

**The**  
**First United Methodist Church**  
**Mount Olive, North Carolina**

**A CENTENNIAL HISTORY (1870 - 1970)**

## ADDENDUM

### CORRECTIONS

Page iii (Preface), Paragraph 6, Line 1—Should read: To Gwynn Cox, Catharine Lister Kirby, . . .

Page 14, Paragraph 2, Line 5—Should read: Mrs. J. W. Wilkins' . . .

Page 16, Paragraph 4, Line 2—Should read: Z. D. McWhorter, E. N. Ricks, Sr., H. M. Cox, D. B. Sasser, J. E. Giddings, R. L. Cox, Allen Cox, Arnold Byrd, Dr. Blythe Morris (an Episcopalian), . . .

Page 26, Paragraph 2, Line 3—Should read: install a new sewer line and the committee thought that a terrazzo . . .

Page 27, Paragraph 4, Line 5—Should read: in teaching. Some of these have been **J. A. Batson (for many years)**, Floyd Andrews . . .

Page 44, Paragraph 4, Line 9—Should read: names of **some** of these . . .

Page 46, Paragraph 3, Line 1—Should read: In 1929 Rev. **L. L. Smith** was . . .

Page 48, Paragraph 4, Line 5—Should read: leader of the group and have **fond** recollections . . .

### ADDITION

Walter Read Patten enters Duke Divinity School in the Fall of 1970. The membership of this Church is proud of Walter's decision to enter the ministry.

**THE  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF  
MOUNT OLIVE, NORTH CAROLINA  
A CENTENNIAL HISTORY (1870-1970)**

**BY  
MARY BYNUM PIERSON, AUTHOR  
SOPHIA HARGETT POTTS, EDITOR**

**MOUNT OLIVE  
1970**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE .....	Page iii
CHAPTER I—The First Church (1870-1914) .....	Page 1
CHAPTER II—The Present Church (1914-1951) .....	Page 11
CHAPTER III—Growth and Expansion (1951-1970) .....	Page 21
CHAPTER IV—Woman's Work .....	Page 34
CHAPTER V—Youth and Other Organizations .....	Page 46
APPENDIX:	
List of Pastors .....	Page 55
List of Sunday School Superintendents .....	Page 55
List of Presidents of Woman's Foreign Missionary Society .....	Page 55
List of Presidents of Woman's Missionary Society .....	Page 56
List of Presidents of the Woman's Society of Christian Service .....	Page 56
List of Gifts to Church .....	Page 56

## PREFACE

In the winter of 1968 our minister, Mr. J. K. Bostick, asked me if I would prepare a centennial history of The First United Methodist Church of Mount Olive. He appointed a committee and various assignments were made. The chairman soon realized that most of the work would be done by a few and that the actual writing would have to be done by one person.

Due to the scarcity of records at hand, it was necessary for me to go to the Methodist Building in Raleigh. With the help of Dr. Carlton Wilson, I secured a great deal of valuable information relative to early Methodism in Wayne County. I had previously gone through the records of the Woman's Missionary Society which are in the Duke Library and Mr. Cletus Brock arranged for me to work with the files of the old **Mount Olive Tribunes**.

Our pastor, Mr. J. G. White, Jr., and our secretary, Mrs. Mary Louise Redmon, assembled the records found in the Church office and secured much of the information contained in the appendix. Miss Gwynn Lee Cox assembled and typed the list of church gifts.

I am indebted to Mrs. Margaret Boyd for information relative to youth work from 1945-1970 and to Mrs. Ruby Kornegay for organizing the information used in writing about the Church School Building. Mrs. Eva Davis Warren lent me two quarterly Conference Record Books which had been kept by her father, Mr. DuBrutz English. Mr. Ernest Flowers and Mrs. Ernestine Lister helped with material relative to the first church. From her own knowledge and from an interview with Mrs. S. D. Broadhurst, Mrs. Eva Wilkins secured information concerning the Ladies Aid Society.

The two papers written by Mrs. Elizabeth McGee Breazeale and Mrs. H. M. Cox were of invaluable help and have been quoted at length. Mrs. Sophia Hargett Potts wrote a section included in the chapter on Woman's Work and has edited the entire manuscript. Mrs. Josephine H. Ricks and the Official Board worked to make publication of the work possible.

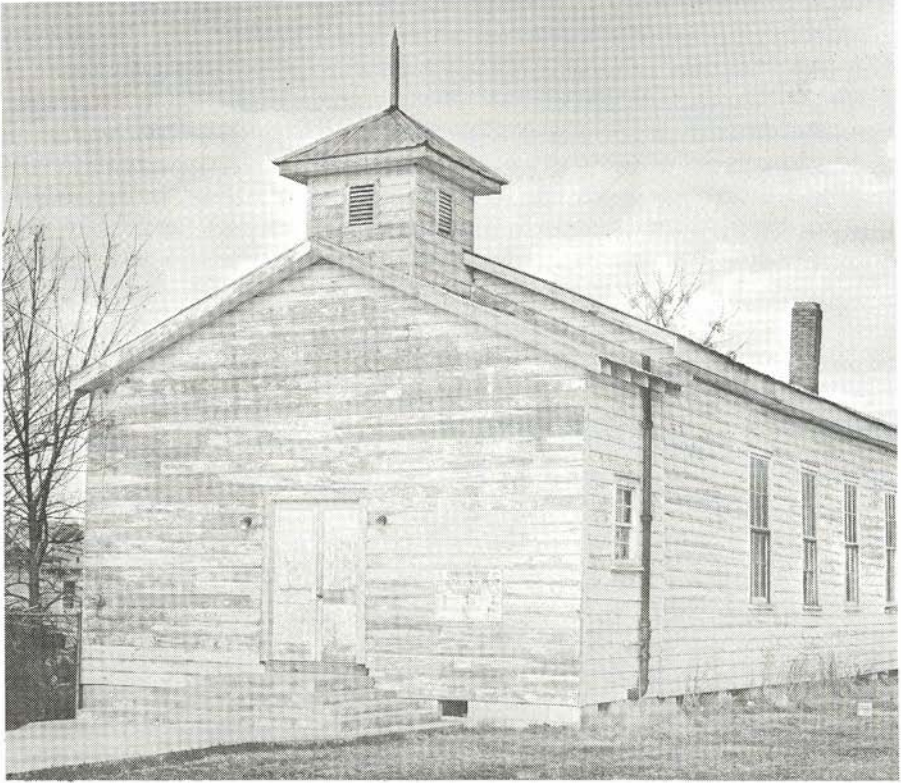
To Gwynn Lee Cox, Katharine Lister Kirby, Anne Corrine Thigpen, and Mrs. Gaye Adams, who typed the manuscript, I wish to express my appreciation. And to many of our older members who told me of various incidents and helped in recalling names and dates pertinent to this work, I am grateful.

Any errors and omissions can be credited to the writer. I attempted to do the best I could with available records, but in some instances the records were missing or were poorly prepared. From 1940 until 1965 I was living in another town so the sections concerning these years were written entirely from official minutes.

Mary Bynum Pierson

June, 1969

## CHAPTER I



**PART OF ORIGINAL MOUNT OLIVE CHURCH**

### **The First Church (1870-1914)**

#### **Early Methodism in North Carolina**

Methodism has been intimately intertwined with the history of North Carolina from its earliest days. Some of Methodism's great leaders of the early period worked in North Carolina, and the first great scism in the church was led by James O'Kelly, minister of New Hope Circuit and long a resident of the state.

North Carolina was the scene of the labors of the early circuit riding Methodists. Joseph Pillmore rode the Virginia Circuit, which included North Carolina, in April, 1772, and was followed by Robert Williams in 1773. The state early profited from the circuit riding of Francis Asbury, who first came to North Carolina in 1774. He was in the state again in 1776, and after 1780 visited it once or twice each year until his death. He preached many times in Hillsborough and Pittsboro, and at least once in Chapel Hill. On these occasions he preached to overflowing crowds including both blacks and whites. On December 31, 1776, he preached to a congregation of between two and three thousand people under an arbor erected specifically for church services. After preaching to a large audience in Hillsborough on August 2, 1780, he wrote in his JOURNAL: "I had too mean an opinion of Carolina; it is a much better country, and the people live much better than I expected from the information given me."

The first Methodist Society in North Carolina was organized by Robert Williams in 1774. The first circuit in the state was organized by the Baltimore Conference of 1776, and Edward Dromgoole, Francis Poythress, and Isham Tatum were assigned as riders of the "Carolina Circuit." By the end of the Revolution the state contained twelve of the fifty-two circuits and had more than 4,000 members of the Methodist Church.

The Revolution worked certain hardships on the Methodist group. Many of the Societies were broken up; others were prevented from holding regular services; the circuit riders found it difficult if not impossible to travel their circuits; and the body as a whole suffered the stigma of charge of pacifism. But able and enthusiastic ministers quickly revived flagging spirits. Preaching at Hillsborough in 1783 Asbury found his audience "solemn but attentive"; in 1784 his congregation in the same town was "larger and more enthusiastic." In 1785 the first Annual Conference of the Church in North Carolina was held at the home of Green Hill near Louisburg, and the first officers, soon to be called presiding elders, were appointed. Hill, a former member of the Provincial Congress of North Carolina, was an ordained Methodist minister. This Conference dispatched its business in "peace and harmony, with . . . one exception. Jesse Lee took issue with Dr. Coke on the question of slavery . . . Dr. Coke opposed it (slavery) with so much zeal, not to say imprudent zeal, that he stirred up antagonism almost everywhere he went . . . in North Carolina." On later visits to the state, Asbury preached to large and attentive audiences in Hillsborough, ordained ministers at Rainey's and in 1800 was at Chapel Hill "treated with great respect at the University, by the president, Caldwell, (Joseph Caldwell) and the students, citizens, and many of the country people."

James O'Kelly, a resident of Virginia, was among the early converts to Methodism in that state. He became an itinerant preacher in 1777 and served efficiently for fifteen years. He came to North Carolina in 1778 and organized New Hope Circuit. He wielded such a powerful influence over the people of that section that it was said "no man enjoyed more entirely the public confidence" than he. O'Kelly was a member of the Council, the governing body of American Methodism from 1789 to 1792, and was largely instrumental in calling the Baltimore General Conference of 1792, first since the organizing Christmas Conference of 1784. He opposed giving the bishops absolute power to assign ministers to the pastorate and, failing in his demand for right of appeal to the Conference, he seceded from the Conference declaring his intention to organize "a republican, no slavery, glorious church." He was followed by thirty-six ministers, and he organized the Republican Methodist Church which drew from the parent body nearly ten thousand members, about one fifth of its total. O'Kelly's church later came to be called the Christian Church. O'Kelly settled near Chapel Hill where he died in 1826.

From 1773 to 1837 North Carolina Methodists were included in a Conference composed of South Carolina, Virginia, and Holston. In 1828 The Methodist Protestants withdrew and in 1837 at Petersburg, Virginia, North Carolina was set off as a separate Conference. As such, the first North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was held in Greensboro in 1838. In 1844 The Methodist Church split into the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and The Methodist Episcopal Church, North.

### **Organization and Early Work in Mount Olive**

It was during this period that Methodist churches were organized in Wayne County. The Goldsboro Circuit was founded by The N. C. Annual Conference in 1853 and continued until 1856. At that time Goldsboro was made a station and the circuit became known as Everetttsville. It was during the latter years of the Everetttsville Circuit that the Mount Olive Congregation organized its church.

On March 1, 1870, The Town of Mount Olive was chartered. On September 29th of the same year The Mount Olive Methodist Church was organized by Dr. John R. Brooks with ten charter members. The church was a part of a circuit in the Everetttsville District and was grouped with Faison, Smith Chapel, Falling Creek, Zion, Indian Springs, and Rones Chapel. It remained a part of this circuit until 1899 when it became a two point charge known as the Mount Olive-Faison charge. In 1873 the Everetttsville district was discontinued and those churches which were in that district were put in the New Bern District.

A paper which Mrs. Elizabeth McGee Breazeale prepared for



the opening service of our present church in 1913 is so beautifully written that it seems appropriate to include it in its entirety. Following Mrs. Breazeale's reminiscences I shall attempt to supplement her brief statement from records which I now have and which were not available to her. On June 8, 1913, the following paper was read by Mrs. Breazeale:

"Let us lift the curtains of the past and gaze upon the scenes of years ago when Methodism began in Mount Olive, North Carolina, and the church was organized. It was on the eve of September 29, 1870, that the little band, under the leadership of Dr. Jno. R. Brooks, first gathered and held their service in the old schoolhouse, with its picturesque setting of tall pine trees. A few, no doubt, are present today who remember that shady spot of long ago which adjoined the present parsonage property and will recall tender associations that cluster round it. Those prominent in the first movement of the church and charter members of the same, were Luther G. Pearsall, Julius C. Eason, Daniel C. Tew, Hattie Barlow, Julia F. Jones, Margaret Kornegay, Margaret Grimes, Robert Cox, Sarah Cox, Mary Peacock, Charity F. Eason. The first names to be added to the church roll after organization were those of Lucy Wilder, Thomas H. McGee, and Susan A. McGee, their membership being transferred from the Kenansville Church. While September, 1870, marked the budding of Methodism in the town, it is recorded that the first growth of the Church began a few months later in a wonderful revival of religion conducted by Rev. John N. Andrews. Men living today who recall that time say that a remarkable spiritual wave swept the entire community, bringing in many earnest workers to reinforce the little band. Some of our older members, who are today most prominent and useful in church affairs, date their conversion back to that meeting under the boughs of the old pine trees, when John N. Andrews preached sermons, the influence of which has been so lasting for the good of the church. Prior to the organization our people had worshiped at what is now a deserted village, Everettsville, in these days a center of culture, wealth, and a refined religious atmosphere.

When on April 12, 1873, at a Quarterly Conference this appointment was discontinued, the old church was at once moved over the sand hills to Mount Olive, where it was placed on a lot on Pollock Street, donated by the late John H. Loftin. Church affairs at this time became most flourishing, as did the Sunday School organized with J. C. Eason first superintendent. The church trustees were Luther G. Pearsall, William B. Smith, Julius E. Cox, and David C. Maxwell, while the Board of Stewards consisted of Lemuel W. Kornegay, J. C. Eason, Luther Pearsall, J. A. English, and a few years later O. W. Sutton, C. B. Price, W. F. English, and J. A. Westbrook

The year 1877 was a notable one, for it marked the purchase of the original parsonage property, O. W. Sutton acting as chairman of the committee. The building, a quaint five-room cottage, in a cluster of cedars, was destroyed by fire in 1888, but was rebuilt the following year. A Woman's Foreign Missionary and a Bright Jewel's Society was organized by Mrs. Hettie Gibbons Westbrook and in her death the church suffered a great loss. She was active in all its interests, a useful Christian woman, and in the years that have passed her gentle influence for good lives on. The communion service, which she gave as a token of her love, is today one of the most treasured possessions of the church. Among the official workers of the Sunday School of this period we find E. Faison Hicks, Frank L. Pearsall, George C. Kornegay, Haywood McKinne, and B. H. Hatch.

As the years go by, from time to time we hear wishes and plans for a

new church, but not until 1900 is there felt so great a need for a larger place in which to worship. But as it seems quite impossible to build at this time, the old church, under the faithful management of A. R. Raven, is remodeled and made more comfortable and attractive. The church is now with Faison made a joint station, being no longer a circuit appointment. For several years the remodeled church sufficed the needs of the steadily growing congregation, and then in 1910 a most earnest movement for a new church, and briefly, the story of progress in the construction is as follows:

At a conference during the pastorate of E. E. Rose, in October, 1910, a building committee was appointed. They were J. A. Westbrook, W. F. Martin, C. B. Hatch, Fred R. Mintz, J. R. McPhail, R. P. Holmes, and DuBrutz English. Mr. McPhail acted as chairman of the committee and Mr. Holmes treasurer. The first collection was made March 27, 1911, and the old church sold the same month. H. E. Bonitz was chosen architect and the actual work began in May 1911. The building committee has expressed great appreciation for the loyalty and substantial support received from the Ladies Aid Society throughout the entire period of construction, and especially do they express satisfaction at their refined, womanly taste exhibited in the plan of interior decoration and furnishings. And a passing tribute is paid to our pastor, Rev. James H. Frizzelle, when we say he has labored so earnestly, so arduously, in giving the work at all times his close personal attention, his assistance has been invaluable.

Taken as a whole the amount expended has been about \$15,000. To the faithful building committee and those whose religious sentiments and generous impulses have furnished the means of creation, this temple stands a beautiful monument to their loyalty.

At present there is a great interest manifested in all branches of the church. Its Epworth League, Ladies Aid Society, Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and the Sunday School, which is progressive under the leadership of such men as A. M. Proctor, E. N. Ricks, Robert Kornegay, and H. M. Cox.

The following constitute the Board of Stewards: W. F. Martin, J. A. Westbrook, Fred R. Mintz, Major Loftin, J. R. McPhail, N. B. Byrd, R. P. Holmes, DuBrutz English.

These are the pastors who served the charge, and although many have gone to that "Beautiful Home of the Soul," they are lovingly remembered by the members of the congregation: John R. Brooks, Jos. Mahoney, J. R. Finley, J. E. Bristow, P. L. Groom, J. T. Abernethy, M. H. Tuttle, N. M. Journey, J. G. Johnson, M. M. McFarland, J. T. Bagwell, T. B. Bonner, A. R. Raven, B. F. Deloach, J. D. Langston, J. W. Potter, J. J. Barker, E. E. Rose, W. C. Merritt, and James H. Frizzelle.

And so it is the current of the church sweeps on, as is usual in the course of life. Faithful ministers come and go, preaching soul-stirring sermons in the old church. There are waves of religious fervor following season of calm indifference; men and women are converted and brought in to the fold; infant children are dedicated to God and brought around the chancel rail to be christened; marriage vows are consummated at its altar and flower-laden caskets pass from out its portals. The church has known its sorrows and its joys, its darkest clouds and most brilliant sunshine. And so today, seeing the dream of years so beautifully realized, let us lift our hearts in thankfulness, pledging ourselves to a more consecrated service in the house of our loving Heavenly Father."

It is recorded in the old quarterly Conference records that the Mount Olive Church had 11 members in 1871, 61 members in 1873, 75 in 1874, and in 1877, only 70 members were on the roll. During the first five years the amount paid toward the pastor's salary by this

church ranged from \$100.00 to \$135.00 per year. These early years also saw the establishment and growth of the Sunday School with J. C. Eason as superintendent. In 1874 there were 63 members enrolled in the Sunday School and the attendance was described as excellent.

Some of the early members whose families remain in our local congregation were: J. A. English (1871), Mrs. Nannie Loftin Flowers (1876), Lizzie Chenney (1878), Frank English (1879), Jim Westbrook (1880), Buck Hatch and his wife, Hattie (1885), and Mrs. Belle Journey (1892). Others who must have come into the Mount Olive Church between 1885 and 1900 for they are listed in the church records of 1900 are: DuBrutz English, William Holmes, Robert P. Holmes, Eliza Holmes, Mrs. Hettie Gibbons Westbrook, Cullen Hatch, Robert Kornegay, John Royall, Roberta English, Ada English, Lucy English, and J. W. Martin. Mr. Z. D. McWhorter came in 1902 as did Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Cox. All of these people immediately assumed positions of leadership in the work of the church. Others who joined between 1900 and 1905 were: Addie Louise Flowers, Carrie English, Julia Estelle Westbrook, Ernest Brice Flowers, Carrie McGee, Elizabeth McGee, Julia F. Jennette, Mae Tatum, Frank English, R. A. King, Mamie King, Ammie Martin, June Martin, Daisy Martin, Joe Giddings, and Herman Andrews. In 1905 Fred R. Mintz, William R. Jennette, Lovett J. Lee, and W. F. Martin were added to the church roster. Some who joined in 1906 were: Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Ricks, Sr., Georgia Andrews, Clyde Andrews, Alva, Allen, and Floyd Andrews, James M. Loftin, Lola Royall, Annie May Hatch, Mary E. Hatch, James Martin, Grainger Martin, and Dora Lee. In 1908 the McPhail family moved into Mount Olive and immediately became active in the church. J. R. McPhail, Ellen McPhail, Martha McPhail, and Harvey McPhail came by certificate. That same year Walter Patten and Sarah Patten transferred to Mount Olive. Later Mr. Patten became well known in the Conference as a minister and Mrs. Patten as a Conference leader in missionary work. Lizzie Taylor, Samuel B. Taylor, Eva English Journey, Willie Estelle Jennette, and John Henry Loftin joined this church in 1908. In 1910 Mrs. Lillie Grant Holmes transferred to the Mount Olive Church. M. W. Loftin must have come to Mount Olive between 1908 and 1911 for his name appeared as a steward in 1911. Other families such as the Eli R. Wilsons, Charlie Britts, Roland Martins, and Mrs. Norman Price apparently moved here during this same period. In 1911 Hettie Powell, Herman Barbery, Louise Barbrey, Clara Lippman, and Irene Dixon Kornegay transferred their membership to this church and in 1912, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw McCullen, A. M. Proctor, the William Chambers, and Granger Rhodes families came by church letter. That same year Nelson Ricks, William Ricks, Samuel Byrd Royall, Eugene Cox, Madrid

Loftin, Leon Britt, and Lorenza Britt joined on Profession of Faith. In 1913 Mr. Z. D. McWhorter returned to Mount Olive with his family and all came into the church by certificate. Winner McWhorter (Mrs. R. L. Cox) was to leave and return later to become a leader in the community and the Methodist Church. That same year S. D. Broadhurst and Beatrice Broadhurst moved into the town and each of them became active in many phases of church work. (Note: There are many whose names are not included either because their families are no longer in our church or because of missing records. In some cases the quarterly Conference minutes to which I had access were spotted depending entirely upon the care with which the local pastor or presiding elder filled in the Supplementary Reports. I listed the above because I was certain of the information and because I thought it would be of interest to many persons now on our church roll.)

Some additional information concerning the period between 1870 and 1913 which is of interest follows:

The school building in which the congregation was organized stood on the corner of Church and Pollock Streets where the old Ammie Martin home now stands.

The old church building was first moved from Everettsville to Milton's Crossroads and in 1873 was placed on the lot on Church and Pollock Streets diagonally across from the old Ammie Martin home. A part of the original church is now on Kelly Street in Mount Olive and is the home of The Ebernezer Apostolic Holiness Church.

In 1887 the Mount Olive Circuit, which included seven churches, paid the pastor \$725.00 per year. In 1896 the total amount raised for everything was only \$600.50.

C. B. Price was a Lay Delegate to the annual conference in 1900. This is the first time our church had a Lay Delegate to officially attend such a conference.

In 1900 we became the Mount Olive-Faison charge with a total of 225 members and with a parsonage valued at \$800.00.

In 1903 the total amount raised by the two churches was \$1,211.41. In 1905 the Trustees reported that the "Title Papers for Mount Olive Church are kept in an iron safe in DuBrutz English's office and are recorded in the Register of Deeds office in Goldsboro in Book No. 74, page 429." The value of the two churches was \$3,000 and, of the two parsonages, \$1,200.

In 1907 J. A. Westbrook, W. F. Martin, and E. N. Ricks were elected as a building committee for the Mount Olive Church. Mr. Ricks resigned and E. B. Flowers replaced him. This committee decided it was impossible to build a new church at that time, but instead the old church was remodeled. In 1908 the office on the parsonage lot

was sold for \$60.00 and the proceeds were earmarked "to be used for a new parsonage."

**The Mount Olive Tribune** in 1908 reported several items relating to this church. One noted that Rev. Euclid McWhorter was the guest of his brother, Professor Z. D. McWhorter, and preached two sermons in the Methodist Church in the interest of Carolina Methodist College for Women which was being erected in Maxton. That same year, Rev. J. N. Cole, Superintendent of the Methodist Orphanage at Raleigh, delivered several "lectures" at the Methodist Sunday School. Rev. E. E. Rose was pastor here for three years and during his pastorate many "protracted meetings" were held.

Among the ladies who played for church and Sunday School during these early years were: Miss Cora Aaron, Miss Eliza Holmes, Mrs. Estelle English, and Miss Frank English.

Some of the leaders in the Sunday School were: J. C. Eason, Mr. and Mrs. Buck Hatch, Mrs. Belle Journey, C. B. Price, Professor Z. D. McWhorter, E. N. Ricks, Sr., J. E. Giddings, Miss Carrie English, Miss Lucy English, Herman Andrews, Fred Mintz, R. L. Kornegay, A. M. Proctor, R. A. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. King, Miss Ethel McPhail, and Mrs. Fred Mintz. During this time the adult class was known as The Wesley Bible Class and according to Mr. Herman Andrews both men and women were members.

One item which appeared in **The Tribune** in July of 1908 which is of interest is as follows: "The Methodist Sunday School excursion train will leave Mount Olive Friday at 7:15 for a pleasant day's outing at Wrightsville Beach. Round trip fare is \$1.25."

In the early days of the Methodist Church it was considered a privilege and an honor, given only to those who were considered leaders, to make the "Communion Wine." In our local church this was done by J. A. Westbrook and he continued in this capacity until shortly before his death. His first wife, Mrs. Hettie Gibbons Westbrook, prepared the bread and the two of them were responsible for the elements and also for the service. After Mrs. Hettie's death, her daughter, Mrs. DuBrutz English, aided Mr. Westbrook. Later Mrs. Eliza Westbrook assumed this duty and continued until she became ill. Mrs. E. C. Casey (Miss Christine English) had already been assisting Mrs. Westbrook in this capacity so she and her husband, Mr. Clay Casey, assumed full responsibility for the Communion Service after Mrs. Westbrook's death. They continue in this capacity. It is of interest to note that the Communion Services were given first by Mrs. Hettie Gibbons Westbrook, and a later one by Mrs. Nannie Hatcher Sollee, in memory of her parents, J. A. Westbrook and Eliza Westbrook; and that preparation of the elements and responsibility for Communion have always been assumed by the Westbrook and English families.

After the old church was sold and moved, the Methodist Congregation worshipped in the City Hall for two years. During that time there was a bad drought in this area. **The Tribune** of June 22, 1911, reports: "Special prayer meeting services for rain, led by Rev. W. C. Merritt, pastor of the Methodist Church, were held in the city hall for three consecutive afternoons. Several business houses closed during the services. Following refreshing showers on Monday . . . the meeting was in the nature of a special Thanksgiving service."

**The Tribune** had reported that as of March 1, 1911, the population of Mount Olive was 1,726. In April the following item appeared: "Work is soon to be inaugurated on Baptist and Methodist Church buildings . . . Both of the buildings are to be the latest modern design, built of stone and brick, and each will cost in the neighborhood of \$12,000." As Mrs. Breazeale stated, the final cost of the Methodist Church was some over \$15,000, and it was officially opened and dedicated on June 8, 1913.

From 1900 until 1913 the following persons from Mount Olive served as Stewards: J. A. Westbrook, DuBrutz English, R. P. Holmes, J. W. Martin, H. G. Williamson, William Holmes, Z. D. McWhorter, C. B. Price, A. G. Cox, W. F. Martin, E. B. Flowers, W. R. Jennette, J. R. McPhail, F. R. Mintz, M. W. Loftin, and A. M. Proctor. During this same period the Trustees were: C. B. Price, J. A. Westbrook, DuBrutz English, W. F. Martin, J. A. English, W. F. English, William Holmes, E. N. Ricks, and J. R. McPhail. Some of these men served as Steward and Trustee at the same time. (Note: Little has been said about woman's work or children's activities. These will be treated separately and in more detail in subsequent chapters.)

I am including **The Tribune** account dated December 22, 1904, of one wedding which took place in this first church. I chose this one to include because the bride was the daughter of one of our earliest members and the groom's mother came into the Church before 1800. Some of their children and grandchildren are present members of the First United Methodist Church of Mount Olive.

## FLOWERS-ENGLISH

### Beautiful Wedding of Two Popular Young People

One of the most beautiful social affairs that has ever occurred in Mount Olive, transpired last night in the marriage of Mr. Ernest Brice Flowers and Miss Addie Louise English at the Methodist Church at 7:30 o'clock.

The church was artistically decorated with holly, ivy and potted plants, and presented a beautiful scene. The church was thronged with the hosts of friends of the young couple. The scene was a brilliant one as the bridal party presented itself at the pulpit, where the ceremony was performed by Rev. John W. Potter, pastor of the church.

While Mrs. DuBrutz English played the beautiful wedding march the two ushers, Mr. James W. Williamson and Dr. G. F. Herring entered first and proceeded up the aisle, and were followed by Miss Mabel Kornegay

with Mr. A. S. Grady, Miss Frank English with Mr. Henry R. Southerland, and Miss Ida Hankins, of Wilmington, with Mr. Lem Kornegay. Then came the dame of honor, Mrs. George E. Hood, of Goldsboro, sister of the groom, and next the maid of honor, Miss Carrie English, sister of the bride. The groom with his best man, Mayor George E. Hood, of Goldsboro, entered, and were followed by the little flower girls, Christine English and Nannie Westbrook. The lovely bride then entered and proceeded to the altar, leaning upon the arm of her brother, Mr. DuBrutz English. Silence pervaded the beautifully decorated edifice as the pastor spoke the solemn and impressive words that joined the two young hearts in holy wedlock.

The bride and maid of honor were gowned in beautiful white silk, the bride carrying a bouquet of lillies of the valley, and the maids one of carnations. The bridesmaids were a lovely group of young women and were all most exquisitely dressed in green, trimmed in white, and each one carried carnations.

After the ceremony a reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. English.

The bride is a young woman lovely in face and disposition and has hundreds of friends both here and elsewhere. The groom is one of Mount Olive's most popular young business men, who enjoys the friendship and highest esteem of all who know him.

The happy young couple received an elaborate array of presents. They will make their future home in Mount Olive.

## CHAPTER II



### **MEN'S CLASS (1917)**

Men's Class of the First Methodist Church here in 1917 are shown in this photo belonging to A. N. Martin, Jr., of Mount Olive. Front row, left to right, Clarence Sasser, Loran Sanderson, Sam Roberts, Daniel Sasser, Ralph English, Allen Andrews, and Elam Summerlin. Second row, Hall Shirley, A. N. Martin, Sr., Allen King, Ed Summerlin, Furnie Summerlin, P. I. Darden, Joe McPhail, June Martin, Sr., and Will Herring. Third row, Bill Southerland, Jim Lewis, R. P. Holmes, Sr., Rodney Southerland, Sr., Tim Elderidge, a man named Lindsey, Roy Parker, Roland Martin, a man named Spivey, Needham Loftin, and Roland Reaves. Fourth row, Granger Rhodes, Fred Martin, a man named Merritt, S. D. Boardhurst, the Rev. Frank Culbreth, pastor, Herman Andrews, Major Loftin, DuBrutz English, Will Sanderson, Will Lane, and Sim Barber. Nearly all of the members are now deceased. (April 16, 1968, Mount Olive Tribune.)

### **The Present Church (1914 to 1951)**

From 1914 until the early forties little was done in the way of a church building program. Soon after the present building was completed there appeared leaks and seepage which was to be a financial drain during succeeding years. So much money was spent on repairs to the roof and repainting the interior that members of the Ladies' Aid Society became exasperated for much of their hard earned money was used for this work. Mrs. H. M. Cox recalled one occasion when the





### PHILATHEA CLASS AROUND 1920

**Mrs. D. B. Sasser, Miss Minnie Herring, Mrs. H. M. Cox, Miss Bade Summerlin, Miss Pearl Southerland, Miss Althea Herring, Miss Ellen McPhail or Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Minnie Davis McGee, Miss Lindsay Andrews, Mrs. Mae Tatum Watson, Miss Ethel Davis, Mrs. Mag Witherspoon, Mrs. Sallie Flowers Byrd, Mrs. Dora McCullen Lee, Mrs. Carrie McGee Mintz, Miss Georgia Andrews, Mrs. Mattie Reaves Byrd, Mrs. Hassie Martin, Miss Ada English, Mrs. Fred Martin, Mrs. Norman Price, Mrs. Ammie Martin, Miss Bessie Byrd, Miss Mamie Andrews, Mrs. Roland Martin, Mrs. Katie Lee Martin, Miss Norma Hatch, Mrs. Bet McCullen Callender, Mrs. J. Q. Britt, Mrs. Sam Taylor, Mrs. S. L. Warren, Miss Emma Kornegay Calvert, Mrs. June Martin, Mrs. Charlie Britt, Mrs. F. F. Butts, Mrs. Daisy Giddings, Mrs. Clyde Andrews, Mrs. David Kornegay, Mrs. Sallie Darden, Mrs. Bass, and Mrs. Esther Tatum Jordan.**

church leaked so terribly that tubs and buckets were brought in to catch the water. At that time Mrs. L. B. Ring was playing the piano and when her beloved musical instrument became endangered, she took off her hat and placed it on the piano to keep it dry. It was not until 1943 that extensive roof work was done, a new furnace installed, and the entire interior of the church remodeled and redecorated. In 1935 rest rooms were added and a few partitions built to enclose small classrooms in the Sunday School area, but no physical expansion was made.

In 1941 a new organ with chimes was installed and paid for "in cash." This was made possible by the hard work and enthusiasm of the "organ committee" composed of Nelson Ricks, chairman; Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Cox; E. C. Casey; D. H. Outlaw; H. M. Cox; Mrs. Harry



**PRESENT CHURCH (APPROXIMATELY 1913)**

Kraft; and Mrs. J. W. Wilkins.

By 1925 the Sunday School had grown to be quite large. Many of our pastors and workers in the children's division were pleading for more space. One of the church members, Mr. D. B. Sasser, built "The Hut," a frame building placed behind the church. The cost of "The Hut" was only \$100.00 for Mr. Sasser gave his labor. It was used for the Men's Bible Class and soon became so greatly loved by the class members that many were reluctant for it to be torn down in later years.

I am unable to learn when the parsonage on the north side of Pollock Street was purchased. There is an entry in the Quarterly Conference minutes of 1923 which is: "Mount Olive conveys 7/24 interest

in the parsonage to the Calypso Church by deed." Again, in November of 1930, it is recorded: "The Calypso M. E. congregation owns \$700.00 interest in the Mount Olive-Calypso parsonage and contents situated on the north side of East Pollock Street and the Mount Olive congregation owns the balance." We do know that this parsonage was remodeled and refurnished in 1926 and was sold in 1945 for \$4,500. The following year a new brick parsonage was ready for occupancy. This is located on land adjacent to the church annex which had been purchased from C. E. Long in 1941.

The need for more Sunday School space continued even after the men went into "The Hut." The records show that during Mr. Loy's pastorate the first sum earmarked for a new building was given by Mrs. Loy's Sunday School class. Later another donation was made by Mrs. H. W. Wilkins' Circle and soon every division of the church and Sunday School made contributions toward such a building. Actual plans were made during Mr. Robbins' pastorate. Mr. R. L. Cox was appointed General Chairman, Mr. E. C. Casey was Chairman of Finance, and Mr. Byron Bryan was Chairman of the Building Committee. The low bid of \$33,000 was accepted and work was begun. In 1949 the new Sunday School Building became a reality. This expansion was a giant step, but even then the leaders realized that it was only the beginning of an even greater undertaking to be launched in a new year.

A brief survey of the building program of the church is only a part of the record of events which took place during those twenty-five years. The heart of the church is its people. We had many dedicated pastors and laymen and if one reads their reports, one is struck by the numbers who were taken into the church on "profession of faith." It must also be kept in mind that during those years the United States was involved in two World Wars and some of the young men who served the nation came from our congregation. The country also suffered the great financial crash of 1929 and the subsequent depression. Hence, any building program and even the routine church work often entailed real sacrifices from the loyal members.

In 1917 at the Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, South, Mount Olive was taken from Faison and placed with Calypso. The Mount Olive-Calypso charge started in the fall of 1918 and Mr. Frank Culbreth was the first preacher. It remained as a charge until 1951 when Mount Olive became a station.

At the time the new charge was formed some of our men served in the dual capacity of steward and trustee, and this practice continued until about 1930. The Official Board of Stewards and/or Trustees from Mount Olive in 1918 was: H. M. Cox, Arnold Byrd, J. A. Westbrook, R. P. Holmes, Sr., R. L. Kornegay, W. F. Martin, M. W. Loftin,

J. R. McPhail, E. N. Ricks, and F. R. Mintz. During the next four years H. D. Andrews, R. A. King, W. F. English, William Holmes, E. B. Flowers, S. D. Broadhurst, S. B. Taylor, D. G. Rhodes, A. N. Martin, L. B. Ring, and N. F. Price were made officials. In succeeding years others were added to replace one who had died or resigned or to increase the number of laymen to carry on the work of the church. By 1949 the Board had become so large that it lacked efficiency so a plan of rotation came into being. This plan called for a membership of twelve stewards. Three were to be rotated off each year and at no one time would there be more than three new members. It became effective in the Conference Year of 1950-1951.

A list of those persons and the dates they appear on the official records as stewards and trustees from 1922 to 1950 follows: Dr. P. I. Darden (1922); E. C. Casey (1924); S. A. Thompson (1927); L. G. Geddie and Dr. J. L. Lister (1929); Dr. J. W. Wilkins (1930); and Paul Patten (1931); H. C. McPhail (1932); Dudley Kornegay and W. F. Ricks (1933); R. P. Holmes, Jr. (1934); Boyd Wilson (1935); W. R. Jennette (1937); J. C. Stabler and A. G. Cox (1938); Leon Britt (1939); Allen Cox, C. D. Burnette, D. H. Outlaw, Allen Andrews, S. L. Winberry, and Harry Kraft (1940); Reuben Burgess (1941); Grainger Martin and Rodney Southerland (1942); Floyd Andrews and W. E. Hester (1945); Ennis Kornegay, K. E. Tyndall, Ed Herring, and Shelton Taylor (1945); Byron Bryan, Clayton Summerlin, John Johnson, and Paul Garrison (1947); Rethel Grimes (1948); Edgar Kornegay, Norbert Wilson, James Francis, and Durald Wilson (1949). R. L. Cox had been a steward from the Calypso Church and when he moved to Mount Olive in 1930, he continued to serve on the Board.

In 1922 the membership of the two churches was 468 and in 1949 it had increased to 581. The total amount of money raised by the Mount Olive congregation in 1929 was only \$3,635.00, and in 1942 it was \$15,916.00. These figures show something of the physical and financial growth that had occurred, but the spiritual life of the church can be judged more accurately by reading the reports of the pastors, lay leaders, and missionary society presidents. The reports of the Lay Leaders to the Presiding Elders reveal a genuine dedication and sense of mission. Only four men served our church in this capacity for this quarter of a century; they were: E. N. Ricks, Sr., Dr. J. L. Lister, S. A. Thompson, and R. L. Cox.

It is impossible to tell of the work of all of our faithful members but a few deserve some special recognition for the records do not reveal their fine work for many years. Among these is Mr. S. B. Taylor who ably and faithfully served as Church Treasurer for at least twenty years. In the Sunday School Mr. M. W. Pope served as Secretary and Treasurer for about the same length of time and he was followed

by Mr. S. D. Broadhurst who continued in this capacity into the fifties. I still have a vivid mental picture of Mr. Pope as he sat at the table in the Sanctuary of the Church every Sunday morning during my childhood. He could literally "hit" the old bell with an authoritative "clang" in order to summons us to our classes. Another memory is of the real talents of Mr. R. A. King, Rev. E. M. Snipes and Mr. S. A. Thompson for oral prayers. At that time it was customary for the ministers to call on laymen to pray during the worship services. These three men had voices and words which made me think they were talking directly to God . . . at least to one child they made His Presence felt.

During this quarter of a century much emphasis was given to the Sunday School. It had made phenomenal growth during the pastorates of Rev. L. L. Smith, Rev. W. L. Loy, and Rev. Grady Dawson. An account of some of the work and some of the changes that took place in this area was ably recorded by Mrs. H. M. Cox. Excerpts from her account written in 1943 follow:

"It is not recalled just when the organized classes came into being, but it was at the time of the great Baraca-Philathea movement that the Men's Class became the Baracas and the Women's Class the Philatheas. Later Methodism had its own organized class movement and such classes usually became Wesley Bible Classes. The Woman's Class compromised with Wesley-Philathea, which it still is, properly or no.

Among the teachers of the Men's Class the following are recalled: Z. D. McWhorter, E. N. Ricks, H. M. Cox, D. B. Sasser, (an Episcopalian), Reuben Burgess (twelve years), J. C. Stabler, Paul Patten, Eugene Cox, and Eli Wilson. It would be hard to even estimate the actual service this class has performed since its organization. In every emergency or need of any kind they have come to the rescue; they might be called the "Uncle Bim" of the S. S. Among their regular work has been the support of an orphan. Perhaps the distinguishing mark of the Class to the uninitiated, however, would be the obvious spirit of fellowship among the members. (108 members one Sunday.)

Miss Ada English was the first teacher of the Philathea Class, as it was then called. Others were Miss Ellen McPhail, Mrs. Fred Mintz, Mrs. Mary Kennedy, Mrs. E. M. Snipes, Mrs. H. M. Cox, Mrs. R. D. Loffin, Mrs. C. A. Spruill, Mrs. Lillie B. Holmes, Mrs. W. L. Loy, and Mrs. Eva Wilkins. This Class, also, has oft times been as a rock in a weary land to the Sunday School superintendents. It would be interesting to know the number of quilts they have quilted, the suppers they have served, the flowers they have sent, the dishes they have washed. They seem never to be quite "broke", however, and the Superintendents have always found this out. Needy members have experienced their beneficence. They have clothed some orphan or other for years and years, this in conjunction with the Friendly Bible Class since the latter was organized.

Eventually—this was while Miss Ellen McPhail was teaching the Class—the membership overflowed the classroom and in the warm weather members sat on the steps outside. This was an inspiring thing for any teacher and everybody was proud of the size of the Class. It came as a distinct surprise, therefore, when some of the young members of the Class—the membership ranged in age from girls in their early teens to women of fifty—expressed a desire for a Class of their own where they would feel less embarrassment and more freedom in entering into class discussions.

Some of the Class members were reluctant to lose these young girls, but others considered their action the most healthful thing that had manifested itself among them in a long time. They held their organization meeting in the home of Misses Addie Belle and Lillian Royall, early in 1921, I think it was, and Mrs. H. M. Cox went with them as their teacher. The class was a dynamic organization from the very first, and in those early days, at least, they really **studied**, not only from the Bible but in research fields connected with their Bible study. They, too, have assisted wherever called upon. They have shared with the older class the privilege of clothing the orphan, among many other things. The financial statement of the church for 1927 shows a receipt of \$100 from this Class. Among the teachers have been Mrs. H. M. Cox (for many years), Miss Elizabeth Oliver, Mrs. Sophia Potts, Mrs. Fred Mintz, Mrs. Minnie Lee Ricks, Mrs. R. L. Cox, Mrs. Sammy Geddie, Mrs. Yvonne Hatch, Mrs. Mary Bynum Pierson, and Mrs. Alice Loftin. The class is now named "The Frank Cox Class."

Mrs. Holmes has for a long time had general supervision of the Children's Work, and no church ever had a more devoted leader for its youth. Mrs. Holmes organized the first Vacation Bible School in our church in 1932. Her "faculty" were Miss Lucille Chambers, Mrs. T. N. Ricks, Mrs. Leon Britt, Mrs. H. M. Cox, Mrs. F. A. Andrews, Miss Annie Kornegay, and Miss Catharine Lister. Here is an excerpt from L. L. Smith's report to the quarterly conference in 1933: "During the past six months of intense depression and anxiety, Mrs. Holmes and others in our church congregation and Mrs. A. D. Byrd at Calypso have done most excellent work in providing care for those who have been out of food and those who have been sick. To the extent of impairing her health, Mrs. R. P. Holmes has given of her means and herself to help relieve suffering." We see she has not changed . . . Among those who have assisted her faithfully are Mrs. Leon Britt, Mrs. Floyd Andrews, Mrs. Minnie Lee Ricks, Mrs. W. L. Loy, Mrs. L. L. Smith, Mrs. Lipman Long, Miss Lucille Chambers, Mrs. Ralph Warren, Mrs. Emmett Pope, Mrs. Nelson Ricks and Miss Grace Jordan."

Two other classes which functioned for several years (from around 1916 to 1936) were for boys from around ten to sixteen years of age and girls in their early teens. These were organized and taught by Mr. E. N. Ricks, Sr. and Mrs. Loren Sanderson (known as "Miss Tempee"). These classes were reorganized in later years and partially absorbed by other classes, but from about 1916 to 1924 they were taught by these two people. I have no record of who the other teachers for the boys' class were, but others for the young girls' class were: Mrs. F. R. Mintz, Mrs. R. L. Cox, Addie Reaves, Sophia Hargett, Mary Bynum Holmes, Mrs. Emmett Pope, Sr., and Paul Patten.

Mr. Ricks' class of boys was well known, not only by the Methodists, but also by the entire community. They were wide awake and as the town lacked recreational facilities for its youth, the Sunday School attempted to furnish some. On one occasion Mr. Ricks and Mr. R. A. King organized a "possum" hunt for these boys. I am told that in order to assure that they would be rewarded, Mr. King went out ahead of the group and tied three "possums" to trees. Needless to say, the dogs and the boys were equally excited.

This incident brings to my mind the anticipation that the young people felt when school was out and a Sunday School picnic was to

be held. All the churches went for their picnics in one of three places—Seven Springs, Williams' Mill, or Dudley Beach. The Methodists favored deep water which was perfect for the star performance. In those days it was not "gentlemanly" to be seen in a short bathing suit, so Mr. Major Loftin cut off overalls and dived from the top of the mill house into the pond. This high dive was the climax of the day. All could go home—tired, full, and with a feeling of having witnessed a daring performance. (Note: More attention will be given to young peoples' work in a later chapter and the tremendous contributions of the women in their Aid and Missionary Societies will be discussed in detail.)

The Mount Olive Methodists have always enjoyed singing and from the beginning of our church until today we have had volunteer choirs. Prior to 1900 Miss Maggie Bridgers, Miss Annie Pearsall, Miss Sallie Smith, Frank Pearsall, Buck Hatch, and Charles Abernethy were among those who were in the choir. Early in 1900 families moved into town and helped with the music. Some of the ones who sang in the choir between 1900 and 1950 were: Miss Cora Aaron, Miss Kate Tatum, R. A. King, Miss Georgia Andrews, Willie Fitts, Harvey Pyle, Mrs. Fred Mintz, Mrs. Sam Taylor, Mrs. E. N. Ricks, and later her sons, William, Nelson, and Edgar; Mr. E. T. Watson, Miss Lillian Royall, Miss Louise Jones, Mrs. Walter Patten and later Paul Patten; Miss Irene Waters, Mrs. R. L. Cox, Mrs. Floyd Andrews, Mrs. Ennis Kornegay, Mrs. Fannie Hinson, Mrs. Louis Ring, Mr. Dan Outlaw, Mrs. Alice Loftin, Mrs. Sallie Mae Batson, and Mrs. Cullen Hatch. In addition to these, several young people in the church joined the choir when they became old enough. These were: Ruth Gray Price, Keron Butts, Margaret Kornegay, Lucy, Patty, and Virginia Jones, Emily Moore, Sadie Pate, Mary Bynum Holmes, Margaret and Betty Jean Hinson, Katherine Johnson, Hilda Byrd, and Nancy Long.

The church has been fortunate in having able choir directors, pianists, and organists. The directors were: E. T. Watson (1916 to 1930), Paul Patten (1930 to 1951), and Mrs. Dorothy Barnes Flowers since 1951. Pianists and organists have been: Mrs. Eliza Hatch, Miss Ellen McPhail, Mrs. Estelle English, Mrs. L. B. Ring (for many years), Mrs. R. L. Cox, Mrs. Paul Patten, Mrs. Dan E. Kornegay, Mrs. Boyd Wilson, Miss Anna Mae Kornegay, Mrs. Dorothy Barnes Flowers (1934 to 1951), and Mrs. Paul Garrison since 1951. There may have been others who helped with the music for short periods of time, but the above mentioned persons were faithful for years.

In connection with the music, many may recall that in the early thirties we had a Sunday School Band. This was composed of Mrs. Estelle English, pianist; Miss Hettie English, Miss Irene Waters, Miss Sara Southerland, and Mr. Royall Kornegay, violinists; and Mr. E. T.

Watson and Mr. Paul Patten played clarinets. Sometimes one of these would play a solo during the church service.

More will be said about Mrs. Belle Journey in the discussion on women's work, but I cannot close this chapter without mentioning her. When she was ninety-seven years old, **The Tribune** spoke of her as "Mrs. Methodist" and she truly represented many saintly qualities which all of us would like to claim. Her God and the Methodist Church were so much a part of Mrs. Journey that those rare Sundays when she was absent from her pew the congregation felt her absence, and I am certain that the ministers missed her silent encouragement. Some other members who have not been mentioned thus far but who were especially faithful in their attendance and many of whom worked silently "behind the scenes" for the good of the church were: Mrs. Roberta Loftin, Miss Ada English, Mrs. Mary Kennedy, Mrs. Mae Tatum Watson, Mrs. S. D. Broadhurst, Miss Blanche Marquette, the Andrews, Charlie Britt, Frank Butts, Grainger, June and Ammie Martin Families; Mrs. Mamie King and the Weeks Families; the Cobbs, the Dave Reaves Family, the two Long Families, Mrs. Herman Barbery and her children, and the children of E. A. Southerland; Mrs. Beulah Price, Mr. and Mrs. Roland Martin, Mrs. Erma Byrd, Mrs. Charlie Matthews, Mrs. Faison Lee, Mrs. S. L. Warren, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Kornegay, the Royall Family, the Leamon Britt Family, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Herring and Althea and Lillian Herring; Ralph English, Mrs. Clara McCullen, Mrs. Bet McCullen, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Kornegay, Mrs. Clarissa Mae Stamper, Mrs. Allen Cox, Mrs. Margaret Grantham English, Mrs. Helen Burgess, Mrs. A. M. McCuiston, and Mrs. E. J. Pope, Sr.; Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Burnette, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Glenn, Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kraft, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Hood, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bordeaux, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Wilson, and Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Summerlin. There are probably others whom I do not recall, but in the list above there are many who have remained active in the church and some of their children and grandchildren were to become leaders of our congregation during the fifties and sixties.

In 1943 Mrs. H. M. Cox concluded her paper with this statement:

"We would like to have more concrete evidence of the spiritual force of the Mount Olive Church, but who can estimate its influence in the lives and homes of those who have been trained here and gone elsewhere to live and work in other churches? We wish very much that we could point to an ordained minister or a missionary and say 'He was called from the Mount Olive Methodist Church.' We can claim to have furnished one consecrated worker in the person of Miss Elizabeth Oliver, who serves as Director of Children's Work in the North Carolina Conference, and we are glad that another of our young girls was deemed worthy of the same place in our own Conference, but declined the offer because of her youth. We have one young man studying for the ministry at Duke, Herman Winberry, and although he had chosen his path before he came to Mount Olive,



we shall be proud of having him go into the ministry while a member of our church, should this be our good fortune."

The year 1950 marked the end of a circuit charge for Mount Olive Methodist Church. When it became a station, the church entered a new and exciting era. The next twenty years were filled with many challenges and much expansion. However, we must constantly remember those dedicated men and women who labored for eighty years to make the growth in the fifties and sixties possible.

## CHAPTER III



**PRESENT EDUCATION BUILDING**



**LAYING OF CORNERSTONE**



**DEDICATION SERVICE**

## **Growth and Expansion (1951-1970)**

On November 7, 1951, the first Official Board Meeting of the Mount Olive Methodist Church as a station was held. Reverend Russell Harrison continued as pastor and was to serve the church ably for the next three years. The following September our church was officially recognized as "The First Methodist Church of Mount Olive." During this time several physical improvements were made. Mr. Harrison reported that oil-burning, hot-water heating systems had been installed in the church and in the parsonage; the interior and outside woodwork of the church had been painted; two large classrooms were made from smaller ones; repairs were made to the foundation and to the roof; parking space had been provided on the church property; a nine foot walk from the Educational Building to the sidewalk had been paved; and numerous minor repairs were mentioned. Perhaps the largest single item, money wise, was the purchase of a new \$7,000 Baldwin organ which was paid for in full by September of 1954. Several gifts were made to the church and these with the installation of a new carpet and lighting system added to "the dignity and beauty of the sanctuary."

Calypso's desire to receive payment for her equity in the parsonage was met by 1953 and she was paid \$400.00 as final settlement for

all claims against this property. After this settlement new bedroom, dining, and living room furniture was bought and the parsonage was redecorated. (Much of this work was financed by the women of the church.) Another significant change occurred in 1954. A new conference district, the Goldsboro District, was formed and Mount Olive became a part of it. At this time our local church had 539 members and an average Sunday School attendance of 228.

At the time Mount Olive became a station the following persons were stewards: Reuben Burgess, Chairman; S. D. Broadhurst, Clay Casey, R. L. Cox, H. M. Cox, S. B. Taylor, Ed Hester, Dudley Kornegay, Ennis Kornegay, Boyd Wilson and Norbert Wilson. The following year Shelton Taylor, Ralph Warren, L. G. Geddie, Clarence Wilson, and William S. Wilkins became stewards. In 1953 Paul Patten, Don Ward, Lloyd Hontz, Mrs. Shelton Boyd, Mrs. Clay Casey, Mrs. Mossett Flowers, Freddie Meachum, Bruce Herring, Dan H. Outlaw, and H. D. Andrews came on the Board. The following year the names of W. D. Kornegay, Boyd P. Beall, Jr., Fitzhugh Smith, James A. Batson, and Mrs. R. L. Cox were added to the official roll. It is noted that although many of these persons had served the church prior to this era, there were many others who assumed roles of leadership in the church for the first time. This is especially true during the seven years in which Mr. Fouts was our pastor.

The Charge Lay Leaders from 1951 to 1956 were Don Ward, Norbert Wilson, and James A. Batson. Ralph Warren served as treasurer from 1950 to 1955 and Don Ward acted as treasurer for the year 1955-1956. Our Sunday School Superintendents were Lloyd Hontz and Paul Patten. All of these leaders performed their jobs well and were successful in securing the help of many persons in the church who had not been very active participants prior to this time. It seemed that the very act of becoming a station had acted as a catalyst to the church.

Much credit goes to Rev. Harrison for his leadership during our transition. However, it is impossible to estimate the value of the changes which occurred in the First Methodist Church of Mount Olive during the seven years in which Rev. and Mrs. Dwight L. Fouts served it. I was not a resident here at that time, but I have been told by scores of our members that we became a more vital church which made itself felt in the entire community. A list of those who were added as Official Board Members during these seven years will indicate that more of the younger people were being used in positions of responsibility. In 1955, Zach Cox, James Francis, and Floyd Andrews came on the Board; in 1956, Frank Clifton, Allen Cox, James Hatcher, W. R. Stampfer, Mrs. Clayton Summerlin, W. F. Harper, Mrs. Preston K. Sutton, Dr. Kenneth Wilkins, Cecil Winstead, and Mrs. Eva Wilkins were added; in 1957, William C. Bizzell, Joseph A. Sutton, Sr., Don Ward, and Ellis

Weeks were made stewards; in 1958, the names of Mrs. W. L. Hood, Borden Kornegay, Harry Kraft, June Martin, Jr., Mrs. Alice Loftin, Mrs. A. M. McCuiston, E. J. Pope, Jr., and Freddie Meachum appeared on the official roll; Harry Lee Cobbs, Mrs. Emmett Pope, Sr., and J. L. Smith, Jr., were added in 1959; and in 1960, Ralph B. Jordan, H. J. Morris, D. F. Odom, Jr., and Mrs. Morrison Smith became stewards. (Note: Several members were rotated off the Board each year and some were lost by death or resignation. I am not certain as to who were stewards and who were trustees for the records are not always clear about this.)

Floyd Andrews was made Lay Leader and he served faithfully and well all during Mr. Fouts' pastorate. Clarence Wilson became Church Treasurer in 1956 and continues in this capacity today. In 1959, we had 572 members on the church roll and an average Sunday School attendance of 223. Paul Patten and Borden Kornegay served as Sunday School Superintendents and a new surge of interest began especially in the Young People's Department. The Men's Class became quite large and was so popular that many men in the town who were not members of our church attended this class.

Mr. Fouts' report to the Quarterly Conference in 1955 stated in part: "The general state of the church is good. Attendance at both Sunday School and at the morning church services is good. The peak attendance of 267 was reached last Sunday, which is all we can accomodate without bringing in chairs." In 1958, he reported: "One of the most outstanding things about this church is its spirit of unity and growth in fellowship and spiritual life, issuing into a forward look and cooperation in advancing the total program of the church."

The church had long felt the need of an adequate Education Building. The congregation was large and active and in January of 1959 our District Superintendent, H. M. McLamb, authorized Mr. Fouts to call a special quarterly conference for the purpose of electing a building committee. The Conference met Sunday, January 4, 1959, and nominated the following persons to serve as members of this committee: Floyd Andrews, William C. Bizzell, Mrs. Erma Byrd, R. L. Cox, Borden Kornegay, Norbert Wilson, Mrs. Frank Clifton, Mrs. W. D. Kornegay, John M. Johnson, James Glenn, Bruce Herring, W. D. Kornegay, Jr., Fred L. Meachum, Dan Outlaw, Paul Patten, E. J. Pope, Jr., Clayton Summerlin, Shelton Taylor, Don Ward, Ralph Warren, and Cecil J. Winstead.

From the time this committee was appointed until the building was dedicated on May 23, 1965, was only six and a half years. It covered two years of Mrs. Fouts' pastorate and four and a half years of the five years Rev. Christian White was here. It was the largest financial and physical undertaking that this church had ever made

and entailed so much work, love, dedication, and sacrifice that I shall attempt to tell its story as I read it through the fine minutes of Mrs. W. D. Kornegay. (I shall return to other discussions of the church from 1960-1965.)

The initial meeting of the General Building Committee was held February 2, 1959, and the following persons were elected as officers and committee members: General Chairman, Don Ward; Vice Chairman, John Johnson; Secretary, Mrs. W. D. Kornegay, Jr.; Chairman of Planning and Findings Committee, Borden Kornegay; Members of this committee, Norbert Wilson, Mrs. Frank Clifton, John Johnson, Bill Bizzell, Mrs. W. D. Kornegay, Jr., and Rev. D. L. Fouts. This committee reported within two weeks and recommended that Mr. Walter Burgess, Architect, and a Member of the Bishop's Architectural Committee be consulted. They further asked that a Building Fund be started and Fred Meachum was elected treasurer of the General Building Fund.

By January of 1962 Mr. Burgess had been hired as architect and \$2,030 was in the Building Fund. In February a new slate of officers was elected and these served for the remainder of the time that the building program was in progress. Chairman was Fred Meachum; Vice Chairman, J. S. Glenn; Treasurer, Borden Kornegay; and Secretary, Mrs. W. D. Kornegay, Jr. In February of 1963 the fund had increased to \$5,625.34 and it was voted to place all monies on savings except that needed to pay the architect. Special committees were then appointed so that final plans and decisions could be made. These were: Finance, W. D. Kornegay, Jr., Chairman; Norbert Wilson, Dan Outlaw, Cecil Winstead, Borden Kornegay, and Fred Meachum; Construction, Bruce Herring, Chairman; Bill Bizzell, Ralph Warren, Clayton Summerlin, and Shelton Taylor; Publicity and Promotion, E. J. Pope, Jr., Chairman; Mrs. Frank Clifton, Paul Patten, Floyd Andrews, and Mrs. W. D. Kornegay, Jr. As soon as plans were drawn the architect met with each committee and after they were accepted by the General Committee, they were presented to the congregation for acceptance. A target date for launching a financial campaign for the building program was set for the spring of 1964.

It was decided to secure the services of the Board of Missions, Department of Field Service and Finance, to promote the financial campaign. By March of 1964 a total of \$85,524 in pledges had been secured. Since it was estimated that the final amount needed would be in the neighborhood of \$150,000, on May 3, 1964, a church conference was called and "The Trustees were empowered to mortgage the property of the First Methodist Church of Mount Olive and obtain a construction loan of \$80,000 for the purpose of building the new education and fellowship facilities." Bids were mailed to 25 contractors and in July of 1964 the low bid of \$141,957 was accepted.

The actual construction started immediately and on Sunday, August 16, 1964, a "Service for Breaking Ground" was held. During the Quarterly Conference following this service, a resolution was voted on and passed to borrow an additional \$20,000 to make up the deficit in the amount needed to cover the cost of construction. This deficit was due to the fact that the pledges were over a three year period and many were either delinquent in paying their pledges or had made only partial payments.

During the construction of the new facilities several changes and some deletions as well as additions were made. It was necessary to install a new sewer line and the committee thought that a terrazo floor would be longer lasting and less costly in the long run. In January of 1965 a Memorial Committee was appointed and this committee was asked to recommend a list of needed and suitable memorials. It was also decided to have plaques available if contributors wished them. The committee members were: Cecil Winstead, W. F. Harper, Mrs. Eva Wilkins, Mrs. H. M. Cox, Fred Meachum, and Rev. Christian White. (Gifts listed in Appendix.)

On Sunday, May 23, 1965, the Fellowship and Education Buildings of the First Methodist Church of Mount Olive were formally opened. Rev. Christian White, who had labored so well and untiringly for this building, was our pastor and Rev. Mark W. Lawrence was Superintendent of the Goldsboro District. Dr. Paul N. Garber, Bishop of the North Carolina Conference, delivered the sermon and he and the pastor laid the cornerstones. Fred L. Meachum, Chairman of the Building Committee, presented the buildings to the Trustees and June Martin, Jr., President of the Board of Trustees, accepted the buildings on behalf of the congregation. (\*Note: The original building committee with one exception was the same as that listed in the bulletin at the time of dedication. John Johnson had died and W. S. Wilkins had replaced him on the General Committee.)

The buildings had been constructed and dedicated, but our congregation was heavily in debt. On May 30, 1965, another Church Conference was held and the Trustees were empowered to borrow an additional \$15,000 to clear the other debts. In September a systematic plan was worked out to pay off the indebtedness. It was reported that the final cost of the two buildings was \$151,585. By October only \$59,350 of the pledges had been paid so a new campaign was set for February of 1967. Rev. White had been moved from our church and Rev. J. K. Bostick had been our pastor since June of 1966. Through his leadership and with the special help of E. J. Pope, Jr., Fred Meachum, Shelton Boyd, George Kornegay, Ellis Weeks, Cecil Winstead, Norbert Wilson, Raymond Carson, Clarence Wilson, and Mrs. Mary Louise Redmon a plan for a United Budget was presented to

the Board of Stewards and to the congregation. This was an attempt to include all phases of the church and church school work and the building fund in a single budget thus necessitating a canvass of the congregation only once a year for only one pledge. This plan remains in effect and has worked well. The indebtedness for the two buildings is gradually decreasing. As of April, 1969, the debt had decreased from a total of \$115,000 to \$62,337.22. It is hoped that it will be completely liquidated no later than 1980, and if possible, prior to that time.

During the first decade of our local church as a station, the young people were represented in the Official Board Meetings as well as being members of the Quarterly Conference. Those who served in this capacity from 1951 to 1961 were: Margaret Jean Kraft, Mary Dell Sutton, Mary Stevenson Britt, Boyd E. Wilson, Jr., Mary Helen Burgess, Charles Johnson, Anne Corrine Wilson, Norma Carole Summerlin, Stelle Flowers, and Mary Bevan Boyd. (These were the Presidents of the M.Y.F.)

Little has been said about the church school work during this time. The adult classes continued to study and work and one of them, the Belle Journey Class, under the leadership of Mrs. Lloyd Hontz came into prominence. This class had been formed earlier due in part to the leadership of Marguerite Britt. It has for many years presented Bibles to the Methodist High School Seniors. They have also assumed the responsibility for placing flowers in the church on special Sundays in memory of Mrs. Journey. Another class which has been especially active in recent years is the Young Adult Class which is made up of young married couples. This fine group has been extremely fortunate in having for its teacher Dr. Raymond Carson. Dr. Carson is an inspiring and provocative teacher and has stimulated these young couples in their study courses and in discussions.

Mrs. Eva Wilkins continues to lead the Philathea Class and the Frank Cox Class has had Mrs. Frank Cox, Mrs. Yvonne Hatch, Mrs. Alice Loftin, and Mrs. Mary Bynum Pierson as teachers during these years. The Wesley Bible Class has had several men who alternate in teaching. Some of these have been Floyd Andrews, Don Ward, Paul Patten, Cecil Winstead, and the various pastors. In the children's and youth divisions some of the dedicated workers during the years have been: Mrs. Mossett Flowers, Mrs. Bill Daughtry, Mrs. Erma Byrd, Mrs. Helen Burgess, Mrs. Clarissa Mae Stamper, Mrs. June Martin, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Wilkins Mrs. Guy McKee, Mrs. Byron Bryan, Mr. and Mrs. Ray McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Williams, Mrs. J. F. Ball, Mrs. Borden Korengay, Mrs. Zach Cox, Mrs. Jean Herring, Mrs. Charles Burnette, Jr., Mrs. Jimmy Davis, Mr. Jimmy Adams, and Mrs. Hugh Oates. Mrs. Shelton Boyd has worked closely with the M.Y.F. Group, both in the church school and in their evening meetings.



Many of these people continue to act as leaders in our church school.

The Church School Superintendents from 1958 to the present have been Borden Kornegay, William Wilkins, Shelton Boyd, Harold Hughes and Jimmy Adams. These men, the above-mentioned leaders and teachers, the various division leaders, and the countless class officers and loyal members have made our Church School a fine one. In 1963 the following report was given which is a five year average for the Church School: 30 officers and teachers, 99 children, 73 young people, 242 adults (22 and older), total membership of 444 and average attendance of 218. Within the past five years there has been a noticeable decline in attendance and this decline is chiefly in the classes of children from 1 to 12 years of age. These figures may indicate to us the area in which special attention is needed.

During the time Rev. Christian White was pastor in Mount Olive, he spent much of his time in helping to direct and promote the building program. However, he did not neglect his other duties and often promoted new projects and ideas. It was during his pastorate that much was done in study groups. Several neighborhood Bible Study Groups were organized and these functioned for a while. One group, known as "The Twelve," met with the pastor each week and it has continued even though the group has diminished in number. Floyd Andrews was faithful until his death, and those who continue in this group and were among the original members are Allen Cox, Clayton Summerlin, and Paul Patten.

Another thing of significance which occurred during Mr. Christian White's pastorate was "The Lay Witness Mission." A quote from Mr. White's report to the last Quarterly Conference of the Year 1965-66 is: "The Lay Witness Mission which we have just concluded has been a real blessing to our church and community. There were some real experiences of conversion and many made a renewal of their commitment. Some forty people, among them twelve youth, have expressed a desire to join small groups for prayer and Bible study. We have three such groups now meeting which have been very meaningful to those who share in them." As an outgrowth of this experience Cecil Winstead, Ellis Weeks, Norbert Wilson, James Davis, Ray and Norma Carole McDonald participated in one or more similar programs held in St. Paul's Church in Durham, St. Luke's in Goldsboro, Brogden Church, and First Church in Rocky Mount.

In 1962, Mr. Christian White saw the need of starting a genuine Church Library. He talked with Mrs. Mary Reid Tatum, the widow of one of our members who died recently, and she decided to give a sum of \$200.00 as a memorial to her husband, Dr. Edis W. Tatum. The first books were bought with this money. Since then various gifts for memorials have been made and the library has expanded.

For many years our able Church Secretary had been Mrs. Rethel Grimes. She and her husband moved from Mount Olive about the time Rev. Joe Bostick came as our pastor. Mrs. Mary Louise Redmon took over this job and continues today in this position. It is impossible to estimate or evaluate their work for they have given of themselves as well as their time to a task which pays little in the way of financial compensation. Both of these fine young women have been faithful in attending many meetings, in keeping records, and in countless menial jobs in and around the church which entailed many hours of work beyond the half day they were hired to give. Much of the success of many of this church's projects has been partially due to their help and direction.

During Mr. Bostick's pastorate two very significant things happened. One has been mentioned, that of going on a united budget. Another was his leadership in having "acolytes" trained to participate in the worship services. The first, E. A. Southerland, served for nine months without missing a service. Other boys who have been acolytes are: Johnny Ball, Ernie Martin, and Bill Bryan. These boys are loyal and contribute greatly to the effectiveness of the church ritual.

Nothing has been said specifically about the work of our various commissions. Those on Stewardship and Finance, Education, Membership and Evangelism, Christian Social Concerns, Missions, and Worship were all organized and worked well during these two decades. Norbert Wilson has done an outstanding job as Chairman of the Worship Committee and those who worked with him as ushers have been faithful. Murray Cashwell, H. G. Best, Ray McDonald, Cecil Winstead, Dr. W. A. Potts, J. L. Smith, Guy McKee, Charlie Burnette, Sr., Bill Wilkins, Billy Bizzell, Doug Connor, George Kornegay, H. J. Morris, June Martin, Clarence Wilson, and Harvey Callender are among those who have served often as ushers.

Mrs. Ruby Kornegay, Mrs. George Kornegay, Mrs. Jim White, and Mrs. Clayton Summerlin have arranged for excellent Church Wide Mission Studies in recent years. In the area of Christian Social Concerns many of our members have participated. Mrs. Margaret English has gone the second mile in many instances and has helped numbers of people who were in need of either material or spiritual help. Althea Herring, Sallie Flowers, Myrle Wolfe, and Eva Hood often helped in this area. Mrs. Ruth Carson has been especially active in the work our church has sponsored at Cherry Hospital. Cecil Winstead, Margery Hughes, Mrs. Eva Wilkins, Mrs. Allen Cox, Mr. Paul Patten, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Wilkins, and Mrs. D. F. Odom, Jr., are some others who have been active in this phase of our work.

Since Mr. Fouts' pastorate here, Cecil Winstead and A. J. Davis, III, have been Lay Leaders. Those who have served as Stewards and

Trustees in addition to some who were mentioned previously are: Dr. W. A. Potts, J. S. Glenn, Mrs. W. E. Stevens, C. D. Burnette, Sr., (came back as Chairman of Trustees in 1962), Mrs. R. B. Warren, Frank Clifton, J. C. Cuddington, Ray McDonald, R. S. Williams, Harold Hughes, George Kornegay, John L. Kornegay, Cecil Kornegay, Mrs. W. A. Potts, Guy McKee, Albin Pikutis, Mrs. Mary Louise Redmon, H. G. Best, Mrs. Hugh Oates, Mrs. Mary Bynum Pierson, A. J. Davis, III, and Jimmy Adams. The young people who attended these meetings as representatives of the M.Y.F. were: D. C. Summerlin, Sandra Herring, Judy Vernon, Walter Patten, Edward L. Kornegay, John Clifton, Hugh F. Oates, Jr., and Elaine Davis.

Throughout the years the Trustees have been officially responsible for all church property. They have been helped by other groups, especially the Pastoral Relations Committees and the Women's Society. This is especially true of the parsonage. Mrs. Eva Wilkins has been a faithful member of this church all of her life and has constantly given of herself and efforts not only in the spiritual life of the church, but also in the various money-making activities which have often helped the church financially and made it possible for many repairs, additions, and much beautification to be done. Mrs. Eva Hood, Mrs. Clay Casey, Mrs. W. A. Potts, Mrs. Ralph Warren, Bruce Herring, Mrs. Pat Clifton, C. D. Burnette, Sr., June Martin, Mrs. Harry Kraft, Byron Bryan, Fred Meachum, Mrs. Clayton Summerlin, Mrs. Nelson Ricks, Mrs. Erma Byrd, and Mrs. Sophia Potts are among those who have been especially active in helping to maintain our church property.

We have also replaced our picnics with family night suppers. These have been promoted more and more until they have become a part of our local church calendar. Many of the same people have worked hard in making these occasions possible. All of the members who attend participate in bringing food, but tables must be set up, dishes washed, drinks prepared, and many arrangements made. Our pastors and their wives and our church secretaries have all been cooperative and helpful in making these suppers a success. I have also noticed some who seem to be hard at work at most of these suppers. Mrs. W. A. Potts, Mrs. Ralph Warren, Mrs. Bill Lee, Mrs. Eva Wilkins, Miss Sallie Flowers (before her death), Mrs. Margaret English, Miss Althea Herring, Mrs. Ennis Kornegay, Mr. H. G. Best, Mr. Bill Wilkins, and Mr. Norbert Wilson are those who come to my mind. These suppers are times of Christian fellowship. It is true that we Methodists like to sing and to eat, but it is also evident that we have a good time in sharing our food, our conversation, and our faith with those in our Christian household.

Before I write about the latest transition in the life of Methodism, I would be remiss in my task if I did not recognize the contributions

of those who have served this church in furnishing the music for our worship services. And for some—especially the organist, the director, and the soloists—their services are often requested for funerals, for many extra programs, and for weddings. In 1951 Mrs. Paul Garrison became our organist and Mrs. Dorothy Barnes Flowers became choir director. These capable ladies are continuing in these capacities. During this same time—until she moved from Mount Olive in 1968—Mrs. Boyd Wilson was pianist. Paul Patten has often been the only male voice in the choir and has done the solo work for the male voice for years. (It is pertinent to note that the only two things which will prevent Paul from being present at choir practice and at church are his duty as a fireman and his delight in being a “babysitting” grandpa.) Others who have been in the choir during these last twenty years, but who are **not** members at present are: Jo Jo Ricks, Anne Ricks, Mary Brooks Sutton, Anne Cox, Margaret Jean Kraft, Ginny Sutton, Danny Sue Outlaw, Lynn Odom, Mary Hontz, Bonnie Bostick, Nancy Long, Betsy Martin, Jimmy Davis, Jean Davis, Ruth Gray Patten, Ruby Kornegay, Della Jordan, Brenda Smith, Ben Laroux, Horace Modlin, Ada White, Lila Andrews, Yvonne Hatch, Sallie Mae Batson, Mary Dell Sutton, Guy McKee, Anise McKee, Alice Loftin, Mrs. Tom Griffin, Leigh Griffin, Dan Outlaw, Louise Kornegay, Virginia Hassell, Pam Teague, and Mary Louise Pope. At present the choir has the following members: Paul Patten, Walter Patten, Doug Coley, Doug Groseclose, Barbara Groseclose, Mary Kornegay, Anne Corrine Thigpen, Hilda Wilson, Betty Wilkins, Lucille Herring, Gwynn Lee Cox, Maridee Potts, Fannie Ricks, Mary Bynum Pierson, Vera Sue White, Inga Waters, Frances White, Rosamond Coley, Debbie Hatch, and Teresa Harper. At one time we had a Junior Choir. Mrs. Paul Garrison and Rachel Steinbeck were in charge of this group and later Mrs. Garrison and Mrs. Deloras Pikutis trained these young people. A recent Junior Choir has been reorganized with Mrs. Barbara Groseclose as director and Maridee Potts as pianist. Many of our present choir members were first trained in one of these junior groups. When one considers that the choir in the First Methodist Church of Mount Olive is a volunteer one and that very few have had any formal training, I think the congregation should feel justifiable pride in their efforts and in the quality of their music. (The writer will accept criticism resulting from discordant notes issuing from the choir.).

At the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church which met in Rocky Mount in 1966, it was announced that one of our members, Mr. R. L. Cox, had attended every North Carolina Annual Conference for fifty years. This is a record which is not duplicated by many laymen. It is also one in which all of us feel that we have benefited for Mr. Cox has shared with the congregation much of his interest and en-

thusiasm as well as many practical decisions which were discussed and clarified.

Another special task which has been performed well and for the benefit of the entire congregation is that of writing and sending out to the church members our local paper known as **The Methodist Messenger**. This was begun by Rev. Christian White and Mrs. Margaret Boyd. When Mr. White left us, Mrs. Boyd continued this newsletter and now she and Rev. Jim White are working together and making it more meaningful than ever. I feel that I voice the feelings of most of the members when I say that I look forward to and enjoy this paper and appreciate the work, time, and services of Mrs. Boyd and our pastor.

In April of 1968 at the General Conference of the Methodist Church, the United Brethren merged with the Methodist Church and we became The United Methodist Church. Our local church is now The First United Methodist Church of Mount Olive. From April until the North Carolina Annual Conference in June of 1969 the churches involved have been in a period of transition. The Methodists in Mount Olive are most fortunate in having Rev. James G. White, Jr., as pastor during the time of transition as well as in the first years of a different organization and church program. Jim, as he prefers to be called, has great ability, a love and liking for people, boundless energy, and is a real leader. He works hard and has somehow managed to put many of us to work. When I asked him what he considered his chief contribution (to date) to our local church, he said it was the fact that more people were actively involved in the organizational work of the church.

Our pastor has instituted a change which is meeting with the approval of all concerned. Under this plan, all commissions and the Board meet on the same night of the month. The work of the commissions are coordinated through a planning meeting and as far as possible duplication of membership within commissions is eliminated. The roll of the Charge Conference for 1969-70 is: Jimmy Adams, Mrs. Shelton Boyd, B. E. Bryan, Murray Cashwell, Doug Connor, Elaine Davis, Jimmy Davis, Mrs. J. T. Dixon, W. F. Harper, Mr. Willie Hood, George Kornegay, Ray McDonald, Mrs. Ray McDonald, Mrs. Hugh Oates, Paul Patten, E. J. Pope, Jr., Mrs. W. A. Potts, Mrs. Mary Louise Redmon, Mrs. Clayton Summerlin, P. K. Sutton, Samuel E. Taylor, Ellis Weeks, J. G. White, Jimmy Williams, C. G. Wilson, Norbert Wilson, and Cecil Winstead. In addition to these some fifty-eight other persons are serving in some phase of the organization structure of the church.

In the last Quarterly Conference Report for the Year, 1968-69, Mr. White reported that the attendance for worship services has increased almost 50 per Sunday over last year's average and that Sunday School attendance is up although it is still well below that of

earlier years. To quote from this report, Mr. White stated: "To put it bluntly, I don't think there is a church in our District and Conference that is making the effort that is now being made here to fulfill completely the work and mission of the church. We are not there yet, but I am seeing now we are on the way."

For those of us who love our church and who have been a part of it for many years, it is difficult to understand much that we read about the so-called "plight of the church." I was away from this local congregation for twenty-six years, and I must confess that I miss many of the familiar faces and some of the "old ways of doing things." However, I find it heartening and even exhilarating to see many of our young people working diligently and with dedication for our church; to see many of the same people in our congregation who were leaders a half century ago and who are still helping where they can; and especially to see the young children at the front of the church as they listen to Jim White when he has "Children's Church," their faces upturned and bright, and their hearts and minds happy and hopeful in the security of Jesus' love and in the presence of Christian parents and friends. We can face the next century with confidence, for we know that leaders for the First United Methodist Church of Mount Olive are already being prepared.

CHAPTER IV



**MRS. BELLE JURNEY**

# Woman's Work

## Missionary Society

The Woman's Missionary Society of the North Carolina Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was organized in Charlotte on December 1, 1878, and the Bright Jewels—the children's division of this Society—was organized in 1882. Until May, 1890, when the North Carolina Conference was divided by the General Conference, all missionary work among Methodist women in North Carolina was under one governing body. In 1898 the Woman's Home Mission Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was organized, but it was not until 1902 that this Society effected an organization in North Carolina. From 1902 until 1913 there were two separate Women's Missionary Societies; one, the "Woman's Foreign Missionary Society" and the other, the "Woman's Home Mission Society." In 1913 these two groups combined and again took their original name, that of "The Woman's Missionary Society." In May of 1939 the union of the northern and southern branches of Methodism in the United States was consummated and following this another reorganization occurred in the woman's society. In 1940 there were two Women's conferences; one to complete the business of the old Missionary Society and the other to begin the work of the newly organized group. In September, 1940, at Greenville, North Carolina, the "Woman's Society of Christian Service" came into being. Then in April of 1968 the Methodist Church united with the United Evangelical Brethren and the woman's division became known as "The Women's Society of Christian Service." This local society is directly related to the district and Conference Women's Society of Christian Service and to the General Board of Missions of the United Methodist Church through the Women's Division.

The Methodist Church in Mount Olive never organized a Home Mission Society, for prior to the separation of the Missionary Society, a "Ladies Aid Society" had been organized and it was already doing the local woman's work. (The "Ladies Aid" will be treated separately.)

In 1888, just ten years after the Woman's Missionary Society had been organized in the North Carolina Conference, Mrs. Hettie Gibbons Westbrook organized a Woman's Society in the Mount Olive Methodist Church. During the same year Mrs. Westbrook formed the "Bright Jewels" which was the children's division of this society. Within two years The Society was known as "The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society" and remained this until 1913 when it again became "The Missionary Society."

We do not have enough information to accurately follow the early



years of The Society, but we do know that Mrs. Westbrook, Mrs. Buck Hatch, Mrs. Belle Journey, and Mrs. A. G. Cox were some of the early leaders. Sometime during the years between 1900 and 1904 The Society became inactive for it was reorganized in 1904 by Mrs. Journey, and the pastor's report in 1905 stated that it was one of the most active organs of the church.

Mrs. Journey came to Mount Olive in 1892 when her husband, Rev. N. M. Journey, became pastor of the local church. From that time until a few years before her death in 1959, "Mom Belle" as she was affectionately known, was a leader among the women of our church. In addition to her work in reorganizing the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, she also organized The Ladies Aid Society, and taught a class of boys for over a quarter of a century. She was the first person in the Mount Olive Methodist Church to be awarded a life membership in The Missionary Society.

In 1902 Mrs. A. G. Cox came into our church and immediately became active in women's work. She was president of The Society for a number of years and the pastor's reports all praise the work of the church women. Mrs. Allen King, Mrs. E. N. Ricks, Sr., Mrs. W. W. Loftin, Mrs. Carrie Mintz, Miss Ada English, and Miss Frank English were also mentioned for their work in The Society prior to the erection of our present church. In 1911 Rev. W. C. Merritt stated: "We believe interest in missions is gradually growing . . . A Young People's Missionary Society has been organized and also a Mission Study Circle . . . while membership is yet small, we have had nothing that we think promises better results." Later in the year new recruits were reported and in 1913 Rev. J. H. Frizzelle reported: "Our women are well organized . . . and we have two Young People's Missionary Societies."

During the years between 1914 and 1922 both the Bright Jewels and The Missionary Society were well organized and active. Mrs. Fred Mintz was president in 1923, and she made the following report to the Quarterly Conference:

"The Missionary Society has a membership of eighty-one which is divided into four circles. We have two meetings a month and each quarter we have a social meeting. We have a mission study class, the entire membership constituting the reading circle. Our Young People's Auxiliary, Bright Jewels, and Prayer Band are active . . .

Financial report for the first three quarters—\$221.30 and \$30.15 worth of linens have recently been sent to our mountain school in Brevard. We have 22 subscribers to our 'Missionary Voice' and the 'Advocate' has been put in each Methodist Home. Each quarter we report numbers of visits to sick, trays sent and also flowers and medicine."

In 1927 Rev. E. M. Snipes praised the work of "A Junior Missionary League" and said that the Missionary Societies were the liveliest

organizations of the church. By 1929 there were 88 members in The Society, one circle had been organized for business women, and the Social Service Department was especially active.

In 1931 Mrs. J. W. Wilkins became president of The Missionary Society. Mrs. Wilkins (Eva) is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Journey and she has followed in the footsteps of her mother. She served for five consecutive years as President and has been President three times since, twice for two years each and later for four years. The years in which she was leader of the women were years of growth and activity, and she has worked equally as hard in other offices and under other leadership. In 1931 Mrs. Wilkins reported a membership of 100 in The Missionary Society and stated that there were five circles within the group. By 1933 the membership had gone down to 90, but the work of The Society was so fine that Mount Olive made the Honor Roll. By 1934 the membership was again on the increase and our Society has not had less than 100 members since.

In 1935 the Mount Olive Missionary Society was strong enough to entertain the New Bern District. There were 105 members on roll and another circle of young women had been organized. Mrs. Wilkins' report stated: "During the year there have been special studies on Stewardship and Christian Social Relations. Unusually fine work has been done by the Superintendent of Christian Social Relations, who has assisted in local health clinics, been instrumental in putting Bibles in the city jail, visited prison camps and furnished reading material for prisoners and assisted our Negro friends in securing reading material." Mrs. Allen Cox, Mrs. Alton Cox, and Mrs. Lillie Holmes were leaders in this work. The reports of Mrs. Roberta Loftin, Mrs. Walter Patten, and Mrs. R. L. Cox were similar to the one I have quoted. The local society made the Honor Roll again in 1938 and we were one of only six in the district to achieve this distinction.

During the Thirties more emphasis was placed on mission study courses which would meet "The Efficiency Goal." Many of the pastors helped in these classes, but several women carried the bulk of the load. Some who were especially active in this were Mrs. H. M. Cox, Mrs. Carrie Mintz, Mrs. R. L. Cox, Mrs. Sophia Potts, and Mary Bynum Holmes.

Mrs. R. L. Cox was president of the Woman's Missionary Society when it became "The Woman's Society of Christian Service." The local church was fortunate in having such a capable person as president for the transition was easy. On September 8, 1940, Mrs. Cox (known as Miss Winnie) made the following report to the Quarterly Conference: "After sixty years of service to our church and community, The Woman's Missionary Society held its final meeting in August . . . We face the future with enthusiasm. With the help of our pastor we

hope to have a good organizational meeting of The Woman's Society of Christian Service. All of our financial responsibilities are met in full and we expect to move almost automatically into our new organization with an increase over our now 105 members and five circles."

The World War II years came and during this time Rev. Cecil Robbins was our pastor. It had become customary for the young ladies' night circle (Circle No. 4) to have charge of the Christmas program. An unforgettable evening is described by Mrs. Sophia Potts in the following way:

An unforgettable incident during Mr. Robbins' ministry in Mt. Olive occurred at the general Christmas meeting of The Woman's Society of Christian Service.

Circle No. 4 had charge of the program, and the program chairman made arrangements for a group of young service men from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base to perform. This group of instrumentalists played for church programs and meetings of a religious nature only, and they were considered to be among the most in demand performers at the base. Needless to say they were booked far in advance for the month of December.

Several members of the church picked the young men up at the U.S.O. building in Goldsboro and brought them to the church. Drums, trumpets (Gabriel's could not have outshone these!), saxaphones, and flutes soon filled the choir loft and as the program progressed high notes and low notes, sharps and flats could be faintly heard as the instruments were being tuned. Ears twitched and feet tapped as the tuning grew warmer and warmer.

Mr. Robbins who was seated on the front pew nearest the choir loft became noticeably ill at ease as did those responsible for the program.

The program was turned over to Minnie Lee Ricks, Chairman, who introduced the entertainers. Suddenly the church vibrated from ceiling to furnace as the hit of the dance music resounded from those shining instruments in the choir loft.

Mr. Robbins could be heard to say! "Stop them, they must be stopped!" No one moved except the swaying forms in the choir loft!

All too soon the error was realized and the apologies were made. The dance band was to have gone to Dunn, North Carolina, to play for an American Legion Christmas dance, but the group that played for church organizations found themselves there instead.

At the end of the program one Presbyterian member whose wife was a Methodist was heard to say: "If I had had any idea that the Methodists were this liberal, I would have moved my membership years ago." He did just that before the year was over, and he says he is still waiting for a repeat performance.

Some of the Methodists who were there for the Christmas program in 1943 still laughingly wonder which was more to be desired: dancing to 'Rock of Ages' or sitting quietly in a church sanctuary as strains from 'Fishing for the Moon' by Vaughan Monroe filled the air.

This incident remains Dr. Cecil Robbins' most unforgettable embarrassment."

During the years of World War II The Woman's Society and The Ladies Aid packed and shipped many boxes at Christmas for families overseas. They also kept up with our boys in service and many letters and Testaments were sent to soldiers from our church.

By 1948 there were 131 women in the W.S.C.S. and in 1950 Rev.

Chaplin stated that "The Woman's Society has six circles and a Wesleyan Guild and attendance at both circle and general meetings is setting a new record." Apparently the women were also affected by the change of our church from being on a circuit to becoming a station, for in 1952—during Mrs. Shelton Boyd's presidency—the Mount Olive W.S.C.S. had enrolled 146 women. It was during this time that the circles assumed responsibility for placing flowers in the sanctuary. Many of the younger people were used in study courses and The Spiritual Life Group under Mrs. Carrie Mintz and Mrs. Frank Cox became a vital part of The Society and the church. Some of the girls and young women whose names appeared often in connection with the study courses during the early fifties were: Anne Ricks, Ann Cox, Mary Gwynn Cox, Lucy Johnson, Edna Wilson, Minnie Lee Ricks, Mrs. W. D. Kornegay, Mrs. Nelson Ricks, Mrs. Ed Southerland, Mrs. Sallie Mae Batson, Mrs. Ed Herring, and Mrs. Clayton Summerlin. In the late fifties other young women who had not been in leadership roles in The Society prior to this took over either as circle leaders or as officers in The Society. Mesdames L. G. Geddie, Ralph Warren, Willie Hood, Boyd Wilson, Cullen Hatch, Martha White King, Frank Clifton, W. E. Tyler, Ennis Kornegay, L. A. Long, D. F. Odom, Jr., Freddie Farah, Lloyd Hontz, William Wilkins, E. J. Pope, Jr., Luby Bell, and Hazel Loftin are some of these.

For many years Mrs. Allen Andrews assumed the important but often thankless job of securing and sending off all the reports, and Mrs. Paul Patten was chairman of the Nominating Committee many times—another time consuming and difficult task. During this same period Mrs. A. M. McCuiston acted as secretary for supplies, and Mrs. Clay Casey and Mrs. Reuben Burgess were the able treasurers of The Society. Mesdames Lucille Herring, Hazel Loftin, and Luby Bell were the recording secretaries.

In 1957 there were eight circles in the W.S.C.S. In October the church celebrated "Homecoming Day" and The Society had charge of food and arrangements. They invited the Mount Olive students and faculty as guests, and the reports indicate a successful and beneficial day for our Methodist community.

During the Thirties, Forties, and Fifties, the local church women contributed to clothing a young woman in the Methodist Home. They also contributed to the work of missions in special ways through the promotion of Life Memberships and Baby Specials. The Week of Prayer and Self Denial was faithfully observed and some of our women regularly attended annual, district and sub-district conferences. Two from the local society became Conference Officers. These were Mrs. Walter Patten and Mrs. Shelton Boyd. Mrs. R. L. Cox and Mrs. Carrie Mintz became District Officers and Mrs. R. L. Cox and Mrs.

Lillie Holmes were Zone Leaders. (There are probably others, but I have no record of them.)

The women combined efforts in many ways so it is often difficult to tell whether The Ladies Aid or The W.S.C.S. was the contributor to many local projects. It is certain, however, that a great deal of money was given by these women to the various building funds as well as for upkeep and beautification of the church and parsonage. In 1959 The Society reported that \$2,017.19 was raised and \$925.96 was contributed to the Building Fund.

In the early Sixties there appears to have been not only a resurgence of interest in Mission Studies, but also some action growing out of the studies. For instance, in 1960 gifts of money were sent through proper channels as an outgrowth of the studies of "Africa" and "Town and Country." In 1962 The Society sent a contribution to aid in the Literacy Program in Brazil, and in 1964 donations were made for youth work in India and to The Robinson School in Puerto Rico. All of these contributions were over and above the regular pledges for missions. The home front was also remembered for in 1963 our local Society sent two retarded children to Camp Don Lee and for many years the youth of the local church were able to attend youth assemblies through the interest and generosity of the church women. The Society also presented Bibles to children entering the Junior Department of the Church School and assisted in furnishing and serving refreshments for the many Vacation Bible Schools.

Apparently The Aid Society had ceased to exist in 1959 and from then on The W.S.C.S. took over its local work. Teas were given to Mount Olive College Students in the fall and in the winter of 1962 and 1963. Money was raised and contributed for parsonage furnishings and church renovations, and The Society was a constant contributor to the Building Fund. In 1966 a bazaar was held by the women of The Society. It entailed many months of preparation and the combined efforts of numbers of our church women and a few men (H. G. Best, Leon Britt, George Sutton, Joe Bostick, Clay Casey, and Byron Bryan all helped us). Mrs. Wilkins was president of The Society and Co-Chairmen for the bazaar were Mrs. Eva Hood and Mary Bynum Pierson. Mrs. Shelton Boyd headed up the Publicity, Mrs. Eva Wilkins was Chairman of Pricing, and Mrs. Arthur Wolfe was Chairman of The Welcome Committee. The hardest work was done by those who consented to be in charge of each division, for even with excellent cooperation they were actually responsible for the success of the venture. These people were: Mesdames George Sutton, Clay Casey, Ralph English, George Kornegay, Zach Cox, Leon Britt, Clayton Summerlin, and James Francis. Some of their able assistants were: Mesdames William Wilkins, Dorothy Southerland, Aileen Casey Griffin,

Ruth Gray Patten, Helen Burgess, Lydia Outlaw, Erma Byrd, and Miss Althea Herring. The women made some over \$1,000.00 on this bazaar and gave \$800.00 of this money to the Building Fund.

The following year another bazaar was planned, but it eventually turned into a "Country Kitchen" with fewer things made and sold. Those who worked in this as leaders were: Mesdames Margaret English, Margery Hughes, Anne Potts, and Miss Althea Herring.

In the summer of 1964, at the time when circles were being divided, the local W.S.C.S. decided to pay special honor to two of its members who had given years of untiring, able and dedicated leadership to the work of missions and also to many other phases of our church work. It was unanimously decided to name Circle No. 4 The "Winnie Cox Circle" and Circle No. 5 The "Carrie Mintz Circle." The following year Mrs. Mintz died and in 1966 Mrs. Cox died. Their leadership and devotion to our church will long be remembered and appreciated.

In the Sixties there have been many other women who have come in and assumed leadership roles as the older leaders became followers. Some had been working in The Society in the late Fifties, but there were others who were either new members or had children too young to give much time to The Society prior to this. Mrs. W. A. Potts has made many contributions to women's work both as Chairman (often sole worker) of the area for hostessing church suppers, as Chairman of the Pastoral Relations Committee of the church, and as treasurer of The W.S.C.S. Mrs. Boyd Wilson and Mrs. Shelton Boyd ably carried on The Spiritual Life Group after Mrs. Frank Cox felt that she must give it up. Mrs. Zach Cox has worked in many areas of leadership for years, and for four years she has been secretary for The Society. Mrs. Raymond Carson has done outstanding work as Chairman of Christian Social Relations and has often helped in ably presenting study courses. Mrs. Cecil Winstead, Mrs. Fred Meachum, Mrs. Mary Louise Redmon, Mrs. Eva Wilkins, and Mrs. Margaret English have also acted as Division Chairmen in The Society. I would be remiss if I failed to give much credit to Mrs. Eddice King for her hard job as Vice-President for she has had the task of arranging for and presenting some of the most difficult program material I have ever read. Mrs. George Kornegay has in recent years done especially fine work with The Mission Study Courses and she has found able help in Mrs. Jimmy Davis, Mrs. Douglas Connor, Mrs. Jimmy Ball, Mrs. Zach Cox, Mrs. Raymond Carson, and Mrs. Clayton Summerlin. The "job" of looking after the church kitchen, supplies, and often cleaning was assumed by Mrs. Hazel Loftin and Mrs. Will Kornegay. This is not an easy task, but is necessary and hard, for the kitchen is constantly used. All of us should be especially grateful to these

women and to others who have helped them. Mrs. Betty Wilkins has done fine work as Chairman of Campus Work. She has also handled the memorial gifts efficiently and promptly and has often cooked and served some of the refreshments that many of us have enjoyed on special occasions. Last, but not least, are those persons who have been Circle Leaders within this decade. Any person who attends The W.S.C.S. realizes the many responsibilities that fall on these leaders. Our church has had some of the best. These leaders from 1965 to 1969 are: Mesdames Sophia Potts, Jean Dickson, Jane Lee, Zach Cox, George Sutton, Harry Kraft, Jimmy Davis, Arthur Wolfe, and Ray McDonald. During these years the Presidents of the W.S.C.S. have been Mesdames J. W. Wilkins and Harold Hughes. To all of these women, The First United Methodist Church of Mount Olive is greatly indebted.

In June of 1969 The Society honored Mrs. Eva Wilkins by naming the morning circle for her. Hence those circles formerly known as Circle No. 2 and No. 3 will from now on be known as "The Eva Wilkins Circle."

As we begin another milestone in women's work in our United Methodist Church, another group of women are assuming the jobs as leaders in our Society. They face the challenges of a World Society in revolt and the church in crisis. However, in each decade new problems have to be solved and other work needs to be done; so we, as women of our local church, need to stand solidly behind our leaders and together we can accomplish much. The officers for 1969-1970 are: President, Mrs. Eddice King; Vice-President, Mrs. Jim White; Secretary, Mrs. Clara Britt; Treasurer, Mrs. Frank Clifton; Chairman of Missionary Education, Mrs. Clayton Summerlin; Chairmen of Spiritual Life, Mrs. Shelton Boyd, Mrs. Margaret English, Mrs. H. M. Cox; Chairman of Christian Social Relations, Mrs. Eva Wilkins; Chairman of Program Areas, Mrs. Eva Hood; Chairman of Membership, Mrs. Ralph Warren; Chairman of Local Church Responsibilities, Mrs. W. A. Potts.

### **The Ladies Aid Society**

In 1943 Mrs. H. M. Cox wrote a paper in which she made the following statement:

"A record of the work of the Ladies' Aid Society would make a book in itself, and what a record of service it would be! This writer bows in humble humility and acknowledges her debt to the women of the past and those of the present who have composed its membership. Our beloved Mrs. Belle Journey first organized the Aid Society forty-nine years ago (1894), and I give here the names of some of the first members: Mrs. Hettie Westbrook, Mrs. Ben Futrelle, Mrs. J. A. English, Mrs. Annie Smith, Mrs. B. H. Hatch, Mrs. J. R. Hatch, Mrs. E. B. Fonvielle, and Miss Julia Loftin. Among those who have served as presidents are: Mrs. Journey, Mrs. M. T. Breazeale, Miss Cora Aaron, Mrs. P. Gruening, Mrs. A. G. Cox (She served

10 years at one stretch.), Miss Ada English, Mrs. W. W. Loftin, Mrs. Estelle English, Mrs. S. D. Broadhurst, Mrs. R. L. Cox, Mrs. Harry Kraft, Mrs. W. C. Merritt, Mrs. L. L. Loy, Mrs. R. G. Dawson, Mrs. E. N. Ricks, Sr., Mrs. Eva Wilkins, and Mrs. Willie Hood. If all the meals they have served, all the dishes they have washed, all the quilts they have quilted, all the cleaning they have done in church and parsonage, all the bazaars and sales they have held and all the 'glad rags' and 'magic cleaners' and flavorings and cakes and pies they have sold could be visualized down the years, they would seem to have done little else but work, and much of it menial, for their church. On the other hand, if all the money they have earned and spent could be added up and realized, they would appear as figures in Big Business. Much of their money has been spent usefully but inconspicuously, just in little places where the need was greatest. Judging from the records, certainly a great deal must have been spent for repairing the roof.

The treasurer's book shows one expenditure of 65c to Mr. C. E. Long for chewing gum. A bit of questioning brought out the fact that 65c stood between them and the law. They were selling chances on a quilt and had to give something in return for the money paid them for "chances." They gave one stick of chewing gum for each dime. One of the pillars of the Aid Society won the quilt, by the way."

When the Aid Society was organized its purpose was to act as a "parsonage committee." There were only nine charter members and the dues were 10c per month. Mrs. Broadhurst told Mrs. Wilkins that the first money was raised to wallpaper the parsonage and that Mrs. Journey, the wife of our pastor at the time, put on the wallpaper herself. The cost of the paper was \$1.50 and it was raised by the members making a quilt which they sold. This was but the beginning of many money-making projects which these ladies had during the sixty-four years of the existence of this organization.

An item appeared in the February 13, 1908, issue of **The Tribune** which stated that The Ladies Aid Society gave a "Conundrum Tea" in the home of Mrs. Lovett Lee. In March of 1911 the following notice appeared in **The Tribune**: "On April 18th The Ladies Aid Society of The Methodist Church will hold a bazaar in rooms of The Kornegay Building behind Dr. Herring's office on the second floor. Aprons, handkerchiefs, kimonos and bonnets will be on sale, besides refreshments."

The Stewards in the church soon learned that this organization usually had some money and if not, it could be counted on to make some. The minutes and entries in the Treasurer's Book show many instances in which the Stewards "borrowed" funds from this Society in order to repair the roof, pave a sidewalk, or paint the sanctuary. Until the middle Fifties it shouldered most of the expense as well as doing the work involved in furnishing and maintaining the parsonage (exclusive of building, insurance, and utilities). In 1927 Rev. E. M. Snipes stated that The Aid Society in Mount Olive was the best in the state and twenty-five years later Rev. Russell Harrison said, "Mount



Olive has a Ladies' Aid Society which promises to be the best parsonage committee this pastor has ever known."

Such entries in the reports of various pastors as "The Ladies' Aid placed a new electric range in the parsonage" or "The Ladies' Aid provided a cement walk, a porch glider, and eight baseboard sockets for the parsonage" and "The Aid Society made curtains and furnished a bedroom in the parsonage" indicate the kind of work this organization did for years. Another entry that is significant is one that appeared in a Quarterly Conference Report in 1943: "A hundred dollar bond was purchased for The Building Fund by The Aid Society and it also spent \$70.00 for clothing for two orphans."

As far as I am able to tell, The Aid Society had only three treasurers during its existence. Mrs. Eva English and Mrs. Dudley Kornegay each held this job for a quarter of a century or more and then Mrs. Ralph English became treasurer and acted until the organization ceased to exist. Some of the secretaries were: Mrs. E. N. Ricks, Sr., Mrs. Estelle English, Mrs. Edgar Kornegay, and Mrs. Sammy Geddie. For ten years Mrs. Allen Andrews had charge of flowers. These were sent to the sick, to bereaved families, and placed in the sanctuary. It was also a duty and a pleasure for these women to cook, donate, pack, and distribute baskets of food to the needy at Thanksgiving and at Christmas. For over half a century The Ladies' Aid Society also cleaned the parsonage before the new ministers' families arrived, and when the family came they found a bountiful "pounding" awaiting them.

Nearly all of the members of The Aid Society were also members of The Missionary Society, but not nearly all of The Missionary Society Members were in The Aid Society. In addition to those whose names have been mentioned as early members or officers, there were many more who for years did yeoman's work in this organization. At no time was The Ladies' Aid a large group, but at all times it was made up of a dedicated group of women who found no job too humble nor no task too menial if it was for her church. I shall attempt to list the names of these women. Mesdames Mamie King, Lovett Lee, Sue Britt, R. D. Loftin, Eliza Westbrook, Estelle English, Mae Watson, P. I. Darden, Dora Lee, S. L. Warren, David Reaves, Herman Andrews, W. R. Jennette, G. E. Alphin, Addie Flowers, Mary Kennedy, Clay Casey, Ammie Martin, Grainger Martin, June Martin, Roland Martin, Sam Taylor, Beulah Price, Erma Byrd, Joe McCullen, Abe Farah, Alton Cox, Lillie Holmes, Nelson Ricks, Ennis Kornegay, Eva Wilkins, W. F. Ricks, F. A. Andrews, and the wives of our various pastors.

The Ladies' Aid Society ended its last meeting in 1958. It had served its purpose, for a new organization of the church had been affected and in it commissions and committees were made responsible

for the work The Society had done for so many years. However, no member of our local congregation who remembers The Ladies' Aid and its many contributions to our church can help but feel as if she should say a prayer of Thanksgiving for its years of useful existence.

## CHAPTER V

### Youth and Other Organizations

In 1888 Mrs. Hettie Gibbons Westbrook organized the Bright Jewels, which was the children's work of The Missionary Society. In the early years this organization was active only when The Society was active so it had a somewhat spotted existence until about 1907. In the meantime (1903), an Epworth League (made up of older children) was organized, but not until the following year when Rev. J. W. Potter was pastor in Mount Olive was the League really active. Mr. Potter got Miss Frank English to take over the leadership of this group and it appeared to be very active until about 1908. Little or nothing is mentioned about the League again until 1914 when the pastor stated that Mount Olive had two good Leagues, a junior and a senior one. It declined again in 1919 and there is no other record of it in the local church until 1922.

Rev. G. B. Starling stated to the quarterly conference in February of 1922 the following: "Our League was reorganized about four months ago and given the name of 'The Mary Lambeth Epworth League' . . . while our League is young and somewhat small, it has been steadily growing and now we have about 30 enrolled . . . The League meets every Sunday at 7:00 o'clock for a devotional service and the second Tuesday of every month for a business session. It is full of live, active workers and we hope to grow stronger with time." Mr. Starling also reported that the Bright Jewels were functioning well. In 1927 Rev. Snipes also praised the work of both groups of young people.

In 1929 Rev. J. L. Smith was our pastor and he placed special emphasis on work with youth. Mr. Smith said: "Mrs. Davis Broadhurst heads a Junior League that seems to be reaching our smaller group of children in a real and worthwhile way. We are trying to make plans to reach the older group." Apparently this was done for the following year Mr. Smith reported: "Mrs. H. M. Cox and Mr. Paul Patten have put the church under obligation to them for the work they have done with our young people in the two Leagues and in providing music for the evening services." The Bright Jewels were continuing to function well.

In 1933 Margaret Kornegay became President of the Senior

Epworth League and the following year Elizabeth Oliver began to work with the group. These two young ladies made the Senior League into an active and interested group. Mrs. Rueben Burgess was the counselor for youth and she reported that there were 20 enrolled in the Junior League and 15 in the Senior League. However, these few in number made up for their size with their enthusiasm. In 1936 there was an Intermediate Epworth League under the leadership of Miss Elizabeth Oliver. She wrote a Christmas Pageant which the young people presented before the church. I am told that this was one of the most inspiring and beautifully rendered programs ever given in our church.

Mrs. Ruby Barbrey became the counselor for our young people in 1938 and one of her daughters, Betty, was president of the Young People's League. Betty made a report to the quarterly conference in 1939 and said: "On Christmas Eve the League had a candlelight service; on New Year's Eve we helped with the 'Watch Night Service.' Delegates were sent to the Conference wide rally in Raleigh and to the district meeting in Kinston. We take care of our business at a monthly council meeting and recreation is provided by a monthly social and fellowship supper at the church." Rev. Grady Dawson was pastor of the local Methodist Church at this time and he and Mrs. Dawson did much to direct and encourage youth work. In 1940 two delegates from this League attended the Louisburg Young People's Assembly.

In 1942, under the leadership of Rev. Cecil Robbins, our youth work was reorganized. The Bright Jewels remained an arm of the W.S.C.S., but the old Epworth Leagues then became the Methodist Youth Fellowship (M.Y.F.). Mr. Robbins attended the Methodist Youth Convocation in Oxford, Ohio, and upon his return fifty young people became charter members of our local M.Y.F. William Allen Potts (now Dr. Potts) was the first president of the Mount Olive M.Y.F. Mrs. A. G. Cox and Mrs. R. V. Burgess were counselors.

In 1943 Mrs. A. G. Cox and Mrs. E. C. Casey were counselors for youth and Jean Pope became president of the M.Y.F. Jean's report to the quarterly Conference was: "Since reorganization of the M.Y.F., we have an enrollment of 30 with an average attendance of 20 . . . In order to earn money to contribute to our Education Building Fund, we have offered our services to the townspeople to run errands, tend children, clean yards, and do odd jobs . . . At present we are beginning a series of programs on 'Choosing One's Life Work,' for which speakers from the various professions and trades have been secured."

Robert Barbrey was the next M.Y.F. president and during his term of office "a Union Youth Week was held in Mount Olive with 60 young people enrolled. Twelve of our young people attended Youth Assemblies during the summer." Doris Casey followed as

M.Y.F. president and Mrs. Alton Cox and Paul Patten were counselors for children and youth.

In 1946 Marie Byrd, President of M.Y.F., reported: "One of the important things we wish to emphasize and promote is the development of a Young People's Choir . . . We have given a number of War Bonds for our Educational Building Program . . . Another project we plan to put into practice is evening services combined with our Youth Fellowship meetings." At the next quarterly Conference it was reported that these plans had materialized. In 1946 Rev. M. Y. Self stated that 18 of our Methodist young people had joined in the Union Youth Week Program.

Durald Wilson was the next president of the M.Y.F. and he was followed by Margaret Jean Kraft. Mr. Chaplin, the pastor, said that the attendance at the meetings was the best in years and there appeared a resurgence of life and participation. During this time Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Johnson were counselors for the young people. Then Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Wilson became counselors and served for several years with the help of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Morris. In 1951 Mary Dell Sutton, M.Y.F. president, reported: "We have divided our group into Intermediates and Seniors. Our membership has increased, and for the first time we have had youth caravans . . . Our group needs adult counselors, more interest from the parents and better recreational facilities." The following year Mary Stevenson Britt, president of M.Y.F., reported: "Five attended Camp Don Lee, 2 went to the Louisburg Assembly, and 1 to the Annual M.Y.F. Conference at Duke. We have promoted a Youth Recreation Program."

Until 1959 there was a Bright Jewels organization in our local church. It apparently disappeared that year for there is no further mention of it in any of our records, and as to the work it did I find little information. I remember being a member, a president and a leader of the group and have found recollections of going to two of the Louisburg Assemblies with Margaret Kornegay. As I recall, our studies were mission studies on a child's level which were coordinated with the adult Missionary Society program materials. Some of the leaders I recall were: Miss Blanche Marquette, Mrs. Loren Sanderson, Mrs. S. D. Broadhurst, Mrs. H. M. Cox, Mrs. Carrie Mintz, Mrs. R. L. Cox, Mr. Paul Patten, and Mrs. Dawson.

In 1949 Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Boyd came into the Mount Olive Methodist Church. They soon became active in all phases of church work and from 1959 until today Mrs. Boyd has been a leader in one or more areas of youth work. I asked her to write the remainder of this section, for her knowledge of the work for the past eleven years

is the most accurate information we can get. Mrs. Boyd's account follows:

"Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Boyd began as counselors in 1959. Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Harper were assistants during that year. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Ray McDonald were co-counselors in 1963-64. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Patten and Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Kornegay were co-counselors in 1964-65. Mrs. Christian White and I were counselors in 1965-66 and I've had it since. This year (1968-69) the Rev. Jim White and I have served as head counselors with parents of the month being responsible for attending Sunday night meetings and Jim and I working with the youth on program planning.

When the Boyd Wilsons and the Johnsons were counselors, the youth from the other churches in town and Smith Chapel met with the local M.Y.F. This was one of the most active periods we've had in years with loads of leadership among the youth. However, the other churches began to develop their own youth programs and the local group was still an active and enthusiastic group. Some of the leaders during this time were Mary Stephenson Britt, Danny Sue Otlaw, Mary Dell Sutton, Mary Helen Burgess, Anne Corinne Wilson, Norma Carol Summerlin, Durald Wilson, Jr., Boyd Wilson, Dave Wilson, Stuart Patten, and many others. The Woman's Society of Christian Service honored Danny Sue Otlaw and Mary Stephenson Britt with Honorary Youth Memberships in the Woman's Society, the only two youth to be so honored locally.

Presidents since 1959 have been: Mary Hontz, Mary Bevan Boyd, D. C. Summerlin, Jr., Sandra Herring, Judy Vernon, Walter Patten, Eddie Kornegay, John Clifton, Hughie Oates, and Elaine Davis. A number of youth have served beyond the local church. Mary Bevan Boyd was president of the Goldsboro Sub-District in 1961-62 and president of the Goldsboro District M.Y.F. in 1962-63. D. C. Summerlin Jr. was treasurer of the Sub-District M.Y.F. in 1961-62 and president of the Sub-District in 1962-63. Mary Bevan also served the Sub-District as fellowship chairman, publicity chairman, and the District as vice-president.

The local children and youth have participated in the summer youth opportunities offered by the Conference Board of Education. Camps Don Lee, Chestnut Ridge and Rockfish have been very popular with all ages. The local M.Y.F. has sent a delegate to the Annual Conference Session (ACS) of the N. C. Conference M.Y.F. for many years. Many of our youth have attended workshops at Louisburg College and for the past several years at Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount.

Mary Stephenson Britt, Danny Sue Otlaw, and Mary Bevan Boyd attended the Youth and Missions Conference at Lake Junaluska during their years of active membership in the Senior High M.Y.F. Those from our church who have attended the United Nations-Washington Study Tour on Peace and World Order sponsored by the N. C. Conference Board of Education are Mary Bevan Boyd (1963), Debbie Boyd (1965), Jay Wilkins (1967), Betty Smith (1968), and Jimmy White (1969).

Teachers in the children and youth division who served for years: Mrs. W. R. Stamper, Mrs. Bill Daughtry, Mrs. Harold Hughes, Mrs. D. F. Odom, Jr., and Mrs. Erma Byrd. Some of those teaching now: Mrs. Jim White, Mrs. Jimmy Williams, Mrs. Borden Kornegay, Jimmy Davis, Jimmy Adams, Terry Lee, Mrs. J. F. Ball, Mrs. Guy McKee, Mrs. Mary Louise Redmon, Mrs. Byron Bryan, Mrs. Ray McDonald, Mrs. Peggy Hester, and Mrs. Murray Cashwell. Vacation Church School workers: Mrs. R. B. Warren, Mrs. B. E. Bryan, Mrs. W. D. Kornegay, Mrs. Eddice King, Mrs. Guy McKee, Mrs. W. A. Potts, Mrs. Doug Connor, and Mrs. Peggy Hester.

I was asked to be the Goldsboro District Director of Youth Work (now Youth Ministries in January, 1964, to fill an unexpired term and was elected at the June Annual Conference in 1964 to serve and have con-



### **METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (1969)**

tinued to serve in that capacity. In June, 1964, I was also elected to serve a four-year term on the Conference Board of Education and in June, 1968, was elected to serve a second term of four years ('til 1972). I was counselor for the Goldsboro Sub-District M.Y.F. from 1960 until the Mt. Olive Sub-District was created, and was counselor for the Mt. Olive Sub-District for two or three years. I have served as an adult counselor and teacher at ACS since 1963 and at the M.Y.F. Workshop at Rocky Mount since 1964 and will serve for the third time this (1969) summer as Dean of Women at the Workshop. I was an adult counselor for the UN Tour in 1967 and 1969, and adult counselor and leader of a small group at the Youth Conference at Lake Junaluska two years—1965 and 1966.

The Senior Highs have done a tremendous job of house-to-house solicitation for Trick or Treat for UNICEF at Halloween since about 1960. This has been a cooperative effort with the youths from the Baptist and Presbyterian Churches in Mt. Olive, but always instigated by the M.Y.F."

Our First United Methodist Church of Mount Olive and the parents of our young people surely owe Mrs. Boyd and her many co-workers debts of gratitude for the years of loyal and efficient service she has given to our church.

### **The Methodist Men's Club**

The 1968 **Discipline** makes the following statement regarding "United Methodist Men": "The ministry of the local church to and through its men shall be concerned with all the men who are a part of its constituency. It shall take into account the search of men for a meaningful faith and the witness of men to that faith in all their



**METHODIST MEN'S CLUB (1969)**

relationships. It shall be aware that men's work is achieved in all the groups where men are involved in the life and work of the local church and in special groups and/or organizations of United Methodist Men. These groups and/or organizations shall be formed when men in the congregation see the need for them and request their formation or when the Council of Ministries determines that there is need for their formation."

The Methodist Men's Club of the local church was organized in 1960 and Norbert Wilson was its first president. Since then the following persons have served as its leaders: Frank Clifton, C. D. Burnette, Sr., Allen Cox, Ray Carson, A. J. Davis, III, Cecil Winstead and Guy McKee. The organization has been kept simple with only three officers, president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer. A committee consisting of the lay leader, the pastor, president and vice-president appoint the Program and Projects Committees. There may be a more elaborate organization, but up until now this has been what was needed locally.

The real intent of this club is to develop leadership for the church. It has had a variety of programs through the years and the spirit of fellowship and sharing of ideas and ideals has been noteworthy. The ladies of the W.S.C.S. served the Men's Club until 1969-1970 and now the men have assumed the job of either preparing the suppers or at times having them catered.



The money making project which the men chose is that of roasting peanuts for sale. This has proved to be a lucrative project and has enabled them to contribute to the Building Fund, to youth work, and to various other needs of the church. This year, 1969-1970, the United Methodist Men's Club of Mount Olive is sponsoring a troop of Explorer Scouts.

Under the leadership of Cecil Winstead, Guy McKee and our pastor, Mr. Jim White, this group of men is assuming more responsibility and their leadership is being noticed and felt in the entire church.

### **The Spiritual Life Prayer Group**

It is fitting that this centennial history end with an account of a movement and a group which has had a spiritual impact upon the town of Mount Olive as well as the Methodist Church.

In 1951 Rev. Harrison felt that our church needed a lay group which would supplement and enhance the regular worship services. Mrs. Carrie Mintz was leader of the Spiritual Life group of the W.S.C.S. and she started having these women to meet at night in various homes for devotional services and prayer. This group became the nucleus from which our Wednesday Morning Prayer Service has grown. In 1952 Mrs. H. M. Cox became Spiritual Life Leader and it was she who decided to meet each Wednesday morning in the Educational Building. Mrs. Cox remained as leader of this Prayer Service until 1966. Several years prior to this she was assisted by Mrs. Boyd Wilson. Mrs. Cox gave up this responsibility due to her health and age and Mrs. Wilson carried on with the help of Mrs. Shelton Boyd. Mrs. Wilson moved from our town in 1968 and Mrs. Boyd has been responsible for the service since that time.

It would be impossible to assess the influence of these services. There has never been a Wednesday since its beginning that a service was not held, and women—and a few men—from other churches in and out of town have participated. Mrs. Cox led many of the services in their entirety and Frances Wilson was an able assistant as well as pianist for the meetings. Our own pastors and those from the Presbyterian and Baptist Churches have conducted the services through the years. Many of the professors from Mount Olive Junior College, and pastors from neighboring communities have led the group in thirty minutes of meditation and prayer on some of those Wednesday mornings. Mrs. Boyd has often conducted the prayer service and other laymen and women have assisted at irregular intervals.

Numbers of people in the community as well as those in our local church have felt the dedication and sincerity of this group so that they have often requested special prayers for themselves and for their friends and loved ones.

Margaret English, Eva Hood, Frank Cox, and Eva Wilkins were in Mrs. Mintz's first prayer group and they continue to attend the Wednesday morning services. Others joined later and have remained loyal and faithful and more of us go only spasmodically. However, no one who attends these short worship services can leave without feeling spiritually refreshed and uplifted. This group expresses the first words of the Preamble to the Constitution of the United Methodist Church, namely, "the Church is a community of all true believers under the Lordship of Christ."

The events of the first century of our local church are now a matter of record. The opportunity to extend and enrich the spiritual experience of those to whom the church may minister is infinitely greater than it has ever been before. What of the future and what shall be my part and your part in contributing to this future? These are the questions that are imperative and impelling. Our answers will determine our record for the next century.



# Appendix

## PASTORS

1870-1871	J. R. Brooks	1903-1904	B. F. Deloach
1871-1872	C. C. Dodson	1904-1906	J. W. Potter
1872-1873	J. L. Keene	1906-1907	J. J. Barker
1873-1874	J. N. Andrews	1907-1910	E. E. Rose
1874-1875	R. P. Bibb	1910-1912	W. C. Merritt
1875-1876	C. H. Call	1912-1916	James H. Frizzelle
1876-1878	W. H. Watson	1916-1917	J. W. Wright
1878-1879	J. Mahoney	1917-1920	Frank Culbreth
1879-1881	J. R. Finley	1920-1923	G. B. Starling
1881-1883	J. E. Bristow	1923-1925	L. T. Singleton
1883-1886	P. L. Groome	1925-1929	E. M. Snipes
1886-1887	J. T. Abernathy	1929-1933	L. L. Smith
1887-1888	P. L. Groome	1933-1938	W. L. Loy
1888-1890	J. T. Abernathy	1938-1941	R. G. Dawson
1890-1892	M. H. Tuttle	1941-1945	C. W. Robbins
1892-1896	N. M. Journey	1945-1946	M. Y. Self
1896-1897	M. M. McFarland	1946-1950	A. L. Chaplin
1897-1898	J. J. Johnson	1950-1954	R. S. Harrison
1898-1899	J. T. Bagwell	1954-1961	Dwight L. Fouts
1899-1901	A. R. Raven	1961-1966	Christian White
1901-1902	T. R. Bonner	1966-1968	J. K. Bostick
1902-1903	G. D. Langston	1968-	J. G. White, Jr.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

1873-	J. C. Eason	1938-1947	R. L. Cox
— — —	Unknown	1947-1950	Norbert Wilson
1900-	C. B. Price	1950-1953	Lloyd Hontz
1902-	Z. D. McWhorter	1953-1958	Paul Patten
1906-	E. N. Ricks, Sr.	1958-1962	Borden Kornegay
1910-	R. L. Kornegay	1962-1963	William S. Wilkins
1913-	A. M. Proctor	1963-1964	Shelton B. Boyd
1917-1922	S. D. Broadhurst	1964-1968	William S. Wilkins
1922-1930	R. A. King	1968-1969	Harold Hughes
1931-1938	S. A. Thompson	1969-1970	Jimmy Adams

## PRESIDENTS OF WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

1888-	Mrs. Hettie Gibbons Westbrook	1904-	Mrs. Belle Journey
1900-	Mrs. Buck Hatch	1908-	Mrs. A. G. Cox

### **PRESIDENTS OF THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY**

1916-1918	Mrs. W. F. Martin	1931-1935	Mrs. J. W. Wilkins
1918-1920	Mrs. Allen King	1935-1936	Mrs. W. W. Loftin
1920-1922	Mrs. R. P. Holmes	1936-1937	Mrs. Roberta Loftin
1922-1924	Mrs. E. N. Ricks, Sr.	1937-1938	Mrs. J. W. Wilkins
1924-1926	Mrs. Fred Mintz	1938-1939	Mrs. Walter Patten
1926-1928	Mrs. W. W. Loftin	1939-1940	Mrs. R. L. Cox
1928-1930	Mrs. E. M. Snipes		

### **PRESIDENTS OF THE WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

1941-1942	Mrs. R. L. Cox	1955-1957	Mrs. Fred C. Sutton
1942-1943	Mrs. J. W. Wilkins	1957-1959	Mrs. W. D. Kornegay, Jr.
1943-1945	Mrs. R. D. Loftin	1959-1961	Mrs. Shelton Boyd
1945-1947	Mrs. J. W. Wilkins	1961-1963	Mrs. Willie Hood
1947-1951	Mrs. Nelson Ricks	1963-1967	Mrs. J. W. Wilkins
1951-1955	Mrs. Shelton Boyd	1967-1969	Mrs. Harold Hughes

## **Gifts to Church**

- 1873—Lot located on corner of Pollock Street and Church Street, given by John H. Loftin for the site of The First Methodist Church in Mount Olive.
- 1888—Communion Service given by Mrs. Hettie Gibbons Westbrook.
- 1913—The Church Bell was given by Mr. H. M. Cox soon after the present church was dedicated.
- 1915—Collection Plates given by Mrs. A. G. Cox and Mrs. E. N. Ricks, Sr.
- Mr. M. W. Loftin gave a Pulpit Bible in memory of his parents.
  - The Light over the Bible stand given by Mr. M. W. Loftin and his sons in memory of Mrs. Loftin.
  - The children of the late Versailles Flowers gave a Silver Vase in her memory.
- 1922—The Marble Baptismal Font given by the Ladies Aid Society in memory of Mrs. A. G. Cox.
- 1937—Chairs and Desk for The Frank Cox Class given by Mrs. Mary Bynum Ricks.
- March 9, 1952—Brass Altar Cross given by Belle Journey Sunday School Class, in honor of Mrs. Belle Journey.
- March 9, 1952—One Brass Candlestick given by the Joe McCullen family in memory of James Clinton McCullen.
- March 9, 1952—One Brass Candlestick given by the Ralph English family in memory of Mrs. Ida Cogdell Grantham.

April 20, 1952—Four Brass Offering Plates given by the Sam A. Thompson family as a memorial to Sam A. Thompson.

January 7, 1954—Sum of \$100.00 given to New Organ Fund by Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. William Wilkins, Mr. and Mrs. Shelton Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Cox, Mrs. J. W. Wilkins and Mrs. Belle Journey, Mrs. S. L. Warren, Mrs. Roland Martin, The Friendly Bible Class, The Ladies Aid Society, and Circles 5 and 6 of W.S.C.S. as a memorial to Miss Ada English.

August 7, 1954—"Book of Remembrance" and Walnut Stand given by Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Kornegay, Jr., in honor of parents of Mr. Kornegay, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Kornegay.

August 7, 1954—Interior Bulletin Board (walnut) given by children of Mrs. Eliza Hatch, in her honor. The children were Mrs. Esther Hatch Burnette, Mrs. Rutch Hatch Hines, and Mr. Cullen B. Hatch.

April 24, 1955—Two Walnut Flower Pedestals given by Circles 2 and 4 of W.S.C.S.

June 26, 1955—Two Brass Flower Vases given by Belle Journey S. S. Class.

In years 1955-1965, inclusive, Bibles were given to graduating seniors at Mount Olive High School by Belle Journey Sunday School Class. After 1965 this was discontinued due to consolidation of several high schools into one new high school.

February, 1956—Wrough Iron Hand Rail on Church Street side of main entrance constructed, installed and given by Mr. Leon Britt.

June 15, 1956—Five Folding Banquet Tables given by Circles 4 and 7 of W.S.C.S.

December 23, 1956—Coffee Urn given by Mrs. Nannie Westbrook Sollee.

February 10, 1957—New Electric Stove given by Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Loftin, in memory of Mrs. Roberta Loftin, Mr. Loftin's mother.

1957—New Piano in Fellowship Hall placed by Frank Cox and Wesley Bible Classes.

September 20, 1959—Two Hat Racks given by Frank Cox Class.

1959 and 1960—Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Loftin gave \$100.00, respectively, to Building Fund in memory of Mrs. Roberta Loftin.

March 27, 1960—Two Folding Banquet Tables given by W.S.C.S.

December 25, 1960—New Carpet in Nursery installed by friends.

December 15, 1960—Lighting Fixtures in Fellowship Hall given by Mr. and Mrs. Cecil J. Winstead.

- February 19, 1961—Cabinet for Music in Choir Room given by Frank Cox Sunday School Class.
- June 4, 1961—Twelve Hymnals given by Frank Cox Class.
- April 1, 1962—Brass Communion Service given by Mrs. Nannie Westbrook Hatcher Sollee, in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Westbrook.
- October, 1963—Bemberg Damask Liturgical Paraments for Pulpit and Communion Table given by Mrs. W. W. Pierson in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Holmes, Sr.
- May, 1965—Furnishings of 6th Grade Church School Class given by Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Odom, Jr., in memory of their daughter, Rhonda E. Odom.
- May, 1965—Cabinet given to Nursery Classroom by Mrs. Clarence Wilson and Mr. Harold Byrd in honor of their mother, Mrs. Erma Byrd.
- October 20, 1965—Lighted Cross and Altar Table in Fellowship Hall given by children of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Cox in their honor.
- December 15, 1965—New Refrigerator-Freezer given by Belle Journey Class.
- December 25, 1965—Altar Set given to 6th Grade Church School Class by Mr. and Mrs. Cecil J. Winstead in memory of Rhonda E. Odom.
- January 2, 1966—Redwood Doors, Hardware, Concrete Sills and Waterproof Thresholds in Vestibule given by friends of Mr. Harry H. Kraft in his memory.
- January 9, 1966—New Rug for Nursery Class given by Mrs. H. G. Best in honor of Lillian Kaye Adams.
- 1966—Twelve Bibles by Belle Journey Class.
- 1967—New Hymnals given by Memorial Fund established by friends of Mrs. Belle Journey and descendants of Mrs. Belle Journey, Mrs. Eva Wilkins, Mr. William S. Wilkins, and Dr. Kenneth W. Wilkins.
- 1967—Sixteen Bibles by Belle Journey Class.
- 1967—Iron Supporting Posts for exterior bulletin board constructed, installed, and given by Mr. Leon Britt.
- 1968—Stoles and Pocket Emblems for ushers given by Mr. and Mrs. William Wilkins.
- 1968—Nine Bibles by Belle Journey Class.
- November, 1968—Mimeograph Machine in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Taylor by their family.