone.

The Odell Walker Sunday School Class, named in memory of Rev. Odell Walker and for younger marrieds and singles, was organized and led by Cindy and Dan Gurley.

The Choir directed by Dan Holland performed in the White House at Christmas and at the Biltmore House for a number of years. In 1993 and 1995, the Choir traveled to Vienna, Austria to

⁸Phillips, Rev. James Donald, Report of Pastor, September 1992

participate in the International Advent Sing. They have sung at revivals and homecomings of other churches.

In June of 1994, children attending Vacation Bible School, buried a "time capsule" in the right hand corner of the church lot facing Sampson Street approximately 3-4 feet from the property line. This "time capsule" is to be opened in the year, 2004.

Dr. Homer Morris came to First United Methodist in 1995. That year the Sanctuary was renovated. The choir loft was redone, new wallpaper added, the church plastered and painted, new carpet laid, and new light fixtures installed. The doors to the church were replaced, railings added and the front entrance landscaped.

"The Golden Needles", a quilting group of ladies, was begun in January of 1996. Charter members included Helen Griffin, Louise Graham, Doris Thornton, Ulla Swain, Erma Parsons, Christine Warren, Jannet Kramer and Kay Raynor.

1996 saw the purchase of a 1 1/2 story brick parsonage at 409 Pineview Road. The former brick parsonage adjoining the church was rented.

The C. Freeman Heath Sunday School Class, at this time, is the largest and best attended of our Sunday School. However, it must be noted that the Fred C. Packer Men's Class, though small, having lost many of its members through sickness and age, most often has the perfect attendance. Once the largest in number and contribution of their gifts, the Fred C. Packer Class was begun sometime around 1912 for young men and was named for one of our own members who died before he reached 30.

First United Methodist has always provided bible study opportunities: the long running organized bible study directed by Margaret Dunlap Spivey and conducted in the Fellowship Groups of United Methodist Women; special book bible studies; the Norward Parker Bible Discussion Group (one of the classes of Sunday School); Precept Bible Study led by Rebecca Kirkland Caison that meets each Wednesday (begun during Dr. Phillips' tenure) and followed by a Prayer Group meeting; Summer Precept Bible Studies led by Jannet Kramer. Recently, in order to provide a comprehensive bible study, the United Methodist Conference provided literature and training for a conference sponsored course on the total bible. This 9-month course (called United Methodist Disciple) begun in 1995 and led by Jean

Hargrove Bell is now in its second year. At present the class meets before regular Sunday School.

In 1996 First United Methodist became a member of the Stephen Ministry, an interdenominational ministry in which lay people extend themselves in outreach to others--"Christians taking care of one another". After attending a 50-hour training course at Loyola University in Baltimore, Dr. Morris along with Cindy Gurley and Jean Bell are now in the process of training others in our church to become Stephen ministers.

** We are nearing the half-way mark of the Second Hundred years and "it doeth not yet appear what we shall become but we do seek to become, in the likeness of our Lord, a servant Church where all feel welcomed, loved and needed."⁹ We look forward to the future with confidence and hope. "May God continue to bless us and cause his face to shine upon us as a local unit of the world-wide Body of Christ."¹⁰

****See revised insert(April 25, 2004) in back of book.**

PREACHERS SERVING CLINTON METHODIST CHURCH

W. Grey	1842
Jeremiah Johnson	1851, 1852 (A.E.)A*
Charles P. Jones	1853, 1854
W. M. Walsh	1855
Joseph Martin	
Alex D. Betts, Assistant	
Moses J. Hunt	1858 (A. D.)**
Alex D. Betts, Assistant	
Paul J. Carraway	1859, 1860
L. W. Martin, Assistant	1860
H. H. Gibbons	1861, 1862 (A. E.)*
L. W. Martin, Assistant	

⁹Vann, Grace, First United Methodist Church, One Hundred and Twenty-Five Years, 1979, p 20.

¹⁰ibid.

William H. Barnes	1863
Wesley M. Robey	1864, 1865
Daniel Culbreth (Nom)	
Jeffrey H. Robbins	1866, 1867, 1868, 1869
(died in service, 10/7/69)	
John James	1872
James Mahoney	1873
James B. Alford	1874, 1875, 1876, 1877
T. Page Ricaud	1878
Jonathon Sandford	1879, 1880
George W. Ivey	1881
John E. Thompson	1882, 1883, 1884
Edward Schulken, Assistant	1882
J. T. Kendall	1885, 1886, 1887
R. L. Warrick, Assistant	1886
Z. J. Needham, Assistant	1887
Martin V. Sherrill	1888
Condor P. Jerome	1889, 1890
J. M. Ashby	1891, 1892
Phillip Greening	1893
James G. Johnson	1894, 1895, 1896, 1897
D. C. Geddy	1898
H. E. Tripp	1899, 1900
Y. E. Wright	1901, 1902
J. T. Draper	1903
A. S. Barnes	1904, 1905, 1906, 1907
S. E. Mercer	1908
W. C. Merritt	1909, 1910
M. A. Smith	1911, 1912
W. A. Stanbury	1913, 1914, 1915
D. L. Earnhardt	1916, 1917, 1918, 1919
Edward H. Davis	1920, 1921, 1922, 1923
J. E. Holden	1924, 1925
J. H. Buffaloe	1926, 1927
W. G. Farrar	1928, 1929, 1930
E. C. Durham	1931
(remove due to illness March, 1931, replaced by C. C. Alexander)	

C. C. Alexander	1932
(died 10/20/32, replaced by Daniel Lane)	
Daniel Lane	1933, 1934, 1935
R. F. Munns	1936, 1937, 1938, 1939
B. H. Houston	1940, 1941
J. R. Edwards	1941-1945
Jesse H. Lanning	1945-1949
C. F. Heath	1949-1953
D. E. Earnhardt	1953-1957
Clyde Boggs	1957-1961
J. E. Garlington	1961-1974
John Paschal, Associate	1972-1974
Ben Wilson, III	1974-1977
Albert Dewitt Byrd, Jr.	1977-1981
F. Odell Walker	1981-1988
(died on Ashe Wednesday 1988)	
Replaced by Paul Edwards (Ret)	1988
Dennis Ricks	1988-1991
Don Phillips	1991-1995
Homer Morris	1995-1999
Hugh H. Cameron	1999-2004

*A.E. means Acting Elder

**A.D. means Acting Deacon

Clinton First United Methodist Church
Lay Persons of the Year

1982	Rebecca Kirkland Caison*
1984	Peggy Honeycutt Gunter
1986	Seth Parsons
1987	Frances Pearson
1988	Loyd Godley
1989	Stewart Raynor
1990	Frances Pearson*
1991	Meta Herring & Seth Parsons
1992	David Kunzman*& Lewis Talton
1993	Chick Gancer*
1994	Dan & Cindy Gurley
1995	Jannet Kramer
1996	Jean Hargrove Bell
1997	James Rose
1998	Doris Thornton
1999	Greg Swain
2000	Helen Griffin
2001	Linda Dekich
2002	Chick Gancer
2003	Lucille Welsh

* Also District Lay Person

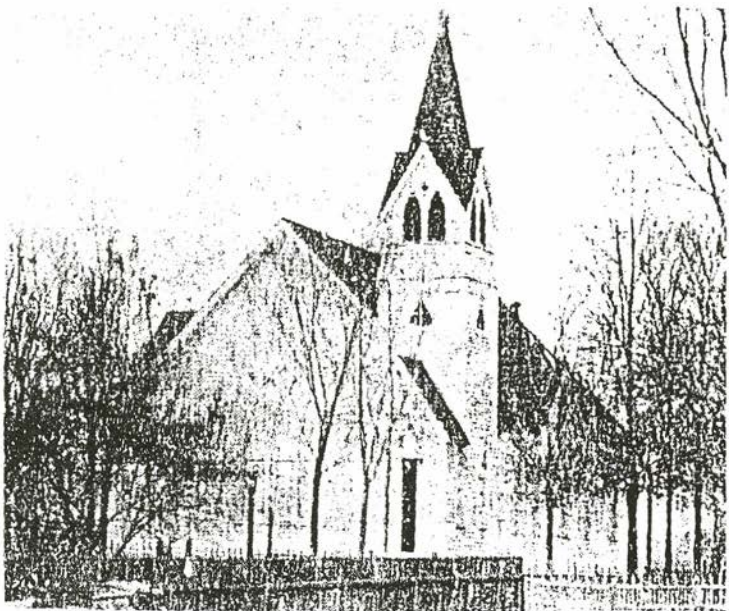
CLINTON METHODIST SERVICE ROLL WORLD WAR II (12/7/1941-9/2/1945)

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Rachel H. Alexander | 22. Edward J. Hobbs | 43. Thomas E. Turlington |
| 2. Irving S. Bell | 23. Emory H. Honeycutt | 44. Harold Turlington |
| 3. Morris L. Bell | 24. James F. Honeycutt | 45. Hugh O. Turlington |
| 4. A. J. Bizzle | 25. Lucian G. Honeycutt | 46. F. J. Vann, Jr. |
| 5. Joseph L. Boyette | 26. Thomas D. Johnson | 47. James D. Vann |
| 6. Alton Butler | 27. Jesse B. King | 48. Joseph A. Vann |
| 7. Earl G. Butler | 28. Thomas D. Larkins | 49. Isaiah M. Vann, Jr. |
| 8. Lawrence J. Caison | 29. Glenn Newman | 50. Lawrence Wall |
| 9. Harold C. Cook | 30. E. C. Parker | 51. U. Nicholas Waller |
| 10. A. R. Corbett | 31. Nell H. Powell | 52. Audry A. Warren |
| 11. W. W. Corbett | 32. Dwight Price | 53. Clyde W. Warren |
| 12. Fisher Darden | 33. John M. Price | 54. P. Barber White |
| 13. J. Jennings Darden | 34. Harold M. Price | 55. Blount Whiteside, Jr. |
| 14. Wallace E. Davis | 35. Luther E. Register | 56. Roscoe Wiggins |
| 15. Osborne Dunn | 36. Richard T. Register | 57. M. C. Williams |
| 16. Robert D. Edwards | 37. James A. Smith | 58. A. H. Wolfe, Jr. |
| 17. W. Clark Fisher | 38. C. C. Tart, Jr. | 59. G. Leon Workman |
| 18. E. T. Gale | 39. Alfred B. Turlington | 60. Durwood L. Sutton |
| 19. McPhail Herring | 40. Iris A. Turlington | 61. Garland C. Sutton |
| 20. Willard Herring | 41. Syder N. Turlington | 62. Julian T. Sutton |
| 21. Wade T. Herring | 42. Henry L. Turlington | 63. Ray Turlington |

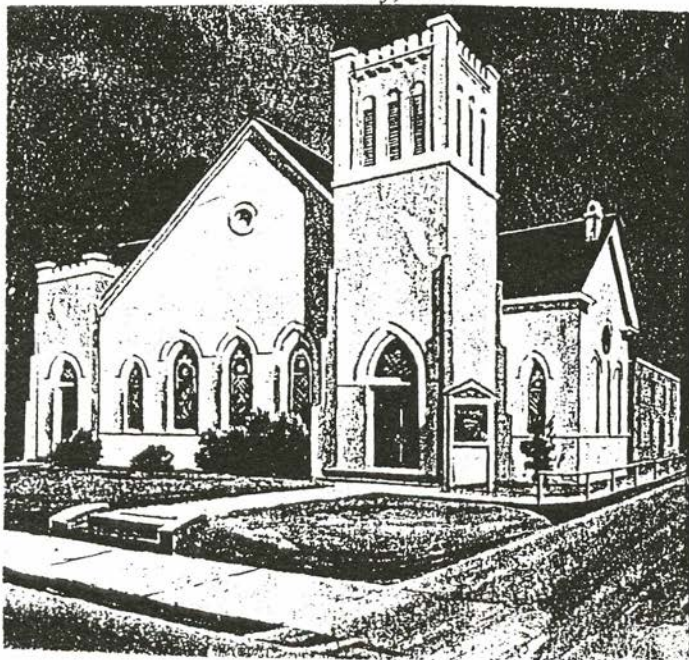
CLINTON UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
CHRISTIAN SERVICE AWARD

1972	Daisy Kennedy	1989	Rebecca Caison
1973	Jennie Cook	1990	Frances Pearson
1974	Bettie Caison	1991	Mary Jo Howard
1976	Effie Butler	1992	Virginia Garlington
1977	Callie Turlington	1992	Margaret Spivey
1978	Ethel Parker	1993	Mary Louise Chenoweth
1978	Mallie Turlington	1994	Peggy Gunter
1979	Oleita Honeycutt	1994	Erma Parsons
1980	Gertrude Edwards	1995	Peggy Richardson
1980	Virginia Register	1996	Seth Parsons
1981	Rose Byrd	1997	Doris Thornton
1981	Meta Herring	1998	Laura Cook
1982	Lossie Fisher	1999	Lucille Johnson, Yolanda Turlington, Billy Grigg
1982	Margaret Heath		
1983	Mary Bradshaw		
1983	Annie Lou Williams	2000	Eva Peterson
1984	Grace Matthews	2001	Jean Bellamy
1985	Eleanor Powell	2002	Angie Hall
1985	Faye Warren	2003	Chick Gancer
1986	Annie Mae Crumpler		
1987	Marie Parker		
1988	Erline Larkins		

In the late forties and early fifties, ladies in addition to those mentioned above, who worked hard to help raise funds for the building and the furnishing of the Fellowship Hall and Sunday School; who helped to expand the Women's Society and who truly united to strengthen all church programs were: Pearl (Mrs. LeRoy) Register [wonderful cook who directed the kitchen], Ethel (Mrs. Lester) Parker, Virginia (Mrs. Otis) Register, Meta (Mrs. Paul) Herring [teacher who has inspired so many with her lectures and lessons], Genevieve (Mrs. William) Hobbs, Janie (Mrs. Percy) Weeks, Margaret (Mrs. J. T.) Doughtie, Lucille (Mrs. Clyde) Rich, Bettie (Mrs. Fred) Caison, Annie (Mrs. Glenn) Thornton, Mary (Mrs. Henry J.) Bradshaw, Annie Lou (Mrs. Ed) Williams, Margaret (Mrs. C. Freeman) Heath, Peggy (Mrs. Glenn) Newman, Mrs. Jennie Cook, Daisey Kennedy, Lossie Fisher (Mrs. Harrison) Marie Parker, May (Mrs. James) Parker.

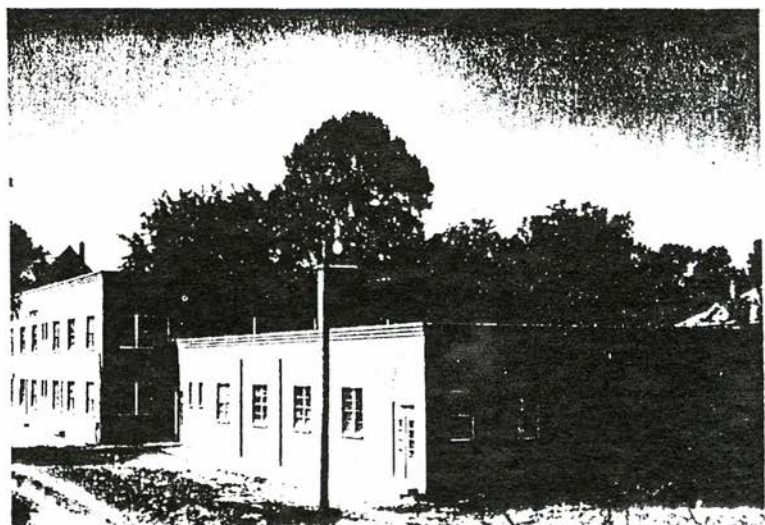


*M. E. Church, South, Clinton
1890-February, 1908*



*First Methodist Church
Late 1908, Renovation 1963
to January, 1997*

Clinton Methodist Church
Clinton, N. C.



Educational Building and Fellowship Hall

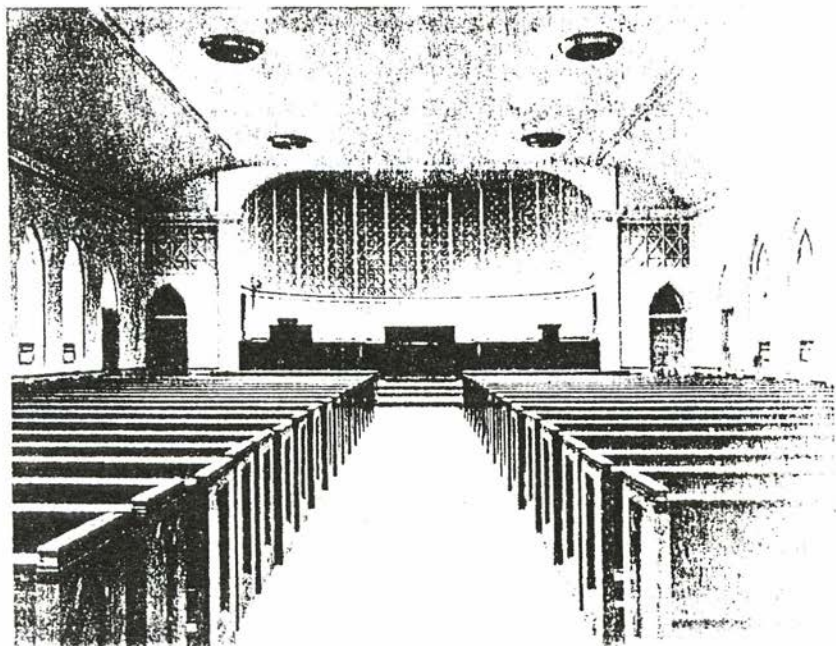
Dedication Program
Sunday, December 16, 1951

C. Freeman Heath, Pastor

A Growing Church to Meet the Needs of a Growing Community.

First Methodist Church

Clinton, North Carolina

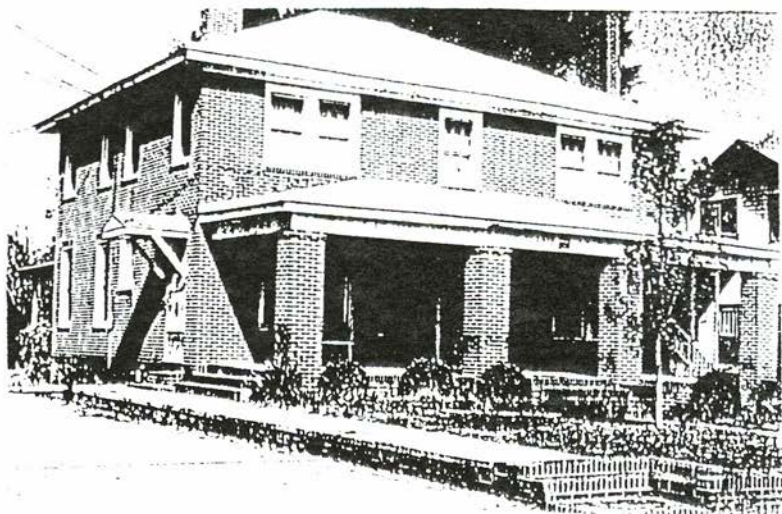


DR. J. E. GARLINGTON, Minister

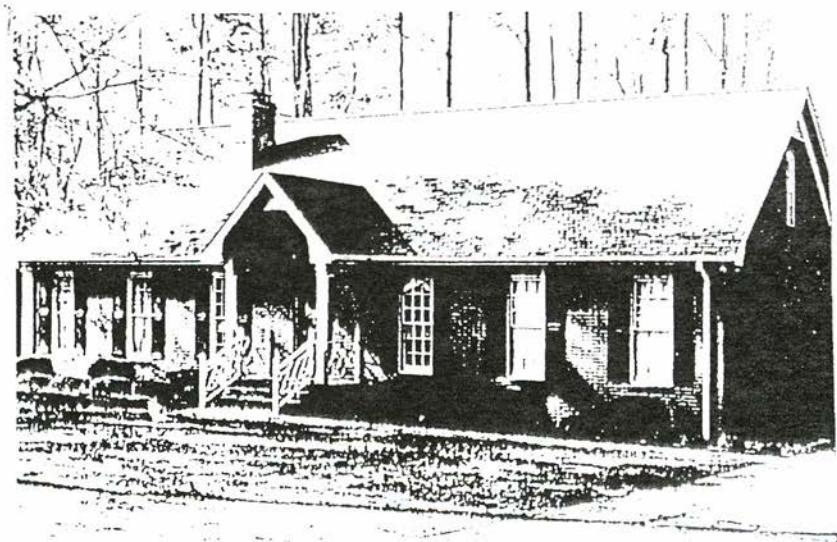
PAUL N. GARBER, Bishop

M. W. LAWRENCE, Superintendent

SANCTUARY AFTER RENOVATION
COMPLETED IN 1963



PARSONAGE
208 Sampson St., Clinton
1931-1996



PARSONAGE
407 Pineview Rd., Clinton
November 1996-Present

Thank you to

Betty Gene Caison Best

for

compiling and typing

this booklet

Revised April 25, 2004

On April 25, 1999, we celebrated the 145th Anniversary of the building of Clinton First United Methodist Church. Dr. John S. Paschal, who served FUMC as Associate Pastor from 1972-1974, was the guest speaker. A homecoming style dinner was held in the fellowship hall. The History Room located in the old parsonage next to the church, was formally dedicated as the DORIS THORNTON HISTORY ROOM in appreciation of her work as historian. Her efforts have made us all more aware of our Christian heritage. The congregation gathered outside the front of the church for a group picture following the morning worship service. This picture hangs in the church office.

Rev. Hugh H. Cameron came to First United Methodist Church from Benson Memorial UMC in June of 1999. His wit and Christian leadership has served to unite and to encourage members in service to the church and community, both local and outside our state and country. On June 13, 2004 after 42 years of service we will celebrate his retirement from the ministry.

As always, Missions have been a vital part of FUMC. During this ministry work teams have gone to France twice and Eastern Germany. Projects included renovating Christian retreat centers. Work teams have gone to Kentucky to repair homes, to Lake Junaluska to refurbish buildings on the campground owned by the Assembly, and to Western Pennsylvania twice to lead in Vacation Bible School.

Under the leadership of Angie Hall, Chairperson of Health and Welfare, the MARYS & MARTHAS was organized in September of 2000 as a caring ministry. The volunteers reach out to our church family by providing food during illness or other crisis.

On Sunday, September 30, 2001, the Stephen Ministry sponsored the TEDDY BEAR CARE Ministry with 16 cuddly teddy bears being placed on the

church pews. The purpose is to provide adults, children and homebound with comfort.

HEARTS, HANDS & HAMMERS, was created as a caring ministry to assist in the needs of people and friends in the name of Jesus Christ. The ministry was begun by the Missions Committee in April of 2003 with Kathleen Gancer as chairperson. Minor home repairs such as mending screens, repairing doors, replacing window panes, removing downed limbs, etc. are done by a team of volunteers under the supervision of project leaders, Tommy Glover and Mitch Malpass. The ministry was selected as the Outstanding Lay Ministry of the Fayetteville District at the Lay Rally in March 2004.

Among the gifts presented to the church in 2003 is the fountain in the Prayer Garden dedicated by Rev Hugh Cameron on August 24 and donated in the memory of Mary H. Wimbish by Lindy Parker and Patti Stallings. In September of the same year a 15-passenger mini-bus was given in memory of Mary H. Underwood by her sons, Hank and Richard Underwood.

On Sunday, December 21, 2003 during the morning worship service the parsonage loan note was burned by Bill Norris, our present finance chairperson together with Helen Hobson, the trustee secretary in 1996 and Dwight Horne, chairman of trustees in 1996. The note was paid in 8 years. "Thanks be to God."

The 150th Anniversary Celebration of the first church building will take place on Sunday April 25, 2004 with Rev. Hugh H. Cameron as speaker. Activities include an ice cream social on the 24th with our youth presenting an original heritage play written by Robert Turlington. On Sunday, Wayne Moore will portray a Methodist Circuit Rider with horse. The theme for the celebration is "Our Cornerstone of Faith for 150 Years!"