

*Celebrating  
100 Years*

*1911 - 2011*



*Parker United  
Methodist Church*

## **A Brief History of Parker United Methodist Church**

Parker's Chapel was organized on January 29, 1911 by the Reverend J.W. Bradley, who, at the time, was pastor of the Raeford Circuit of the Methodist Protestant Church. This organizational meeting took place in Glen Acre Schoolhouse which was located about one quarter mile west of the present church building. The members continued to use this facility for services until the first church was built.

The first trustees of the church were Louis Parker, Gary B. Parker, Hugh Haire and Thomas Hobson. These men purchased one and one-fourth acres of land from J.H. and Sarah K. Townsend in 1913 and made plans for the first church building. With the men of the church and others in the

community furnishing the timber and doing the construction, the first building was completed and dedicated about 1915 and it was given the name of Parker's Chapel.

The church progressed under the leadership and dedication of its ministers and its members. Twenty to twenty-five years later, the first building needed repairs. During the ministry of the Reverend E.R. Clegg, a building fund was established and during the early ministry of the Reverend E.C. Crawford, about 1940, the old building was remodeled and two Sunday School rooms were added. The need for a new building became evident and Reverend Crawford started another building fund which benefited each year from the proceeds of the annual Harvest Day and from the gifts of members and friends. Under the leadership of the

Reverend W.L. Maness both the membership of the church and the building fund account continued to increase.

Early in 1949, under the leadership of the Reverend P.O. Lee and the Building Committee along with a \$1500 donation from the Duke Endowment, construction of the present facility was begun. Louis Parker, who died before the new church was completed, purchased the land for the new church from Preacher Alex Whitty. The first service in the new building was held December 18, 1949 under the direction of Reverend Lee with the Reverend B.P. Robinson preaching on the topic, "The Never Changing Christ."

At Annual Conference in 1962, the church became the Parker Church Charge and was appointed students from Duke Divinity School to

serve as pastors. These students, Henry Gventer and Clay Morgan, lived in the community in an apartment furnished by the church.

At the 1966 Annual Conference, the church became a part of the Hoke Charge, sharing a pastor with Sandy Grove United Methodist Church and it continues to be on this charge to this day. Also, in 1966, construction began on a parsonage on Bethel Road to house the ministers for the churches. The Bethel Road parsonage was sold in 2006.

In 1939 with the merging of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Methodist Protestant Church and Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Parker's Chapel became Parker Methodist Church. The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church combined to become the United Methodist Church in 1968.

## **Original Charter Members of Parker's Chapel**

Louis Parker

Harvie L. Hobson

Nancy Parker

Mary C. Hobson

Gary B. Parker

John T. McVicker

Mollie Parker

Pat Moore

Henry P. Parker

Mary Haire

W.P. Parker

Maggie Haire

John. L. Hobson

William Haire

Maggie B. Lindsay

Malcolm Haire

Alice A. Carter

John B. Haire

John B. McVicker

Hugh Haire

G. Thomas Hobson

**First Trustees of  
Parker's Chapel**

Louis Parker

Hugh Haire

Gary B. Parker

Thomas Hobson

## **Superintendents of Parker Sunday School**

Gary B. Parker

Jimmy Clark

Louis Parker

David Scull

Hugh Haire

Ralph Plummer

Jimmy Plummer

John Plummer

Dan Dees

Agnes Clark



## **Music Ministry**

Since 1911 the family of Parker United Methodist Church has loved praising God through joyous singing. The congregation has been led by church members, friends and the wives of ministers who demonstrated much love to the choirs and the congregation. Among those remembered are Sue Bowell, organist, and Jim Wilkes, who led the singing. Others are Molly G. Parker, who played the pump organ, while Gary B. Parker led the singing, "Miss Alice" Upchurch who came with Mrs. P.O. Lee from Raeford United Methodist Church, Myra Morgani who played the piano, Jane Ruggles who taught the youth and led the choir and Jaxie Knowles who led the choir. Church members who have used their talent through musical ministry are Alma P. Lovette, Myra Mott Bomba, Thomas

McFadyen, “Miss Eula” Lunsford, Frances Sullivan, Delaine Peckham McDonald, Billy Baxley and Alma Lee Simpson. The choir and congregation of Parker United Methodist Church continue its proud tradition of joyfully singing praises to God.

Currently, one tradition for the congregation and choir is to sing, “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” as they call one another to worship every Sunday morning.

## MINISTERS

### Raeford Charge

J.W. Bradley	1911-1913
E.B. Craven	1913-1914
S.T. Moyle	1914-1915
J.T. Draper	1915-1917
B.P. Robinson	1917-1921
J.H. Frizzelle	1921-1924
N.C. Yearly	1924-1928
W.F. Trawick	1928-1932
B.H. Houston	1932-1935
E.R. Clegg	1935-1939
E.C. Crawford	1939-1943
W.L. Maness	1943-1947
P.O. Lee	1947-1953

### **Parkton Charge**

N.P. Edens	1953-1957
C.B. Long	1957-1960
Mr. Johnson	1960-1961

### **Parker Charge**

Henry Gventer	1961-1964
Clay Morgan	1964-1967

### **Hoke Charge**

O.V. Elkins	1967-1969
Berry Barber	1969-1972
Gordon Ruggles	1972-1975
Charles Litzenburger	1975-1978
T.D. Hoogerland	1978-1982
Russell Knowles	1982-1986

A.J. Eure	1986-1993
Larry Patrick	1993-1996
Donald Shields	1996-2000
Mike Nelson	2000-2004
Willie Friizelle	2004-2005
Richard C. Jackson	2005-2009
Charles Herring	2009-Nov 2009
Dennis Lamm	Dec 2009–present

## **Additional Interesting Facts**

- Parker's Church was dedicated about 1915.
- Parker Methodist Church was dedicated on May 1, 1955.
- The first funeral in the old building was that of Fletcher Parker and the last funeral there was conducted for W.P. Parker.
- The first funeral in the new church was the service for Elmer Shrewbridge.
- The first wedding solemnized in the old church was for Mary Parker and J.S. Mott on June 18, 1924.
- The only other wedding services in the old sanctuary were those of Louise McFadyen and Ralph Plummer on October 20, 1945 and the

Salley McMillan and Carl Nunnemaker ceremony in 1947.

- The first wedding in the new church was for Beatrice Haire and B.B. Cole on September 10, 1951.
- The last to be wed there were Becky Plummer and Russell Rutland on February 18, 1984.
- Nancy Parker, Ina Parker, Mamie Phillips and Lucy Hobson purchased the first piano for Parker's Chapel.
- The first organ in the new church was donated and played by Thomas McFadyen. Mary Eliza Haire was the first organist for Parker's chapel.
- For the first revival service in Parker's chapel the men of the church sawed logs and placed boards on them for pews because the church building was not finished.

- Josh Parker gave the pews for Parker's Chapel.
- Mr. Hugh Haire donated the flooring for Parker's Chapel.
- C.B. Parker was the first superintendent of the Sunday School.
- The cost of the new church and its furnishings was just over \$20,000.
- In the late 1940s Bible School was cancelled because of the polio epidemic.
- The funerals of Mr. Hugh Haire and Mr. Gus Phillips were conducted on the same day.
- Airplanes from Pope Field (later Pope Air Force Base) broke the sound barrier which caused the breakage of some window panes in the church. They were replaced with the panes of a different pattern. The current stained glass windows were added during a major renovation in 1995.



- Of the many Veterans buried in our cemetery, one is from the Civil War.
- The first African American minister to serve the church was the Reverend Richard C. Jackson who was appointed in 2005.

**Our mission is to  
make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world.**

**Parker United Methodist Church**

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Friend us on Facebook.

Together, we can open hearts,  
open minds and open doors.

The people of  
The United Methodist Church