

The Service of Worship and Dedication

February 9, 1975



McMannen United Methodist Church

Neal Road

Durham, North Carolina

A DAY OF DEDICATION

McMANNEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4102 NEAL ROAD

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27705

Robert M. Blackburn
Bishop
Raleigh Area

H. Langill Watson
Superintendent
Durham District

Emerson M. Thompson, Jr.
Minister

Raymond Valenzuela
Missionary to Chile

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 9, 1975

Thanks to the "special committee" for preparing for today's services

Douglas Poe
Barbara Short

Dolly Crabtree
Deanie Neal
Shirley Malone
Norma Micol and the
Lydia Circle
Marvin Neal
Cecil Pickett
Cooper Sykes
Glenn Mason

General Chairman
Re-writing the church's history
and publicity
Invitations and history
Invitations and history
Luncheon

Luncheon
History
History
Luncheon and publicity
Printing

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND DEDICATION

THE ORGAN PRELUDE

"Gaudeamus" (Let Us Rejoice)

Titcomb

*THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

"To Our God Give Praise"

Ralph Carmichael

*THE INVOCATION

*THE HYMN OF ADORATION -- No. 352,

"Come, O Thou God of Grace"

Evans

*THE ACT OF PRAISE -- No. 561

"The Earth Is The Lord's"

The Rev. Mr. Vassar W. Jones

*THE GLORIA PATRI

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH -- No. 738

The Apostles' Creed

THE SPECIAL MUSIC

"Praise, Thanks, and Adoration"

"Blow Ye the Trumpet, Blow"

John Christian Bechler

Charles Wesley

*THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

II Corinthians 4:1-7

THE QUIET MOMENTS OF PERSONAL PRAYER AND MEDITATION

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

Minister: Let us pray.

THE PASTORAL PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

"Except the Lord Build a House"

Pachelbel

THE OFFERTORY SOLO

"Bless This House"

Miss Maureen Oakes, Soloist

Brahe

*THE PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERINGS

The Doxology

*A CANTICLE OF THE CHURCH

Mr. A. Cooper Sykes, Church Lay Leader

Leader: The Church is of God, and will be preserved to the end of time.

People: GOD HAS SET IT AMIDST THE CHANGING ORDER OF TIME TO BE FAITHFUL
TO HIS CALLING.

Leader: The calling of God to His Church is to be a part of all struggles
for total human fulfillment.

People: IT IS TO BE GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR, FREEDOM FOR CAPTIVES,
NEW VISION TO THE BLIND, LIBERTY TO THE OPPRESSED.

Leader: The United Methodist Church has its calling of God. It is
not an end in itself, nor is it to be in competition with
others for glory.

People: OUR CHURCH IS CALLED OF GOD TO A PERSONAL MISSION, TO BRING
THE TRUTH AND COMFORT OF THE GOSPEL TO EVERY INDIVIDUAL
AND TO EVERY COMMUNITY.

Leader: Our calling is to a unity in expressing our love for God,
our devotion to Jesus Christ, and compassion for human
beings.

People: IT IS OUR PRIVILEGE TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL, TO CHALLENGE
OUR OWN MEMBERS TO A DEEPER LOVE FOR GOD, TO COMMIT
OURSELVES TO SEEKING JUSTICE FOR ALL MANKIND, TO LABOR
FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD.

Leader: God's Church, our Church, this Church, therefore,
rededicates itself our Lord Jesus Christ in whose name
it has been sent in ministry and mission to the entire
human family.

People: WE PRAISE GOD FOR McMANNEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. WE
COMMIT IT ANEW TO ITS GRAND AND GLORIOUS MINISTRY. AMEN.

*THE HYMN OF PREPARATION -- No. 298,
"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

Neale

THE DEDICATORY SERMON

"TO SERVE THE PRESENT AGE"

Robert M. Blackburn was elected to the Episcopacy of the
United Methodist Church on July 14, 1972, while serving
as pastor of First United Methodist Church, Orlando,
Florida. He now presides over United Methodism in the
Raleigh Area, which comprises fifty-six counties in
eastern North Carolina.

THE ACTS OF DEDICATION

Bishop Blackburn

THE PRESENTATION OF BUILDING DOCUMENT

*(The bishop will call for some proof of the church's
readiness for dedication.)*

Mr. Auman J. Parrish, Chairman of the Building Committee

THE NAMING OF THE CHURCH

*(The bishop will ask: "By what name shall this church
henceforth be known?")*

Mr. Auman J. Parrish

THE LITANY OF DEDICATION

The Bishop and the People

Beloved in the Lord, we rejoice that God has put it into the hearts of his people to build this house to the glory of his name. I now accept this building, to be known as the McMannen United Methodist Church, that we may dedicate it, and so set it apart for the worship of Almighty God and the service of men. Let us therefore, as we are assembled, solemnly dedicate this place to its proper and sacred uses.

(Here the people will stand.)

To the glory of God the Father, who has called us by his grace;
To the honor of His Son, who loved us and gave Himself for us;
To the praise of the Holy Spirit, who illumines and sanctifies us;

WE DEDICATE THIS SANCTUARY.

For the worship of God in prayer and praise;
For the preaching of the everlasting Gospel;
For the celebration of the Holy Sacraments;

WE DEDICATE THIS SANCTUARY.

For the comfort of all who mourn;
For strength to those who are tempted;
For light to those who seek the way;

WE DEDICATE THIS SANCTUARY.

For the hallowing of family life;
For teaching and guiding the young;
For the perfecting of the saints;

WE DEDICATE THIS SANCTUARY.

For the conversion of sinners;
For the promotion of righteousness;
For the extension of the kingdom of God;

WE DEDICATE THIS SANCTUARY.

In the unity of the faith;
In the bond of Christian brotherhood;
In charity and good will to all;

WE DEDICATE THIS SANCTUARY.

In gratitude for the labors of all who love and serve this church;
In loving remembrance of those who have finished their course;
In the hope of a blessed immortality through Jesus Christ our Lord;

WE DEDICATE THIS SANCTUARY.

(Then all shall say:)

WE NOW, THE PEOPLE OF THIS CHURCH AND CONGREGATION, COMPASSED ABOUT WITH A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES, GRATEFUL FOR OUR HERITAGE, SENSIBLE OF THE SACRIFICE OF OUR FAITHERS IN THE FAITH, CONFESSING THAT APART FROM US THEIR WORK CANNOT BE MADE PERFECT, DO DEDICATE OURSELVES ANEW TO THE WORSHIP AND SERVICE OF ALMIGHTY GOD; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

THE PRAYERS OF DEDICATION

Bishop Blackburn

*THE HYMN OF DEDICATION -- No. 193,
"Jesus, United by thy Grace"

Wesley

*THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: Christ has spoken to us the Word of Life.

People: TURN US ON TO LIVE AT THE DEPTHS OF OUR TIME!

Pastor: Christ has spoken to us the Word of Hope.

People: TURN US INTO BEARERS OF THAT HOPE TO THE WORLD!

Pastor: Christ has spoken to us the Word of Love.

People: TURN US ON TO BECOME LOVE TO ALL MANKIND!

Pastor: Christ has spoken to us the Word of Joy.

People: LET OUR JOY BE FULL THIS DAY AS WE TAKE HOLD OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER WITH NEW LIFE, HOPE, AND LOVE. AMEN.

*THE CHORAL RESPONSE

"The Lord Bless you and Keep You"

Peter C. Lutkin

*THE ORGAN POSTLUDE

"Song of Gladness"

Sibley

Our church extends to each of you a cordial welcome to our worship services and this special day of Dedication. If you are a visitor, please sign the guest register and the card to be given you by the ushers. Do come again!!

The flowers on the retable today are given for the Glory of God by James and Ellie Ray in loving memory of his father, Sidney Freeman Ray and in honor of the birthday of their son, Douglas.

The Friendship Circle will meet Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. with Mrs. Catherine Thompson. The Rev. David Bradley who teaches in the Department of Religion at Duke will present the program on the ERA. A nursery is provided here.

The Council on Ministries meets Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Bethany Classroom.

The GRADS will meet at 6:50 p.m. Wednesday at the home of Mike and Rosie Fair. They will then go to Mebane for an Ash Wednesday service with Rev. Stuempfle.

There will be a special called meeting of the Charge Conference on Sunday, February 16 immediately following the service of worship. The purpose of this conference will be to recommend Mr. Jim Miller for license to Preach.

Plan now to attend the Pancake Supper on February 16 from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. sponsored by the Jr. Hi UMYF! Proceeds will be used for their retreat at Lake Junaluska this summer. Tickets are available from any Jr. Hi member. Adult Tickets are \$1.50 each; children up to eleven years of age are .75 each.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH FOR FEBRUARY: Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rings and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kozoman.

INFANT'S TODAY: Jim and Linda Shuler. NEXT WEEK: Bob and Linda Rings.

NURSERY II TODAY: Bill Oliver, Paige Short. NEXT WEEK: Gail and Wally West.

STEWARDSHIP STATISTICS LAST SUNDAY

	Membership	Attendance	Offering
Church School	212	127	
Church Worship	(-2) 531	175	
Unified Budget			\$ 1,211.59
Organ Fund			10.25
Scout Hut			82.25
Human Relations			7.00

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

Today	6:30	Jr. and Sr. Hi UMYF
Tuesday	7:30	Boy Scouts
Wednesday	10:00	The Friendship Circle meets
	6:50	The GRADS meet
	7:30	Council on Ministries
Thursday	7:15	Cub Scouts
	7:30	Sanctuary Choir
Sunday	9:45	Church School
	11:00	Morning worship

Then . . .



Now . . .



PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED McMANNEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1872 - 1875	J. J. Renn	1940 - 1944	S. J. Starnes
1875 -	William H. Moore	1944 -	Donald G. Smiley I. G. Dunlap, Associate
?	J. B. Martin	1945 -	Donald G. Smiley A. P. Cooley, Associate R. H. Sales, Associate
1882	H. H. Gibbons	1946 -	B. F. Meecham R. H. Sales, Associate
1882 - 1885	J. T. Lyon	1946 -	C. J. Huneycutt P. H. Sales, Associate
1885 - 1887	W. S. Davis	1947 -	C. J. Huneycutt A. Pierce, Associate
1887 - 1889	J. B. Martin	1950 -	Cyrus B. Dawsey Paul H. Fields, Associate
1889 -	Oliver Ryder	1952 -	Kenneth B. Sexton Lewis A. Aitken
1890 -	Jonathan Sanford	1955 - 1956	B. B. Slaughter
1892 - 1893	J. W. Jenkins	1957 - 1961	D. E. Earnhardt
1894 -	C. W. Robinson	1962 - 1963	M. R. Mansfield
1895 -	S. T. Moyle	1963 - 1970	Vassar W. Jones
1896 -	W. J. Twilley	1970 -	E. M. Thompson, Jr.
1897 - 1900	J. H. McCracken		
1901 - 1904	J. B. Thompson		
1905 - 1908	G. W. Fisher		
1909 -	J. B. Thompson		
1910 - 1913	W. P. Constable		
1914 1915	W. C. Martin		
1916 - 1917	H. C. Smith		
1918 - 1921	J. C. Humble		
1923 - 1924	W. F. Craven		
1926 - 1928	H. L. Hendricks		
1929 - 1930	B. E. Stanfield		
1931 - 1935	B. H. Black		
1935 - 1938	C. D. Barclift		
1938 - 1940	F. B. Peele		

T H E M c M A N N E N S T O R Y

This is the life story of a church. It is not only its history -- those events out of its distant past long ago accomplished and half-forgotten in time's progression -- but also its on-going life of today and tomorrow.

Certainly, McMannen United Methodist Church has a historical heritage in which its members can take pride; but a church with only its past to cherish and no future to challenge need not concern itself with recording its history, for it would be a story without readership.

The story of McMannen began in another time, another century. In the beginning, as now, there was God, and God's people. This is the why, and how, this church, and every church, came to be.

The actual date, somewhere around 1870, on which McMannen Church was born is buried somewhere in its past, as lost to its current membership as those first members who now lie buried in the old church cemetery.

The ancient pines that shaded the site then and today are the only visible survivors on a scene that has changed over the years from undeveloped land to a wooden country church to a modern, brick complex on the rim of a burgeoning city.

The dedication of that modern brick sanctuary is the occasion for the setting down of the McMannen story. But it is a story that warrants telling for its own merit.

The date is not important anyway. What is important is that people needed God and each other in their lives, and they came together to worship and to form a body of Christ.

Although it was a golden time in the story of McMannen, it was a tarnished and terrible time in the story of this country. Americans had fought and killed fellow Americans on American soil, over the issue of whether or not freedom should be extended to still other Americans.

The Civil War was over, but the wounds were still in the process of becoming scar tissue. Within a few yards of Bennett Place, where the final surrender of

that war among the states made an official ending of this country's most degrading war, the first of the people destined to become McMannen members gathered under a giant oak tree for services led by the Rev. John Archibald McMannen.

Those first few, now only names on an aged roll book, met only to worship, never sensing that a century later the roots of that mighty oak would be only dust under a busy interstate highway (Interstate 85), that Bennett Place would be a restored historical site with an official marker relating the history that no living person can remember, and that one thousand yards southwest of that oak tree there would be a still-growing, alive church -- alive not only with their own descendants but also with recent or transient residents of a new Durham.

Although bits and fragments of written material list the founding date for McMannen anywhere from 1867 to 1878, it is generally agreed that the story began around 1870.

There is no disagreement that it began with the Rev. Mr. McMannen, in whose honor the young church was named. McMannen came to Durham's (changed to Durham in 1872) about 1860 from the South Lowell community where his home site is still standing and occupied.

He had not come through the recent war without wounds himself, even though they might not have showed. His writings of visiting burial grounds near battlefields in late 1861 were published in the Hillsborough Recorder as a letter to the editor, and he penned:

My heart was filled, but tears came to my relief. I turned and gazed for a moment on the evergreen cedars that stood drooping around the silent home of the dead, and listened to the wind as it sighed and mourned among the lofty pines, the funeral dirge of the departed. 'Farewell' broke from my lips as I turned forever away, and my prayer went up to Heaven that we might meet in a better world than this.

Less than a year later, the life of his twenty-two year-old son, Col. William Emmitt McMannen, was claimed by the war. Offspring of the children of McMannen's offspring remain part of the life of McMannen church today.

One of the current, involved lay people at McMannen, in discussing what the people of the church have accomplished since its 1870s beginning, said, "Wait a minute -- isn't it really what the Lord's done, not what the people did."

And the Lord did, and is doing, many things at McMannen, using many good people over many decades -- too many people to allow the naming of names. This story then will be void of many specified persons who were key figures in the development of the church.

There are a few names, however, that are vital to the story. Of course, there is McMannen, the circuit rider Methodist preacher and son of a preacher. An 1852 issue of the Hillsborough Recorder, with an inventory of manufacturing establishments in Orange County at that time, reported:

. . . The Rev. John A. McMannen's establishment at South Lowell, at which are manufactured smut machines, which we see by frequent mention in our exchanges are obtaining considerable celebrity in the state on account of their excellence. He also manufactures Patent Corn Shellers, etc., which are in good repute.

Durham County already had six Methodist Churches when McMannen was born, and its founding father, the Rev. Mr. McMannen, also had given his time, energy, and money toward giving at least one of those its start.

Even though John Wesley himself often mounted a crude platform under a spreading tree to preach the Word of God, meeting under the oak tree throughout North Carolina's varied seasons no doubt soon inspired the early McMannen folk to thoughts of a church of a more permanent nature.

In 1878, the group picked up and moved across the railroad to the present site on Neal Road, where Henry Neal and his wife, Mary, gave one acre of land on which to build a church. The deed records Neal's purpose in giving:

Know all men by these presents that I Henry Neal and Mary H. his wife for and in consideration of the love we bear for the cause of Christ and from an earnest desire to promote his heritage on earth do give and grant and by these presents convey unto Alexander Walker, trustee of the Methodist Church at Durham, N. C., and to his successors of a board of trustees that the church may appoint to hold the same, one acre of land. . . This land is given for the purpose of building a church or a house for Religious Services and School.

And so, what was to be known in the locale for years to come as McMannen's Chapel, came to be. The name became so well entrenched in the minds of those in the Durham community that even the present pastor, the forty-fifth one of the church, has had to remind long-time residents that McMannen United Methodist Church today, with 535 members, is not "little McMannen's Chapel."

The Church Universal has long had the reputation for being filled with willing people -- those willing to work and those willing to let them. The infant McMannen church was no different. When Henry Neal gave his acre of land, it was with the assumption that a half acre promised by another in the group would be given. The other man never parted with his, so William T. Neal willingly gave one-half acre on the east side at a later date.

In 1951, the church bought three acres on the north side from the W. T. Neal estate, and in 1959, John Neal donated a strip of land about 100 by 200 feet for the building of the parsonage. Together these donations by, and purchase from, the Neals constitute the present land holdings.

Not long after the first acre of land was deeded to the church in 1878, a church was built. A rectangular, one-room structure rose among the pines about 1880 and served as the sanctuary of the church for nearly 100 years.

This wooden building stood at the site of the present sanctuary and was built of wood sawed at Redmon's Mill. The son of William T. Neal, whose name is the first signed on the roll book for the church, worked by lantern at night to build the communion rail.

William T. Neal Jr. also assumed responsibility for hauling the wood and making the fire in the large "pot belly" stove that heated the church on Sunday mornings.

The stove stood right in the middle of the sanctuary and served as excellent motivation for getting to Sunday School early in the winter, since the seats next to the stove were pretty popular on icy days. The salvation of the tardy was that the lesson was interrupted periodically so that those on the back row

could change seats with those closer to the stove and allow latecomers to thaw.

The country moved haltingly into the 20th century as the devastation of the internal war gradually was erased from the land and the minds of the people.

And McMannen moved forward as a church. A bell tower was erected, the vestibule tacked on, and the pulpit was extended in 1914-15. Four Sunday School rooms including a pastor's study were added on the back side in 1922-23. At the turn of the century, the church doubled as a public school for a period.

In 1926, McMannen Church was on a five-point circuit. The membership had just passed the hundred mark, and the compensation for its pastor was \$300. The property was valued at \$3,000.

This year, 1975, the church budget is well in excess of \$50,000, and the property is valued at one-half million dollars.

Moving into mid-century, McMannen took its second major step forward. With its sanctuary already 75 years old, the church built a ten-room, two-story education building in 1955. This building, now joined to the new sanctuary, also provided a kitchen and recreation room in the basement. This kitchen and fellowship hall, though strained to the bursting point, is still the site of fifth Sunday night fellowship suppers, community meetings, a Sunday School class, and Children's Church. The debt on this building was retired in 1960, and the dedication service for the structure was held on June 26, 1960.

As is often the case, the arrival of the new calls for the departure of the old. When the new education building went up in 1955, a log cabin that had served the church fellowship for twenty-five years was torn down. Erected in 1930, the cabin had been built by the men in the congregation to the east of the church. There was a large open fireplace at one end of a spacious room that was used for Sunday School classes, fellowship suppers, and youth activities. A small room back of the fireplace served as a kitchen.

In 1961, the church authorized the building of the present parsonage which

has housed three parsonage families, including the family of the church's first full-time pastor, the Rev. Vassar W. Jones, and its current "first family," the Rev. and Mrs. E. M. Thompson, Jr. and children. The Rev. and Mrs. M. R. Mansfield and family were the first ones to occupy the parsonage.

As church growth taxed the physical facilities, the advance of time took its toll of those who set the church on its toddling feet in the beginning. The old cemetery that was started as a natural part of a country church was running out of ground. In 1964, the Official Board saw a need for proper planning of the North Annex to the cemetery. Plots were laid off in a uniform manner, allowing for an additional 154 grave sites immediately and the potential of 67 more when needed in the future.

The decade of the 1960s was one of unrest in the country as a whole. Rebellion, revolution, and misdirected action on campuses and in the streets burned up energy and property that produced nothing more than ashes.

At McMannen, however, energy was being directed along more constructive lines. Even before 1960 dawned, church members had been talking of building a new sanctuary.

As a North Carolina Christian Advocate article reported of this period (Vol. 115, No. 15, April 9, 1970):

McMannen Church has come a long way, while staying right where it has always been on Neal Road. It is moved out of the country into the suburbs of a thriving city. Rather, the city has come to it. Now it is set in the midst of new residential areas. Once all of its people were rural. Now there is only one farmer in the congregation, and he is retired!

A building committee was appointed to work with architects on plans for a new sanctuary for the church. This committee included Milton Smith, chairman; Auman J. Parrish, vice-chairman (who assumed the chairmanship when Smith moved away and saw the project to completion); Mrs. John Neal, secretary; Hugh Parrish; treasurer; and James Brown, Troy Crabtree, C. V. Pickett, Mrs. Charles Waller, and Gerald Womble.

The committee talked with a number of architects and visited new churches in several locations. After much study, the church employed Walter Burgess, a Wendell architect with Raleigh offices, to draw up plans for a sanctuary that would be suitable for the congregation and for the site, then still occupied by the frame structure that had served the congregation for eighty-five years. The new structure was one of the last designs by Burgess, who died in 1969.

On February 21, 1965, a church conference was called for the 11 o'clock Sunday worship service. It was the day of decision when church members would review the proposed plans and vote on whether or not to proceed with the building of a new sanctuary, ultimately to mean the tearing down of the old one.

While many of the names of those who gathered for that historic meeting were the same as the names of those who first gathered under that oak tree, the fellowship also had embraced a new following and a new generation, with its own customs and different needs.

Inner struggle underlined the discussion as it moved past the usual dismissal hour of 12 noon and on into the early afternoon. But, at 1:30 p.m., the vote was cast. McMannen would build a new church.

With the decision made, the work began. A churchwide financial crusade was undertaken the next month, chaired by church member, Charles Jarrell, and directed by the Rev. Edmund Warne of the National Board of Missions.

Visitation teams were organized to go out and visit church members and friends and try to enlist their aid in reaching a goal of \$50,000. During the three-day crusade visitation, pledges totalled \$59,379.41.

On Saturday night, February 5, 1966, Morris and Beth Carroll pledged the last wedding vows to be heard in the old sanctuary. The next morning, February 6, 1966, the last worship service was held, ending with an altar call for individual dedication services. There were 186 people present for the service, most of whom knelt in prayer before leaving -- no doubt in gratitude for what

the old McMannen church had meant in their lives and for what the new McMannen Church would mean for them and their heirs.

Pews, piano and furniture were moved to the basement of the education building where worship services would be held during the construction period. By the end of the month, the old church had started to fall, but not before the bell and two beams were removed. The bell would occupy a prominent place in the new bell tower and, it was hoped, the beams would form a cross in the chancel of the new sanctuary, a constant reminder not only of the love of Christ but also of the heritage of the church. It was a disappointment to many that the plan had to be discarded because the beams were too badly deteriorated.

The \$127,000 contract for building the church, signed January 27, 1966, with East Carolina Construction Company of Dunn, would become more than \$166,000 by the time the church was fully constructed and equipped in 1967.

The building was laid off on April 20, 1966, and construction began in earnest soon thereafter. Membership and enthusiasm continued to grow during this time, even with services crowded into the inadequate basement area.

The Laying of the Cornerstone Ceremony was held July 31, 1966, with these words inscribed on the inside of the slab: "Organized Around 1870, Original (sic) Land Deeded 1878, Building Enlarged 1915-1923," with "McMannen Methodist Church 1966" inscribed on the outside.

The service was led by the Rev. Mr. Jones. Other participants were the Rev. O. L. Hathaway, District Superintendent; the Rev. D. E. Earnhardt and the Rev. B. B. Slaughter, former pastors; Douglas Meeks, Duke Endowment student who did much of the writing for a preliminary church history at that time; the architect, contractor, building committee and church members.

A lead box sealed inside the cornerstone contains a newspaper of the day, a Bible, a hymnal, a church bulletin, a copy of the old deed, a history of the church, a copy of The Discipline, silver coins, pictures of the old church, a rendering of the new church, and pictures of the building committee.

The new sanctuary was under way, with seating for 350, a chapel with seating for 50, and a pastor's study. The walls are two thicknesses of brick with air space between, with the narthex side of clear glass. The large, colored glass window in back of the nave is 17 feet wide, reaching from the top of the main entrance to the roof, allowing the sun's rays to pour into the church in a myriad of color by day and creating a beautiful effect at night from inside lights. Similar effect is created in the chancel area by transept windows of stained glass set in lead, nine feet wide and reaching from the ground to the roof.

The altar table of white marble is the center of worship in the sanctuary with all pews and seats turned in this direction, lighted during the day by natural light from the spire and at night by flood lights.

Back of this altar stands the chancel cross, affixed to a brick wall, thirteen feet tall and six feet side, also bathed in light.

With pledges, memorials and an initial gift from Duke Endowment, the church opened with a remaining debt in excess of \$80,000 and faith that the new sanctuary would be debt-free by 1976.

The bell from the old church was given a new bronze coating, wired to ring at the push of a button and installed in the new bell tower. It called the people to worship in the new sanctuary for the first time on Palm Sunday, March 19, 1967. The service attracted 368 members and friends, and the new red hymnals, 1964 edition, then all memorialized, added to the glory of the day.

The first service to actually christen the building came on March 16, 1967, when the Rev. Mr. Hathaway, District Superintendent, presided at District Conference at McMannen.

The Consecration Service for the new building was held on April 16, 1967, with Bishop Paul Neff Garber leading the service. Attendance for the service was 365, with most of that number remaining for the picnic dinner that followed the service.

Throughout a century of being a church, however, McMannen members were doing more than putting up and taking down buildings. Always, there was warm fellowship within the membership, and an outreaching to serve community needs beyond the membership.

Even when McMannen was one of five churches on a circuit, the members looked forward to Sunday School Convention, a day that rotated among the participating churches, given over to singing and recitations by the children and refreshments for all. McMannen continues to join with other community churches today in an annual Thanksgiving service that rotates among the participating churches.

Children's Day was a more active day, with special exercises and then games and refreshments.

In the early days, revivals were generally held the last week in September, after all the tobacco was in. There were two services a day, afternoon and evening. And every night there was "supper on the ground" -- literally, for there were no tables and the food was spread right on the ground, brought by whole families who had come in wagons and buggies or on horse or foot. Now, Homecoming is held the third Sunday in September.

In 1973, McMannen had its first Christmas tree decorated with Chrismons, made by women in the church. For many, this revived memories of another big cedar tree, one decorated with lighted candles which once caught on fire. Thereafter, someone with a bucket of water was always close by. In later years, strings of electric lights adorned the majestic trees. The joyous Christmas program, for all ages, started with the familiar, loved Christmas play after which everyone received a gift and "a bag of fruit, nuts, raisins and candy."

The Sunday School was part of the church almost from the beginning, growing to the present status of thirteen different classes serving the various needs of members of varying age and taste.

The choir has had an important part in the worship services of the church through the years, and one of the older members recalls that years ago John Micol used to play the trombone and cornet for the choir's special music for revivals. Today, John Micol's grandson of the same name is part of a congregation that get similar satisfaction from the Sanctuary Band, performing alone or with the choir on special music.

The children's and youth choirs have been formed in recent years to bring special joy to worship through music.

Around 1920, the Epworth League provided another outlet for youth in the church. By the later 1940s, this was known as Methodist Youth Fellowship, and still later as United Methodist Youth Fellowship -- McMannen getting a new name about the time it got a new sanctuary in the 1960s.

The first Girl Scout Troop 9 was organized in 1935, and the Boy Scout program began about 1947. Over the years, McMannen has served as the meeting place for Brownie, Junior, Senior and Cadette Girl Scouts and for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. A survey in 1968 showed that 28 groups were meeting regularly at McMannen.

The Woman's Missionary Society was organized about 1925. Although the name was changed to Women's Society of Christian Service in 1947 and to United Methodist Women in 1973, the name has not altered the traditional role of service provided by this organization. Their gifts and fund-raising projects through the years have provided goods and services that might otherwise have been denied the church, the people, and the community. There are now four circles within the UMW of the church.

Lay people in the church not only worked hard on the home front but also fellowship with other lay people in the community. McMannen always has a good representation at the Durham District Lay Rally, and once won the top attendance banner for four consecutive years, 1964 through 1967.

The church library was formed in 1967. Although the room that houses the

library is barely of storage closet dimensions, the volumes therein are often used by teachers and church members who need to research church topics.

The first supper honoring high school graduates within the church was held in 1967, and is now a church tradition. The next year the first School of Religion was held for youth during July and has continued ever since, now involving several churches in Durham for this week-long study. Each summer, two separate weeks of day camp attract forty boys and girls in grades one to six each week.

Several events over the years have held special meaning for members, although they are not repeated annually. Two Lay Witness Missions, a Stewardship Crusade, a Country Carnival, and many study groups led by Duke Endowment students have enriched the Christian lives of members.

Duke Divinity students have had a part in the life of McMannen Church since the late 1950s, serving for a few weeks or as much as a year through the Endowment. One of these students initiated Children's Church, separate services for children too old for nursery or too young for the full Sunday morning worship service. Children's Church has grown to such proportions that, when they leave the sanctuary just before the sermon, they now have to divide into two groups, just as the nursery has had to be divided because of the large number of children.

The church assumed a share in support of its first missionary in 1974. Good examples of local mission work by McMannen is the role the church and its members has played in the re-activation of the Durham County Mental Health Association and in keeping open the doors of Troy House, a half-way house for delinquent male youth. Women in the church feed the residents of Troy House at least weekly.

Because the needs of the congregation and the community continue great, however, members began once again to talk of building. In 1974, plans for new offices for the pastor and church secretary were begun, and in October, 1974, work began on a Scout Hut expected to be completed in spring 1975.

The Harvest Festival, perhaps one of the church's longest standing traditions, is an annual fall event dating back to 1949 as a complete bazaar, and to the church's beginnings as a fund-raising supper. Held the first Saturday in October each year, this event designated its 1974 profits, in excess of \$2,000, to the building fund, the Scout Hut and Goodwill Industries, in a 50-40-10 percentile distribution.

Long range plans call for a new education building and fellowship hall, and many members are anxious to see this work begun. Before assuming new debts, however, the church turned to the business of retiring present debts.

A challenge from Duke Endowment in 1973 provided an opportunity to pay off the debt on the sanctuary some three years ahead of schedule, at a savings of not only the \$10,000 the Endowment would put forth in a matching gift, but also the interest that would have accumulated in that protracted period.

The people at McMannen were called upon. Give \$10,000 over and above the usual gifts for the budget and the building program, and receive a gift to match it -- enough to pay off the remaining \$20,000 owed on the church.

The close of 1973 saw McMannen United Methodist Church free of debt on its sanctuary, which was ready for dedication by Bishop Robert M. Blackburn in a special service set for Sunday morning during the 11 a. m. service of February 9, 1975. One of McMannen's well known fellowship dinners was planned to follow this service, with all former pastors and their families as special guests.

The crowds on that Sunday will experience the creativity of some of the best Christian cooks in the conference, as well as the frustration of a basement fellowship hall that won't seat all those who wish to share in this happy meal. Diners will spill over the three levels of the now-outgrown educational building, no doubt creating even greater interest in a new building program for this alive and growing church.

For this is a church that still has dreams -- of a day care program for

children, of a quiet place where the pastor can counsel without having to ask the secretary to stop her work, of enough rooms to house not only the Sunday School classes already meeting in every available hallway but also those new classes waiting to be formed.

This is the life story of a church. This is the life of a church, starting this hour with a new chapter even better than those already recorded.