

HISTORY  
OF  
SHARON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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1825 - 1992

Sharon Methodist Church was organized in 1825 and named after the "Rose of Sharon" mentioned in the Bible.

The first church was in a small log cabin school house near the present Silent Grove Cemetery. At that time, the parsonage was near Zion Methodist Church. The only mode of travel was horseback. The preacher would spend a week or more at a time at each of the churches on the circuit. The church was unheated, therefore service was not held in the winter months. The members were not financially able to buy literature and very few members could read or write.

The charter members were George Kirby, Washington Lewis, J.J. Belle, J. Davis, J.D. Robinson and their families.

Sharon was moved near the present location in 1860 and was a member of the Brunswick circuit composed of 10 other churches. The building was located at the northwest corner of the present cemetery. It was a 20' x 30' log cabin structure with shingles made by hand and nailed over the logs. The black people of the community were members along with the white.

In 1865, the present cemetery at Sharon was started. Sarah Belle, a charter member of the church, was the first to be interned here. Her daughter's picture is on the marker in the cemetery, Elizabeth Belle Potter.

The little log cabin soon became too small for the congregation. The members set to work on a frame building which was 40' x 60' feet. In the earlier years of this building, there was a wall down the center aisle, the women sat on one side of the church and the men on the other side. they started to worship in this church in 1886, when Rev. T.C. Lovin was pastor.

In 1897, Sharon paid \$3.75 in three months to the pastor. Around the turn of the century, the average church budget was \$75.00 - \$80.00 per year.

In 1896, the Brunswick Circuit was divided. The Methodist Churches in the upper section of Brunswick County were in the Zion Circuit. The lower section became the Atlantic Circuit. Rev. J.M. Marlowe was the first pastor of the Atlantic Circuit.

in 1902, the Atlantic Circuit was renamed the Shallotte Charge. In 1903, the stewards of the seven churches reported the combined value of all seven churches to be \$3,000.00. The parsonage was valued at \$450.00. The stewards agreed that \$354.00 would support the pastor for a year.

In the 1920's and 1930's, the church was in bad need for repairs. The members decided to start a new building. Land on the south side of the cemetery was purchased so the cemetery could be at the rear of the church. In 1939, the first building material was put on site. Rev. C.N. Phillips was pastor at the time and returned several years later to preach the dedication sermon. It was complete enough to use for services in 1942, while Rev. William G. Lowe was pastor.

The members of the building committee and leaders of the work were Willie Kirby, Sam Hewett, Lender Kirby, Gus Holden, Willie Bellamy, George Robinson, Jessie Roach and Herman Gray.

Mrs. Pet Lewis was Sunday School Superintendent. Mrs. Sidney Hewett was secretary and treasurer of the church. Mrs. W.S. Kirby was secretary and treasurer of Sunday school at this time. With the help of the Duke endowment the exterior of the church was finished.

Mrs. Sidney Hewett and Mr. Herman Gray gave the first piano. In 1949, the pastor Rev. Russell Caudeill gave a clock and lamp for the piano and the baptismal bowl. While Mrs. Pet Lewis was superintendent the pin system for attendance was started.

Mr. Bedford Ludlum secured a bus and free transportation was provided for the ones who did not have a way to church. Mr. Peter Robinson gave a second piano for this church. In 1951 and 1952 Mr. Elmer High built 3 classrooms The church was progressing.

In 1962 the church was found to contain termites. Rev. Harold Pickett was pastor and the building fund was started. Mrs. Annie Potter gave the first \$1000. The building committee members were: Clemit Holden, chairman; Herman Gray, Elmer High, Willie Bellamy, Toney Hewett and Hobbie Davis. Mr. Elmer High was in charge of the construction. With the help of the Lord and the Duke Endowment the building was completely paid for by mid 1965.

The pews were purchased by members of the church in memory of their loved ones. Mr. Calvin Roach gave the choir chairs at that time. Mrs. Carvin Roach and Mr. Herman Gray gave a piano. Dr. R.H. Holden and Mrs. Rhoda Holden McMillan gave the communion table in memory of their parents. Mrs. Annie Potter gave the table, chairs and curtains for the kindergarten classroom. Mr. Hendrix Phelps and family gave the baptismal bowl in memory of Mrs. Mattie Phelps. With the Lord's help and diligent work by the members we had a beautiful building and furnishing valued a \$62,000. A large crowd of members and friends attended the dedication service held May 22, 1966. Rev. Clyde Boggs preached the dedication sermon.

In the 1970's the church was air conditioned. The Ed. Davis family donated the first \$1000 on the church organ in memory of Mrs. Davis.

The ladies club was organized in 1972 and went to work for our church in 1974. As their first project in the church they donated a water fountain in the hallway. Since then other contributions include carpet for the sanctuary, contribution toward covering the pews, purchased tables for the fellowship hall, the first sound system in the sanctuary, parquet floors in the halls, first choir robes, landscaping the front of the church, lighting for the

church sign, contribution on the pictorial frame in the narthex, cabinets and vents over the stove in the fellowship hall and contribution on the storage building. In 1992 they started the meditation garden beside the church. They contributed landscaping, bricks for the walks. Members of the church assisted them in the labor and donated some of the shrubs, trees and statues. The dedication service was held at Easter sunrise service in the garden in 1992. In 1993 the ladies club landscaped the front of the parsonage and paid for the front walkway to be paved, and donated the large statue of the angel in our cemetery creating a focal point with a walkway and landscaping around it. They also contributed \$3000 to the budget of the church at that time.

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In August 1979, our dreams and plans of a parsonage and a full time pastor were now coming true. A deed for 2 lots were donated to the church by Earl Milligan and Frank Lennon. The church sold it's share of the charge parsonage to the other 3 churches involved. A building committee was appointed by the administrative board. Members were: Jimmy Elliott, Toney Hewett, Frank Punch, Carvin Roach, Ron Westenbrook, Geneva Kirby, Carol Westenbrook, Tony Hamilton, Hobbie Davis, Clemit Holden and Edward Caison. The parsonage was started in 1980 with \$7166.20 in the building fund. In addition to this money pledges were given, dinners were held and the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offerings were used to contribute to this project. The parsonage was completed in 1983. Labor was donated by James Hobbs builders and Douglas Foust Electric Co. and Dave Deaver plumbing. Painting was done by church members and upon completion the building was valued at \$79,000.00.

In June 1984 the first full time pastor Rev. Don Skinner arrived.

In 1984 the mens club was formed. They made contributions of basketball goals in the parking lot for the youth, parking space bumpers ,money on the storage building and labor for the meditation garden.

In 1985 a cemetery committee was formed and a goal of \$10,000.00 was set to enable perpetual care of the cemetery grounds. This goal was obtained.

In 1985 Mrs. Virginia Roach Milligan designed and gave to the church the Easter banners in memory of her parents, Bertha Potter Roach and Jessie Roach. New Sunday school room windows given in memory of Mr. Willie Bellamy by his children and the guest register given in memory of Berths Roach Briles by her children.

In 1986 a sizable donation was left to the church by the late Mrs. Bertha Kirby to the building fund which were used for the renovation of the sanctuary. The light fixtures were donated by several families in the church. Dorsal drapes at the front of the sanctuary at that time were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Tony Hamilton. In 1987 the Baptismal Fount was donated in memory of Mr. Jimmy Elliott by his many friends. The sanctuary clock donated by Mrs. Maxine Durst in memory of her sister, Vena Newland, The beautiful painting of the old Sharon Church was done by Mrs. Ersell Long.

In 1989 the church paved the parking lot, added lighting to the front of the church and sanded and refinished the parquet floors in the halls. In 1990 we installed vinyl protective trim to all the wood exterior of the church. Choir pews were installed and donated by Lanier Roach in memory of his parents, Carvin and Sudie Lee Roach.

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2030 Holden Beach Rd. SW Supply, North Carolina 28462  
Church office- 1-910-842-2929.

1825- 2004

1825- First church established in small log cabin school house near Silent Grove Cemetery

1860- Sharon moved to moved to present location- log cabin- one of 10 churches on the  
Brunswick Circuit

1865- Present Cemetery started

1886- Small frame church constructed

1900- Brunswick Circuit divided- Sharon part of the Atlantic Circuit

1902- Atlantic Circuit renamed Shallotte Charge

1930- Land purchased for present building site

1939- New church building started- moved in in 1942

1951- Three classrooms were built on to the church

1962- Building Fund for new church started

1965- Present building completed and paid for--dedicated in 1966

1970- Building air-conditioned

1972- Ladies Club organized

1979 Property for parsonage given by Earl Milligan and Frank Lennon

1980 Parsonage started and completed in 1983

1984- First full time pastor- Rev. Don Skinner

- Men's Club Organized

1985- Cemetery Committee formed

1989- Parking lot paved

1992- Meditation garden beside church by Ladies Club

1995- First female pastor- Rev. Lynn T. Wall

- Building Committee elected for Fellowship Hall

1996- Ladies Club Chartered as United Methodist Women

- In September Groundbreaking for Fellowship Hall

-First Annual Fall Bazaar

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