

*John Wesley
United Methodist
Church*



*615 Cumberland Street
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301*

**1981 DIRECTORY OF
JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
616 CUMBERLAND STREET
FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28301
PASTOR: REV. ALBERT SHULER
CHURCH: (919) 483-5052**

HISTORY OF THE JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

After Methodism was brought to this area by Henry Evans it spread faster in the rural sections than in the Fayetteville community. Being the largest town in this area, the people from the county around this sphere of activity drifted into Fayetteville. Not finding a Methodist Church, they soon began to miss the fellowship of their brethren.

Mrs. Belle McCallum started a Sunday School in her home on Shuford Street for the children who lived near her. She soon was joined by Messrs. Tuck Leach, T. C. McCormick, John McCollum and Eva Adams. Late in 1923 they moved from the McCallum home to a house on Evans Avenue and McLean Street for a short time. While here a few others joined them, one of whom was Mrs. D. A. Bryant, a member of Fayetteville State College Staff and a Methodist from Texas. Leaving this place, they decided to buy a house about one block away on Frolic Street as a permanent place of worship. While worshipping in this place the Reverend Lloyd McQueen was sent to them as pastor. He was with them for two years, then the Reverend J. B. Meekins came. During his term of service the first church building was erected in 1925 and named Wesley Chapel. This structure burned and they moved into the house on Van Street. In a short time this house also burned and the congregation moved to Herring Street into McCollum Chapel which had just been vacated by a Holiness group. During these difficult years the Reverends Mr. L. W. Hendrick and Mr. M. M. Patrick were their pastors. Mr. Hendrick stayed only three weeks.

The next pastor was the Reverend J. L. Alford. He built an edifice of cement blocks. This structure was used until 1958. During these trying times Wesley Chapel was under the supervision of the following Presiding Elders: The Reverends M. E. Jones, G. M. Phelps, W. M. Wells, J. C. Perry, and R. B. McRae.

About 1940 the affairs of Wesley Chapel began to run smoother. The Reverend John J. Patterson became the pastor. He improved the set-up he found. Added new pews and other physical features. He was here five years.

The Rev. Hugh L. Ashe followed under Superintendent R. B. McRae and R. F. McCallum continued the work of improvements. He built an altar, put in a new floor and front doors. He tried to enhance the over-all status of Wesley Chapel. The church did not have a parsonage, so he bought a lot and built a seven room parsonage. This house was erected during the Second World War days and materials were hard to get but it was built without the membership going into debt. He stayed in this position until his death on January 29, 1949.

The Reverend F. D. Caldwell had been appointed Superintendent of the Laurinburg District in the 1948 Annual Conference. His first session at Wesley Chapel fell on the Sunday of the Reverend Ashe's funeral. Superintendent Caldwell filled the vacancy with the Reverend E. N. Mattison who arrived in March, 1949 to take over the work. He served until the Reverend William T. Brown came in 1951. The members were looking forward to a new church building and the first money set aside for this purpose was during his pastorate.

Next to come was the Reverend R. B. McRae in 1954. He served under District Superintendent R. C. Sharpe and S. L. Townsend. He joined the members of Wesley Chapel in their enthusiasm for a new building. He worked and guided us diligently until he found and secured a site for a new structure.

November 19, 1958 the congregation went into a new place of worship on the corner of Frolic Street and Cumberland Street. The name was changed from Wesley Chapel to John Wesley. The Reverend McRae stayed to enjoy the surrounding until 1961.

The Reverend W. R. Royster, Sr. became the next pastor and continued the ongoing program, though his stay with us was only one and one-half years.

In 1953 the Reverend Mr. James M. McCallum was sent to lead this congregation. He led the church in his quiet, tactful, Christian way until the only thing possible was to march on to a cooperative effort for an ecumenical Church of God. During this time the Reverend James W. Ferree came to John Wesley as District Superintendent and was with us until the last session of the North Carolina - Virginia Conference (Central Jurisdiction) in March, 1968. At this Conference the Reverend J. H. McCallum was appointed District Superintendent and Bishop L. S. Allen transferred the Reverend E. G. Hinton from Alabama to John Wesley Church in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

The Eastern District became a part of the North Carolina Conference (Southeastern Jurisdiction) with Bishop Paul N. Garber in 1968. At this time the Eastern District was dissolved and John Wesley became part of the Fayetteville District with the Reverend Graham S. Eubank, District Superintendent.

The Reverend E. G. Hinton was appointed our pastor and under his leadership we were able to complete the negotiations with the State Highway Commission on the sale of a portion of land; as a result we were able to pay off the debt on our church and in November, 1968 we burned the mortgage. The Reverend Hinton was transferred in January, 1969.

Although the Reverend J. H. McCallum had a full-time job as having been appointed Administrative Assistant to the Conference Cabinet, he was also assigned to work with us until June.

At the 1969 Conference, the Reverend James H. McCallum was appointed to Wilson Temple United Methodist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina. The Reverend Sylvester T. Gillespie was assigned to John Wesley United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

The Reverend "Gill" Gillespie, a young well-trained and energetic pastor, kept us moving in all directions toward building a true Christian community. Under his leadership, a new parsonage was purchased and completely furnished. Land to replace that sold to the State Highway Commission in 1967 was secured from the Fayetteville Urban Renewal Department for a church parking lot. Additional carpet for the sanctuary and pastor's study was purchased as well as a public address system and guard rails for the entrance and exit of the church. The Senior Choir renamed itself The Sanctuary Choir, the Junior Choir became the Youth Choir and a Children's Choir was revived. The Reverend Gillespie left in June, 1975 for service in the military as a Chaplain.

At the Annual Conference, June, 1975, the Reverend David R. Dunlap was appointed to John Wesley, after transferring from the Western North Carolina Conference. Under his leadership, the church and parsonage were painted by the men of the church and the entire church was reroofed. The Reverend Dunlap gave a great ministry to the sick and shut-in.

On April, 1980, the Reverend David R. Dunlap left and again, the Reverend James H. McCallum came to John Wesley as interim pastor until the Annual Conference in June; this time from the Council on Ministries of the North Carolina Conference, Raleigh Office.

At the Annual Conference, the Reverend Albert Shuler was appointed to John Wesley from Granville - Vance Charge. On Father's Day, June 15, 1980, John Wesley met a young, dynamic, well-trained spiritual leader. Since coming to John Wesley, Reverend Shuler has emphasized the importance of knowing the United Methodist Church by holding Confirmation Classes for the preparatory members and classes on Understanding Methodism for the membership.

Again John Wesley United Methodist Church is on the move. As God continues to guide us, we hope to advance in His name.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Christian Friends:

I am grateful to the almighty God that we at John Wesley United Methodist Church are a family of believers bound together by a common loyalty to Jesus Christ and a common commitment to serve his will through ministry. With the sense of commonality, we continue to carry the great message of love, grace and salvation to all people.

As pastor of this church I take pleasure in introducing this directory of our members and friends. I trust that the directory will be of use to you for years to come as you seek to know and serve one another in Christian Love.



Rev. Albert Shuler

Rev. Albert Shuler



John H. Coleman & Family
Custodian



Barbara Brown
Secretary