

HISTORY OF
PEE DEE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

After many years of worshipping in a small building that served the Pee Dee villages as a school house during the week and as a church on Sunday, a desire to form a separate church grew from prayer groups that met in the homes of the village near the turn of the present century (1900). In this group, there were two denominations represented, the Methodist Protestant and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The Methodist Protestants were the first to establish a regular church organization and erect a building at the present site of Calvary Evangelistic Center and later on North Lee Street, near the present Wesleyan Church.

Under the ministry and direction of Reverend Seabolt, a small plot on a hill overlooking the village was secured and a small frame church was built. Date of the first church deed was February 25th, 1905. Among the charter members were grandparents, of some of our present members, who helped build the first building. The congregation grew slowly. The weekly Sunday school was active, but the charge was so large that only two worship services were conducted monthly. The first building was 40 x 60 , built in 1912 under the leadership of Reverend Stanfield. In 1920, Reverend Leon Hall as pastor, directed the building of Sunday School rooms inside the sanctuary. The church was served by many ministers over the next decade.

In 1938 the Reverend J. W. Dimmette came to our charge and began promoting the idea of a new church building in a more central location. The Pee Dee Manufacturing Company exchanged the

site of the present church for the site of the old one and plans were made to erect the new church on the present location. As these plans were being begun, disaster struck the Methodist Protestant congregation, as fire completely destroyed their building. Many of their members joined our church and the two congregations joined hands in building and completing the present church building. Deed for this building at our present location was in October 1940. In 1942 the sanctuary and Sunday school building were dedicated. Approximate cost of \$15,000. Much of the work and labor was done by members of the church.

Reverend C. P. Morris came to us as pastor in 1942 and at that time we were on a charge with five (5) other Methodist churches. During his ministry here, Reverend Morris organized two (2) additional churches, making a total of seven (7) churches on the charge. We had preaching service twice a month. In early 1940, the Ladies' Missionary Society was organized by Mrs. Fletcher, a local lady in the area. This group has been active over the years, changing names to Woman's Society to the present United Methodist Women. Some of the present members are charter members.

On the morning of September 17th, 1945, following several days of constant rainfall, several mill dams broke and the church was flooded and threatened for several hours to move from its foundation. Members and residents of the area stood on higher ground and watched the waters flood the church, even into the second story of the Sunday school building. The interior was filled with muddy water which left a residue of slimy mud. Much

of the furniture was destroyed, including two pianos which were later sold for \$3.00 each. By the time the water had subsided, the people were at work to repair the damage caused by the flood waters. In a comparatively short time, the damage was repaired and the building again used for worship.

In 1946 under the ministry of The Reverend B. F. Meacham the charge was divided and we were joined by Zion and West Rockingham Methodist Churches as a new charge. At that time we had preaching services each Sunday - either a morning or night service.

In 1952, under the leadership of our pastor's wife - Mrs. Dena Chambers - Wesleyan Service Guild was organized. This was in addition to the Woman's Society and was intended for the young employed women in our congregation. A second unit of Wesleyan Service Guild was organized in 1967. Many of the present members of each unit are charter members. Reverend M. R. Chambers organized in 1952 our Methodist Men group, which also has present members as charter members. This group is among the oldest Methodist Men's organizations in our conference.

In 1954 under the leadership of the Reverend H. L. Harris our Fellowship Building was erected. Some additions and changes have been made to the original building over the years.

In 1957 the need to become a station church was realized and under the leadership of the Reverend George W. Ports, Jr., the church unanimously approved the proposal. Reverend Ports returned to serve as the first full time pastor. Our parsonage was built and dedicated in September 1957. Bishop W. W. Peele lead the dedication service for the new parsonage and furnishings.

In 1963 tragedy struck once again, as fire ravaged our Sunday School building. The Reverend Millard Warren was our pastor and under his leadership repairs were made and extensive remodeling was also done in the sanctuary and Sunday School building. Total cost was around \$50,000 and \$40,000 was borrowed . This note was paid in full in 1972. Since that time, further remodeling has been done in the sanctuary , with the split altar and in 1984 the elevated choir area.

During the relocation of Highway 220 in 1968, much of our parking area was taken away and a fence was constructed on two sides of the church and the entrance confined to the upper side of the north-east corner.

Though struck by many adversities over the years, the congregation of Pee Dee United Methodist Church continues to grow and serve in its dedication to God and Mankind.

Our present church membership is 274. Of this number, 43% - (117) are active members. This includes our shut-in members, who are a very vital part of our congregation family.

DATES OF INTEREST

- Early 1900 Two denominations (Methodist Protestant and Methodist Episcopal South, met together in school building for Sunday services . Plans were made to separate and establish two churches - one for each denomination.
- 1905 First Church Deed
- 1912 Built new building 40'x 60'at Pee Dee #1
- 1920 Sunday School Rooms built inside sanctuary
- 1938 Plans made to begin new building in new location - Pee Dee #2
- 1939 Methodist Protestant Church destroyed by fire. Many members joined with us, as they did not rebuild
- 1940 Deed for new building (Pee Dee Manufacturing Company exchanged the present site of the church for the site of the old church)
- 1942 Dedicated Sanctuary and Sunday School Building
- 1942 Woman's Missionary Society Organized
- 1942 On charge with 7 churches
- 1945 Church damaged extensively by flood
- 1946 On charge with 2 other Churches - Zion and West Rockingham
- 1952 Wesleyan Service Guild Organized
- 1952 Methodist Men Organized
- 1954 Built Fellowship Building
- 1957 Became a station church
- 1957 Parsonage built
- 1963 Fire in Sunday School building. Repairs and remodeling to Sunday School rooms and Sanctuary cost around \$50,000. \$40,000 was borrowed
- 1967 Second unit of Wesleyan Service Guild organized
- 1968 Highway 220 was relocated. A fence was constructed on two sides of the church and the entrance confined to the upper side of the north-east corner
- 1972 Note paid in full for repairs and remodeling

Over the years, additions and changes have been made to Fellowship Building, Sunday School building and Sanctuary to enhance our usage.

10/8/92

HL

MINISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED
PEE DEE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>YEARS OF SERVICE</u>
Reverend Seabolt	1905	
A.J. Groves	1909 - 1912	3
B. E. Stanfield	1912 - 1914	2
Y.E. Wright	1914 - 1915	1
C.J. Barker	1915 - 1917	2
B.F. Watson	1917 - 1919	2
Leon Hall	1919 - 1922	3
Dwight A. Petty	1922 - 1926	4
M. E. Cotton	1926 - 1927	1
W. D. Yarboro	1927 - 1928	1
E. R. Clegg	1928 - 1932	4
B. F. Boone	1932 - 1934	4
M. D. McLamb	1934 - 1938	4
J. W. Dimmettee	1938 - 1942	4
C. P. Morris	1942 - 1946	4
B. F. Meacham	1946 - 1950	4
M. R. Chambers	1950 - 1953	3
H. L. Harris	1953 - 1956	3
George W. Ports	1956 - 1960	4
M. W. Warren	1960 - 1965	5
Walter C. Feltman	1965 - 1970	5
Roger Thompson	1970 - 1975	5
Robert J. Rudd	1975 - 1979	4
Murry L. Dehart	1979 - 1981	2
Lester C. Bissette	1981 - 1984	3
Rayford H. Methvin	1984 - 1986	2
Terry L. Huffines	1986 - 1991	5
Rufus E. Butner II	1991 -	