

St. Joseph Methodist Church

Pikeville, N. C.

The St. Joseph Methodist Church in Pikeville, N. C. was organized in 1901 with Mrs. Smithey Garriss, W. L. Garriss, J. P. Smith, John T. Dees, and B. F. Scott assisting their first minister, Rev. H. E. Tripp, with the organization. A one room wood-frame church was built in 1902 and dedicated in 1903.

Soon after St. Joseph Church was finished the non-denominational Sunday School was re-organized as a Methodist Sunday School and we had service in the new building on each Sunday afternoon at three o'clock. Mrs. Smithey Garriss was the first superintendent. In 1910 the hour of Sunday School was changed to 10 o'clock in the morning and we would have an average attendance of 75. Mr. Grey Garriss was the superintendent and we also started using the Methodist literature in 1910.

In 1914 St. Joseph was taken off the Goldsboro Circuit and put on the Elm St. - Pikeville charge. This union gave each church two morning and two evening services per month.

In 1920 Rev. C. P. Jerome assisted in organizing the Womans Missionary Society now the Womans Society of Christian Service. At the present time 1965 the W. S. C. S. have three circles and their enrollment is approximately 56.

In 1926 Mt. Carmel was taken off the Goldsboro circuit and put on the Elm St. - Pikeville charge.

In 1930 Good Hope Chapel was put on the Elm St. Pikeville - Mt. Carmel charge with the Rev. J. G. Phillips serving.

In 1934 Good Hope Chapel was dropped and Saulston added. Rev. Leon Russell was the minister.

In 1938 St. Joseph built a new parsonage and was completed in 1939. Rev. John J. Rook was the pastor.

In 1944 Rev. W. F. Walters was stationed on the charge. Rev. Walters passed away in 1946. In 1946 The Walters Memorial Sunday School class was formed and named after Rev. Walters. This class has done a wonderful work in helping the church progress. Some of their projects were a new electric Hammon organ, garage for the parsonage, heating unit for the parsonage, air-conditing unit for the church, piano, cement the side-walk leading to the church. This class at the present time is still working and have an enrollment of about 52.

In 1948 work was begun on a brick veneer church and educational building under the leadership of Rev. R. L. Bame. The building was completed and first used in June of 1951.

In 1959 St. Joseph Methodist Church became a station church and has been since that time. They have progressed through the years due to this change.

In 1964 a lot was purchased to build a new educational building beside the present church. At the present time 1965 we are anticipating building a \$25,000.00 educational building. Our present church enrollment is 176.

Rev. Leonard Mayo is our present pastor.