

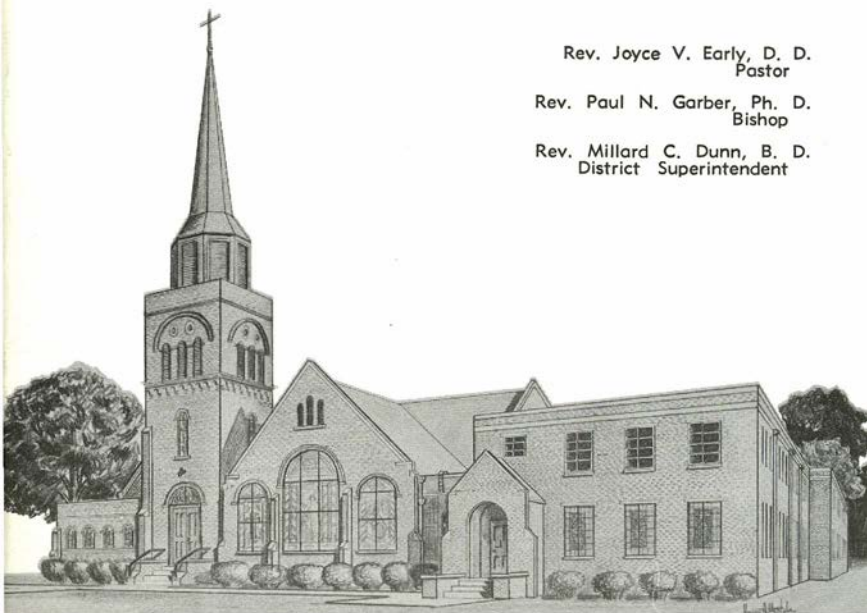
Brief History  
and Church Roll of  
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH  
Rockingham, North Carolina

*"SINCE 1786, A CHURCH  
WITH A VISION AND  
A MESSAGE."*

Rev. Joyce V. Early, D. D.  
Pastor

Rev. Paul N. Garber, Ph. D.  
Bishop

Rev. Millard C. Dunn, B. D.  
District Superintendent



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This brief history could not have been realized without the help of Dr. Early, our pastor; Isaac S. London, editor of *The Post-Dispatch*; and a history of Methodism which was written by the late Lillie Moore Everette. To all those who contributed in any way to this common endeavor, we express our immeasurable appreciation.

*Published by*

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OF  
THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH  
(February, 1962)

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Mrs. R. Harvey Hough, Assistant

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THE 175th ANNIVERSARY OF  
FIRST METHODIST  
(1961)

One hundred and seventy-seven years ago, December 24, 1784, the Methodist Church was formally organized in America. Just two years later this historic First Church was organized. The year was 1786. ✓

The Revolutionary War had been won and the ties with England had been broken. Methodism could no longer continue as an outpost of a British organization. The American preachers and people no longer relished the dictatorship of John Wesley, revered and loved as he was. America was growing to the West and to the South, across mountains and plains. A strong, tightly bound organization was needed.

Thus a conference of the preachers was called to meet in Lovely Lane Church, Baltimore, December 24, 1784. Dr. Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury had been designated by John Wesley as bishops. These were formally elected by the group. The group remained in session for ten days and did many important things. The first thing they did was to vote to have a Methodist Church independent of British Methodism.

The appointments were made and the preachers dispersed rapidly, almost as though some of the men leaped through the windows of the Chapel on to their horses to be on their way. The *King's* business required haste and got it. Bishop Asbury rode the next day through rain and snow fifty miles to Fairfax, Virginia. Bishop Coke began a six months preaching tour of the South.

In 1786 our Methodist congregation was organized by two young pioneer circuit riders, Hope Hull and Jeremiah Masten, assigned that year to the new Pee Dee Circuit, which embraced the Pee Dee Valley on both sides of the river, extending from within a few miles of Salisbury, N. C., to Georgetown, S. C.

The first church building, known as "Night's Chapel", stood either on or adjacent to the lot now occupied by the residence of Judge F. Donald Phillips and served the entire community for more than a quarter of a century. It was during this time, in January of 1789, that Bishop Francis Asbury, the first Bishop consecrated in America at the Baltimore Conference, came in his travels to Richmond County. He preached here in 1790 and 1801. Bishop Asbury came back on January 8, 1806, and would have preached but he said, "Here the people would have assembled, but there was a wedding afoot; this is a matter of moment, as some men have but one during life, and some find that one to have been one too many."

Soon the Chapel was abandoned, and until a new building was erected on the present site, the Methodists used for their House of Worship the old Academy which stood on the lot now occupied by the Winn-Dixie Store.

The present property was acquired in 1832-33 and a church building built soon thereafter. Replacing this structure, a much larger one, facing north, was erected and dedicated in July of 1863, serving a growing congregation for approximately thirty-five years. It has been said that when the cornerstone of this church was laid, *MRS. ANN LEAK (grandmother of the late H. C. Wall) PLACED THE FIRST BRICK*



*IN A MORTAR MIXTURE WHICH SHE HAD SPREAD WITH A SILVER PIE KNIFE.* Mrs. Leak and her husband, lived just opposite the Church on Washington Street. In 1879 the Sunday School Chapel was built on the church property and presented to the Church by this Mrs. Ann Leak. The 1863 church building was a frame building in the simple old style of church architecture of that early day, the loveliest examples of which are to be seen practically everywhere throughout the New England states. One of the deceased members of this congregation related, "The method of taking up collection was most interesting. A long pole with a little bag attached to one end, into which to place the offerings, was extended along each pew, from the aisle, by the ushers."

In 1879, our Church, having been on circuits within the South Carolina Conference from 1786 until its inclusion in the North Carolina Conference in 1850, was made a station with a full-time pastor of its own.

In 1899 the third building was torn down, and work was started on this present structure and dedicated June 21, 1903, by Bishop A. Coke Smith. It is of interest to note that the frame building erected in 1862-63 was so sturdily built that great difficulty was had in tearing down the steeple, pegged instead of nailed. The carpenters got part of it down, then tried to pull the rest with a team of four horses from Old Roberdel. They couldn't budge it, but that night a heavy wind swept across this section and blew it down into the preacher's garden and nobody was hurt. At this time, too, the Chapel given by Mrs. Ann Leak was sold and moved to the triangular lot between Washington Street and Fayetteville Road. Here it was made a residence and it is the house stand-

ing there now next to the Esso Service Station.

This present building dedicated in 1903 was completed at the cost of \$14,000. The lovely windows that were placed in the sanctuary at this time are still enjoyed by all worshippers today. All the windows, copies of famous paintings, in the sanctuary, were donated as memorials to honor loved ones who for years had been prominent and influential members of the Church. (It is interesting to note here that the two largest windows cost \$500.00 each in 1903. Several years ago it was necessary to have some repairs done on these windows. An expert was called here from New Jersey and he placed a \$75,000.00 evaluation on all of these windows. He also said that they could not be replaced in this country but maybe in Europe. The Church was advised to seal up the windows to protect them. This was done.)

Since 1903 much has been contributed to our Church: a pipe organ, three sets of chimes, a rose window in the choir loft, a brass altar set, and many other loving gifts including the restoration of the steeple to be undertaken in the near future.

In the year 1924, for the sum of \$52,000 an Educational Building was added which is still in use today and has just undergone improvements and a new coat of paint.

Ground-breaking ceremonies launched a recent program of growth when, on July 13, 1958, the New Educational Building was begun. Occupied in August of 1959, it stands a \$219,000 monument to the progress of Methodism in our community. Countless tributes are being presented with this addition in memory or in honor of cherished loved ones. However, furnishings in the Ladies' and Men's Bible Classes,

the windows in the chapel, the several pianos, a kitchen complete in every detail, etc. serve to exemplify the efforts and loyalty of our members.

*The present church membership is one thousand and its pulpit is served devotedly by Dr. Joyce V. Early, the eighty-ninth pastor since 1786. God has always helped this congregation for 175 years. Hope Hull and Jeremiah Masten planted; the other ministers, together with this fine congregation, have watered; and God has given the increase. Our Church today looks to a future of spiritual advancement and re-dedication to the beliefs for which Methodism stands.*



## PASTORS

HOPE HULL _____	1786	
L. ANDREWS _____	1787	
THOMAS HUMPHRIES _____	1788;	'89; '98
WILLIAM GLASSAWAY _____	1790	
JONATHAN JACKSON _____	1791	
RICKETSON LIPSEY _____	1792	
HENRY LEDBETTER _____	1793	
JOSEPH MOORE _____	1794;	1827
G. CLARK _____	1795	
RICHARD PASEY _____	1796	
JOHN RUSSELL _____	1797	
TOBIAS GIBSON _____	1799	
SAMUEL DOUTHET _____	1800	
THOMAS NELSON _____	1801;	1802
JEREMIAH RUSSELL _____	1803	
THOMAS SHAW _____	1804;	1805
JOHN PORTER _____	1806	
JOHN GAMEWELL _____	1807;	1816
ROBERT PORTER _____	1808	
CHARLES FISHER _____	1809	
WILLIAM S. TALLY _____	1810	
ANTHONY SENTER _____	1811	
NICHOLAS TALLEY _____	1812	
GRIFFIN CHRISTOPHER _____	1813	
DAVID S. McBRIDE _____	1814	
SAMUEL JOHNSON _____	1815	
A. LEATHERWOOD _____	1817	
JOHN W. NORTON _____	1818;	1822
NICHOLAS McINTYRE _____	1819	
NICHOLAS WARE _____	1820;	1824
JOHN BOSWELL _____	1821;	1823
CHARLES SINCLAIR _____	1825	
ISAAC HARTLEY _____	1826	
PHILLIP GROOVE _____	1828	
JOHN H. ROBERTSON _____	1829;	'36; '37
NOAH LANEY _____	1830	
WILLIAM KING _____	1831;	'32
JOEL W. TOWNSEND _____	1833	
JOHN WATTS _____	1834	
ALLEN McCARQUODALE _____	1835	
CHARLES S. WALKER _____	1838	
THEO HUGGINS _____	1839	
W. T. HARRISON _____	1840	
A. HOYLE _____	1841	
IRA L. POTTER _____	1842	
J. B. ANTHONY _____	1843;	'44
MICHAEL ROBBINS _____	1845	
DENNIS J. SIMMONS _____	1846;	'47
J. W. WRIGHTMAN _____	1848	
M. A. McKIBBEN _____	1849	
W. L. PEGUES _____	1850	

EVAN E. FREEMAN	_____	1851;	'52			
IRA T. WYCHE	_____	1853				
LEMON SHELL	_____	1854;	'55			
PETER DOUB	_____	1856;	'57			
S. D. ADAMS	_____	1858;	'59;	'64;	'65	
JOHN TILLET	_____	1860;	'61			
H. H. GIBBONS	_____	1862;	'63			
JOSEPH WHEELER	_____	1866;	'67;	'72;	'73;	
		1874;	'75;	'78		
T. W. GUTHRIE	_____	1868;	'69;	'70;	71	
J. W. JENKINS	_____	1876;	'77			
H. T. HUDSON	_____	1879				
H. P. COLE	_____	1880				
J. B. BOBBITT	_____	1881;	'82			
J. H. GUINN	_____	1883				
J. H. PAGE	_____	1884;	'85;	'86;	'97	
M. L. WOOD	_____	1887;	'88;	'89;	'90	
W. B. BOUB	_____	1891;	'92;	'93		
J. T. LYON	_____	1894;	'95;	'96		
F. M. SHAMBURGER	_____	1898;	'99;	1900;	'01	
JOHN H. HALL	_____	1902;	'03;	'04		
J. E. UNDERWOOD	_____	1905;	'06;	'07;	'08	
E. H. DAVIS	_____	1909;	'10;	'11;	'12	
J. B. HURLEY	_____	1913;	'14			
G. F. SMITH	_____	1915;	'16;	'17		
A. L. ORMOND	_____	1918;	'19;	'20;	'21	
J. D. BUNDY	_____	1922;	'23;	'24		
C. M. HAWKINS	_____	1925;	'26;	'27		
J. M. DANIEL	_____	1928				
H. L. HENDRICKS	_____	1929				
W. R. ROYAL	_____	1930;	'31;	'32;	'33;	'34
J. F. HERBERT	_____	1935;	'36;	'37;	'38;	'39
J. H. BARNHARDT	_____	1940;	'41			
B. B. SLAUGHTER	_____	1942;	'43;	'44;	'45	
D. E. EARNHARDT	_____	1946;	'47;	'48;	'49	
J. H. LANNING	_____	1950;	'51			
L. A. TILLEY	_____	1952;	'53;	'54;	'55;	'56
W. R. STEVENS	_____	1957;	'58;	'59;	'60	
J. V. EARLY	_____	1961;	'62			

63, 64, 65, 66

(First church was on a circuit until 1880. Circuits had a pastor and one or more assistants. The assistants are not listed.)

## CHURCH ROLL

*February 1962*

Mr. & Mrs. L. T. Abee  
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    Jennie Bea, Joyce Ellen, W. H., Jr.  
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Benjamin Whiteford Alexander, Jr.  
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Mrs. Priscilla Penegar Andrews  
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Mrs. Earl Bess  
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Mrs. Claude Bray  
Mr. & Mrs. T. M. Bray  
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Mrs. Audrey Brown  
Miss Susan Lee Montgomery  
Mrs. Emerson I. Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Brown, E. A., Jr., Jimmy  
Mr. Jerry Brown  
Mrs. J. P. Brown  
Mr. R. V. Brown  
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    Lucy  
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Mr. & Mrs. J. W. McKenize, Jr., Mary  
    Augusta, J. W. III  
Mrs. Cecelia Scholl McLaurin

Mr. & Mrs. Charles McLaurin  
Mrs. Octavia Phillips McLeod  
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Mrs. W. P. McRae  
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    Jacquelyn Frances  
Mr. & Mrs. E. R. Marshall, Ray Wilson, II  
Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Martin  
Rev. & Mrs. E. J. Martin  
Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Martin  
Mrs. W. C. Mathis  
Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Matson, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Matson, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mauldin  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Meacham  
Mr. & Mrs. H. A. Meacham, H. A., Jr.,  
    Jane Cooper  
Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Meacham, Jerry Ann,  
    Judy Carol  
Mr. & Mrs. R. G. Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. M. S. Millikan, Jeanne  
Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Mills, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Mintz  
Mr. & Mrs. C. G. Monroe  
Miss Mamie Monroe  
Miss Maude Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Morgan  
Mrs. Virginia Blalock Morman  
Miss Maude Morrison  
Mrs. R. M. Morrison  
Mrs. Benford Morse, Peggy Ann, Linda Kay  
Mr. & Mrs. Clinton Morton

Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Mulkey, Michael Stephen  
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey C. Munn, Charles Ray,  
Mary Alice, Cecelia Ann  
Mrs. Lizzie Hamer Nance  
Mrs. George D. Neill, Nancy Kay  
Mr. I. J. Newberry  
Mrs. Gertrude Moore Nelson  
Mr. William Newberry  
Mr. & Mrs. John Nichols  
Mr. & Mrs. W. L. North  
Mr. & Mrs. G. L. Norwood, William Lee  
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. O'Brien, Harold Franklin  
Mr. Walter Thomas O'Brien  
Mr. & Mrs. O. L. O'Brien, Jr., O. L. III  
Miss Sara O'Brien  
Mr. & Mrs. W. W. O'Brien, John Franklin  
Mr. John S. Ormsby  
Mrs. Clyde Osborne  
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Osteen  
Mr. & Mrs. L. L. Osteen, L. Lawson, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Page  
Mrs. J. T. Page, J. T., Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. L. V. Page  
Mr. & Mrs. Talmadge Page  
Mrs. Sybil Morrow Pakzer  
Mrs. Manie Leak Parsons Palmer  
Mrs. Anna B. Parsons  
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Parsons, Glenda Mae,  
James Bethel  
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Peedin, Jimmy, Linda  
Gail, Bonnie Mae

Mr. & Mrs. A. D. Pegram, Jerry Kenneth  
Mr. & Mrs. A. H. Pegram  
Mr. Heath Penegar, Elbert  
Mrs. Johnnie Monroe Penegar  
Mr. & Mrs. C. D. Phillips, Linda Louise,  
Mickey Cheryl  
Judge & Mrs. F. D. Phillips  
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Phillips, R. L., Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Poe  
Mrs. Claude Polk  
Mr. Kenneth Ray Ponds  
Mrs. J. A. Porter  
Mr. John W. Porter  
Mrs. P. N. Powell  
Mr. & Mrs. T. L. Powell  
Mr. & Mrs. Fleming Privett, Molly, Ila Catherine  
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Pryce, Sr., Henry  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Pullen  
Mrs. H. C. Rancke  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Rast  
Mr. Oscar Ratliffe, Julia Marshall  
Mrs. J. B. Rawls, Sr., Harry L.  
Mrs. O. G. Reynolds, Dorothy R.  
Mrs. Tracey O. Reynolds, Elizabeth McRae  
Mr. McNair T. Riddle  
Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Rideoutte  
Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Riggan  
Mr. & Mrs. Grover Rodgers, Laura, Grover  
Tilghman, III, Robert Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Rogers  
Mr. A. H. Rohleder, Milton Arnold  
Mrs. H. J. Rollins, Dr. H. J., Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. R. F. Rush, Stephen



Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Satterfield  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sauls  
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Saunders  
Mrs. Walter L. Scales, W. L., Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Scales  
Mrs. R. M. Schein  
Mr. & Mrs. P. V. Scholl, P. V., Jr.  
Mrs. W. F. Seago, William T.  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sedberry  
Mrs. Lottie Sedberry  
Miss Lila Stansill Shannonhouse  
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Shepard  
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Shepard, Jr.  
Mrs. John D. Sheppard, Shelia Ross  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Shores, Susan Draughn  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Shuler  
Miss Betty Sigle  
Mr. & Mrs. K. W. Simmons  
Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Simpson  
Mr. Wilford Sisk  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Skreen, Danell, Maxine  
Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Slack  
Mr. & Mrs. B. T. Smith, Emma Jane, Lucy  
Shores, II, Linda Catherine  
Mrs. Carl Smith, Kathryn F.  
Mr. & Mrs. Feltz Smith, Harrison  
Miss Margaret Smith  
Mrs. H. M. Smithey  
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Snauffer  
Mr. & Mrs. E. G. Snipes, Eddie, Judy  
Christopher, Susan Dean  
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Snuggs, Helen Patricia,  
Paula Kay

Mr. Jack Snuggs  
Mrs. J. K. Sowell  
Mr. & Mrs. G. B. Spence  
Mrs. Anna Babette Stadler, Adelthia  
Anna  
Mrs. Robert N. Stansill, R. N. Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. H. D. Steadman, H. D., Jr.  
Mr. Armistead Steele  
Mr. Robert L. Steele, IV  
Mrs. Samuel S. Steele  
Mr. Stephen Steele, Jr.  
Mrs. W. C. Steele  
Mrs. William L. Steele  
Mrs. Joseph Stephenson  
Mr. W. R. Stillwell  
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Stubbs, J. M., Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. W. B. Stubbs, Jr.  
Mrs. W. L. Stubbs  
Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Taylor, Jr.  
Mr. J. Fred Taylor  
Mr. Ned F. Taylor  
Mrs. Jane E. Taylor  
Mr. Willard S. Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Teal  
Miss Bessie Terry  
Mr. & Mrs. B. L. Terry  
Mrs. Blanche Terry  
Mrs. C. G. Terry, Patrick, C. G., Jr.  
Mrs. E. B. Terry, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Terry  
Mrs. Josephine Terry  
Mrs. Barbara Jean Pegram Thomas  
Mr. Dover Thomas

Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Thomas  
Miss Eva M. Thomas  
Mrs. Henry L. Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Thomas, Janice Sue  
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Thomas, Jr., John Wesley,  
    III, Patsy, Mary Carol  
Miss Mary A. Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Thomas, Scott, Jr.  
Mrs. William C. Thomas, W. C., Jr.,  
    Edmund  
Mrs. Walter S. Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. H. A. Thompson  
Mrs. D. C. Thrower  
Mr. & Mrs. S. T. Thrower  
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Tilley  
Mrs. L. E. Tolan  
Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Tremon, Terry Ann  
Mrs. Joseph C. Vandever  
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Vick  
Mr. & Mrs. A. M. Waddell  
Mr. & Mrs. Myers Waddell  
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Walker  
Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Walker, W. G., Jr.,  
    Franklin Madison  
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Wall  
Miss Lila Walsh  
Mr. & Mrs. Julian Warrick  
Mrs. Katie Brigman Watts  
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Waugh  
Mr. & Mrs. A. A. Webb, Alden Brannon  
Mr. John Stencil Webb  
Mr. & Mrs. T. B. Webb

Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Webb  
Mrs. W. P. Webb  
Mrs. David Nelson Wendt  
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Wentz  
Mr. & Mrs. H. A. West, Harry A., Jr., Eve  
Mr. & Mrs. T. P. Wheeler, T. P., Jr.  
Mrs. Joyce Ann Pegram Wheliss  
Mrs. C. A. Whitlock  
Mrs. A. E. Whittemore  
Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Williams, Nan Elizabeth  
Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Williams, Roger  
Mr. Carl R. Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Williams, Edward, Glenn  
Fox, Wilma Terry  
Mrs. L. L. Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. L. M. Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. L. M. Williams, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Williams, R. G., Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. W. K. Williams, Judith Lynn,  
Thomas Howard  
Mr. & Mrs. W. V. Wilson  
Mr. Carlos Womack, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. John Womack  
Mr. & Mrs. M. L. Wood  
Mr. & Mrs. T. P. Wood, T. P., Jr., David T.  
Mrs. John Angus Yow  
Mr. & Mrs. T. S. Yow, Tommy, Charles

We are trying to keep our Church roll correct. Our present pastor has recently marked off eighteen names of persons who have joined other churches and have not notified Church office. We hope this roll is now correct.

CHURCH ROLL AS OF AUGUST, 1962

Cathy Aleise Ackerman  
M. L. Adams, Jr.  
Marcia Ann Baxley  
Julia Kay Blalock  
Mr. J. B. Bullock  
Larry Cheek  
Steve C. Chilton  
Miss Nena DeBerry  
Deborah Ann Denny  
Mrs. Cora Duehring, Victor and  
Raymond  
Mrs. J. W. C. Entwistle, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Gene L. Farnell  
Barbara Lynn Freeman  
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hinson, J. C., Jr.  
and Beth  
Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Holland, Jackie  
James M. Iseman, Jr.  
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Jackson  
Benford E. Morse, Jr.  
Mrs. Charles R. Munn  
Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Myers



Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Nance, Sena Kay  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Payne  
Amy L. Pegram  
Beverly Ann Poe  
Carl J. Riggan  
Joyce Rigsbee  
Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Roberts, Britton  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Rohleder, Ann  
Mrs. Milton Rohleder  
Mrs. Paul V. Scholl, Jr.  
Mr. Ralph Shoemaker  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith, Michael  
Mrs. Levi Watts  
Mr. Neil H. Williams  
Mr. Carlos Womack  
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Young, Antonia  
Carol