

A BRIEF HISTORY  
SAINT LUKE METHODIST CHURCH  
Goldsboro, N. C.

During the summer of 1950, Saint Paul Methodist Church of Goldsboro sponsored a survey of the eastern section of the city to determine the need for an additional Methodist Church. The first meeting of interested persons was held on September 20, 1950, at which the first Official Board for the new church was named and arrangements were made for the use of Edgewood School of services.

The Rev. W. D. Caviness was appointed first minister in November, 1950. The first service was held on November 19, with about 125 persons present. The church school was organized on the following Sunday.

First members were received into the church on December 3, 1950. Chapter membership rolls were open for one year, during which time 119 united with the church and became charter members.

The WSCS was organized on February 1, 1951. MYF was organized on February 25, 1951, and the first Vacation Church School was held in June of 1951.

Groundbreaking for the first unit of Saint Luke Church was held on August 16, 1953. This unit was composed of fellowship hall, kitchen and classrooms. First services were held in this building on April 5, 1954.

Methodist Men was organized on May 27, 1954.

The Rev. Ralph W. Lewis became minister of Saint Luke in November, 1954. The parsonage, costing \$16,500, was built and occupied on October 15, 1955.

The church grew rapidly and it became necessary to build six additional classrooms, pastor's study and furnace room, completed in the spring of 1956 at a cost of \$15,000.

The Protestant School began using facilities of Saint Luke for Kindergarten in 1956. Two units with twenty-five children each now use the building.

Boy Scout Troop 11, organized in 1956, was the first of several scouting units now forming a complete scouting program for boys and girls sponsored by Saint Luke.

The Rev. George Megill became pastor of Saint Luke in July, 1959. During his ministry plans were made for a sanctuary and new educational unit. The Saint Luke Laymen's Retreat, now an annual event, was first held in July, 1960.

Miss Nora Jean Kinsey began work as first educational assistant in September, 1959.

All indebtedness on current church property was paid by the end of January, 1961.

Rev. and Mrs. Megill were accepted as missionaries for the Methodist Church for work in Brazil and left for training in January, 1961. They later returned to Saint Luke in June for an impressive Consecration Service by Bishop C. B. Dawsey.

Rev. James H. Miller, Jr., became pastor of Saint Luke Church on January 17, 1961.

## History of Saint Luke Methodist Church, Goldsboro (con't.)

The educational unit of the church and the parsonage were dedicated on February 19, 1961, and ground was broken for the construction of a sanctuary and additional educational unit on the following Sunday, February 26. The educational unit was occupied in September and the sanctuary on Christmas Eve, 1961.

Bishop Paul N. Garber, Rev. M. W. Lawrence, and two former pastors of Saint Luke (Rev. W. D. Caviness and Rev. Ralph Lewis), were present and participated in the formal opening of the new sanctuary on February 11, 1962.

Miss Margaret Anne Biddle became educational assistant on July 1, 1962, and continued in this position for two years.

Rev. F. Owen Fitzgerald, Jr., became pastor of Saint Luke on June 17, 1965.

Miss Sandra Tate, now Mrs. Kent VanBelois, became educational assistant on July 1, 1965.

Two young men of the church has responded to the call to the ministry and are now serving churches in the North Carolina Conference: Rev. Ted Wilson, now serving at Warrenton, N. C., and Rev. Harley Owens, now serving Hornes\*Mount Zion churches in the Rocky Mount District.

During the past fifteen years, 1353 persons have united with Saint Luke Church. Church membership now stands at 835. Church School enrollment is now 696. Church property is valued at approximately \$230,000.