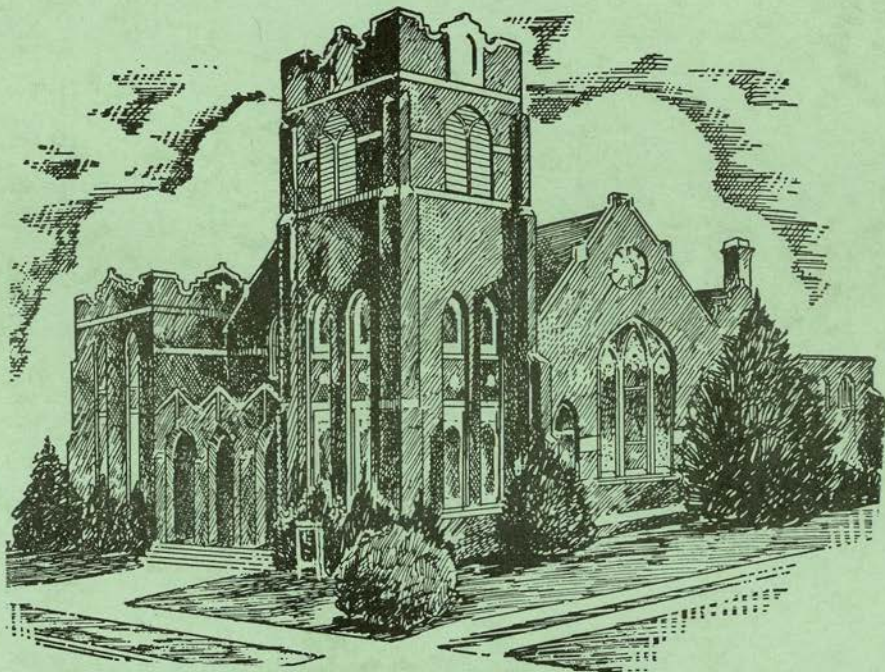


HISTORY OF

Long Memorial Methodist Church

226 North Main Street

ROXBORO, NORTH CAROLINA



HISTORY OF
LONG MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
Roxboro, North Carolina

Long Memorial Methodist Church has roots reaching back in time to the first quarter of the nineteenth century. A deed was recorded on March 26, 1822, by which a two-acre tract of land belonging to William Mann was "given, granted, bargained, sold, and delivered" for twenty-five cents to Nathaniel Hamlin, Lewis Amis, Byrd Pulliam, Thomas Mann, and Jacob Wright as trustees "for the Methodist Church to be established at the house known as Cool Spring Meeting House near Roxbrough for the propagation of the gospel." This deed states that "the spring near the meeting house shall be forever free for the use of the same." This meeting house was located near the southeast corner of the present intersection of the South Boston and Virgilina Highways.

The next date that can be verified is November 25, 1854, when a deed was recorded conveying the site of the present church property, three-fourths of an acre for \$95, by E. G. Reade, John H. Jones, and John M. Winstead, to the trustees, Green D. Satterfield, William R. Reade, William R. Webb, James Wright, William O. Bowles, Clement H. Jordan, Joseph A. Jones, Alex Williams, and Jones Drumwright, many of whose descendants are in the present membership. There is no authentic record to be found as to when the first church was built on this property, but it is understood that it was a small, one-room frame building, painted

white, in which Sunday School and Wednesday evening prayer services were held weekly, with worship services once or twice monthly.

The earliest pastor of whom there are reliable records was Rev. P. J. Caraway in 1867. Following him came Rev. W. M. Robey, Rev. Marcus Thomas, and Rev. William M. Jordan (1872-76), in whose ministry the Roxboro Church was a part of a ten-point circuit. In 1879, during the pastorate of Rev. H. H. Gibbons, the first Woman's Missionary Society was established, and for many years it remained the only society on the circuit. It became known as the "Mary Hambrick Missionary Society" in 1921, to honor the years of faithful service of the late Mrs. W. R. Hambrick.

At first, Roxboro Circuit was in the Hillsboro District which was re-named the Durham District in 1885, and in which Long Memorial has remained to the present day. In the records of the Hillsboro District Conference it is stated that the 1882 meeting was held in Roxboro, which had the largest church on the circuit, with the property valued at \$2,000. Although the property value was low, the Methodist morale was high, as the following excerpt taken from the district records shows: "Some few drink intoxicating liquors, some dance; there is none of this in the Roxboro church."

In the minutes of the 1891 District Conference no report from the Roxboro Church is included. The pastor at that time was Rev. T. N. Ivey who later became editor of the "Raleigh Christian Advocate", the North Carolina Conference paper, and still later, editor of the "Nashville Christian Advocate," the official publication of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. It is in these 1891 records that Roxboro Circuit and

Person Circuit are first listed separately - no longer ten churches for one pastor to serve!

The pastor's report to the 1899 District Conference says: "The building in town was remodeled a few years since, has stained windows and good furniture; and while not costly, is a model of neatness and comfort." The same report states: "The excellent, eight-room parsonage is in good condition." This house still stands at 315 North Main Street.

In the 1907 minutes of the District Conference, the Rev. J. A. Hornaday reports one new church completed and one nearing completion on the Roxboro Circuit. This latter reference no doubt is to the first brick church, for it was approximately at this time that Mr. J. A. Long, an active member, purchased the small frame church, which he had moved to Longhurst, a small outlying community, to become the nucleus of the church there. On the Roxboro site a brick church was erected which was first used late in 1907 or early in 1908.

During the pastorate of Rev. N. C. Yearby (1913-15), the Roxboro Church was separated from the Circuit, and for the first time it was a station, with services every Sunday. As a station the first pastor was Rev. O. W. Dowd (1915-19), during whose four years the church made great progress. Three of these points of advance were the building of a parsonage, helping to establish Grace Church in East Roxboro, and constructing the present church building. It was at this time that Rox-

boro Station was officially named Edgar Long Memorial Methodist Church, in memory of Mr. Edgar Long, eldest son of Mr. J. A. Long, and brother of Mrs. R. J. Teague, the oldest living member of this church.

In 1916, eighteen-one hundredths of an acre adjoining the church site was bought from the family of Mr. J. A. Long, for five dollars, on which was built a two-story, seven room parsonage. This land is now the lawn in front of the chapel.

In 1918 it was decided to tear down the brick church and to build a modern plant which would more nearly fill the needs of the rapidly growing membership. During this time all services were held in the Central School Building. The new sanctuary was ready for use in December, 1920, at which time Mr. Dowd was invited to come back and preach, as he had been moved to another charge before the building was completed. For the first time there was adequate space for the worship services and for the educational needs of the congregation.

The beautiful memorial stained glass windows from the first brick church were used again in this sanctuary with several new ones. And for the first time the worshipers could enjoy the music of a pipe organ, the gift of the J. A. Long family. This building was dedicated in 1927 by Bishop Mouzon, during the ministry of Rev. F. M. Shamburger.

Once again there was a change in the official name of the church, though a small one this time. In 1939, with Rev. J. H. Lanning (1937-39) as pastor, Conference permitted the church to drop the name

Edgar, and since that time it has been known as Long Memorial Methodist Church.

Once more the church officials felt the need for the expansion of the educational facilities which only a few years ago had seemed quite adequate. Rev. J. E. Garlington (1951-56) spear-headed the move for adding the Educational Building, with its Wesley Chapel, Fellowship Hall, and modern kitchen facilities, as well as classrooms for several departments of the Church School and for the week-day kindergarten. This addition was finished in 1954 and was dedicated by Bishop Garber in 1956, and at the present time seems to be serving the needs of the church well.

In line with the present-day trend of separating the location of the parsonage from the church plant, a lot was purchased on Clayton Avenue in 1961, while Rev. A. L. Thompson was pastor. On this lot a large and comfortable parsonage was built, with the family of Rev. K. R. Wheeler becoming the first occupants in the fall of 1962. This \$40,000 home for the ministers was paid for in full in the summer of 1966, thanks in large part to a generous bequest from the late Miss Kate Pointer and a gift by Mrs. R. J. Teague which cleared the indebtedness.

At present an extensive renovation program of the sanctuary and the educational facilities is underway, which will add greatly to the comfort of the congregation, and at the same time it will enable the

church to serve better the needs of the entire membership. This work is going forward under the leadership of Rev. Paul Browning, minister, and Rev. James Oliver, associate minister. When services are resumed in the sanctuary, a new electronic organ, a gift from the seven children of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Long in memory of their parents, will be installed with dedicatory services by Bishop Paul N. Garber scheduled for January 15, 1967.

Shortly before the turn of the century Mrs. Ann E. Jordan, the widow of Rev. Wm. M. Jordan, solicited funds for the purchase of a communion service consisting of a silver plate, two goblets, and a flagon for pouring the wine. This remained in use until about 1916, when Mrs. Z. V. Gwynn (later Mrs. J. D. K. Richmond) raised money to buy a modern service with individual cups. In 1966 this was replaced by a handsome brass service, the gift of Mrs. C. C. Critcher in memory of her son-in-law, Wallace L. Wright.

Other memorial gifts through the years, besides the windows and the communion service already mentioned, include the pews, the Bible, the brass altar furnishings and collection plates in Wesley Chapel, the church library and many volumes, the acolytes' robes and candle lighters, two bud vases, numerous hymnals, flower urns, and the paraments, brass collection plates and altar set for use in the sanctuary.

Among the laymen not previously referred to, a few who have made outstanding contribution of time, talents, and financial support are Miss Anna Webb, W. R. Hambrick, W. A. Sergeant, F. O. Carver, K. L.

Street, R. L. Harris, J. S. Merritt, Dr. A. F. Nichols, and O. B. McBroom. To list the names and accomplishments of all the ministers and laymen who, with God's help, have brought Long Memorial thus far on its way would obviously be impossible.

The church acknowledges with grateful appreciation the help received from the Duke University Library in making available to the committee valuable manuscripts and other records from which much of this information came. Thanks are also due to Mr. Richard G. Long and to the staff in the office of the Person County Register of Deeds for their assistance in finding the deeds mentioned herein.

"May all their names be written in the Lamb's book of life."

The Committee on Church History:

Miss Claire Harris, Chairman
Mrs. B. G. Clayton
O. B. McBroom

MINISTERS

CIRCUIT

Rev. P. J. Caraway - 1867
Rev. W. M. Robey - 1868
Rev. Marcus Thomas 1868-72
Rev. Wm. M. Jordan - 1872-76
Rev. H. H. Gibbons
Rev. T. A. Boone
Rev. J. Sanford - 1883-85
Rev. J. R. Griffith - 1885-87
Rev. M. H. Hoyle - 1887-89
Rev. T. N. Ivey - 1889-93
Rev. M. H. Tuttle - 1893-96
Rev. N. E. Coltrane - 1896-1900
Rev. D. N. Caviness - 1900-02
Rev. K. D. Holmes - 1902-06
Rev. J. A. Hornaday - 1906-09
Rev. E. M. Snipes - 1909-13

CHARGE

Rev. N. C. Yearby - 1913-15
Rev. O. W. Dowd - 1915-19
Rev. J. B. Hurley - 1919-23
Rev. F. M. Shamburger - 1923-27
Rev. T. A. Sikes - 1927-31
Rev. J. F. Herbert - 1931-35
Rev. B. P. Robinson - 1935-37
Rev. J. H. Lanning - 1937-39
Rev. W. C. Martin - 1939-45
Rev. B. H. Houston - 1945-47
Rev. C. P. Womack - 1947-51
Rev. J. E. Garlington - 1951-56
Rev. A. L. Thompson - 1956-62
Rev. K. R. Wheeler - 1962-65
Rev. Paul C. Browning - 1965-

