

History of Hobgood United Methodist Church

A small group, some of who were from the Palmyra congregation, organized the church in the early 1880's. Its membership totaled nine, including Molly Hyman whose husband R.W. built a meetinghouse at Hobgood's Fork near his store and home.

The Village of Hobgood was incorporated in 1891. In the laying out of the town on the farm of E.P. Hyman, a corner of the garden was designated as a permanent site for the Methodist Church. As soon as the formalities were over, the "meeting house", was moved from Hobgood's Fork to its new location. The moving was slow and was done only on Saturday afternoon's when farmers could lay aside their work. Sometime only a few feet of progress was made. Where the church stood, the congregation gathered on Sunday for regular services. Upon reaching its destination, the "meeting house" had a bell tower and extensions to front and back added to it.

There are no records of these early days of the Hobgood Methodist Church; it is assumed that the Annual Conference supplied ministers. The Rev Joseph Gillespie is the first minister noted in records. The first parsonage was built in 1897 while W.A. Piland was minister. Williams Chapel was also built during this time and was part of the Hobgood charge.

By 1950 the original church building had become inadequate and was badly in need of repairs. With the sale of the parsonage and later the church building, fund raising was begun for a new church. First to be built was an educational building, with classrooms, kitchen and fellowship hall. In 1955 the cornerstone of the current sanctuary was laid. It was finished in 1957. It is of Gothic design with stained glass memorial windows, lantern lights, and modern furniture, with red carpeting and kneeling pads. Brass candlesticks and cross, two urns, and a brass baptismal font were given as memorials. A parsonage was built on Poplar Street.

The first youth organization, the Loyal Temperance Legion, was formed by Mrs. Galloway and Mrs. W.P. White Sr. Later the Epworth League was sponsored by Miss Virginia White and Mrs. T.G. Savage.

The history of Hobgood United Methodist Church is the lengthening shadows of people serving Jesus Christ. Into that history is woven the lives of many people and the lives of many to come will be enriched by their efforts.