

## THE HISTORY OF ROCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Rock Creek United Methodist Church was organized about 1836 and the first building was built in 1845. At that time it was the Rock Creek Methodist-Protestant Church. The land for the structure of the church was granted by Balaam Hornaday. Some of the organizers of the church were Milton Coble, John McPherson, Edwin Ingold, and Balaam Hornaday.

Some of the early pastors of the church included Rev. Alson Gray, Rev. John Martin, Rev. James Stockard, Rev. W. C. Kennett, Rev. C. F. Harris. After 1900 some of the pastors were Rev. John N. Garrett, Rev. W. F. McDowell, Rev. W. F. Ashburn, Rev. D. A. Highfill, Rev. T. F. McCulloch, Rev. William M. Pike, Rev. J. T. Ledbetter, Rev. George W. Holmes, Rev. John A. Burgess, Rev. H. L. Isley, Dr. George Brown, and Rev. Reynolds.

In 1939 the Methodist-Protestant, Methodist-Episcopal and Methodist-Episcopal Church South all united and formed one church named The Methodist Church. The first minister after unification was the Rev. Henry B. Lewis. He was followed by the Rev. Donald Durham, Rowland, Crawford, Bingham, Burnett, W. E. Tisdale, G. W. Johnson, J. L. Bryan, D. D. Lewis, P. F. Newton, E. H. Houser, Lloyd McClelland, and G. Michael Deal.

In 1940-41 some major improvements were begun on the church itself. A new floor was put in and the platform at the front of the sanctuary was added. In 1945-46, the educational annex was erected, plus the basement and new heating system. The new pews were purchased in 1947, and in 1950 water was connected and the rest rooms were added. The present porch, front steps, and steeple were added in 1953 as a gift of a family in the church. The carpet was put in about 1957, and the same year Mr. L. M. Robbins gave the new piano. One of the more recent additions is the organ, given by Mr. Leroy Pickard in 1959, in memory of his wife.

In December 1960 the brick parsonage was built on property donated by Mrs. Patton McPherson. Later improvements in the cemetery was made, grass sown and each stone made secure. In the fall of 1965 the seeding of the grounds was completed.

More recently our parking area has been paved along with the parsonage driveways and a road around the cemetery. Other improvements have been the reworking of the church basement, which was done in honor of Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Hornaday, Sr. by their children. A utility building for grounds equipment was erected at the rear of the parsonage.