

METHODIST CHURCH
at
NASHVILLE

Many times it is difficult to find the beginning of certain organizations. This is true of the Church in Nashville. One early minister once said "Have no earthly records" That must have been the reason that so few early records were kept.

Prior to 1800 Camp Meetings were held in many places thro the country. Inspiration must have come from some of these and people in Nashville wanted a Church here.

The first Deed for a Methodist Church in Nash County was in 1812 when George Sutton sold one acre of land for a Church building adjoining the lands of James Batchelor and George Boddie. The location is not known. Some have thought it was on the lot where Empress Boddie lived and others thought it was out of town limits. The Trustees for this building were William Lindsey, William Boddie, Willis Boddie John Cooper, John Deans and Pridgen Manning. This building must have been used about 50 years and destroyed by fire. Nashville was on the Raleigh District.

The first Church that was remembered was on the location of Mrs Myricks home. In Oct 1871 a plot of ground was purchased from Benj. H. Sorsbys estate for \$13.00 to build a Methodist Episcopal Church, South and a parsonage. The Trustees at that time were Wm. J.B. Harper, Wm. T. Griffin, Josiah Jenkins, Van B. Batchelor and George H. Harper. They actually had logs cut and sawed and helped build the Church. The parsonage was built on the lot next to Herman Bakers Home. Evidently Nashville became a circuit and the minister was to live here. The Church was a crude one room building. When my parents moved to Nashville we worshiped in that building.

The earliest Quarterly Conference minutes that are available date back to 1876 when J. P. Moore was Presiding Elder and T. A. Ricks Preacher in Charge. 14 Churches comprised the Nashville Circuit and the total amount apportioned for the Circuit was \$600.00 per year. The churches were Nashville, Belford, Bethlehem, Hornes, Marnes, Sandy Cross, Chapel Springs, Mt Pleasants and Mt. Zion, Buckhorn, North and South Sharon and Pleasant Grove and White Oak. This was the 4th largest Circuit in the Conference. Nashville raised \$5.00 one quarter and Belford \$10.00.

There was a "tolerable" Sunday School in Rocky Mount, a good one at Bethlehem and a little one at White Oak. No suitable Supt. have been found for the other Churches. Country Sunday Schools did not meet in winter due to cold, bad weather and roads. Seven persons were received into the Church and 5 expelled or cut off.

Minutes of March 1877 report showed that all 14 Circuit appointments had been held since the last snow. The report showed that \$40.00 had been raised for Parsonage furniture and \$15.00 for Sunday School in Nashville. No Mission work was done on the Circuit. With regards to finances, very little has been done "owing to the great scarcity of money".

In 1878 S. J. McLeod was preacher in charge He held 10 protracted meetings that year and 61 new members were taken in. to the

Churches and 52 of those were baptised. The 13 Churches had a total Church membership of 780. The preachers salary was \$500.00. Sunday Schools had a total enrollment of 300.

In 1880 J. T. Lyon was Preacher in charge. He was a relative of Mrs Lucy Batchelor. The Churches were now changed to Warrenton District. Plans were made for a Deed to be made for Sandy Cross Church to sell Marnes and build a Church at Hilliardston. The Church buildings on the Circuit were old, delapidated and uncomfortable. Many members utterly disregard their solemn vows of Church membership.

In 1882 M. H. Moore was Pastor in charge. In January of that year he reported no Sunday School on circuit functioning. Plans must be made to carry them on during the winter. Pastor spent 101 days in personal visiting for the Church work.

In 1883 W. J. Crowson was Pastor. He found Churches cold and indifferent. One member was expelled. A new preacher was sent to Nashville almost every year. It must have been a difficult Circuit with many Churches, roads that must have been almost impassable, especially during the winter and a salary that a family could not live on.

In 1884 J. J. Carden was Pastor and in March of that year C. M. Cook took the place of Carden as Pastor. A mention of 80¢ for Missions appears in the Minutes. Churches on the Circuit at that time were Sandy Cross, White Oak, Belford, Bethlehem, Sharon and Nashville.

In 1885 Rev. James Mahoney was Pastor. Conditions were about the same.

In 1886 L. T. Harrison was Pastor. \$250.00 was raised for the Church building at Hilliardson - \$4.85 was collected for Missions. While he lived in Nashville he took as his second wife a Nashville girl. After his death Mrs Harrison and family returned to Nashville, built a home and continued to live here. Two of his daughters made their permanent home here - Mrs Blanche (Buck) Batchelor and Mary who married Hiram Benson. They and their families were active members in our Church.

In 1887 Dr. A. D. Betts, affectionately known as "Uncle Betts" was the Pastor. I have heard more about him than the others. He was a deeply religious man. He usually asked every one if they were ready to die. One day he picked up a pedlar for a ride. When he asked if he was ready to die, the pedlar thought he was going to kill him and jumped from the buggy, ran and left his pack of goods. He often spent a week at a time with different members of the Church. He drove an old, worn out horse. One night Mr Van Batchelor sent to his home, took the horse out and down on the creek and had him shot. The next morning when Dr. Betts went to the stable, he found a new good horse in his place. Only one conference report is available while he was on the Circuit. Then there is a break in the record until 1898. Little is known of Church work during that period. When I was a student at Greensboro College, Uncle Betts often came and conducted the morning chapel service.

In 1890 A. R. Richardson was pastor, followed by Joseph A. Green in 1891 and L. M. Chaffin in 1892. Then came S. I. Moyle in 1893 and 1894. Before his conversion, he was a miner so he received his education late in life. He married Iva Boddie, a Nashville girl. After his retirement, they made Nashville their home for years. He christened my sister, Isa, two years of age. She slapped him and said "Stop putting water on my Sunday dress". Mr Moyle never stopped talking about his last whipping.

In 1895 came Rev. L. Leith followed by R. L. Davis. He came to our home in the country and christened my sister Mary. As a child I remember Mr Davis having only one arm.

In 1898 - 9 H. A. Humble was the pastor. My parents moved to Nashville that year so he was the first Nashville preacher that I really knew. They lived in the old parsonage, next door to Herman Bakers house. Mrs Humble said she enjoyed living here as she could sit on her porch, rock and talk with her neighbors across the street. There was no traffic in those days.

Mr Wm. T. Griffin was Supt. of Sunday School, in the old Church building at that time. The old minutes would name the ones who conducted the devotional exercises. Often the names of G. N. Bissette v. D. Batchelor, S. L. Eure and later A. P. Retway appeared. As it was a one room building, every one met together and there was little time for class lessons. Program was planned for adults. Small picture cards were given to the children.

While Mr Humble was pastor, a large oak tree was blown down a cross the church and crushed it. A new building was built on the lot, to the south. This was a great improvement over the delapidated old church building. The sanctuary was larger, with two small rooms at the rear joining the pulpit and two vestibules at the front. These rooms were used for Sunday School class rooms. In the center of the building was a large wood stove. On one side of the aisle the mens class, taught by Mr. S. F. Austin and on the other side was the ladies class, taught by Mrs Bettie Griffin. After a brief lesson Mrs Griffin would say "now you may listen to Mr. Austin".

Sunday School was conducted each Sunday morning. In the afternoon the Baptist had their Sunday School. Usually the same persons attended both services. Once a month there was preaching service - once at Baptist and once at Primitive Baptist. One Sunday there was no preaching in Nashville.

In that church building there was a steeple with a bell which was rung for all services. The bell was also tolled when a funeral procession left the home until it reached the church. My brother J. M. Sills tolled the bell when Mr Van Batchelor died. In horse and buggy days, it took considerable time to go from the homes to the church.

In 1901, Henry L. Tripp was Pastor then in 1902 for three years J. M. Benson was Pastor. The Benson family contributed much to the town as well as the church. Two sons, Clarence and Miram married Nashville girls and made their homes here. Both of them were officials in the church for years. Sallie taught school, was an active worker in Sunday School and Womans Society. Mrs Benson will be remembered especially in Mission work. She organized the Bright Jewel Band, many of them are still active in church work in various communities.

The following is a program rendered by some of the members.

Easter Program
of
Bright Jewel Band
at 10 A. M.

Methodist Church, Nashville, N. C. April 23rd

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Song | | Children's Praise |
| 2 | Recitation | "All hail, Tid Easter | by Mattie Stamey, Lillie Gay,
Sallie Boddie |
| 3 | Recitation | "The Risen Savior" | by Walter Boddie |
| 4 | Easter banners" | | by eight little girls |
| | Music | "Here, There and Everywhere | |
| 5 | Recitation | The Multitude red | by Claude Boddie |
| | Music | | song by choir |
| 6 | Recitation | "Ministry of Jesus | by Isa Sills |
| 7 | Dialogue " | Lesson of The Lillies" | by Little ones |
| | Music | "Motion Song | |
| 8 | Recitation | | by Frank Stamey |
| 9 | Recitation | | by Hattie Harrison |
| | Music - | Duette - Routh Rouse and Isa Sills | |
| 10 | Recitation | "Blind Bartimeus" | by Z. T. Harrison |
| 11 | Recitation | "Dreaming and Waking" | by Ruth Rouse |
| | Music | | by the choir |
| 12 | Recitation | # At the Pool of Bethesda" | by Jennie Blow |
| 13 | Recitation | #Giving to Missions# | by Lucy and Guy Bissette |
| 14 | Recitation | | by Louise Sills |
| 15 | | Music | By the choir |
| 15 | A Missionary Recitation | | " Nancy's Penny" |
| | | Music - | Missionary hymn |
| | | Collection | |
| 16 | Recitation | "Farewell" | by Guy Bissette |

The Public cordally invited

I joined the church while Mr Benson was pastor and so did many of the young people.

The above program was rendered while Mr. Stamey was pastor.

1905 - 06 Mr. G. Stamey from Texas was pastor. They had a large family who were very popular with young people here. They meant much to the community. Times were hard, large family, poor salary, he had a hard time here. He said he could not write home often as he could not afford a 2¢ postage stamp. 40 years later a son visited here. He made the remark that every house on Washington Street had been changed since the family left Nashville. Mission work was done at Sharon, Belford and Yorks during Mr. Stamey's pastorate.

In 1907 - 08, Mr. W. H. Kurtin was Pastor. I remember him very casually. I heard my Mother say that the Ladies Aid Society worked hard to finish raising \$10.00 to finish paying off the debt on his buggy.

In 1909 - 1910 Mr. E. C. Sell was Pastor. The churches on the Circuit at that time were Nashville, Yorks, Sharon and Maple Creek. In August 1909 he reported that 50 volumes library has been bought for the school in Nashville.

Mr. Sell and his wife were very interested in Missions. They organized the Women's Foreign Missionary Society in Nashville. The group met at the home of Mrs. J. T. Strickland on Feb. 11, 1909 and elected officers. Mrs. S. R. Griffin, President; Miss Ida Rick Treasurer, my mother, Mrs. T. A. Sills Secretary. In addition to them, charter members were Miss Fannie Ricks, Mrs. Buck Batchelor, Mrs. B. W. Cheaves, Mrs. B. H. B. Vester and Mrs. E. C. Sell.

One of the earliest projects of the Society was the continuation of support of a Bible woman in Korea begun by my Mother. This was continued for 30 years until the Society decided to let the funds go to a undirected fund for Missions.

In 1911 - 1914 Mr. J. L. Rumley was Pastor. He reported that Foreign and Home Mission pledges had been paid in full and an offering had been made for Scarritt Training School. The church was painted during this period. G. N. Bissette resigned as Supt. of Sunday School and Mr. Will Dozier was appointed Supt. G. N. Bissette, J. D. Overton and Mrs. J. T. Strickland were added to the Parsonage Committee.

Our family felt very close to Mr. Rumley as he performed the rites of marriage of James W. Sills and Pattie Smith and Isa Sills and Barker Dameron; christened Lorraine and Pat Sills and conducted the funeral of my father, T. A. Sills.

Mr. J. W. Autry was our pastor in 1915 and 1916. He invited Raymond Browning and his co-workers to hold a revival here. A large tent was used for these services - across the street from Primitive Baptist Church. During this revival, the leaders of our church were inspired for a larger program of work and that called for a new building and equipment.

Mr. Autry received 56 members into the church in 1915.

Rev. L. A. Watts and wife came to Nashville in 194
The parsonage needed repairs and to be redecorated so the Watts staid
at thd Hotel for two months while the necessary work was being done in
the Parsonage. They brought their furniture and the Parsonage looked
very pretty while they lived there.

Mr Watts each morning would go around to thd places of business
to greet everyone. People grew to like and love him and the attendance
grew in size and interest. He kept a record of persons attending
services each Sunday. The service that he especially was interested
in was the Wednesday night prayer service. Thd goal was 75 persons at
each service. The buletin dated March 2 , 1947 stated that 61 were present
on Wgd. night. Then 65 were present. A Sunday School picnic was held
at C rl Coopers cabin one night in the Summer. After a delicious
picnic supper, he asked the croud to gather near the porch for a service.
More than 75 people were present so his goal was reached.

Red Oak and Mapel Creek were on the Nashville Charge.
I do not remember the year that Nashville be came a Station. After a
few years, for financial reasons it was decided to take the other Churches
to help with the cost of the Charge.

Red Oak had one morning service each month and Mapel Creek had
the services there in afternoons. Nashville had three morning services
and all night services.

Mrs Watts was deeply interested the Womens work and she encouraged
members of Missionary Society to attend the various Conferences.

Mr Watts spent six years as Pastor, the first to stay over 4 years.
Chairman of Board of Stewards - J. C. Ellis; S. S. Supt, J. A. Glover
Pres. of Womens Society Louise Sills, Organish Mrs M. W. Lincke,
Choir director Mrs Hubert E. May. Stewards Mrs Ida B. Austin, J. N. Sills
R. H. Boone, A. W. Jenkins, G. M. Strickland, G. W. Myrick

Mr J. P. Pegg followed as Pastor. He served Nashville Church
195 for four years. He was a very learned man and preached deep
spiritual sermons. Nashville was a Station while he was pastor.
An old buletin carried the following information:
Mrs W. C. Cooke Pres. Womans Society of Christian Service, Mrs. J.E
Pegg, Vice, Pres. President of Youth Fellowship - Marvin Huckabee;
Church School Supt/ J. A. Glover, Adult Division D. P. McCain
C. H. Fries Youth Div. Mrs J. N. Sills Childrens Division, W. M.
Ferrell Treasurer, Mrs C. C. Cockrell, Pianist. Board of Missions
Miss Louise Sills, Board of Evangelism J. D. Dickens, Board of
Christian Stewardship A. G. Griffin. Committee of Christian Stewardship
Mrs C. L. Bnson, Board of Hospital and Homes, Mrs Herman Baker,
Committee on Visitation Mrs D. A. Wiley Mrs George Womble, Mrs Ben Vick,

Methodist Church

Nashville

Many times it is difficult to find the beginning of certain organizations. This is true of the Methodist Church here.

organists after Simke - Mrs John W. instead
Mrs Jack May - Mrs Elizabeth Strickland Easton
Mrs H. W. Cooley, Vickie Jones, Nancy Evans

Mrs Fries, Mrs Shaw

Choir directors - Mrs Will Dozier, Mrs B. Dozier
Mrs A. A. Ross

Sorraine May 1937 for 25 yrs

Mrs E. T. Bass

The years Mr Farrar served as Pastor of our Church, the records are missing so I cannot write much about him. The usual procedure of services were held. I do remember he performed the marriage ceremony of my sister Mary and Peter Hines Bunn while he was Pastor.

L. D. Haymon followed him in 1933 - 1937. One thing he did was to build a stage in the basement that could be used for plays etc. It was not used for that purpose after he left and later was taken out. Mrs C. C. Cockrell was director of the Choir and Mrs M. W. Lincke was organist while he was here. It is interesting to note that each preacher especially interested certain families and brought them in closer work in the Church. Now 1934 Nashville was officially made a station

X Maple Creek & Sandy Cross were added to Nashville - later they were taken off & Red Oak, strange churches, were added

1934 I do not find just when Nashville was placed in Rocky Mount Dist., some records are missing. When W. C. Wilson was Pastor in 1938 we were on Rocky Mount District. Mrs A. A. Ross was director of Choir and resigned. Lorraine Sills was appointed to take her place. She carried the choir work on for 25 years. Mr Wilson was very musical. Often he sang in a duet or with the choir and then took his place in the pulpit. The Junior and Senior League provided music for the evening services while he was here, often rendering a Special number. The District Conference met here on April 19, 1938 and our Church served a lunch for the delegates. The upper Room was placed in the home of each Methodist family Vestments were purchased for members of the choir. Mr Wilson attended the General Conference in Birmingham, Ala. June 1938 where the outstanding theme was unification on Methodist churches.

As the church was having difficulties with the finances, it was decided to take Red Oak and Yorks in with Nashville. The we did not have services on the 2nd Sunday morning and the 4th Sunday nights.

1938 E. L. Clegg came to Nashville in 1939. Then conferences met in November so little work was done until January of the following years. The furnace was giving trouble and the Missionary society gave \$400.00 to help with the repairs.

After the three branches of Methodist Churches united, forming the Methodist Church, then the Missionary societies of the three united into one society - Womans society of Christian service. Mr Clegg presided at our meeting, told the purpose of the organization and the goals and asked all that would join to come forward and sign the book and pledge. 45 persons signed for membership that night. the first Pres-elected was Mrs L. L. Aycock.

Often sons like to follow their fathers in their field of service. It is gratifying to know that Ted Wilson and John Few were called to the ministry and have taken their fathers places. John is in the Florida conference, doing a good work and Ted is in Warrenton carrying on a good work there. Both of their fathers have retired from active ministry.

In Nov. 1941 D. M. Sharpe was sent to Nashville where he served for 4 years. Mr Sharpe was quiet in his manner, a devout Christian. His son in law, Mr Queen came and held revival services while Mr Sharpe was pastor. We were happy to have Mr Sharpe return to our church for home coming. The visit brought sad memories for him as his wife had passed away and he had remarried an old friend. His only son had been killed recently.

Nashville was again made a station in 1954 when Mr Pegg was

pastor

Rev. A. L. Ormond followed Mr Few in 1924-25. Guy Bissette was appointed to take the place of his father, G. N. Bissette, on the Board of Stewards, also he was appointed General Supt. of the Sunday School, to the place of I. B. Dameron who had just moved to Goldsboro. A building committee was appointed to begin planning for a parsonage, composed of the following persons: E. S. Paddison, C. L. Benson, C. C. Cockrell, G. L. Jones, and Dr. J. T. Strickland.. The parsonage had been exchanged for the church lot. The Ormonds lived in the house now occupied by Johnnie Jones.. His daughters were dissatisfied there so the house of Kinchen Baker on First Street was rented for them. Interest in Sunday School waned and reached a low mark of 75 for weekly attendance.

On April 4, 1926, M. W. Lincke delivered a memorial address in church in memory of G. N. Bissette who had been an active member for years.

Mr. H. C. Ewing was Pastor in 1925-26. At this time N. B. Dozier and his family moved to Rocky Mount. The church decided to buy their home for a parsonage. At the first Quarterly conference the Trustees were authorized to purchase the house for a parsonage at the price of \$6500.00. The Trustees who signed the Deed were J. N. Sills, J. K. Smith, S. F. Austin, F. B. Cooper and L. W. Boddie. The vacant lot belonging to the church was sold for \$1000.00 and applied on the purchase price and the balance borrowed from the Board Church Extension. Mrs. N. B. Dozier who had been an efficient President of Missionary Society resigned and Miss Louise Sills was elected in her place Mrs J. N. Sills was elected President of the Local Missionary Work. Three Sunday Schools were conducted - Nashville, Maple Creek and Deans.

In 1927 L. T. Singleton became Pastor. Attendance in Sunday school decreased. Only 4 persons attended the Training school in Rocky Mount. This fact gave Mr Singleton much concern. Dr. Reeves was chosen for Gen. Supt. of Sunday School and interest improved. Prof. Sanderson was very active in helping with Sunday school. During Mr Singletons pastorate there does not seem to be anything special to report, just normal reports and meetings.

The years that Mr Farrar was Pastor, records are missing. The usual activities were held. One thing I do remember about him was that he performed the marriage ceremony of my sister, Mary and Peter Hines Bunn while he was here.

Mr. L. B. Hayman followed Mr Farrar in 1933-37. One thing he did was to build a stage in the basement that could be used for plays. After Mr Hayman left it was not used for that purpose and later was taken away. Mrs Cockrell was director of choir and Mrs.

M. W. Lincke was organist at this time. It is interesting to note that each Pastor especially interested certain families and they became more active in church work. Nashville was made a station in 1934 during Mr Hayman pastorate.

Choir robes were purchased for the Junior choir and they were used for the first time at the evening service March 1935.

services were held at Maple Creek one afternoon each month.

E. L.

Mr Clegg was pastor just before Mr Hayman for two years. During his pastorate union services were held each Sunday night with the Baptist. The Methodist minister preached at the Baptist Church and the Baptist preacher at the Methodist Church all during the summer months. Missionary Society gave \$400.00 to have furnace repaired

I do not find just when Nashville was placed in the Rocky Mount District as some records are missing. Prior to that we were in the Washington District.

Mr W. C. Wilson was Pastor in 1938 for two years. Nashville was in Rocky Mount Dist. at that time. He was very musical often he sang a duet or with the choir and then took his place in the pulpit. The Junior and Senior League provided music for the evening services. Mrs A. A. Ross was director of choir and resigned during his pastorate. Lorraine Sills was appointed to take her place. She continued as director for 25 years. Mrs. E. T. Bass succeeded her in choir work. District conference met in Nashville April 19, 1938 and our church served lunch for the delegates. The Upper Room was placed in the home of each Methodist family. Vestments were purchased for members of the Adult choir. Mr Wilson attended the General Conference in Birmingham, Ala. June 1938 where the outstanding theme was unification of Methodist churches.

As the church was having difficulties with the finances it was decided to take Red Oak and Yorks in with Nashville. We did not have services on the 2nd Sunday morning and the 4th Sunday nights when our Pastor went to their churches.

Two of our Pastors had sons to join the Ministry - E. C. Few and Mr Wilson. Both of the young men have done a good work and had stations for their pastorate. Mr Wilson lost a son in service

I do not find just when Nashville was taken off Washington District and put on Rocky Mount Dist. but W. C. Wilson was Pastor in 1937-38. At that time we were in Rocky Mount Dist.

Mr Wilson was very musical. Often he sang a duet or with the choir and then took his place in the pulpit. The Junior and Senior League provided music for the evening services. Vestments were purchased for members of Adult choir Mrs. A. A. Ross was director of the choir and resigned during this period. Lorraine Sillis was appointed to take her place. She continued to work as director for 25 years. Mrs. E. T. Bass succeeded her in choir work. District conference met in Nashville April 19, 1938 and our Church served lunch for the delegates. The Upper Room was placed in the home of each Methodist family. v

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While Mr Sharpe was pastor he stressed the importance of visiting in every home with interest of church work and evangelism trying to increase attendance in Sunday school and church worship services. While he was pastor M.Y.F. was organized with Mrs. Curtis Ellis counselor.

Womans Society of Christian Service - as given by
Miss Louise J. Sills on Feby 2, 1959 at the
50th anniversary meeting.

Twenty five years seems a short time when we look backward. I remember the inspiring service we had 25 years ago while I was president of the Foreign Missionary Society, as it was then called. We are grateful that our Society has increased in number of members and activity during this 25 year period.

The Womans work has always been a vital part of the Church life. The first Womans organization here was the Ladies Aid Society organized Jany. 15, 1889 - 70 years ago, with seven members.

From the first minutes, I quote: Under the direction of the pastor D. R. Benton, a group of ladies met at the home of Mrs. Bettie Boddie Griffin on Jany. 15, 1889 and organized a Parsonage Ladies Aid Society. Mrs R. B. Long was chosen as President, Mrs Jackie A. Batchelor, Vice Pres; Mrs Bettie B. Griffin Secy. and Mrs Tempie Ricks, Treas. Mrs R. U. Brooks, Mrs Buc k Boddie and Miss Tassie Earl were appointed Executive Committee. The purpose of the Society was to furnish the parsonage with necessary furniture and equipment. Dues were \$1.00 per year. Honorary members to pay \$1.00 per year were solicited. Mrs Eula Ricks Mann, Mrs Lottie Boddie and Miss Sallie Betts were members. Later Miss Helen Jenkins and Mrs Susan Lincke were members. Mrs W. A. Campbell, Rev. B. F. Long, Fannie Ricks and Mrs Nannie Cooper were honorary members. The Society voted to write and get one lady from each Church on the Circuit to solicit \$1.00 from each member to help pay for the parsonage.

This first organization did not function long. In Apr 19 1898, under the direction of Rev. H. A. Humble, a Ladies Aid Society was was organized with the following as officers: Pres. Mrs Hester A Winstead, Vice Pres. Mrs E. B. Bridgers; Secy Mrs W. T. Griffin; Treas. Mrs G. N. Bisette. Considerable discussions were had concerning a dinner and ice cream supper to be held Court week. The members were: Mrs Winstead, Mrs Odom, Mrs Griffin, Mrs Bridgers, Mrs Bisette, Mrs Nep Ricks, Mrs J. T. Strickland and Mrs M. C. Strickland. \$20.00 was voted to be paid on the parsonage debt. Mrs Lizzie Carter and Mrs Tassie Baker joined the society soon after the organization meeting.

In March 1899 new officers were elected: Pres. Mrs T. A. Sills, Vice Pres. Mrs Cooper; Treas Mrs Baker; Secy. Mrs Griffin. The members sewed on a bed quilt. At the May meeting plans were made for a Birthday party. The proceeds from this party was \$17.91.

In 1901, \$100.00 was raised by the Society which was used on the Church and parsonage.

In looking thro the first book of Minutes of the Society we notice numerous of projects engaged in by the Society. There was a Martha Washington Musical held which netted \$31.50 profits; Baby Show, dinners, suppers etc. and Bazaars with the idea of making money to help build a new parsonage.

Womans Foreign Missionary Society

On Feb'y 11, 1909, during the pastorate of Rev. C. E. Sell a Foreign Missionary Society was organized, at the home of Mrs. J. T. Strickland. Judging from a letter recently received from Mrs. B. W. Cheaves of Waco, Texas, she must have been responsible for the organization of the Society. Quote "I remember very well, I tried and tried to get the women to organize a Society in your wonderful little city. Finally I got seven to join, it was not long before the number increased. I am happy to know you are still carrying on the good work". Mrs Cheaves must have been responsible for seven members and two others joined at the first meeting.

The officers elected were - President Mrs S. R. Griffin; Vice. Pres. Miss Fannie Ricks; Cor. Secy. Mrs W. J. Batchelor; Rec'd Secy. Mrs T. A. Sills; Treas. Miss Ida Ricks. In addition to the officers, the charter members included Mrs B. W. Cheaves, Mrs. E. C. Sell, Mrs B. H. B. Vester and Mrs J. T. Strickland. These ladies had caught a vision of a larger field of service and wanted to help send the gospel to women of other countries who were not so fortunate as they were. At the first meeting of the Society, five subscriptions to the Womans Missionary Advocate were secured. To have an active society, the members had to be informed about the work.

After fifty years of faithful and loyal service, three of the charter members are still living: Miss Ida Ricks who is not active enough to be with us in person; Mrs J. T. Strickland who I am glad is present tonight; Mrs Cheaves in Texas who sent her love and best wishes for the Society.

At the second meeting two new members, Mrs G. N. Bissette and Mrs C. C. Cockrell joined the society. Mrs Cockrell has continued to be active in the society and church. Mrs. Bissette was an active member until she moved away from Nashville.

Three members added their names to the roll at the April meeting. From the minutes is noted" two most excellent selections were read by Mesdames Bissette and Batchelor which were calculated to arouse missionary zeal among the members.

There were three special committees appointed whose duties were to solicit subscriptions to the Womans Missionary Advocate; to get new members; and to visit the sick of the community.

Before the Foreign Missionary Society was organized in Nashville, my Mother, Mrs T. A. Sills, assumed the support of a Bible Woman in Korea. The name Isadore Sills was given to this worker, honoring my mother's mother. Mrs Sills continued this project for several years, the Society took charge of the Bible woman later and continued to support one and then another for thirty years. This woman helped spread the gospel in behalf of our society among the women in Korea.

The dues of the society were ten cents a month for the first few years, then increased to 25¢ per month. Some members complained that they could not pay such a large amount. One member suggested that the members use Mite Boxes, dropping in a penny a day. A penny a day was so little that the plan was agreed on and many used the Mite boxes. Later on stated dues were discontinued and pledges made instead, each one giving the amount she felt that she could give.

At each meeting there was a Bible study, and a discussion of some method of raising money for the needs of Church or parsonage. One of the studies mentioned in the minutes which seems unusual was Characteristics in connection with colors and precious stones mentioned in God's Word. The Streets of the New Jerusalem are paved with precious stones. The course of study included the following topics:

Obedience	Diamond	White
Truthfulness	Sapphire	Blue
Justice	Topaz	Yellow
Honesty	Ruby	Red
Faithfulness	Emerald	Green
Diligence	Carnelian	Orange
Patience	Amethyst	Purple
Temperance	Beryl	Citrine
Humility	Onyx	Russett
Meekness	Jasper	Olive
Wisdom	Opal	Rainbow colors
Purity	Pearl	Rainbow tints

The second course completed the character:

Prudence
Benevolence
Faith
Hope
Charity
Joy
Peace
Forbearance
Rest
Righteousness
Sanctification
Glorification

Preachers for Nashville

- 1876 T. B. Reeks (14 Churches, Nashville Ct.)
- 1878 S. J. McLeon 10 churches
- 1880 J. L. Lyon
- 1882 M. H. Moore 7 churches
- 1883 W. J. Crowton
- 1884 J. J. Carden
- 1885 James Mahony
- 1887 A. L. Betts
W T Harrison
- 1890 N. R. Richardson (8 churches, - Spring Hope)
of P. C. B. Betts
- 1891 Joseph A. Green
- 1892 L. M. Chaffin
- 1893 S. T. Moyle (5 Churches)
- 1895 Langhorne Leitch
- 1896 R. Lee Davis
- 1898 H. A. Humble
- 1900 H. E. Tripp
- 1902 J. M. Benson
- 1905 H. G. Stamey
- 1907 W. H. Kirton
- 1909 E. C. Sell
- 1910 J. L. Rumbley (4 churches 1914)
1815/16
- 1913 L. B. Jones
1915/16
- 1918 E. C. Few

1919 *Arman*
 1926 *Ewing*
 28-29 *Singleton*
 33 *Wilson*

Jones 16-20
Few 20-24
Arman 24-28
Ewing 28-32
Singleton 27-30
Hayman 31-32
Hayman 33-37
Wilson
Clegg

Clegg 32-33
Huffman 34-36
Farrar 37-35

1939 E. R. Clegg

1941 D. M. Sharpe

1945 L. A. Watts - 1851

1951 J. P. Pegg Station

1956 Ben Musser 1960

J P Jackson 1960

Mary Jordan 1968

Presachers in Nashville

1938 - 1940	W. C. Wilson
1941 - 1942	Hayman
1943-- 1945	D. M. Sharpe
1946 - 1952	L A. Watts
1953- 1956	J. P. Pegg
1956- 1960	M Ben Musser
1961- 19 68	L. P Jackson
1968 - 1972	Jordan
1973=	Don Philips

Tar River Circuit, which included Franklin, Nash and Edgecombe Counties, was organized in the year 1778. In 1785, the Methodist Church in America held three annual conferences, the southern one was held at the home of Green Hill, near Louisburg, with two Superintendents, later called Bishops, Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke attending. John Wickens who preached on Tar River Circuit from 1777-1780 suggested the name which was adopted.

It is almost impossible to find any Church records prior to 1850. One factor that helped the rapid growth of Methodism was the Camp Meetings. These were held over the state. One was held in Whitakers in Aug. 21, 1821. There were 40 tents and 17 ministers attending the meeting. There were 35 souls brought to the knowledge of God during the meeting.

From Quarterly Conference records we find that there 4 early Churches in Nash County; Providence 1815; Sharon 1818; Marnes 1818, later known as Yorks; Free Chapel 1832.

The average circuit in those early days had from 20 to 30 appointments. Nashville Methodist records in Quarterly Conference dates back to 1876. At that time there were 14 Churches on the charge. which was the 4th largest in the whole state. In 1877 the records show that the 14 churches on the charge paid the preachers salary of \$600.00 per yr, of which Nashville paid \$100.00. The years following showed a decrease of Churches on a circuit with a variation of salary. 1878 there were 10 churches, paying \$580.00; 1882 6 churches paying \$260.00; 1884 6 churches, paying \$800.00. In 1890 brought forth the first value of Church property.

In 1892 the Circuit consisted of Nashville, Bethlehem, Sharon, Belford, and Yorks Chapel. Nashville was assessed \$255.00 on preachers salary. There were 314 members on the circuit. In 1900 the Circuit of 6 churches contained 436 members with the Church buildings worth \$3000.00 and the parsonage worth \$600.00.

In 1910 the Circuit was reduced to Nashville, Sharon, Yorks and Maple Creek. The budget for Nashville, in 1919, was \$1,100.00. The 4 Churches had 337 members on the circuit.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NASHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

By

Miss Louise Sills

The first deed for a Methodist Church in Nash County was made in 1812 when George Sutton sold a plot of land for a church in Nashville. The location is not definitely known but it is thought to be the lot where Empress Boddie lived.

This church was used for about 50 years and it was destroyed by fire.

In October, 1871, Benjamin H. Sorsby sold a plot of land for a church and parsonage for the sum of \$13. They actually cut logs and had them sawed and helped build the church. This was a crude one-room building.

A large oak was blown down across this building and a new, more attractive building was erected a few feet to the South. The new church was built about 1900 and used for 16 years. Later this building was sold to the Negro Baptists and moved to Brooklyn and is still used for worship.

RECORDS GO BACK TO 1876

The earliest Quarterly Conference minutes that are available date back to 1876 when J. P. Moore was Presiding Elder and T. B. Ricks preacher in charge. At that time Nashville was on the Raleigh District.

Fourteen churches comprised the Nashville Circuit and the total amount apportioned for the Circuit was \$600 per year. There was no mission work on the Circuit. None of the country churches had Sunday School during the winter due to cold, bad weather and roads.

In 1878 S. J. McLeon, preacher in charge, held ten protracted meetings during the year and 61 new members were received into the churches. There was a total membership of 780 for the charge.

In 1880 J. T. Lyon was pastor, followed by M. H. Moore and W. J. Crowson in 1883. At this time Nashville was taken from the Raleigh District and placed on the Warrenton District.

In 1884 Chas. M. Cook was pastor and the next year James Mahoney was pastor. Almost every year a new preacher was sent to the Nashville Circuit. It must have been very difficult work with so many roads almost impassable during winter months and a salary that a family could not live on.

In 1895 Rev. L. Leith was pastor followed by R. L. Davis. Then came H. A. Humble in 1898 for two or three years. He was pastor when the third church was built.

H. G. Stamey, a native of Texas, was our pastor in 1905. He had a large family and they meant much to the community. Salary was very small and it was difficult for them to live on the amount the church paid. He said he could not write home often because he could not afford a postage stamp, which cost two cents.

W. H. Kurtin was pastor in 1907 and 1908. The Ladies Aid Society worked hard while he was here to finish paying off the debt on his buggy in the amount of \$10.

In 1920 E. C. Few, a very young man, came to Nashville. He always quoted scripture from the Bible. Children loved him and filled the front pews each Sunday. During his pastorate our Sunday School reached its peak in attendance. The official records show an enrollment of 418 with a weekly average of 325. A training school was begun in Rocky Mount for Sunday School teachers and 18 from our church attended the school.

W. C. Wilson, 1938-1940, wanted to revise the church roll, write all members not living here to ascertain if living, or if they had joined other churches. Mr. Wilson was musical and often sang with the choir as well as preach. Mrs. A. A. Rose was Music Director at that time and she resigned and Lorraine Sills was appointed in her place. Vestments were bought for choir members.

D. M. Sharpe was pastor from 1941-45. He stressed the importance of visiting in every home with interest of church and evangelism, trying to increase attendance in Sunday School and church worship services. In 1944 the M. Y. F. was organized with Mrs. Curtis Ellis as counselor.

In 1945 L. A. Watts became our pastor for six years. Soon after his arrival, the parsonage was repaired and redecorated. He kept an accurate count of persons attending each service, so he could tell if congregations were increasing or decreasing. One of his chief aims was to have 75 persons attend Prayer Meeting. We reached 65 and the next week at a picnic supper, a prayer service was held with many more present than 75. Each morning Mr. Watts went the rounds down town and spoke to persons in each place of business.

In 1951 J. P. Pegg became our pastor. He was a scholarly man and preached inspiring sermons. An air conditioning system was installed in July, 1952, at a cost of \$2,250.00. Nashville was made a station in 1954.

Ben Musser was pastor 1956-1961. Plans were begun for remodeling the basement. Central heating and air conditioning was installed. The W. S. C. S. had work done on the organ. Two hundred dollars was given to a girl in college who was studying for Christian education.

Our church has just completed an extensive renovation and building program. All rooms in the old building have been renovated and a new education building has been completed. This was made possible by an \$86,000.00 bequest from the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Colon Cockrell. The cost of the renovation, new building and furnishings was approximately \$325,000.00. Of this amount, the church has only had to borrow \$116,000.00. The amount that was borrowed was held to a minimum because so many individuals and families gave rooms and furnished rooms in the buildings.

Our church stands at a cross roads and we are ready to grow with and serve the community.