

Route 10 Goldsboro N.C.

# *Brief Historical Sketch of Providence Methodist Church*

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1923 .. PROVIDENCE METHODIST CHURCH



1938 .. SIDEVIEW OF CHURCH



....New  
Sanctuary

1958 .. PROVIDENCE METHODIST CHURCH



.... New  
Parsonage

1965 .. PARSONAGE



Today ..... 1965

BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH OF  
PROVIDENCE METHODIST CHURCH

It is believed that Providence (the old church building) is the oldest Methodist church in Wayne County. The actual date of organization is not definitely known, but it is believed to have been organized around 1800. Since it is known by historical fact to have been organized twelve to fifteen years prior to the death of Bishop Francis Asbury, it is thought that perhaps he had a guiding influence in its organization while he traveled the vast circuit of Eastern North Carolina. Nothing more of its history is known until 1839, when Centenary Church of Smithfield was organized and placed on a circuit with Providence.

Providence Church has been located in two places during its 165 year ministry. From its beginning until 1865 the location of the Church was about three quarters of a mile east of the present location, on the Old Goldsboro Rd. In 1865, the Yankee soldiers are said to have set the woods on fire near the Church and caused the building to be destroyed.

For the next 12 years, it is assumed that the congregation retained and upheld its faithfulness as a Church, and possibly met here and there, in the homes of its members. In 1877 another sanctuary was erected to the glory of God for the purpose of worship by these faithful members. Mr. Richard Davis deeded property to the Church to construct this new building. It is now a part of the educational wing of the present plant housing the adult and older youth departments of the membership. Lumber used in the building was sawed at a mill operated by Mr. Elijah Edwards, whose sawmill was located where our parsonage now stands.

In 1902 the Church property was expanded by acquisition of a piece of property deeded by the late Governor Charles B. Aycock and his wife. This expansion facilitated the enlargement of the cemetery.

In 1938, when growth required additional facilities, the Church purchased more land. This time the land was purchased from H. Weil and Brothers, and general improvements and additional classrooms were added to the old

## HISTORY cont'.

building at a cost of \$4200. Two years later, in mid 1940, it became evident that even more classroom space was needed. Thus, the Activities Building was constructed at a cost of \$2856.50. The cost was small due to the fact that the laity of the Church joyfully donated materials, many hours of labor, and considerable encouragement to those who were assisting in the actual construction project. Today, the Activities Building houses the Adult Men's Class, the Sunday evening Junior MYF, the Boy Scouts, the Methodist Men's Club, and numerous other groups and activities each month. It has been a blessing to the entire community, as well as to the Church.

On October 15, 1954, Hurricane Hazel destroyed the roof of the Church and damaged the ceiling of the sanctuary. This damage was corrected immediately with the replacement of the roof and the repair of the ceiling.

For many years Providence had been a part of a six-point circuit, called the Mt. Olive Circuit. It consisted of: Bethel, Brownings, Falling Creek, Providence, Rones Chapel, and Smith's Chapel Methodist Churches. In 1951 Providence was removed from the Mt. Olive Circuit and was made a part of the four-point Wayne Circuit, made up of: Elm St., Bethel (near Green Co.), Falling Creek, and Providence.

The Charge was again divided in 1954 and Providence became one of two churches on the Falling Creek-Providence Charge. It was at this time that a new parsonage was built for the two-point Charge on highway 102 (now Highway 13). It was located at a point between the two churches. However, by 1957, membership had once again increased in the church school and additional classroom space was badly needed. In May 1957, ground was broken for a new sanctuary, and in January of 1958, the first worship service was held in the new edifice. The people had spent some \$56,000 to see their dream come true. The new sanctuary adjoined the old one at the transept of the new. The old sanctuary was partitioned off and divided into four large classrooms, the Janitor's room and the church library. Thus, it continues to serve a most useful purpose for the worship of God.

The story of Providence has not yet been fully told. By the grace of God, the witness of faithful ministers, and the

dedicated witness of people of God, the Church reached that point in its growth when it felt it could stand alone financially, carrying the full weight of a full program for the glory of God. As a result, the Church built its own parsonage in 1960 at a cost of \$13,000, and in the same year became a station Charge. The land for the new parsonage was acquired from H. Weil and Bros. It is located directly beside the church. Then, on Feb. 11, 1962, the sanctuary was dedicated at a very impressive service presided over by Bishop Paul N. Garber, who delivered the dedication. At this service there was a general feeling among the congregation that no goal was too large for the Providence Methodist Church. The membership continued to grow and in March 1963, work was begun on another addition to the church structure....a children's department wing. In December of the same year, the building was completed and the classrooms were completely furnished, so that in June 1964, the new wing, built at a cost of approximately \$37,000, was in full use as one of the nicest educational facilities for children in the Wayne Co. area. Others may be as large, but none is any nicer.

Music has always been a vital part of the worship of those who faithfully gather at Providence to worship our Father. It is to be noted that in the earlier days of rapid growth an old pump organ was used. Later, a piano was purchased and other pianos were added as the needs arose. After the Dedication Service of the new sanctuary, a group of persons interested in the continued improvement of the facilities became intensely effective in arousing interest in a new electric organ. A fund was begun to purchase an organ, and with the memorial contributions and miscellaneous offerings of other interested people, an electric organ was bought and paid for cash. The organ was first used on the third Sunday in May, 1963.

The Steeple Amplifying System was given to the Glory of God by the MYF and other organizations within the church. Recordings of chimes were first played from the new system in December, 1964. The amplifying system has a projection rang of approximately one mile. The chimes music is a welcomed part of our Sabbath observance. It is a reminder to all who hear it that "This is the Day which the Lord hath made."

In September, 1965, the people at Providence successfully paid off their debt on the parsonage. This was another high moment for those who worked so dilligently and faithfully for their church.

We are very proud of our facilities because they enable us to provide a more adequate ministry to those who seek God through corporate worship, prayer, and Bible study in our church. We must, however, give credit where credit is due: to our Lord, Jesus Christ. We owe everything and all things to His bountiful love and care. Without Him, we could have done nothing!

Today, 1965, Providence Methodist Church has a Church School class for every person who comes to worship God. Among its varied ministries are:

- \*A 2 class (5 Year-olds) Pre-school Kindergarten
- \*A full Scouting program
- \* Junior Choir
- \* Adult Choir
- \* An outstanding Woman's Society of Christian Service with four active Circles.
- \* A Methodist Men's Club leading the Goldsboro District in Lay activities and participation.
- \* Junior Methodist Youth Fellowship
- \* Senior Methodist Youth Fellowship
- \* A Men's Softball Team
- \* Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting with classes for all ages
- \* Bible Study
- \* Visitation Evangelism Teams
- \* Six very active Commissions
- \* 15 Church School classes
- \* and a deep concern for each other!

We are confident that we shall add to these as the need arises and as God directs us. We seek to serve Him in every way, everyday, all the time!

# Our Pastors . . . .

The following pastors have  
led Providence Church through  
the years.

Charles F. Deens	.....?
R. P. Bibbs	..... 1873
J. N. Andrews	..... 1874
W. H. Call	..... 1875-76
W. H. Watkins	..... 1877-78
Dr. J. R. Finley	..... 1879-80
James Mahoney	..... 1881-82
J. E. Bristow	..... 1883
P. L. Gorom	..... 1884-86
J. T. Abernathy	..... 1887-90
N. H. Tuttle	..... 1891-92
N. M. Journey	..... 1893-96
M. M. McFarland	..... 1897
J. G. Johnson	..... 1898
J. T. Bagwell	..... 1899
J. M. Caraway	..... 1900-04
F. E. Dixon	..... 1904
B. F. DeLoach	..... 1904
P. Greening	..... 1906-08
R. F. Taylor	..... 1909-10
J. J. Boone	..... 1910-12
W. H. Piland	..... 1912-14
F. B. McCall	..... 1914-16
R. E. Pittman	..... 1916-20
W. T. Craven	..... 1920-22
R. E. Atkinson	..... 1922
K. S. L. Cook	..... 1923
H. C. Ewing	..... 1924
R. E. Pittman	..... 1925
E. N. Harrison	..... 1927-31
E. R. Clegg	..... 1931-35
W. C. Benson	..... 1935-38
J. L. Joyce	..... 1938-42
G. S. Eubanks	..... 1942
W. E. Howard	..... 1942-46
H. A. Chester	..... 1946-48
W. C. Wilson	..... 1948-52
Daniel M. Schores, Jr.	1952-53
Tommy Tyson	..... 1954
Noah B. Hill, Jr.	..... 1955-56
James E. Mahoney	..... 1956-58
Gorden E. Allen	..... 1958-59
L. R. Aills	..... 1960-63
Tracy A. Mannes	..... 1964 - 1965
Milton T. Mann	..... 1965 -