

## HISTORY OF GARRIS CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH

In the year 1908 Reverend J. J. Boone came under the conviction that a Methodist Church was needed in the area now served by Garris Chapel Church. Under sponsorship of the LaGrange Charge, Rev. Boone held a Revival in the Glenwood School. The result of this meeting was the organization of Garris Chapel Methodist Church. In 1910, with Reverend R. F. Bumpass as Presiding Elder, Rev. Boone was officially appointed to serve as the first Pastor.

Plans were made to erect the first Church building. Building materials were donated by Ransom Garris, J. J. Sutton, and other members and friends of the Church. Friends and members also gave their labor and Mr Garris gave the land on which the Church was built, and the Church was named in his honor.

Garris Chapel remained a part of the LaGrange Charge until 1924 when a transfer was effected and with five other Churches Garris Chapel made up the Seven Springs Charge. Under this arrangement there was one afternoon and one evening Service each month with Sunday School each Sunday afternoon. After several years a morning service each month was worked out and the Sunday School was moved to the morning--immediately after the Worship Service on preaching Sunday.

In 1939, under the leadership of the wife of the pastor, Mrs. W. E. Howard, the W. S. C. S. was organized and has been a very important part of the Church ever since.

In 1943, Reverend H. L. Harrell was appointed to serve Garris Chapel Church. He was followed by Reverend R. N. Fitts and Rev. W. R. Johnson. The people were unhappy on a six point Charge so with B. B. Slaughter as District Superintendent, W. R. Johnson as pastor, and with the help of the Commission on Rural Work. the 1950 Annual Conference removed Garris Chapel from the Seven Springs Charge and a two point Circuit was formed. On the two point Circuit Rev. Harrell was sent to serve Garris Chapel a second time.

The need for a new and larger Church plant became the concern of the people. The W. S. C. S. started it off by turning over their small treasury to the building fund. To this was added funds raised by Church Suppers, Lord's Acre Projects, Harvest Sales, and tithes and offerings of members and friends of the Church.

In 1953, N. B. Hill who had served as treasurer of the building fund went out from Garris as a Minister of the Gospel. Brother Hill is still serving in the North Carolina Conference.

A building Committee was appointed. A new location was selected. Needs of the Church for Worship, Fellowship, and Education were carefully examined, plans were drawn up by Mrs. H. L. Harrell, and in March 1952 ground breaking was held at the sight of the new Church for a new Church building. In August 1954 the first Worship Service was held in the Fellowship Hall of the new building.

During the pastorate of Reverend Earl Tyson donations were received from Duke Foundation (\$1,250.00) and from the Board of Missions (\$500.00). With McGee Creech as pastor another \$1,250.00 was received and a loan of \$5,000. was secured from the Mission Board.

With these funds the Sanctuary was completed; stained glass windows were given by members and friends of the Church; and the first service was held in the New Sanctuary February 24, 1957 with McGee Creech as pastor.

During the pastorates of Reverend T. C. West and Reverend Douglas Ingram, funds to pay off the debt were raised. Thurman Wiggins became Superintendent of the Church School. He was followed by Bill Creech. In 1961 Reverend Leon Lewis was appointed to the Charge and in 1962 final payment on the loan was made. Property free of debt was now estimated to be worth in excess of \$30,000.

Bishop Paul N. Garber, of the Richmond Area, was present on March 31, 1963 to preach the Dedication Sermon and to lead the Service of Dedication of the Church Plant.

The Conference of 1965 created the Airboro-Garris Charge and Reverend Wilford D. Wise was appointed as the first Pastor.

Following is a list of Ministers and District Superintendents who have served Garris Chapel Church.

Presiding Elder

Pastor

R. F. Bumpass  
J. E. Underwood  
  
J. B. Hurley  
F. M. Shamburger  
  
J. C. Wooten

1910  
1911  
1914  
1918  
1920  
1921  
1924  
1926  
1928

Walter Patton  
J. H. McCracken  
T. M. Grant  
  
E. L. Hillman  
  
J. A. Russell

1929  
1930  
1931  
1935  
1937  
1939  
1940  
1942  
1943  
1943

B. B. Slaughter

1945  
1946  
1948  
1950

H. K. King  
H. M. McLamb

1951  
1954  
1956

~~xxxxxxLAWRENCE~~  
M. W. Lawrence

1960  
1961  
1965

J. J. Boone  
J. M. Carroway  
K. F. Duvall  
R. G. L. Edwards  
J. L. McKeer  
R. E. Pittman  
E. J. Lewis  
P. O. Lee  
N. L. Seabott  
C. A. Johnson  
C. W. Barbee  
W. J. Freeman  
R. W. Barfield  
  
W. E. Howard  
  
James Rogers  
Ernest Phifer (March)  
H. L. Harrell  
  
R. N. Fitts  
W. R. Johnson  
H. L. Harrell  
  
Earl Tyson  
McGee Creech  
T. C. West  
C. Douglas Ingram  
Leon Lewis Jr.  
Wilford D. Wise