

HISTORY OF THE STEELE
STREET METHODIST CHURCH

75th Anniversary

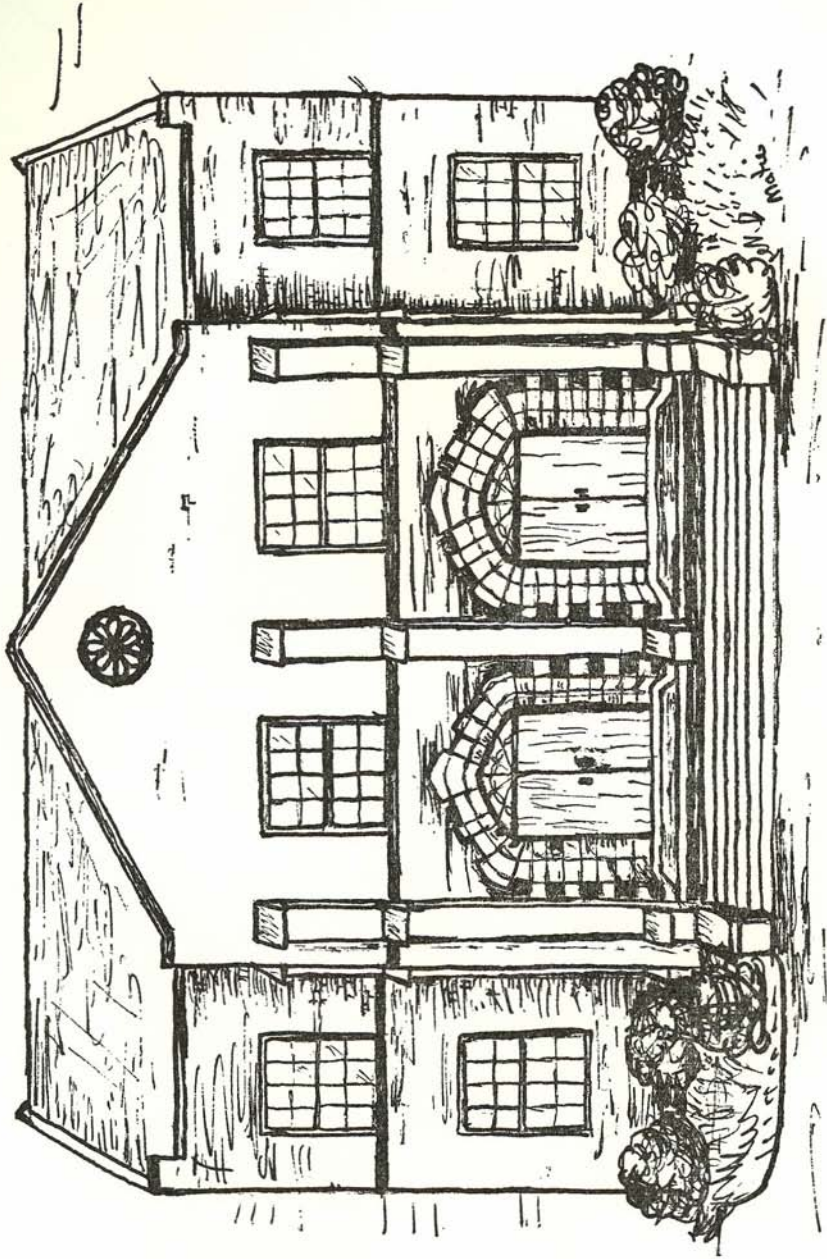
By

MATIE HUMPHRIES

SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

1962

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75th ANNIVERSARY



EDUCATION BUILDING—1941

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STREET METHODIST CHURCH
1887-1962

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MATIE HUMPHRIES

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PRINTED BY THE SEEMAN PRINTERY, DURHAM, N. C.

Ministers—Steele Street Methodist Church

<i>Name</i>	<i>Year Appointed</i>	<i>Year Moved</i>
W. O. Hightower	1885	1887
W. B. Doub	1888	1889
J. W. North	1889	1890
J. E. Thompson	1890	1893
L. G. Holden	1893	1896
D. L. Earnhardt	1896	1900
W. F. Craven	1900	1902
S. T. Moyle	1902	1904
James E. Frizzelle	1904	1906
R. W. Bailey	1906	1909
W. H. Puckette	1909	1910
K. D. Holmes	1910	1913
H. E. Spence	1913	1916
W. R. Royall	1916	1921
L. B. Jones	1921	1924
G. T. Adams	1924	1929
S. A. Cotton	1929	1931
A. J. Groves	1931	(two months)
L. D. Hayman	1931	1933
L. C. Larkin	1933	1934
C. B. Culberth	1934	1938
A. P. Brantley	1938	1943
H. L. Hendricks	1943	1947
R. G. Dawson	1947	1950
A. S. Parker	1950	1954
W. Stanley Potter	1954	

Reginald Ponder - Ed Gunter
 Harold Leatherman
 - Jan Fogleman
 - Wayne Taylor
 - Barry Lane

Acknowledgments

Mrs. D. C. Lawrence, Woman's Society of Christian Service,
history and other information

Mrs. Gladys Snipes, material previously collected toward a
church history

Mrs. Hattie Ross St. Clair, old copies of The Sanford Express

Mrs. L. P. Cox, history of the Jonesboro Heights Church

Duke Divinity School Library, books and records

ILLUSTRATIONS

Mrs. D. C. Lawrence, Jr.

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Foreword

The thought of writing a history of the Steele Street Methodist Church struck me as a formidable ordeal. When Doctor Potter first talked with me about it, I, knowing my limitations, declined but did agree to correlate the data and arrange it in sequence, a job which would save the ultimate writer a vast amount of time.

As time went by, very little material came in from members of the church of fifty years ago. No one apparently was interested in writing the history and less than twenty were interested in giving the facts they knew or activities in which they had participated.

Facts about Methodists in this vicinity, records of a visit by Bishop Asbury, who established the first church or when, are not available. One thing is certain; someone did. As time elapses, memories blur and many facts now known may be forgotten forever. It thus became desirable to gather information by word-of-mouth accounts and church records and write it down for distribution among many people so that the history of The Steele Street Methodist Church will never become totally lost to posterity.

Names mentioned are not for the purpose of glorifying anyone. Nevertheless, they are the people to be recognized for their leadership, gifts, prayers and sacrifices. They, and other faithful members, by the grace of God and their love for Him, gave to their children and their children's children The Steele Street Methodist Church. Many of their descendants walk among us today.

God came first seeking man, man responded heart and hand.
Circuit riders, saddle bags, Bibles, hymnals, ills and plagues
Brought man closer to the Lord.

Hilly trails, swamps and sands, rain and sleet, one night stands,
Hewn-out bench and brush top arbor served to seal the Christian ardor

Of those who preached and lived the Word.

MATIE HUMPHRIES

HISTORY OF
THE STEELE STREET METHODIST CHURCH
75TH ANNIVERSARY

Early Methodism

John Wesley did not start out to establish a church. He wanted only to help people find for themselves what he had found, a new meaning and depth in personal relationship with Christ. He taught and talked to anyone who would listen the meaning of a "warm heart," methodical study of the Bible, an orderly prayer life and a disciplined desire for holiness. The people who followed Wesley came to be known as Methodists because of their orderly lives. The name was later formally accepted as a title. In England his followers were called Wesleyan Methodists, but Wesley remained a member of the Church of England throughout his life.

The coming of Methodism to America dates back to 1737. Members of the Methodist Societies emigrated from England and Ireland for the next thirty years and settled in various parts of this country. They were small in number, widely scattered, disorganized and divergent in doctrine. They were as sheep having neither fold nor shepherd.

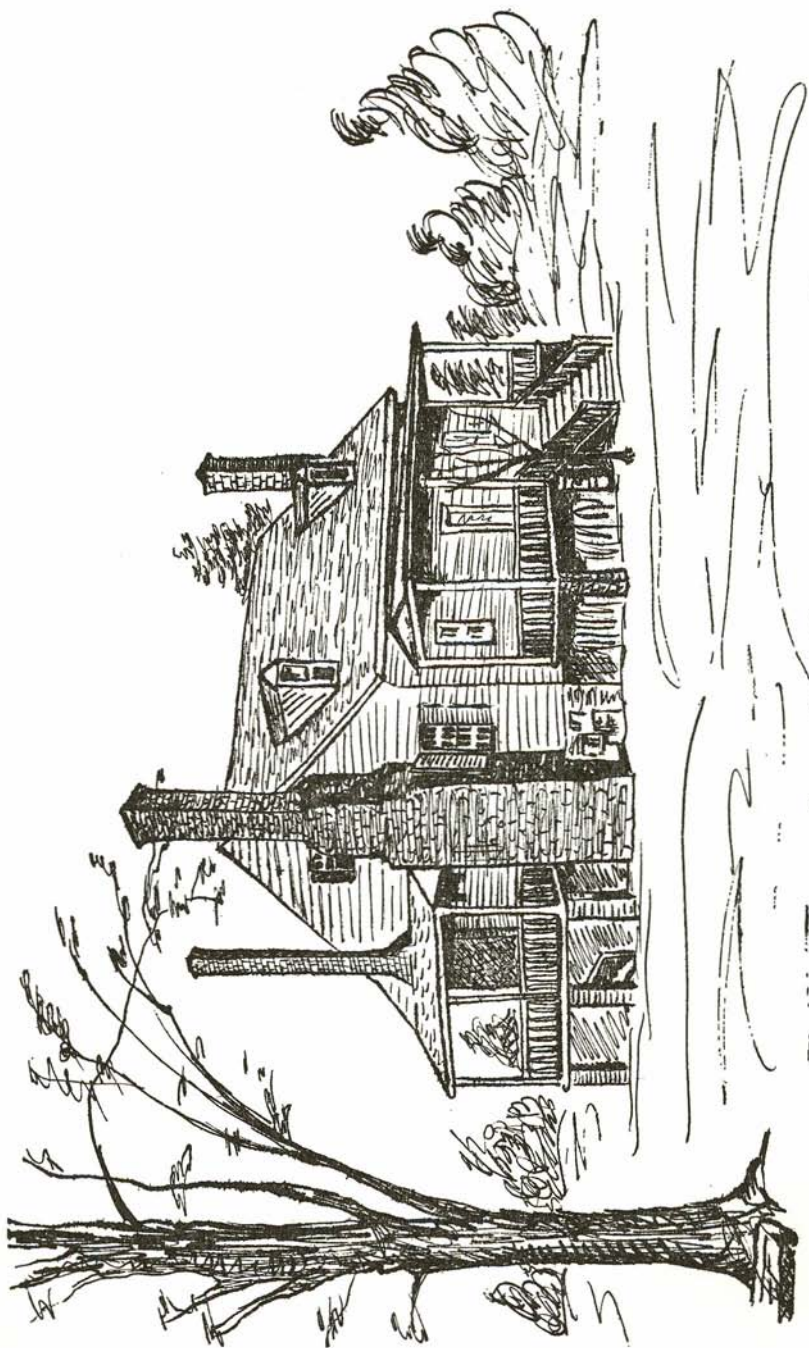
Francis Asbury came to America as a missionary in 1761 and traveled some six thousand miles a year on horseback, holding meetings along the way. He, the first circuit rider, was the forerunner of a system later adopted by many preachers. He began to establish new societies and bring unity among the other groups. In 1784, John Wesley appointed Asbury and Thomas Coke to superintend the Methodist Societies in the United States. As a result of his passion for the souls of men, Asbury saw in his lifetime the growth of Methodism from a few loyal souls to two hundred thousand.

The official Methodist Episcopal Church of America, independent of England, had its birth at the famous Christmas Con-

ference of 1784 in Baltimore. Eighty-three ministers from New York to Carolina attended.

The early circuit riders suffered hardships, persecution and the bitterness of prejudice, but somewhere deep within their makeup they developed a zealous faith which empowered them to carry on, and today the Methodist Church is one of the largest Protestant bodies in the country.

A rule forbidding unordained ministers from administering the ordinances of Baptism and Holy Communion hampered the growth of the early church. Churches depended on ministers from other denominations to administer these ordinances, but in communities where there were no ordained ministers, the Methodists were denied these privileges. The 1784 Conference rectified the situation by ordaining elders to administer the sacraments. Early regulations also kept many people away from the Methodist Churches. Richness and gaudy clothing, jewelry, big bonnets, drunkenness or dealing in liquors, questionable behavior and marriage to an "unawakened" person were not wanted in the church. Ministers could not accept fees for weddings or funerals. On the other hand, the resentment toward anything English in the late 1770's created a following. Many people left the Church of England and cast their lot with the Methodists. Some of the ministers of the Church of England abandoned their stations and that church began its decline in this country.



GREEN HILL'S HOUSE

North Carolina Methodists

In North Carolina the Methodists came later than the Baptists and Presbyterians. The first Methodists located in the north coastal regions, but as early as 1750 a few had filtered inland through the swamps and along the rivers. Robert Strawbridge, in 1772, was the first Methodist preacher to penetrate the wilds of North Carolina. People spoke of these early groups as "ignorant, censorious and uncharitable." Nine hundred and thirty members in and around the environs of Beaufort made up the only known societies in 1776. Almost overnight preachers went inland from the Carolina Circuit in Beaufort, south from Virginia, across the mountains from the west side to meet in the central section of the state. By 1783 eleven circuits reached completely across the upper two thirds of North Carolina.

In 1785 the first Annual Conference met at the home of Green Hill, located one mile south of Louisburg. Twenty ministers from Virginia, North and South Carolina ate, slept and conducted the conference business in Mr. Hill's home. The house is still standing and in a good state of repair. It is interesting to note that Green Hill married into the family of Mrs. D. C. Lawrence's great grandmother, and that another Green Hill descendant, M. Stuart Davis, a church architect, married Miss May Holmes (Mrs. Cade's sister) while Dr. Spence was in Sanford.

At the three other conferences held in the historical old house in the early 1790's the question of slavery crept into the conference discussions, but caused no great dissension. Within a few years the need for a general conference prompted the organization of one in 1792 at Baltimore, Maryland.

The year 1793 brought the church a little closer to this section with the formation of Haw River Circuit from the New Hope and Tar River Circuits. The itinerant preachers traveled far and wide to cover their circuits which, at that time, had no clearly defined boundary lines. Churches were few and far between, and Presbyterians would often lend their meeting places to the

Methodists when their preacher came into the community. People who had the room gladly opened their homes to entertain the preacher or as a meeting place for worship. A century elapsed before parsonages were built and ministers could enjoy a satisfactory home life. In 1800 one Presiding Elder had charge of all the churches from Asheville to Hatteras.

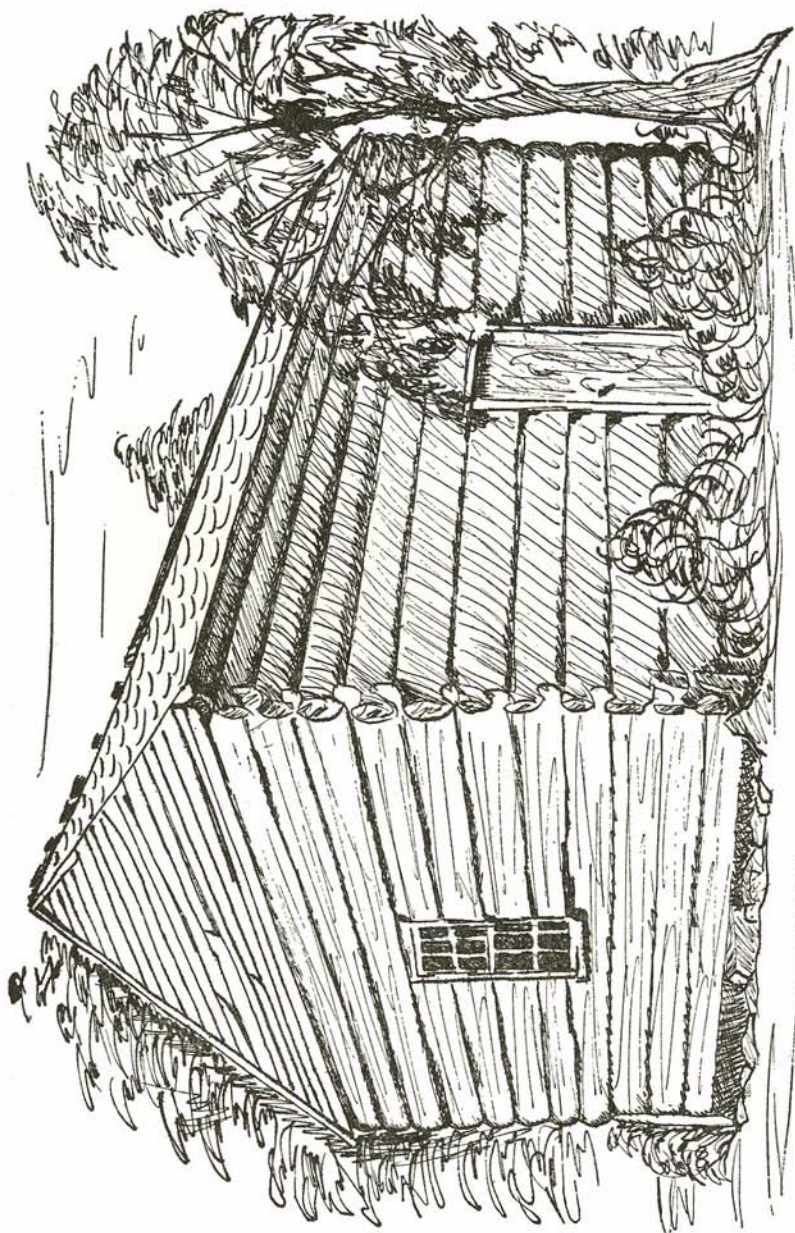
Disagreement over the method of ministerial appointments resulted in the organization in 1792 of the Christian Church. Another splinter, the Free Methodists, demanded the strict policies and simple living of earlier days. The Methodist Protestant Church became another division demanding more authority for the laymen in church councils. The biggest break of all developed in 1846 when the North and South churches separated over the question of slavery. The African Methodist Episcopal Church, organized after the Civil War for Negro members, remained as planned. The early Methodist preachers were admonished in the Discipline to care for the spiritual needs of their colored brethren as well as the white. In 1805 Methodist membership numbered 9,727 whites and 2,163 colored.

From the "History of Methodism in North Carolina" W. L. Grissom writes:

"Great movements had their origin in North Carolina. The first subscriptions to a Methodist School in America were made by North Carolinians, the first Conference School (Cokesbury) was erected here, the first Methodist periodicals published in America were launched in North Carolina, the first Discipline in its present form was prepared by a circuit preacher in the conference; the camp meetings which gave Methodism such impetus in early days, had their origin in North Carolina."

Louisburg College, the oldest junior college in the United States, was chartered as the Franklin Academy in 1787. North Carolina Methodists have operated the college since 1866 when the Greensboro Female College was moved to Louisburg as the Louisburg Female College. The college will celebrate its one hundred seventy-fifth anniversary with a special week-end observance January 4-7, 1962.

North Carolina Methodists from their beginning have proven their interest in education and expansion.



ROCKY RIVER CHURCH—ERECTED 1791 IN CHATHAM COUNTY

Closer Home

The earliest known Methodist Church in the immediate vicinity is Poplar Springs, located two miles east of Sanford. The best available date of its founding is 1836, but indications point to an earlier date. Preachers came down from the New Hope Circuit as early as 1790 and planted Methodism along the upper Cape Fear. Known congregations existed in 1800 in Chatham and Moore Counties, parts of which make up Lee County, and one of the congregations could easily be Poplar Springs. The first meetings were held under brush arbors, but it was not long before the group was organized well enough to build a log structure containing a gallery back of the pulpit for slaves. The deed to the present church property is dated 1850 and the first marked grave is dated 1856. Poplar Springs, known as the "Mother Church" in this section fostered Memphis, Jonesboro, Concord (near Broadway), Morris Chapel, and Midway (Lemon Springs). In 1866 Center and Carthage boasted strong Methodist congregations.

The Jonesboro Heights Church has no record of its organization. North Carolina Conference records show it as a circuit in 1867 with the Reverend Gaston Farror, minister. Four hundred members from Jonesboro, Poplar Springs, Memphis, Morris Chapel and Midway made up the Jonesboro charge.

A small, non-denominational day school, established in 1872 and known as the Jonesboro Academy, served as a place of worship for the Methodists. The trustees of the Jonesboro Charge bought the academy and operated it as a Methodist school from 1876 until 1903, and the minister often doubled as school principal.

The North Carolina Christian Advocate, official organ of the Conference was established in 1885. It served to keep members informed about the church over the state and in comparison to membership was more widely read then than it is today.

The Annual Conference in Charlotte, November, 1885, assigned the Reverend W. O. Hightower to the Jonesboro Charge. During the second year of his pastorate, discussions led to a definite decision to organize a church in Sanford.

The Steele Street Church

The church is the Body of Christ, made up of believers who in turn reach out to generate more believers. The story of any church is likewise the story of a community and its people, who, through the ages, have shared a common desire to worship God together. Seventy-five years ago Sanford, an incorporated (1874) town of 200 people, had no place to worship within its bounds and keenly felt this need.

On January 29, 1887, a group met with the Reverend W. O. Hightower to form a church in Sanford. The church organized immediately with charter members: Burgess Cole, Flora J. Burke, A. W. Jarrell, F. R. Jarrell, M. M. Kelly, O. M. Kelly, J. M. Stephens, M. M. Stephens, S. E. Moffitt, E. G. Moffitt, M. M. Moffitt, F. M. and S. C. Sinclair; Emma A. Brown, J. E. Caviness, Helen M. Clark, David Cole, C. E. Gregson, J. B. and Kate L. Makepeace and T. R. Moffitt united during the year. Burgess Cole served as treasurer and the church paid \$70.00 toward the pastor's salary of \$800.00. J. M. Stephens was chairman of the stewards. Sanford became another church on the Jonesboro Charge.

The first place of worship, an old frame building, rested on the west corner of Steele and Carthage Streets. The Sanford people worshiped together until a few years later when the Presbyterians and then the Baptists organized congregations of their own. Early in 1888, Major J. W. and Kate L. Scott (grandparents of Mrs. D. M. Gurley) gave the land where the present church sanctuary is built. The deed, dated March 28, 1888, lists the Board of Trustees as John B. Makepeace, J. M. Stephens, M. M. Moffitt, Oscar M. Kelly and D. F. Thomas.

The Reverend W. B. Doub served the Jonesboro Charge in 1888 and 1889. A consecrated and conscientious preacher, he filled his sermons with instruction for the Christian life. He enjoyed good years at Sanford and helped the congregation build and occupy the new church.

The church, a large one-room white wooden building, had a vestibule, bell tower and steeple. Many people remember with nostalgia the clear ringing of its bell for all services. If one should listen today on Sunday morning, the same bell might be heard from the A. M. E. Zion Church on Wall Street.

The building of the church developed into a community project as people from all over town contributed part of their time, material, money and interest. Its simple appointments, kerosene lamps, wood-burning heaters, the one center aisle and straight pews served well the needs of the congregation. Late in the summer of 1888 the Dedication Service was conducted by Bishop Duncan.

The early members worked diligently, each feeling that he had a place to fill. Sixty-eight more members had been added by 1892 with the familiar names of Brewer, Craven, Straughan, Thompson, Way, Williamson, Vick, the George H. Makepeaces, Jones, Sloan, Kimball, Thomas, Scott, Buchanan, Robbins, Hunter, Riley, Bass, Hunt Parsons, Hicks and Wicker. Mr. T. R. Moffitt began teaching in the Sunday School when the church was first organized and taught O. P. Makepeace when he was seven years old. Mr. Moffitt's service is memorialized today by the name T. R. Moffitt Men's Bible Class. Mrs. Moffitt taught the Ladies Class for thirty-six years and their daughter, Retha, who grew up in the shadow of the church, followed in their footsteps as a teacher or worker for fifty years. Mrs. W. T. (Belle) Buchanan organized a Ladies Aid Society, served as president, and also as first church organist and later as a teacher. The Ladies Aid Society bought an organ and a carpet for the church. Mr. W. D. Hunter (Dr. E. W.'s father) was the first choir director.

The first wedding in the church united Miss Kate Scott and Duncan E. McIver in 1892. Revivals, conversions, baptisms, weddings and funerals in the church became an integral part of the community life. Mrs. C. R. Preddy, the former Alice Makepeace, aptly summed it up when she spoke of the church of that day: "The church is a dear and sacred place to me. I was baptized there as a child, converted when I was nine years old and joined the church. I was married there in 1899. All of my children were baptized there and my mother's and father's funerals

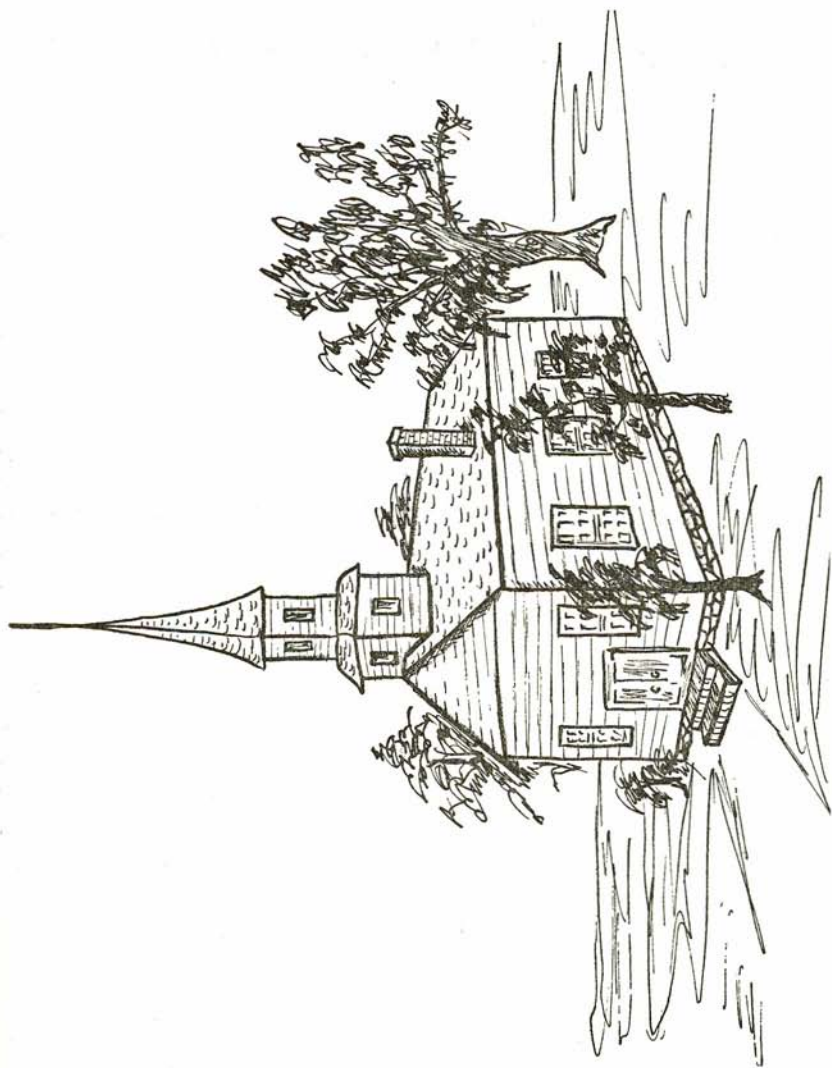
als were preached there." Mrs. Preddy, who lives with her husband in Durham, is the oldest and only surviving member of that early era.

People walked to church, braving the deep, red clay of Sanford, but if by chance anyone rode, horses were tied to the hitching post back of the church. Chickens, cows, pigs and sometimes goats lived in many back lots in town and occasionally strayed into the streets and on to the railroad tracks. Conveniences now common in churches were unknown at that time. Mrs. Helen Clark Fitts, who lived next door to the church, graciously shared the accommodations of her home if the need arose.

Accounts of impressive events from the memories of the older members tell of the huge, candle-lighted holly trees in the church at Christmas time, of the programs and simple treats for the children. Remembered are the ice cream suppers held back of the building, the Japanese lanterns strung from tree branches for light and effect, and the hot oyster suppers held in the winter. The Easter egg hunts provided further amusement for the children. Mr. W. R. Makepeace said his earliest recollection of the church was the spanking his mother gave him as a little four year old boy because he cried when he couldn't find any eggs. On the serious side, the weekly prayer meetings, vigorous preaching, splendid revivals with packed houses, converts and re-consecrated members at the "mourners' bench" kept the church spiritually alive.

The ten years from 1890-1900 witnessed a steady growth in interest, attendance and membership. The Reverends J. W. North, J. E. Thompson, L. G. Holden and D. L. Earnhardt served the church. Each man left the effects of his individual personality on the congregation. During the pastorate of Mr. Earnhardt (1896-1900) the envelope system of giving was introduced and adopted. Sanford entertained the Fayetteville District Conference in July of 1897. The pastor's report to the Conference read as follows: "The type of piety on the Circuit is very good. There is less worldliness in the form of whiskey drinking and dancing than I have seen on the other charges. The young people are too much inclined to absent themselves from the communion table. There is the largest number of men to pray in public that I have seen anywhere." Too long prayers of some of the laymen often

distressed the small children, especially if the orisons became loud and repetitious. Sometimes men were embarrassed when called on to pray. One such instance happened to Mr. T. R. Moffitt when he had a mouth full of caramel candy and his upper and lower plates firmly stuck together. It finally became apparent to the minister that his elder could not speak, so he himself prayed.



STEELE STREET CHURCH ABOUT 1900

A New Century—New Hope

The Reverend W. F. Craven received the first appointment (1901-2) to Sanford as a charge separate from Jonesboro. The Osgood Church, founded about 1880, and the Lemon Springs Church made up the circuit. Mr. Craven possessed the uncommon combination of a sense of humor and a solemn, steadfast faith which quickly invested itself into the lives of his people. He invoked the stewards to take the lead in giving to the church, thereby setting a good example for others. In 1902, the church bought some land and constructed a house for the Methodist parsonage. This structure, now occupied by Mrs. M. E. Blalock, stands next door to the entrance of the First Baptist Church. Interested ladies organized the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in 1900. A separate history of the missionary work as written by Mrs. D. C. Lawrence appears later. The Ladies Aid Society continued for many years. The young people organized an Epworth League with F. Y. Hanner, first president, and Mrs. E. P. (Daisy) Wicker as secretary. The Missionary Society directed a Bright Jewel Band for mission study among the children.

The years 1903-1906 brought the Reverend S. T. Moyle and the Reverend James H. Frizzelle to Sanford. Mr. Frizzelle loved good books, good music and young people. He inspired young ministers in their search for understanding and Biblical truth when he later traveled the district as a Presiding Elder. A district parsonage, built in 1902, by the churches of the Fayetteville District provided a home for the Presiding Elder and his family.

A local paper, "The Sanford Express," started publication in 1886. The St. Clairs, who edited the news, gave excellent coverage to all church affairs and available copies have many of them in detail.

Industries came increasingly into the town, booming population from 500 to 4,000 in a relatively short time. Early in the new century, local companies advertising in *The Sanford Express* were The Sanford Manufacturing Company (furniture), Sanford Cotton Mills, Moffitt Iron Works and Foundry, Fitts-Crabtree Company, Sanford Sash and Blind Company, Carrington-Gonella Quarry and Stone Works, C. H. Smith Planing Mill Plant, T. E. King Roofing and Metal Company, Moore County Lumber Company, Carter Furniture and Coffin Company, Sanford Grocery Company (wholesale), Wilkins Ricks Company, Sanford Supply Company, McPhail Greenhouses and many clothing stores. Others included W. F. Cheers Jewelry Store, two banks, two drug stores, a monument company, a commercial photographer, hotels, real estate dealers, cotton buyers, livery stable and blacksmith shop. Services available gave Sanford plenty of doctors, dentists, a hospital, electric power, telephone service, a water plant, four railroads, a National Guard unit and seven fraternal orders. The city government had a mayor and seven aldermen, five of whom belonged to the Steele Street Church.

Membership surged upward and many of the people who came in proved to be invaluable assets to the church for the next forty or fifty years. Some well-remembered names are D. C. Lawrence who served as a steward or trustee for thirty-seven years, Mrs. Lawrence, who labored in the Sunday School and Missionary Society for more than fifty years, Miss Judith Ross, first woman to be elected to the Board of Stewards and her sister, Mrs. Hattie St. Clair, organizer of the first Young Women's Missionary Society, Mrs. L. P. Wilkins, Missionary Society president, J. C. Gregson, teacher for twenty years, O. P. Makepeace, Board member, trustee and chairman of the Board over a period of many years, W. L. Seawell, church treasurer for twenty years and Mrs. Seawell, teacher for twenty-five years, W. R. Williams, teacher and benefactor, Fisher Makepeace, Board and Finance Chairman, Mr. and Mrs. F. Y. Hanner, workers in many capacities, Dr. F. W. McCracken, Mrs. Beulah Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hill, Miss Effie Crabtree, Mrs. W. H. Walker, Mr. K. R. Hoyle, Mrs. Bertha Clark, Miss Flossie Brown, Mrs. E. V. Neal and Mr. S. P. Hatch.

In the year of 1908, during the Reverend R. W. Bailey's ministry, the church received twenty-five members who later became

leaders. The reputation of the Sanford church grew, and it came to be recognized as a promising and desirable appointment. The Men's Bible Class rose to new heights of power, and through the years since has maintained its status. The Reverend W. H. Puckette (1909-10) reported all obligations met but no outstanding material gains.

The Reverend K. D. Holmes (father of Mrs. W. M. Cade) served the church from December, 1910, until his death. His funeral was conducted at the parsonage by the Reverends R. B. Jones, B. C. Beaman and Dr. A. D. Betts on April 25, 1913. The Sunday School made excellent progress under the guidance of Mr. Holmes. The fact that he had four lovely and talented daughters may have helped. An outstanding revival in 1911 filled every pew in the church for each service and resulted in a spiritual as well as membership increase.

Automobiles made their first appearance in Sanford about 1910. Mr. T. M. Cross owned the first one in the Steele Street Church, but S. P. Hatch and F. Y. Hanner soon followed suit.

After the death of Mr. Holmes, the church fell heir to a sprightly young man by the name of Hersey E. Spence. Dr. Spence, a professor of English at Trinity College, proved to be an interesting and personable preacher. He commuted from Durham for services until his school term ended. He then moved to Sanford and roomed at the parsonage where Mrs. Holmes and her daughters lived. Mrs. Holmes moved into a home of her own, and when Dr. Spence married in October of 1913, he and his bride had the big parsonage to themselves. Their stay in Sanford could not have been dull; too much happened from the circumstances of the Bishop's appointment, until the day he left, saying, "I'll always think of Sanford as somewhat of a home." Those years also represent for the church some of its most momentous ones.

On a conference level, the merger of the Home and Foreign Missionary Societies in 1914 created a great amount of objection. At the annual meeting of the North Carolina Woman's Missionary Society in Rocky Mount a firm stand against several money making projects was expressed in a resolution and signed by every council member. Condemned by the group were rummage sales,

Finance: James A. Cobb, chairman; Fletcher Rosser, K. R. Gallup, A. E. White, W. J. Brinn, W. J. Womble, E. L. Morgan, C. B. Foushee, A. G. Martin, W. H. Ray, W. H. White, J. E. Davis, W. R. Makepeace, Jr., M. W. Harriss, Jr. and R. J. Benson.

Missions and Church Extension—Church Extension: W. E. Horner, chairman; A. M. Hubbard, vice-chairman; W. L. Simmons, Dr. W. R. Hartness, Jr., Roy Dixon, W. J. Brinn, D. J. Sprott, Bryant Johnson, E. C. Wallace, Joe D. Koury, Mrs. M. W. Harriss, Jr., E. A. Hubbard, Perry White. Missions: Mrs. Moses Snipes, chairman; Mrs. G. C. McDaniel, Mrs. Tommie B. Godfrey, Mrs. Charles D. Goodwin, Mrs. Wesley F. Hart, Mrs. E. W. Hunter, Mrs. N. V. Keith, Mrs. Harry R. Marsales, Mrs. Frank Perry, Mrs. John W. Little, Mrs. E. E. Ballinger, Perry White, Mrs. Henrietta (Pat) Nixon, Fletcher Rosser, and E. A. Hubbard.

Christian Social Concerns: Robert B. Whitley, chairman; Mrs. Ralph C. Womble, Mrs. Ray Wood, Mrs. Jimmie Wicker, Mrs. Jack Thornton, Mrs. Roy Sowers, Harry Snead, Stephen D. Seymore, Jr., E. A. Hubbard, W. G. Womack, Dr. Paul Howard, Mrs. Tommie B. Godfrey, Roy Dixon, Mrs. Jack Sloan, Fletcher Rosser, Mrs. R. J. Benson.

Worship—The Church Guild: Mrs. R. J. Benson, chairman; The Flowers: Mrs. J. G. Formy-Duval, chairman; Interior Decorations: Mrs. Phillip E. Dusenbury, Mrs. Hayden Lutterloh, Jr., Mrs. Eugene Johnson, Mrs. C. M. Oldham.

Committees

Assimilation of New Members: Mrs. W. F. Parrish, chairman; Mrs. George Duke, Mrs. Jimmy Makepeace, Mrs. R. N. Hanner, Mrs. Peyton Williamson, Miss Rinda Taylor, Mrs. E. T. Bynum, Mrs. J. T. O'Neal, Mrs. Broadus Foushee, Mrs. Clyde Burns and Mrs. Jack Kenton.

Christian Literature: Mrs. George Brotherton, chairman; Mrs. Jack Marshall, Mrs. J. W. Bralley, Mrs. H. V. Fenstamacher, Mrs. E. A. Hubbard, Mrs. Perry White, Mrs. W. L. Woltz, Mrs. Ray Wood, Miss Ruth Cotton, Mrs. P. K. Buchanan, Mrs. S. D. Seymore, Jr., and Mrs. Harry Snead.

Dramatics and Pageantry: Sam Bass, chairman; Mrs. Granville

M. King, Mrs. W. H. Hinson, Pete Mace, Sam Ellis, Dr. Howard and Mrs. Sam Ellis.

Live Nativity Scene: W. G. Womack, chairman.

Executive Committee: E. A. Hubbard, chairman; J. E. Davis, J. A. Cobb, L. D. Isenhour, W. H. White, E. L. Morgan, Fletcher Rosser, Mrs. M. W. Harriss, Jr., Mrs. Pat Nixon.

Nominations: W. Stanley Potter, A. G. Martin and J. E. Davis.

Hospital and Homes: Miss Carrie Phillips, chairman; Mrs. D. C. Lawrence, Jr., Mrs. Harry Snead, Mrs. O. P. Makepeace and Mrs. H. A. Matthews.

Library: Mrs. A. C. Hood, chairman; W. J. Brinn, Mrs. J. W. Goldston, Fletcher Rosser, Miss Pete Hill, and Mrs. R. L. Miller.
Librarian: Miss Mary Scott Gurley.

Music: Mrs. D. L. McRae, chairman; Miss Pete Hill and Mrs. A. B. Williams, Jr.

Parsonage: Mrs. Lynn Perry, chairman; Mrs. C. Broadus Foushee and Mrs. W. J. Womble. Outside: L. A. McIver, chairman; Jimmy Makepeace and W. L. Jewell, Jr.

Pastoral Relations: A. M. Hubbard, chairman; Dr. P. E. Cotter and A. E. White.

Personnel: J. E. Davis, chairman; E. A. Hubbard and Mrs. R. J. Benson.

Property: Jimmy Makepeace, chairman; Dr. P. E. Cotter, Neill Hanner, and Neill Cole.

Pulpit: W. H. (Sam) Davis, Jr., chairman; J. W. Hoyle, J. Allen Harrington.

Records, History, Historians: Mrs. F. M. Humphries, chairman; Mrs. D. C. Lawrence, Mrs. Neill Hanner, Mr. P. J. Barringer, Mrs. W. L. Simmons, Mrs. A. M. Hubbard, Mr. W. R. Makepeace.

Social Service: F. M. Humphries, chairman; Mrs. Joe Mason, Jr., Mrs. Jack Kenton, L. A. McIver and R. L. Miller.

Stewardship: Mrs. R. L. Miller, chairman; Mrs. J. L. Stewart, Miss Pete Hill, Mrs. W. R. Hartness, Jr., Mrs. C. M. Reeves, Jr., Mrs. N. V. Keith, Miss Una Gregson, Mrs. Jack Sloan, and Mrs. Claude Eury, Jr.

Finance: James A. Cobb, chairman; Fletcher Rosser, K. R. Gallup, A. E. White, W. J. Brinn, W. J. Womble, E. L. Morgan, C. B. Foushee, A. G. Martin, W. H. Ray, W. H. White, J. E. Davis, W. R. Makepeace, Jr., M. W. Harriss, Jr. and R. J. Benson.

Missions and Church Extension—Church Extension: W. E. Horner, chairman; A. M. Hubbard, vice-chairman; W. L. Simmons, Dr. W. R. Hartness, Jr., Roy Dixon, W. J. Brinn, D. J. Sprott, Bryant Johnson, E. C. Wallace, Joe D. Koury, Mrs. M. W. Harriss, Jr., E. A. Hubbard, Perry White. Missions: Mrs. Moses Snipes, chairman; Mrs. G. C. McDaniel, Mrs. Tommie B. Godfrey, Mrs. Charles D. Goodwin, Mrs. Wesley F. Hart, Mrs. E. W. Hunter, Mrs. N. V. Keith, Mrs. Harry R. Marsales, Mrs. Frank Perry, Mrs. John W. Little, Mrs. E. E. Ballinger, Perry White, Mrs. Henrietta (Pat) Nixon, Fletcher Rosser, and E. A. Hubbard.

Christian Social Concerns: Robert B. Whitley, chairman; Mrs. Ralph C. Womble, Mrs. Ray Wood, Mrs. Jimmie Wicker, Mrs. Jack Thornton, Mrs. Roy Sowers, Harry Snead, Stephen D. Seymore, Jr., E. A. Hubbard, W. G. Womack, Dr. Paul Howard, Mrs. Tommie B. Godfrey, Roy Dixon, Mrs. Jack Sloan, Fletcher Rosser, Mrs. R. J. Benson.

Worship—The Church Guild: Mrs. R. J. Benson, chairman; The Flowers: Mrs. J. G. Formy-Duval, chairman; Interior Decorations: Mrs. Phillip E. Dusenbury, Mrs. Hayden Lutterloh, Jr., Mrs. Eugene Johnson, Mrs. C. M. Oldham.

Committees

Assimilation of New Members: Mrs. W. F. Parrish, chairman; Mrs. George Duke, Mrs. Jimmy Makepeace, Mrs. R. N. Hanner, Mrs. Peyton Williamson, Miss Rinda Taylor, Mrs. E. T. Bynum, Mrs. J. T. O'Neal, Mrs. Broadus Foushee, Mrs. Clyde Burns and Mrs. Jack Kenton.

Christian Literature: Mrs. George Brotherton, chairman; Mrs. Jack Marshall, Mrs. J. W. Bralley, Mrs. H. V. Fenstamacher, Mrs. E. A. Hubbard, Mrs. Perry White, Mrs. W. L. Woltz, Mrs. Ray Wood, Miss Ruth Cotton, Mrs. P. K. Buchanan, Mrs. S. D. Seymore, Jr., and Mrs. Harry Snead.

Dramatics and Pageantry: Sam Bass, chairman; Mrs. Granville

M. King, Mrs. W. H. Hinson, Pete Mace, Sam Ellis, Dr. Howard and Mrs. Sam Ellis.

Live Nativity Scene: W. G. Womack, chairman.

Executive Committee: E. A. Hubbard, chairman; J. E. Davis, J. A. Cobb, L. D. Isenhour, W. H. White, E. L. Morgan, Fletcher Rosser, Mrs. M. W. Harriss, Jr., Mrs. Pat Nixon.

Nominations: W. Stanley Potter, A. G. Martin and J. E. Davis.

Hospital and Homes: Miss Carrie Phillips, chairman; Mrs. D. C. Lawrence, Jr., Mrs. Harry Snead, Mrs. O. P. Makepeace and Mrs. H. A. Matthews.

Library: Mrs. A. C. Hood, chairman; W. J. Brinn, Mrs. J. W. Goldston, Fletcher Rosser, Miss Pete Hill, and Mrs. R. L. Miller. Librarian: Miss Mary Scott Gurley.

Music: Mrs. D. L. McRae, chairman; Miss Pete Hill and Mrs. A. B. Williams, Jr.

Parsonage: Mrs. Lynn Perry, chairman; Mrs. C. Broadus Foushee and Mrs. W. J. Womble. Outside: L. A. McIver, chairman; Jimmy Makepeace and W. L. Jewell, Jr.

Pastoral Relations: A. M. Hubbard, chairman; Dr. P. E. Cotter and A. E. White.

Personnel: J. E. Davis, chairman; E. A. Hubbard and Mrs. R. J. Benson.

Property: Jimmy Makepeace, chairman; Dr. P. E. Cotter, Neill Hanner, and Neill Cole.

Pulpit: W. H. (Sam) Davis, Jr., chairman; J. W. Hoyle, J. Allen Harrington.

Records, History, Historians: Mrs. F. M. Humphries, chairman; Mrs. D. C. Lawrence, Mrs. Neill Hanner, Mr. P. J. Barringer, Mrs. W. L. Simmons, Mrs. A. M. Hubbard, Mr. W. R. Makepeace.

Social Service: F. M. Humphries, chairman; Mrs. Joe Mason, Jr., Mrs. Jack Kenton, L. A. McIver and R. L. Miller.

Stewardship: Mrs. R. L. Miller, chairman; Mrs. J. L. Stewart, Miss Pete Hill, Mrs. W. R. Hartness, Jr., Mrs. C. M. Reeves, Jr., Mrs. N. V. Keith, Miss Una Gregson, Mrs. Jack Sloan, and Mrs. Claude Eury, Jr.

silver teas, festivals, suppers, bazaars, plays and similar devices as a means for filling the Lord's treasury. The acceptable way was to be tithing and sacrificial giving. This came as quite a blow to the women throughout the conference who had depended on their talents in the kitchen and skill with a needle as a means of paying dues and money for other projects.

The 50th Session of the Fayetteville District Conference held at Parkton, May 12-14, made a resolution and sent it by telegram to the President of the United States.

It read:

May 15, 1915

His Excellency, President Woodrow Wilson, Washington, D. C.

In this great crisis that confronts our nation, we, the Fayetteville District Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, wish to express our utmost confidence in you and to assure you that our prayers are with you that you may safely lead our nation through the perils that confront it.

J. T. Gibbs, P. E.

Fayetteville Conference.

The last wedding in the original Steele Street Methodist Church united in marriage Miss Florence Jones and Dr. R. L. Daniels. The first wedding in the new church (as far as can be ascertained) was that of Miss Lessie Cole and Frank R. Clegg.

Dr. Spence wrote a little history of his work in Sanford. The letter is so delightfully "Spencerian" it would be a shame to change it in any way. It is herewith reprinted:

"We had four of the greatest years of our lives with the good people of Steele Street Church and the other Sanford people. We were on good terms with all denominations and worked as best we could with all for the sake of the entire town.

"I do not remember a great deal of the details of the work. During my ministry the Osgood and Lemon Springs churches were joined to some others to form a country circuit, and Sanford was made a full time station. This accounts for the fact that the charge seemed to lose members during my ministry. We lost about 200 on the roll when we lost those two churches."

Dr. Spence goes on to mention the usual round of prayer

meetings, missionary society activity, the Epworth League, and baptisms. He made special note of the help rendered by The Ladies Aid Society in furnishing the parsonage and the church.

"When I held my first meeting of the Board of Stewards, I asked what provision had been made for holding a revival. The men looked at each other peculiarly and then finally one of them said: 'It is impossible to hold a revival now. A few years ago a high-pressure evangelist came here and held a tent meeting for three or four weeks. He used every trick in the book and took everyone over five years of age into a church. He got the folks so extremely religious that they put away their cards and games, quit drinking coca-cola and almost coffee. Young girls would go down to the railway station at five o'clock in the morning and hold prayer meetings with perfect strangers who were passing through and stayed overnight. Then the reaction set in. The cards were brought out again. The prayer meetings stopped. The whole town reacted emotionally and it has been impossible to hold a revival since. It just can't be done!' I smiled and said we would have one or know why. We had not only one, but excellent ones each year I was there. They were more than emotional sprees, although we did have great emotional manifestations of the finer sort. They resulted in additions to all the churches, increase in Sunday Schools, general increase of morality and the driving out of town of persons of low character who were running objectionable places and selling liquor.

"Another item of great interest was the building of the present church. We had outgrown the old one and badly needed a new one. Our great difficulty was agreeing on its location. It was manifest that the site in use was none too satisfactory since the railroad passed in front of the church and a passenger train was scheduled to pass during the church hour each Sunday morning. The committee could have secured an excellent lot on Carthage Street far away from the railroad, but there was a disagreement on the part of the very worthy constituency in East Sanford. They also had an excellent lot in mind and wanted the church built on Charlotte Avenue. Neither side would give in to the other and we finally compromised on the old site. This was agreeable to both groups."

Note: The Building Committee consisted of S. P. Hatch, R. W. Allen, S. M. Jones, H. A. Palmer, D. C. Lawrence and O. P. Makepeace. There may have been others.

Dr. Spence continues:

"The building of the church was quite an undertaking for a small congregation, none of whom were too wealthy. How we raised the money, I do not know. With cotton about 8¢ a pound and the dollar worth five times as much as it is today, building was difficult. Yet, perhaps a dozen of our men subscribed a thousand dollars each, and we went to work. And a thousand dollars was MONEY in those days.

"It wasn't too long before we struck a snag. The 1914 panic hit us about the time (August) the wall was 10 or 12 feet high. Mr. D. C. Lawrence was the trouble shooter for the town and always rather cautious and suspicious. He warned us earlier that we were undertaking too much. He told us that we might have a panic and get in trouble. The rest of us laughed at him. Now the laughs changed. The panic really came. Mr. Lawrence said, 'Told you so. Wouldn't listen to old Dan C. Thought he was a fool. Now look where we are.' We were there all right. The builder threatened to sell us out, but realized that no one would want to buy an unfinished church so he was patient and we finally paid the bills and completed the church.

"To make matters worse, our Presiding Elder (J. T. Gibbs) was a fanatic on the subject of missions. He came to the first quarterly conference and demanded that we raise the entire mission assessment by Easter. We explained the difficulty we were in and how badly we needed every dollar we could rake and scrape to keep from losing our church. He insisted that he didn't care what sort of trouble we were in. He wanted the mission money by Easter. I defied an Elder for the first and last time and told him we would raise the money in due time, but that not a dollar would be raised by Easter. He saw that we were serious and withdrew his demands."

On August 29, 1915, Dr. Spence preached at the morning service for the first time in the new church. It was a great day, filled with gratitude, humility and some degree of pride. The other congregations joined the Methodists in a union service that

night. Dr. Harvey-Jellie, Presbyterian minister, the Reverend J. B. Willis, Baptist minister, and the Reverend J. D. Wicker (father of Mrs. J. D. Hill), Christian minister, made talks and brought greetings from their members. The Episcopal Rector Cartwright, sick in the hospital, could not attend.

A Wednesday night prayer service in November included a reception for church members and friends. Entertainment featured talks by Mrs. Beulah Kelly for the Ladies Aid Society, S. P. Hatch for the Sunday School, F. Y. Hanner for the Epworth League, Dr. F. W. McCracken for the Stewards, Dr. A. D. Betts, one of the oldest members in the Conference, and special music by Mrs. Spence, the Holmes sisters and Miss Ray.

More follows from Dr. Spence's letter:

"With the building of the new church, the Sunday School took on new life. The church was modern and up-to-date for that time. We had a separate section in the basement for an elementary department and organized the Sunday School on modern graded lines. Our superintendent objected to the change on the grounds that he loved to see the little children come marching into the room. It warmed his heart. I used a little tact and finally got it across to him that the children were our chief concern and not the warming of his heart.

"New methods were being introduced to arouse general interest in the church. Mrs. Spence had general charge of the music in the church and Sunday School. She organized a Sunday School orchestra. I am not sure that I remember the full details, but I do recall that Charlie Hatch played the cornet, Dr. Hayden Lutterloh played the clarinet, Mary Cole played the violin, and Ida Holmes played the piano.

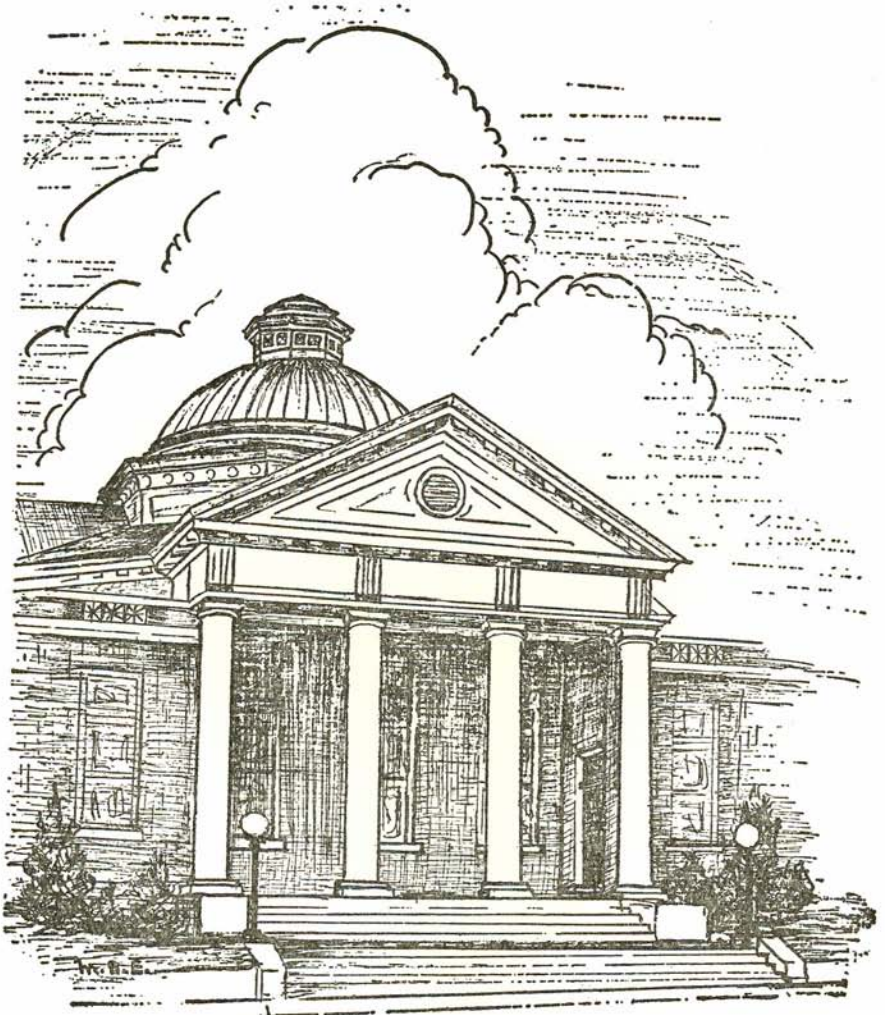
"We had all sorts of schemes for increasing attendance and building up competitive action between the classes. Contrary to what one would expect, the best two classes in the school were the Senior young people and the Adult Bible Class. They fought for the banner each month with great enthusiasm.

"Our church choir was as fine as I ever saw for a small town. Sanford was really small town at that time. We had a male quartet consisting of F. Y. Hanner, S. P. Hatch, G. H. Wilkie (Etta

Frances' father) and W. L. Jewell which compared favorably with any amateur quartet I ever saw.

"My heart goes back to Sanford, the scene of my first success in the ministry. I love the people. I could give many personal reminiscences, but doubt if you would want them."

Something happened during construction of the church to add another woe to the builders. A cyclone dipped down one summer afternoon and gently lifted the dome from the church and deposited it in the street. The little damage done to the dome was nothing compared to the herculean task of getting it back on the church.



STEELE STREET METHODIST CHURCH

The Dedication

The Reverend W. R. Royall, who came to Sanford in 1916, had the honor of being the first man in the conference to serve five years under one appointment. His first year saw the church raise the money necessary to pay off its building indebtedness. Just before midnight, December 1, 1917, the last dollar needed to meet the notes came in, and the mortgages held by local banks were produced. On Sunday morning the congregation stood and sang "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" as Mr. Royall tore the notes to bits and burned them at the altar. The celebration of the Lord's Supper climaxed this memorable morning service.

The war and influenza scare caused the Dedication Service to be postponed until April 27, 1919. The church was dedicated by Bishop U. V. W. Darlington of Huntington, West Virginia. Printed programs of the Dedication Service listed the Official Board for the year as B. Cole, S. M. Watson, J. K. Perry, E. G. Moffitt, F. M. Sinclair, J. W. Cunningham, M. J. McPhail, D. C. Lawrence, F. Y. Hanner, T. H. Lutterloh, S. M. Jones, J. E. Brinn, S. P. Hatch, C. G. Hatch, Dr. M. L. Matthews, H. A. Palmer, C. R. Layton and C. L. Williams. Of this group, only Judge Williams and C. G. Hatch survive.

After the church was paid for, the women went to work to buy a pipe organ. They worked furiously at the proverbial rummage sales, suppers, bake sales and bazaars. Activities "for the benefit of the pipe organ" began to take precedence over other things and neglected husbands had the feeling that they were an excuse for dereliction of wifely duties.

One of the older members recalled an amusing incident about Mr. S. M. Jones who found it necessary to punish one of his little boys. As he whipped the child, Mrs. Jones, hearing the wails, called out to ask Mr. Jones why he was whipping the child. In exasperation, he yelled from the back yard for all to hear, "For the benefit of the pipe organ!" and kept on with the punishment.

Perseverance finally paid off. The organ became a reality and was installed before the Dedication Service of the church. The mellow tones and stately brass pipes rising to the back of the choir loft answered the prayers and visions of many music-minded people. Mrs. W. M. (Ida) Cade, the first organist, played until the fall of 1921 when Mrs. Rosa Reid Roberts succeeded her. Mrs. Roberts played the organ well and willingly for almost a quarter of a century.

The wedding of Miss Fannie Hatch and the Reverend Leon C. Larkin on May 14, 1919, gave the guests an opportunity to hear beautiful wedding music played on the organ.

The Epworth League grew in popularity with the young people as it came to be a meeting place on late Sunday afternoons. One little incident proves that a half century of progress makes little difference in the antics of young people. Miss Effie Crabtree had the misfortune of losing one of her long Titian curls while attending one of the youth meetings. Completely engrossed in the speaker, she was unaware of mischief back of her. Edwin Moffitt quickly whacked off the curl and stuck it in his pocket. Miss Effie wonders today what he ever did with the tress of hair.

Mr. Royall made a good record in Sanford, meeting all obligations and showing an improvement in Sunday School and church attendance. His little boy, Richard, frequently accompanied his father to the pulpit, playing around the chancel and finally taking his seat in one of the big chairs reserved for guest speakers. In this day of paid nurseries and extended sessions, such informality might be frowned upon, but other children came with their parents to worship services so Richard's behavior was calmly accepted.

The Reverend Lloyd B. Jones (1921-24) guided the church through the project of building a new basement room under the sanctuary. It served well for badly needed classroom space. Mr. Jones, kind in spirit, set high standards of conduct for himself and expected as much from his members.

Dr. M. L. Matthews, a tireless church worker, superintended the Sunday School as a successor to Mr. S. P. Hatch who had held the post for twenty years. Dr. Matthews led the song services and taught the Women's Bible Class, who later named their class-

room for him. Mrs. J. D. Hill, Junior Department leader, also served on the Board of Stewards, pointing up the fact of many years of double and sometimes triple duty served by the early members of the church.

The city, in the early twenties, ventured into its first paving project by getting Carthage Street out of the mud. "Around the block" came next, and gradually the deep ruts and red clay of Sanford streets became an ugly part of the past.

Dr. Gaston Troy Adams (1924-29) spent thirty years of his life in the ministry. He served also as a presiding elder and Greensboro College trustee. At the close of his appointment, he retired to live his remaining years in Sanford. He died July 4, 1941, and is buried in Goldsboro. Mrs. Adams, music teacher, and their daughter, Mrs. John Davenport, reside in Sanford.

Dr. Adams, definitely the "circuit rider" type of preacher, lived his life full to the brim, never missing an opportunity to make a new acquaintance or to add zest to the life of an old one. As the eloquent and provocative teacher of the Men's Bible Class, he made the Bible, which he knew so well, fairly come to life for the members. He knew practically everyone in town and persuaded many indifferent souls to come to church. One of his "converts" when approached about his pledge for the new year, told the steward he wouldn't pay anything since he joined for just one year.

The church added a record number to its roll. Mr. F. Y. Hanner headed up a live-wire Senior Intermediate Department, Mrs. J. W. Gilliam had charge of the Juniors and Mrs. Beulah Kelly gathered the material for a monthly news bulletin. Mrs. J. T. O'Neal reported the first vacation Bible School, held in 1928, was made possible by an anonymous gift of \$100.00 for supplies and literature. Mrs. O'Neal also taught in the Sunday School and one class she taught used the old furnace room where spiders and "thousand legs" ran around during sessions. The orchestra, organized by Mrs. Spence, had some new members and continued to play. Joe Lazarus often played the violin for Sunday services.

Dr. Adams, a man of imposing appearance, had twinkling blue eyes, white hair and a ruddy complexion. In his long Prince

Albert coat he was a familiar figure around the open-air fruit stands and on the streets of Sanford. He is not likely to be forgotten by those who knew him.

In 1928, a cottage for children was built at the Methodist Orphanage in Raleigh by the O. P. Makepeace family. The first two children to live in it were admitted on September 2nd. The cottage was given as a memorial to Mrs. G. H. (Nannie) Makepeace, who had come with her husband to Sanford from Indiana in 1891.

The church lost another minister by death when the Reverend Solon A. Cotton died suddenly at the parsonage in September, 1931. He came to Sanford in 1929 following an appointment as presiding elder on the Weldon District. He was affectionately called the "song bird" because he possessed a good voice and dearly loved to sing. His dignity, strong convictions and native ability as a minister inspired one of his own sons to become a preacher, also. Worth Cotton, received in full connection by the North Carolina Conference in 1938, is now stationed at the Longview Gardens Church in Raleigh. Worth's wife is the daughter of Mrs. F. W. Von Canon. One son is a business man and Sunday School superintendent, and the other is a teacher. Maude, a daughter, sang in the choir and taught instrumental music. Ruth, also a teacher, resides in Sanford with her mother.

Mr. Cotton, busy until the day he died, led prayer meeting the night before and preached his last sermon the previous Sunday night on the passage of Scripture from Revelation 3:3-4. The church ran smoothly during his administration. He tried to locate the many people listed on the roll in order to bring it up to date. He conducted morning and evening services, weekly prayer meetings and preached twice a month at Lemon Springs and at Osgood, that church having been again placed on the Sanford charge.

Mrs. Cotton, who is ninety-one years old, spoke lovingly of her years as a minister's wife and the great joy she had shared in the work. She said they lived in thirteen different places, some nice, some not so nice. Construction of parsonages over the conference became popular about 1900, but, unfortunately, she said they were usually large and sparsely furnished with much of the

cast-off furniture from homes of members. The church has come a long way in providing comfortable parsonages for its ministers.

The Reverend A. J. Groves, a retired Methodist minister living in Sanford, filled the pulpit for the two months before annual conference.

The Reverend L. D. Hayman came to Steele Street in the fall of 1931.

The Depression Years

Ministers faced up to the disappointments of the thirties as they attempted to comfort members in distress. Bank failures, insurance moratoriums and lack of employment took away security from many who had felt secure, and saddened or confused the others. Churches suffered to some extent, but under the ministry of the Reverend L. D. Hayman, Steele Street managed to meet its financial obligations and make progress in 1932-33.

Mr. Hayman said he tried to re-organize the Men's Bible Class and to build a brick hut back of the church for the Men's Class and Boy Scout use, but met with little enthusiasm for either project. Talk of another church, remodeling the present one, and the building of a better home for the pastor, made the rounds but resulted in nothing. Only the idea was born; it grew to partial fruition several years later. Printed bulletins for Sunday services replaced the "inky" mimeographed ones that had been a bane to the ladies who wore white gloves.

Mr. Hayman identified himself prominently with a movement which thwarted an effort to force the sale of liquors within the bounds of Sanford. Many church leaders joined him in his work. W. R. Makepeace and P. J. Barringer, serving as members of the Conference Board of Temperance and Social Service, were two of them.

The Golden Cross, then a hospital fund, began to take hold across the conference, as did the "Every-Member Canvass" method of securing pledges to the church budget.

The depression years created a scarcity of funds in the Sunday School, and Mr. R. C. Rush, secretary-treasurer, found himself cut off from securing any more literature from the Publishing House until his overdue bill was paid. He knew the Primary Department had reserve cash. He borrowed this and the Sunday School was able to get literature for that quarter. The Primary Department paid for all its own material and reserved enough to purchase a Holy Bible for each child when promoted to the

Junior Department. This fund was begun by Mrs. D. C. Lawrence and her co-workers, Mrs. F. Y. Hanner and Miss Esther Steele. Mrs. Lawrence superintended the children's work until the use of graded lessons changed the general organization of the Sunday School. She then was made Superintendent of the Primary Department to round out thirty years of work with the children of the church. Miss Mary Scott Gurley and Mrs. Mary Edith McIver also worked in the Primary Department.

The experience with the Publishing House was the only time during the Depression that a situation so desperate developed, but the money was available in ample time for the children to receive their Bibles.

When the Bishop read the appointments at the 1933 Annual Conference in Durham, no one was happier than Mrs. Fannie Hatch Larkin. The appointment of the Reverend Leon C. Larkin, himself a Carthage boy, brought her back to her old home town. Located here only for one year, Mr. Larkin went on to New Bern. At the close of his year (1934) the church had 782 members. John W. Gilliam and Dr. Matthews, conference delegates, listened with pride to the good Sanford report.

Osgood Church, again removed from the Sanford charge, became a part of the Moncure circuit in the Durham District, and was discontinued a few years later.

Local Christian literature committees emphasized "The Upper Room" for daily devotions, "The Epworth Highroad" for young people, "The Christian Home Magazine" for adults and "The Christian Advocate" for everybody. Universal Bible Sunday, observed the second Sunday in each December, took a special offering for the American Bible Society, long a concern of the conference.

Mr. Larkin, a cheerful, boyish-type man, and Mrs. Larkin, a pretty, vivacious young woman with their eight year old daughter, Ann, made an attractive parsonage family. Mrs. Larkin taught a class of young ladies in the Sunday School.

Mrs. Pearl Cross, Mrs. Rex Kelly (Dr. Matthews' daughter), Miss Judith Ross and Mrs. J. D. (Nellie) Wicker, in 1933, represented the largest number of women yet to serve on the Board of Stewards. Mrs. Wicker, who also sings, is an active choir member

of thirty-four years service. She has sung with every organist of the church except Mrs. Cade.

Mrs. Larkin said she owns and prizes the Morris Chair given to her father when he retired as Sunday School superintendent in 1920. It represents cherished memories of her father and the Sanford church.

The orchestra which played for so long in the Sunday School had disbanded by the time the Larkins came.

The church was further affected by the depression years. In 1935, when the Reverend C. B. Culbreth came as minister, he was described as a man of "pure gold," but for a person of such calibre a yearly salary of \$2400.00 hardly seemed adequate. By the time he left in 1938, the salary had grown to \$3300.00 and the membership to 900.

A collection of Octagon soap coupons by the women of the churches started in 1930. The cash value of the coupons paid for minor repairs and equipment in the Methodist Orphanage kitchen. The project continues, with the addition of coupons from many products.

The first young man, nurtured and reared in the Steele Street Church, to go into the ministry was Charles Spence Hubbard, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Hubbard. Named for Dr. Spence, who was minister in Sanford when he was born, Charles joined the church when he was nine, received his college education at the University of North Carolina and Duke as a self-help student; and was licensed to preach in 1936. Admitted to the conference on trial in 1938, he was given full connection at Annual Conference in 1942. Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard, going through a siege of mumps in the family, unhappily gave up witnessing this important event in their son's life. Two weeks after graduation, the Reverend Charles S. Hubbard and his wife, the former Mercer Reeves, went on his first appointment to Roseboro. He stayed over six years and served five churches, one a discontinued church which he reactivated. His next appointments were Hillsboro for six years, Raleigh for two years, and the University Church at Chapel Hill where he still serves and hopes to stay.

An important event of 1937 was the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Steele Street Methodist Episcopal Church,

South. A brief history appearing on the programs was written by O. P. Makepeace, Miss Judith Ross, and R. C. Rush, and listed the names of the officials for the year as Paul B. Kern, Bishop, D. E. Earnhardt, Presiding Elder, C. B. Culberth, Minister, Mrs. J. T. O'Neal, Secretary, W. L. Seawell, Treasurer, Dr. M. L. Matthews, Music Director, Mrs. Rosa Roberts, Organist, and Fred Ray as sexton, a service he rendered for many years.

Chairman of the Board of Stewards W. H. White served with the other stewards R. J. Benson, R. L. Burns, W. M. Cade, Mrs. T. S. Cross, G. G. Dorsett, J. W. Gilliam, F. Y. Hanner, M. W. Harriss, R. T. Howard, A. M. Hubbard, Mrs. W. L. Jewell, Mrs. Rex Kelly, W. R. Makepeace, Dr. M. L. Matthews, Mrs. W. L. McIver, H. A. Palmer, Frank McCracken, H. C. Roberts, Miss Judith Ross, R. C. Rush, W. L. Simmons, Mrs. J. D. Wicker and H. H. Underwood. Trustees were B. Cole, D. C. Lawrence, Dr. Matthews, A. M. Hubbard, H. A. Palmer, H. C. Roberts and W. H. White. Of the number twelve are active in the church today.

New Ventures

Dr. Allen P. Brantley and his "Miss Mary" came to Sanford in the fall of 1938. After looking over the parsonage, they kindly but firmly let it be known that they would not live in it and went to the hotel. Dr. Brantley, a good preacher and excellent administrator, immediately set the wheels in motion for a new parsonage to replace the inadequate old one.

Dr. Brantley, in writing a brief resume of his work, said:

"We built the present parsonage and furnished it with new furnishings. We bought land, owned by Mrs. T. A. Riddle, next to the church and built the educational building which was partially in use early in 1941. A complete renovation of the sanctuary was made in 1942, and the present (Cole) street to the south side of the church was built. During my ministry 376 new members were received into the fellowship of the church.

"It will be interesting to know that the Isenhours gave all the brick for both parsonage and educational building. The Makepeace's gave much of the millwork, H. H. Underwood, the architect, gave his services, and W. L. Jewell gave his services when needed, from a contractor's point of view."

Many people worked and contributed to the building effort, but outstanding among them were: J. E. Brinn, Building Chairman, H. A. Palmer, Finance Chairman, E. L. Kennedy, Building Treasurer, A. M. Hubbard, Board Chairman, and W. E. Horner, President of the Men's Class. This class met in the courthouse annex across the street and had a special reason for wanting the building.

1939 saw the North, South and Protestant groups, with certain concessions on all sides, back together as The Methodist Church.

The Epworth League in 1941 developed into the Methodist Youth Fellowship which included all young people from twelve to twenty-three affiliated with any Methodist group.

The local church for the first time employed an educational assistant in 1941. In the next four years Miss Myrle Lutterloh,

Miss Frances Thompson, Miss Gladys Heffner, and Miss Jean Strickland worked in the church office.

Dr. Brantley showed great interest in the young people's work and visited often in the homes of his members. Mrs. Brantley, when among friends, called Dr. Brantley "Sweets" and made every possible effort to be a help to him. She used much of her time to improve the appearance of the parsonage and the interior of the sanctuary. She and Dr. Brantley made many lasting friendships in Sanford.

After the hectic round of five years of building activities, the church settled down to the quiet, conservative ministry of the Reverend Harris L. Hendricks (1943-47). The war years brought bereavement and uncertainty to many Sanford homes. The Steele Street Church lost two of its fine young men: Lieutenant Robert Howard and Lieutenant Pressley Stack. Those years also brought many new people into the community and the church.

Mr. Hendricks inherited a church with an \$8500.00 indebtedness, but thanks to the generosity of Mayor and Mrs. W. R. Williams, who paid half the debt, the church raised the other half and cancelled the note. In addition to that amount, the church was able to spend \$5,000 on building improvements. The Board of Stewards voted to pay \$400.00 on the salary of a Bible teacher in the city schools. In cooperation with other churches in town who also contributed, the teacher was kept as long as Bible could be taught in public schools.

The church bought a movie projector, launching the first local use of visual aids as an educational procedure. The showing of religious films at the Sunday evening service drew more criticism than people.

In a period of three years the church lost by death six of its fine and faithful leaders: Mrs. Rosa Reid Roberts, Dr. M. L. Matthews, Mrs. L. P. Wilkins, H. A. Palmer, D. C. Lawrence and J. E. Brinn.

Improvements made on the church property included the redecoration of the kitchen, Lucile Hunter Classroom, Woman's Wesley Classroom, the installation of an oil heater, and gift of a piano from Neil Cole and W. R. Makepeace to the Women's Classroom.

The 1946 church personnel included W. L. Simmons, Board Chairman, H. H. Underwood, Properties Chairman, Mrs. Bert Ishee, Organist, Mrs. W. H. (Eloise) White, Choir Director, Mrs. F. M. Humphries, Educational Assistant, F. W. Von Canon, Church School Superintendent, and James McNeill, Custodian of Grounds and Building.

The church agreed to pay \$10,000 over a period of three years to the Methodist College Advance. This amount to be over and above the usual college sustentation fund.

Board Chairman R. J. Benson, Finance Chairman W. E. Horner and Properties Chairman H. F. Makepeace, in 1947, directed a \$2200.00 painting contract for the sanctuary and the installation of a complete new heating system.

Miss Mary Thornton Benson and Miss Ann Norris went to the National Methodist Youth Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, accompanied by Mrs. Humphries who went as a district counselor.

Gilbert W. Crutchfield, a member of the Steele Street Church and son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Crutchfield, was received into the North Carolina Conference in full connection in the fall of 1947. He is now the minister at Christ Church in Fayetteville.

Mrs. Fisher Makepeace resigned her work in the Sunday School after more than fifteen years of teaching beginner and primary children.

Mrs. Gwen Howard McIver succeeded Mrs. Ishee as organist.

Host to the Annual Conference

The Reverend and Mrs. R. Grady Dawson, and their children, Mary Howland and Grady, Jr., spent several days at the Carolina Hotel after their arrival in 1947. Renovations being made at the parsonage prevented them from moving in.

The entire membership worked well with Mr. Dawson to accomplish great spiritual and material gains in the next three years. Over 250 people came into the church, pastor's salary increased 20%, World Service and Benevolences 40%; Oliver Howell son of Mr. and Mrs. Haywood Howell, went as a special term missionary to Lima, Peru, for three and a half years, and Mary Howland Dawson went on the Methodist Youth Summer Caravan to Europe. The church assumed all of Oliver's salary and paid the greater part of Mary Howland's expenses.

Mrs. W. H. White, Choir Director, resigned due to illness and Mrs. Edna Earle Yarborough filled in until the church hired Miss Denny Lee Bryson (now Mrs. J. H. Waldrop, Jr.) as a full-time Choir and Education Director and Mrs. Shelton Wicker was organist. Mrs. Humphries remained with the church as a part-time secretary.

The upper floor of the education building was completed after Mr. and Mrs. Warren R. Williams offered to meet half the cost if the church would raise the balance.

The biggest undertaking of its kind was the entertainment of the Annual Conference, November 2-6, 1949. It turned out to be a joint enterprise of all the church organizations, the Jonesboro Church, and even some of the other denominations. H. F. Makepeace, Board Chairman, Neil Cole for properties, Frank Webb McCracken, furnishings, W. E. Horner and A. E. White, Finance Chairmen, kept at their tasks until the sanctuary was redecorated and enlarged, carpet was laid, and all buildings were in good shape for the conference.

W. H. White, the newly re-elected Board Chairman of seven years previous service, welcomed the six hundred preachers and

delegates. Bishop W. W. Peele presided and Bishop Hazen G. Werner was guest speaker.

New activities of the 1948-50 years featured Week of Dedication observance, Visitation-evangelism by laymen, rotation system of service on the Board of Stewards, adoption of the unified budget, the J. E. Brinn Memorial Library, radio broadcast of services, the organization of four choirs, light fixtures for the sanctuary (given by W. R. Makepeace) and the election of W. H. Ray as church treasurer following the death of Mr. W. L. Seawell.

Remember the pigeons? They roosted, nested and cooed for years in and around the eaves of the church, but the ones at the entrance were especially objectionable. One warm Sunday morning not long before annual conference, a pigeon found his way through a window opened from the top and circled inside the sanctuary just as the minister said something in his sermon about the "dove of peace." Needless to say the flight caused a flurry of suppressed giggles and head-turning until the pigeon flew out. Their days were numbered from then on. The following week, Mr. H. F. Makepeace, known for his marksmanship, went on a shooting spree all around the church and by conference the pigeons had disappeared.

The Reverend Albea S. Parker, Mrs. Parker, and their "children" Don, Jane and Jessie Overman came to Sanford in November 1950. During the first year of their stay extensive repair work was done on the back wall and interior and a new heating system installed at the parsonage.

Mid-week prayer meeting and Sunday evening services continued and three hundred seventy-two people came into the church.

Harold Makepeace presented Charles M. Reeves, Jr., a mammoth (yard long) gavel when he took over the chairmanship of the Board. Miss Jeannine Moorman, in 1952, replaced Denny Lee Bryson as Director of Christian Education, and Mrs. E. B. Keith succeeded Mary Sue Ingram as organist. Later in the summer, Miss Katherine Sutton was hired as organist and choir director. Edwin A. Hubbard surrendered the Church School superintendency to Ray Wood and Roy Knight began his long years of service as head usher.

John C. Muse donated a new piano to the R. C. Rush Older Youth Classroom which was set up to be used also as a music room for Miss Sutton's use. John Von Canon made and gave a bookcase to the church library. Roy Knight gave a large desk to the church office, and an electric water cooler given by F. M. Humphries, Cerelda Isenhour and E. L. Morgan was installed by J. E. Davis and Neill Hanner.

The church through the years manifested a great interest in Boy and Girl Scouting. Much credit is due to organizations and individuals who gave so unselfishly to this effort. Mr. A. C. Hood, Scoutmaster for twenty-two years, and Bob Hanner, his assistant, saw six Eagle Scout awards presented on a single Sunday morning. The only boy to ever receive the God and Country Award in the Steele Street Church was W. H. White, Jr.

Miss Denny Lee Bryson, in the summer of 1951, took a leave of absence to be a team member on the Methodist Youth Caravan team to Europe. The following year Miss Mary Thornton Benson (Mrs. Rufus Yarborough) went on the Caravan.

Circle 7 got up a special Mother's Day bulletin in 1952 in which hundreds of mothers were listed for honor or memory. The morning service featured a Mother's Day message and a solo by Mr. Homer McNeely.

R. C. Rush, fondly known as "Mr. Sunday School," was honored by an R. C. Rush Day, September 28, 1952. The Sunday School presented a Bible to him as a small token of appreciation for his thirty years of service.

Bishop Paul N. Garber conducted the Dedication Service in May, 1953, for the new pipe organ. The organ was presented to the church in honor of Lewis C. and Sarah H. Isenhour by their children, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Isenhour, Mr. and Mrs. George J. Casey, Mr. and Mrs. Phil K. Buchanan and Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Foushee. Mr. Frank W. McCracken, Music Committee Chairman, worked closely with the family in the selection and installation of the organ.

Mr. Parker initiated the Circles serving suppers to the Board of Stewards and MYF Sunday evening meetings, Installation Services for Stewards and other officials, the organization of a young adult fellowship class which later named itself the A. S. Parker

Class, the collection of church-owned costumes for religious dramas, and the use of a pen sketch of the sanctuary on the front of the bulletins. The sketch was drawn by Molly Blalock Eshelman just five months before she and her husband met tragic death in a plane crash July 7, 1952.

The church was air-conditioned in 1953. Dr. P. E. Cotter took over the Board Chairmanship, the F. Y. Hanners resigned after nine years as Communion Stewards and were succeeded by Mrs. F. W. Von Canon and Mrs. W. W. Buchanan.

Henry T. Hicks and Oliver Howell received their licenses as local preachers in 1954. Henry's first appointment was at West End. Oliver took on a local job of making a survey for the feasibility of establishing another church in Sanford.

Miss Jeannine Moorman and Guy Boger, Jr., married in the summer.

The Parker family endeared itself to the membership and frequently visits in Sanford. Mr. Parker retired from the active ministry in 1961 and makes his home in Raleigh.

Present Day Ventures

Dr. William Stanley Potter, appointed to Steele Street in November of 1954, brought Mrs. Potter, Frank Grafton and James Richard to the parsonage shortly thereafter. Their daughter, Elizabeth Louise, was a student at Randolph Macon Woman's College, and another son, Stanley, Jr., was stationed with the Armed Forces in Okinawa.

The conference year was changed the next year to close on a two-thirds basis June 30. The change-over worked smoothly as M. L. Snipes, Finance Chairman, arranged the financial details. As a result of the survey made by Oliver Howell, the Church Extension Committee, directed by W. E. Horner, raised enough money to purchase the Wicker property at the end of McIver Street for another Methodist Church. Another change put Sanford in the newly-formed Burlington District with Dr. A. P. Brantley, District Superintendent.

The next several months brought the organization of a Methodist Men's Club with Jack Marshall, president, Visitation-evangelism by teams of laymen, Lay speakers, Paul Barringer, Jr., J. W. Hoyle, Henry Hicks and Oliver Howell, who filled the "silent pulpits" during Lent, first presentation of the Live Nativity Scene on the church lawn before Christmas, the election of associate members on the Board of Stewards, the employment in May, 1955, of Miss Jerry Miller to succeed Mrs. Boger, and the air conditioning of the educational building. In the summer, Miss Sutton married Van P. Watson, but continued as organist.

August 28, 1955, Dr. A. P. Brantley met in McIver School with a group of interested people to consider organization of the new church. The church was sponsored by the Steele Street Methodist Church which had raised \$10,500 for the lot and necessary building changes. The Reverend Henry T. Hicks served the newly formed Trinity Church as pastor, and J. W. Hoyle gave his legal services in business procedures. Charter Sunday in January,

1956, created a loss of twenty-two members from the Steele Street Church.

1956 brought the choir a new director, Mrs. E. C. Wallace, and new black choir robes. Warren Fields succeeded Mr. Rush as Sunday School secretary, and Lay speakers A. E. Barrow, M. L. Snipes, K. R. Hoyle, Perry White, E. A. Hubbard and F. Y. Hanner were added to the list. Mrs. G. J. Casey headed up a newly formed committee for working out a schedule of memorial flowers for the sanctuary each Sunday. Dr. Potter inaugurated two identical services for Palm and Easter Sunday mornings and the observance of Maundy Thursday Holy Communion. Sunday evening service and Board meetings closed during the summer. Mrs. W. I. Shope, capable Children's Division Superintendent, came to work as Educational Assistant following the resignation of Miss Miller. W. E. (Bill) Horner, Jr., went on the Youth Caravan to Europe and brought back many slides of his work and places of interest. He later shared his pictures with church groups.

An unusual development brought a husband-wife team into the church leadership; Mr. J. E. Davis, Chairman of the Official Board and Mrs. J. E. Davis, President of the Woman's Society of Christian Service at the same time. Working with Mr. Davis during his four year chairmanship were James A. Cobb and R. J. Benson, Finance Chairman, Duncan McRae and Fletcher Rosser, Church School Superintendents, and E. L. Morgan, Every-Member Canvass Chairman, who also introduced the draft system of donations to the church budget.

Activities of 1956-57 included the organization of a Church Guild, Mrs. R. J. Benson, Chairman, for the purpose of making the sanctuary and church services more worshipful, redecoration of the church interior, a Christmas Eve Holy Communion, the presentation of "I Remember Christmas" by some of the older members, the entertainment of 180 members of the Vocational Youth Conference, Lay speakers J. E. Davis, W. H. White and W. F. Wyatt, Jr. added, Reverend Bill Jefferies and the Trinity Church Stewards coming as guests to the April meeting of the Steele Street Board, and a visit of the Board in May to the Orphanage in Raleigh.

Evening services on Sunday night discontinued in 1957. Dr. A. J. Walton conducted a three-day Bible Conference in the church. Survey cards circulated among the members listed their capabilities and willingness and were filed in the church office. A cooperative religious census conducted throughout the city furnished wonderful leads for ministers and other evangelistic workers. Mrs. J. S. (Betty) Mickey served as temporary organist while Mrs. Watson was out with her new baby daughter.

W. E. Horner and A. M. Hubbard set in motion the action which brought about the purchase of a \$14,000 tract of land on the Carbondon Road by the church. After initial donations were made, James Cobb persuaded the Board members to sell for \$10.00 each small plastic boxes containing "a wee bit o'land" taken from the Carbondon Road property. Sufficient funds came in to purchase the property from Mr. and Mrs. Reece B. Lemmond. The deed is dated December 30, 1958, with Trustees W. L. Jewell, Sr., Hugh R. Perry, D. J. Spratt, C. B. Foushee, E. A. Hubbard, N. V. Keith, H. F. Makepeace, Dr. J. F. Foster, and H. H. Underwood.

The Trinity Church congregation launched into a building venture in 1958. The Isenhours gave the brick for the church and the Wilkins family gave the adjoining lot to the church. Their first service in the new church was held March 1, 1959, conducted by the Reverends J. F. Minnis and Henry T. Hicks.

In the Sunday School, Mrs. Roy Knight completed fourteen years of Primary Department work and Mrs. J. L. Eagle completed sixteen years in the Kindergarten Department.

Mr. Lewis D. Isenhour, Chairman, H. V. Fenstamacher and K. R. Gallup headed up the call for pledges to the United College Appeal of \$50,000 for the Steele Street Church. The amount was pledged and this year will close out the payments.

The "Reverend" changed to "Doctor" for Mr. Potter when he delivered the baccalaureate sermon and received an honorary doctorate from his Alma Mater, Central Methodist College in Missouri in 1959.

The Board of Stewards, who feared Dr. Potter would be moved, requested the Bishop to return him to the Steele Street Church; a request made each year since.

L. A. McIver, Parsonage Chairman, and Neill Hanner, Properties Chairman, supervised the installation of air-conditioning units given by Mr. W. R. Williams for the parsonage in 1959.

Mid-week prayer services, poorly attended for years, were discontinued early in the year of 1960. Mrs. Humphries resigned as secretary at the close of the conference year to be succeeded by Mrs. W. F. Olmsted. The Methodist College at Fayetteville and the Wesleyan College at Rocky Mount opened for students in September, 1960.

The Methodist Men's Club disbanded in 1960 despite the able leadership of President W. R. Makepeace, Jr. and past presidents Bayne Keever, H. V. Fenstamacher, and Dr. W. L. Woltz. The club had enjoyed some excellent speakers and fine projects in its five years of existence.

The "breaking of bread" together grew among church groups as many meetings outside the sanctuary became occasions for eating. A good word goes out to all the "Marthas" of the years for the thousands of meals served in the church dining room. As part of their work as local church activities chairmen, Mrs. W. L. Simmons (for 15 years), Mrs. T. G. Beck, Mrs. W. F. Parrish and Mrs. Ralph Watson directed suppers and luncheons. Mrs. H. T. Horton, Mrs. J. L. Sauls, Mrs. T. P. Watson and Mrs. P. L. Johnson are remembered as people always willing to work in the kitchen.

Mr. E. A. Hubbard, present Board Chairman, came into office July 1, 1960. The Board advocated establishing a "some day" building fund, under the supervision of J. E. Davis, which has received more than \$1,000 in random donations.

Mrs. E. W. Hunter was honored by "her" Sunday School Class in September of 1960, by the presentation of a plaque by the Lucile Hunter Class which she taught for fifteen years.

Dr. W. R. Hartness and his committee rounded up enough money to present Dr. Potter a 1961 Pontiac as an Easter gift. The car, parked in front of the church, was out for all to see when the keys were turned over to Dr. Potter on Easter Sunday morning, 1961.

The educational building recently underwent extensive renovation. After discussions with authorities concerning the best use of present floor space, recommendations were made by Mrs.

Shope and Mr. Lynn Perry for the Commission on Education to remove certain partitions and relocate some of the classes. Vance Hulbert, Properties Chairman, had this done in time for classes to meet in their new rooms in the Fall. A fire escape built at the back of the educational building, provided an additional entrance.

Only time can evaluate the complete history of Dr. Potter's influence in Sanford. In his seven years here 526 members have been added making the present membership thirteen hundred and ninety-three. Mrs. Potter graciously taught the Woman's Wesley Class and many mission study courses during the winter months, and displayed a cheerful, helpful personality; always desirable in a minister's wife. Their daughter married and lives in Seattle; the boys continue their education.

As the last chapter is written, a Fact Finding Committee for the Church Removal Project has reported to the Quarterly Conference. The report may be the first definite indication toward the "finis" of the Steele Street Methodist Church, and the establishment of a larger and more convenient place of worship.

History of the Woman's Society of Christian Service

The women's work in the Steele Street Church began on October 27, 1902. A copy of the original minutes reveal these facts:

"A meeting of the ladies of the Steele Street Methodist Church in Sanford, North Carolina, was held at the church Monday night, October 27, 1902, for the purpose of organizing an Auxiliary to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the North Carolina Conference, M. E. Church, South.

"After opening religious service conducted by the pastor, the Reverend W. F. Craven, an address was delivered by the Reverend Tokio Kugimiya of Hiroshima, Japan, now a student at Trinity College in Durham, N. C. on The Heathen and The Christian.

"Mrs. Lucy Cunningim of Greensboro, President of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the North Carolina Conference, made remarks on the society and its work, showing the need of this organization and its power for good and solicited names for membership.

The following names joined: Mrs. G. H. Makepeace, Mrs. W. D. Hunter, *Mrs. Marvin Kelly, *Miss Margaret Womble, Miss Gayle Makepeace, Miss Judith Ross, Miss Lou Rush, Miss Flora McDonald, Mrs. Helen M. Clark, Mrs. J. M. Stephens, *Mrs. Mae Perry, Mrs. W. A. Plummer, Mrs. H. C. Williams, Mrs. T. R. Moffitt, Mrs. S. P. Hatch, Mrs. B. Cole, Mrs. E. G. Moffitt, Mrs. A. A. Burkett, Mrs. H. M. Phillips, Mrs. F. W. McCracken.

Honorary Members: W. F. Craven, B. Cole, J. M. Stephens, S. P. Hatch and G. H. Makepeace.

"Under the direction of 'Aunt Lucy' Cunningim, who then had charge of the meeting, the pastor made nominations and the following officers were elected for remainder of the ensuing year

*Still living

which expired with February, 1903, viz.: Mrs. H. M. Clark, President; Mrs. G. H. Makepeace, Vice-President; Miss Judith Ross, Recording Secretary; Mrs. H. C. Williams, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Marvin Kelly, Treasurer; Miss Margaret Womble, Agent for the Woman's Missionary Advocate.

"Upon motion it was ordered that our regular monthly meetings be held on each first Sunday at 3 o'clock P.M. at the church. The meeting adjourned with prayer by the pastor.

Signed (Miss) Judith Ross, Recording Secretary"

Mrs. Clark, later Mrs. Fitts, was president for many years. Mrs. H. C. (Linda Rand) Williams succeeded her and served approximately ten years. During these years, though few in number but strong in faith, the Society, in addition to their conference pledge, accepted the support of a native woman in Brazil, called a Bible Woman. She was named Helen Fitts in memory of the first president. Her work was with mothers and young children. The church in Brazil became self-supporting and the same work was continued in Mexico. Now this amount is being sent to the Caravan Church in Linz, Austria, in honor of the work done there by Mary Thornton Benson (Mrs. Rufus Yarborough). The Society counts itself happy to have been able to furnish funds for a beautiful, hand-carved pulpit to this church. Every summer the North Carolina Methodist Youth Caravan works and worships in Linz church which ministers to refugees.

The enthusiastic celebration of the Week of Prayer characterized the early years of the Society. As now, it was observed the last week in October. From Monday through Friday afternoons the women gathered together in different homes for their programs and on Sunday evening the pastor delivered a powerful sermon on Missions following which an offering was taken. This was applied to the support of the Bible Women in Brazil. It cost only \$120 per year, but that was a big amount then.

During the winter months, the Society met in the home of Mrs. T. R. Moffitt or Mrs. E. G. Moffitt and discussed their plans and problems while seated around a blazing fire. The memory of those days is very precious to us who were privileged to have been a part of the Society then.

Among those who served as president before unification were:

Mesdames T. R. Moffitt, L. P. Wilkins, Sam T. Ingram, D. C. Lawrence, Paul Barringer and Vance Hulbert.

In 1940, the Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized with 165 charter members. The Wesleyan Service Guild, organized in 1941 for employed women, as a unit of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, had Mrs. L. A. McIver as first president. Mrs. Johnson was followed in turn by Mesdames J. G. Formy-Duval, J. Ashley Allen, Paul T. Watson, Robert J. Benson, W. Bernard Harris, A. G. Martin, J. E. Davis, M. L. Snipes and Mrs. M. W. Harriss, Jr., who is now in office.

In contrast to today's District Conference which lasts only through lunch of one day, it is interesting to read in The Sanford Express that "On June 18, 19, 1914, The Woman's Society of Steele Street Methodist Church entertained the Fayetteville District. They met in the Graded School as the new church was under construction. The Bright Jewels presented a program and the Address of Welcome was given by little Rebecca Lawrence." Outstanding work with the Bright Jewels in our church was done by Mrs. W. R. Royall, Miss Sadie Matthews and Mrs. A. C. Atkins.

Three times the Society entertained the Annual Conference of the Woman's Work, once with the Alice Green Society of which Mrs. D. L. St. Clair was organizer and first president; under Mrs. Formy-Duval's term and the last time while Mrs. Davis was president.

This story would be incomplete without a tribute to Retha Moffitt Smith who was treasurer of the Woman's Society of Christian Service from 1945-1960, the year of her death. She was truly dedicated to her work, never faltering in her desire to help the least and the last. In her will she bequeathed her estate to the trustees of the local church to set up a trust fund for the education of the young people of the church, hoping that the boy or girl who was using the loan would go into full time Christian service.

Time would fail to tell of the many members who have done their share in making the Society a force in the church. It aids in the maintenance of the parsonage, has equipped the church kitchen and keeps it in good condition. It is active in various areas of Social Service.

There are heart-warming hours in the work and our purpose is to help in making ready the pathway of our King, even the Lord Jesus, the Redeemer of the world.

Mary E. Lawrence

Note by the author:

Mrs. Lawrence's modesty prevented her from adding an item worthy of mention. She was for nine years Fayetteville District Secretary when the sole responsibility of the entire district fell on one officer. She assisted in re-organizing the Societies into Woman's Societies of Christian Service. In appreciation of her efforts, the District, led by Miss Elizabeth Lamb, raised three hundred dollars above their pledge and made Mrs. Lawrence an Honorary Life Patron of the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

The Society probably is unique in the Conference in having four generations represented. Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Rebecca Lawrence Benson, Mrs. Mary Benson Yarborough, and little Rebecca Yarborough who was given a Baby Membership two years ago.

Memorial Gifts

Pipe Organ—In Memory of L. C. and Sarah Isenhour; by their children.

Lectern—In Memory of Dr. A. D. Betts; by Miss Sallie Betts and Mrs. L. P. Wilkins.

Pulpit Furniture and Communion Table—In Memory of Mrs. F. W. Cole and Mr. B. Cole; by his three daughters.

Baptismal Font—In Memory of Rachel Casey; by Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Casey.

Altar Cross and Candlesticks—In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Wilkie; by Miss Etta Frances Wilkie.

Outdoor Bulletin Board—In Memory of H. A. Palmer; by Mrs. H. A. Palmer.

Christian Flag and Stands—In Memory of D. C. Lawrence; by Mrs. D. C. Lawrence.

Chimes for the Organ—In Memory of Lt. Walter Robert Howard; by Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Howard.

Stained Glass Windows—In Memory of Mrs. Maggie E. Cole, Mrs. Helen C. Fitts, Reverend K. D. Holmes, Mrs. Nannie Hoyle, Mrs. H. P. Matthews, Mr. G. H. Makepeace; by their families.

The Pulpit Bible—In Memory of Dr. and Mrs. F. W. McCracken; by his family.

The Bible in the Woman's Wesley Class—In Memory of Mrs. Paul Perry; by her family.

Painting of Sallmans Head of Christ—In Memory of Mrs. W. L. Jewell; by Mr. W. L. Jewell.

Painting of Christ in the Garden—In Memory of Mr. J. E. Brinn; by Mrs. J. E. Brinn.

Brass Collection Plates—In Memory of Mr. James T. O'Neal, Mr. Joseph Edward Brinn, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Jones, Mr. Daniel

C. Lawrence, Mr. Richard C. Rush, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Milliken, James and Frances Dowd, Mr. J. D. Hill, W. R. Berry and B. D. Fenstamacher; by their families.

Friends have given money for a memorial for Mrs. W. L. Seawell.

The practice of giving books as memorials for friends has done much to increase the number of volumes in the church library which was originally established as a memorial to Mr. J. E. Brinn by his son, W. J. Brinn.

The United States Flag given in honor of her son, Daniel, who was serving in the U. S. Navy, World War II, by Mrs. Lawrence on June 6, 1943.

Portrait of John Wesley painted and given by Mrs. J. E. Brinn in honor of Mrs. D. C. Lawrence.

Brass Collection Plate given in honor of W. R. Williams by R. B. Bobbitt.

THE STEELE STREET METHODIST CHURCH
AND ITS LEADERSHIP

The Church Staff

The Reverend William Stanley Potter Minister
 Mrs. W. I. Shope Educational Assistant
 Mrs. W. F. Olmsted Church Secretary
 Mrs. Van Paul Watson Organist
 Mrs. E. C. Wallace Choir Director
 James McNeill Custodian of Grounds and Buildings
 Bishop Paul N. Barber Resident Bishop, Richmond Area
 The Reverend E. L. Hillman . . Burlington District Superintendent

The Official Board

The Trustees: Hugh R. Perry, H. H. Underwood, Lewis D. Isenhour, C. B. Foushee, J. E. Davis, N. V. Keith, Dr. W. R. Hartness, James A. Cobb, and A. E. White.

Honorary Trustees: Mrs. C. M. Reeves, Sr., and W. L. Jewell.

The Board of Stewards

E. A. Hubbard, Chairman; Lynn Perry, Vice Chairman; W. H. Ray, Treasurer; Mrs. W. F. Olmsted, Recording Secretary.

J. O. Bridges, C. H. Fleming, Dr. James Hulin, F. M. Humphries, F. Pope Inman, Jimmy Makepeace, Harry Miller, Mrs. C. M. Reeves, L. Garland Scott, Mrs. M. L. Snipes, W. J. Womble, W. F. Wyatt, Jr.

R. J. Benson, Mrs. W. W. Buchanan, Mrs. Geo. J. Casey, Wiley Corbett, W. H. (Sam) Davis, Jr., K. R. Gallup, Miss Pete Hill, Mrs. W. H. Hinson, Dr. Paul O. Howard, Joe D. Koury, Duncan McRae, A. G. Martin, Mrs. Roy Thomas, Mrs. Joe Mason, Dr. W. L. Woltz, Peyton Williamson.

T. G. Beck, W. J. Brinn, George McBride, D. M. Cole, C. T. German, E. A. Griffin, Jr., W. E. Horner, Wilson Howard, Dan C. Lawrence, Linwood Keith, W. R. Makepeace, Jr., Mrs. R. L. Miller, E. L. Morgan, Mrs. Jack Sloan, Mrs. J. L. Steward, Miles P. Thomas.

V. L. Cameron, H. A. Clemmer, P. E. Cotter, Roy Dixon, George W. Duke, J. L. Eagle, A. C. Hood, Roy Knight, L. A. McIver, Lynn M. Perry, Miss Carrie Phillips, Lombe H. Rives, Richard C. Rush, Jr., T. Paul Watson, A. B. Williams, Jr., Rufus Yarborough.

Honorary Stewards: W. M. Cade, A. M. Hubbard, L. C. Isenhour, O. P. Makepeace, W. R. Makepeace, H. C. Roberts, F. R. Snipes.

District Trustee: J. E. Davis; District Steward: Dr. W. R. Hartness, Jr.; Assistant District Trustee: D. F. Harris; District Reserve Steward: W. H. White; Charge Lay Leader: E. A. Hubbard

The Associate Board of Stewards

Dr. Lawrence Alexander, Earle Braunhardt, Mrs. J. O. Bridges, Edward W. Cox, Mrs. Geo. Curry, Dr. E. C. Deibler, Philip Dusenbury, Sam Ellis, Oliver Howell, Jack Kenton, Mrs. Lewis Lawrence, G. C. McDaniel, H. C. Mace, George Palmer, Wesley Hart, Mrs. W. F. Parrish, Stephen D. Seymore, Jr., Roy Sowers, Jr., Franklin E. Spitler, Mrs. Joseph O. Taylor, Jesse C. Thomas, Kemp Willett, Clawson Williams, Jr.

The Six Commissions

Education: Lynn Perry, chairman; Perry White, Mrs. W. I. Shope, Dan C. Lawrence, Mrs. C. M. Oldham, J. T. O'Neal, R. L. Miller, Charles Maynard, E. A. Hubbard, Mrs. R. J. Benson, Mrs. E. C. Wallace, Mrs. Lewis Lawrence, Richard Shope, Mrs. H. C. Mace, Mrs. M. W. Harriss, Jr., Mrs. Pat Nixon, Dr. P. E. Cotter, Mrs. R. L. Miller, Mrs. Jack Thornton, Mrs. George E. Palmer, Mrs. Joe Rempson, Jack Marshall, Dr. Paul O. Howard, and M. W. Harriss, Jr.

Evangelism and Membership—Evangelism: Mrs. W. W. Buchanan, chairman; Mrs. J. E. Adams and Mrs. E. L. Morgan, assistant chairmen; Dr. P. E. Cotter, Mrs. Moses L. Snipes, Dan C. Lawrence, E. C. Wallace, E. A. Hubbard, A. M. Hubbard, Miss Pete Hill, Mrs. J. L. Stewart, J. Fletcher Rosser, Mrs. Richard Bowles, Mrs. James R. Campbell, Leo Suggs, Mrs. Moleta Hodges, Mrs. K. R. Hoyle, Jr., George McBride, R. L. Miller, W. G. Womack. Membership: Mrs. Roy Dixon, chairman; Dr. P. E. Cotter, Perry White, Dan C. Lawrence, Mrs. Moses L. Snipes, E. A. Hubbard, Mrs. Pat Geer, Mrs. C. T. German, Mrs. H. F. Makepeace, Mrs. A. M. Hubbard, Mrs. L. A. McIver, R. Wilson Howard, Mrs. V. D. Buchanan, Mrs. Henrietta (Pat) Nixon, Mrs. Harvey Kennedy, Mrs. G. Morris King, Mrs. Joseph Koury, Mrs. Harold Makepeace.

Finance: James A. Cobb, chairman; Fletcher Rosser, K. R. Gallup, A. E. White, W. J. Brinn, W. J. Womble, E. L. Morgan, C. B. Foushee, A. G. Martin, W. H. Ray, W. H. White, J. E. Davis, W. R. Makepeace, Jr., M. W. Harriss, Jr. and R. J. Benson.

Missions and Church Extension—Church Extension: W. E. Horner, chairman; A. M. Hubbard, vice-chairman; W. L. Simmons, Dr. W. R. Hartness, Jr., Roy Dixon, W. J. Brinn, D. J. Sprott, Bryant Johnson, E. C. Wallace, Joe D. Koury, Mrs. M. W. Harriss, Jr., E. A. Hubbard, Perry White. Missions: Mrs. Moses Snipes, chairman; Mrs. G. C. McDaniel, Mrs. Tommie B. Godfrey, Mrs. Charles D. Goodwin, Mrs. Wesley F. Hart, Mrs. E. W. Hunter, Mrs. N. V. Keith, Mrs. Harry R. Marsales, Mrs. Frank Perry, Mrs. John W. Little, Mrs. E. E. Ballinger, Perry White, Mrs. Henrietta (Pat) Nixon, Fletcher Rosser, and E. A. Hubbard.

Christian Social Concerns: Robert B. Whitley, chairman; Mrs. Ralph C. Womble, Mrs. Ray Wood, Mrs. Jimmie Wicker, Mrs. Jack Thornton, Mrs. Roy Sowers, Harry Snead, Stephen D. Seymore, Jr., E. A. Hubbard, W. G. Womack, Dr. Paul Howard, Mrs. Tommie B. Godfrey, Roy Dixon, Mrs. Jack Sloan, Fletcher Rosser, Mrs. R. J. Benson.

Worship—The Church Guild: Mrs. R. J. Benson, chairman; The Flowers: Mrs. J. G. Formy-Duval, chairman; Interior Decorations: Mrs. Phillip E. Dusenbury, Mrs. Hayden Lutterloh, Jr., Mrs. Eugene Johnson, Mrs. C. M. Oldham.

Committees

Assimilation of New Members: Mrs. W. F. Parrish, chairman; Mrs. George Duke, Mrs. Jimmy Makepeace, Mrs. R. N. Hanner, Mrs. Peyton Williamson, Miss Rinda Taylor, Mrs. E. T. Bynum, Mrs. J. T. O'Neal, Mrs. Broadus Foushee, Mrs. Clyde Burns and Mrs. Jack Kenton.

Christian Literature: Mrs. George Brotherton, chairman; Mrs. Jack Marshall, Mrs. J. W. Bralley, Mrs. H. V. Fenstamacher, Mrs. E. A. Hubbard, Mrs. Perry White, Mrs. W. L. Woltz, Mrs. Ray Wood, Miss Ruth Cotton, Mrs. P. K. Buchanan, Mrs. S. D. Seymore, Jr., and Mrs. Harry Snead.

Dramatics and Pageantry: Sam Bass, chairman; Mrs. Granville

M. King, Mrs. W. H. Hinson, Pete Mace, Sam Ellis, Dr. Howard and Mrs. Sam Ellis.

Live Nativity Scene: W. G. Womack, chairman.

Executive Committee: E. A. Hubbard, chairman; J. E. Davis, J. A. Cobb, L. D. Isenhour, W. H. White, E. L. Morgan, Fletcher Rosser, Mrs. M. W. Harriss, Jr., Mrs. Pat Nixon.

Nominations: W. Stanley Potter, A. G. Martin and J. E. Davis.

Hospital and Homes: Miss Carrie Phillips, chairman; Mrs. D. C. Lawrence, Jr., Mrs. Harry Snead, Mrs. O. P. Makepeace and Mrs. H. A. Matthews.

Library: Mrs. A. C. Hood, chairman; W. J. Brinn, Mrs. J. W. Goldston, Fletcher Rosser, Miss Pete Hill, and Mrs. R. L. Miller. Librarian: Miss Mary Scott Gurley.

Music: Mrs. D. L. McRae, chairman; Miss Pete Hill and Mrs. A. B. Williams, Jr.

Parsonage: Mrs. Lynn Perry, chairman; Mrs. C. Broadus Foushee and Mrs. W. J. Womble. Outside: L. A. McIver, chairman; Jimmy Makepeace and W. L. Jewell, Jr.

Pastoral Relations: A. M. Hubbard, chairman; Dr. P. E. Cotter and A. E. White.

Personnel: J. E. Davis, chairman; E. A. Hubbard and Mrs. R. J. Benson.

Property: Jimmy Makepeace, chairman; Dr. P. E. Cotter, Neill Hanner, and Neill Cole.

Pulpit: W. H. (Sam) Davis, Jr., chairman; J. W. Hoyle, J. Allen Harrington.

Records, History, Historians: Mrs. F. M. Humphries, chairman; Mrs. D. C. Lawrence, Mrs. Neill Hanner, Mr. P. J. Barringer, Mrs. W. L. Simmons, Mrs. A. M. Hubbard, Mr. W. R. Makepeace.

Social Service: F. M. Humphries, chairman; Mrs. Joe Mason, Jr., Mrs. Jack Kenton, L. A. McIver and R. L. Miller.

Stewardship: Mrs. R. L. Miller, chairman; Mrs. J. L. Stewart, Miss Pete Hill, Mrs. W. R. Hartness, Jr., Mrs. C. M. Reeves, Jr., Mrs. N. V. Keith, Miss Una Gregson, Mrs. Jack Sloan, and Mrs. Claude Eury, Jr.

Telephone: Mrs. C. C. Bowers, Mrs. H. V. Fenstamacher and Mrs. Sam Bass.

Ushers: Roy N. Knight, chairman; J. O. Bridges and L. A. McIver, Assistants.

Christian Vocations: John J. Marshall, chairman, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Mace and Perry White.

Welcome and Fellowship: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kenton, co-chairmen; Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Bridges, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Benson, Mr. and Mrs. Garland Scott, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Davis and Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Sopausek.

Wills and Legacies: J. W. Hoyle, chairman; J. Allen Harrington, K. R. Hoyle and Clawson Williams, Jr.

Audit: J. E. Davis, chairman

Holy Communion: Mrs. F. W. Von Canon, steward; Mrs. Richard Bowles and Mrs. W. W. Buchanan. Usher, F. M. Humphries, chairman; L. A. McIver and Dr. P. E. Cotter.

Everymember Canvass: Jack Marshall

Gifts and Memorials: Mrs. G. J. Casey, Mrs. Jack Sloan, Mrs. H. A. Palmer.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service: President: Mrs. M. W. Harriss, Jr., Vice-President: Mrs. Ken Eason; Secretary: Mrs. Charles Maynard; Treasurer: Mrs. F. M. Humphries.

The Wesleyan Service Guild: President: Mrs. H. Pat Nixon; Vice President: Mrs. Tommy Godfrey; Secretary: Mrs. Sam Davis; Treasurer: Mrs. Pat Noles.

The Choirs: Adult, President: Mrs. Guy Boger, Jr. Junior Choir Director: Mrs. V. P. Watson; Cherub Choir Director: Mrs. E. C. Wallace; Director: Mrs. E. C. Wallace.

EDUCATIONAL STAFF, 1961-1962

The Chairman of the Commission on Education Lynn Perry
 General Superintendent of the Church School Perry White
 Membership Cultivation Superintendent Dan C. Lawrence
 Superintendent Adult Division R. L. Miller
 Superintendent Youth Division J. T. O'Neal, Jr.

Nursery Home Visitor Mrs. J. P. Derrickson
 Adult Home Department Workers

Miss Myra Godfrey, Mrs. Roy Ledden

Extension Department Mrs. W. L. Simmons

Church School Secretary Charles Maynard

Assistant Church School Secretary J. D. Huffstetler

Assistant and Statistician Lombe Rives

Church School Hostess Mrs. J. T. O'Neal, Sr.

Educational Assistant Mrs. W. I. Shope

Nursery No. 1 (up to two years of age) Mrs. John Causey,
 Mrs. Orville Krick, and Mrs. George Palmer.

Nursery No. 2 (2 to 3 years by October 15th) Mrs. Granville
 M. King, Mrs. Jim Bost, Mrs. Kenneth Farrior.

Nursery No. 3 (3 to 4 years) Mrs. Nick Denesuk, Mrs. Ralph
 Watson, Mrs. P. L. Johnson, Jr., Mrs. Harry Miller, Mrs. Ed
 Roseman.

Kindergarten No. 4 (4 years prior to October 15th) Mrs. Sam
 Ellis, Mrs. Moleta Hodges, Mrs. Paul Gay, Mrs. Stacy Budd,
 Sstitutes: Mrs. Clyde Burns and Sam Ellis.

Kindergarten No. 5 (5 years prior to October 15th) Mrs. C. M.
 Oldham, Mrs. Jack Kenton, Mrs. Joe Rempson, Mrs. Roy Sowers,
 Jr., Secretary and Pianist: Mrs. J. H. Lehmann.

Primary 1 (1st Grade Public School) Mrs. Willard Archer and
 Mrs. Moses Snipes.

Primary 2 (2nd Grade Public School) Mrs. Dan Lawrence and
 Mrs. Lewis Lawrence.

Primary 3 (3rd Grade Public School) Mrs. Lawrence Alex-
 ander, Mrs. Jack Marshall, and Mrs. W. F. Wyatt, Jr.

Junior Department—Junior 4th Grade: Mrs. Eugene Yarbor-
 ough, Mrs. W. F. Parrish, and Mrs. George Curry, Jr.

Junior 5th Grade: Mrs. D. L. McRae.

Junior 6th Grade: Donald Nulph. Substitutes for Junior De-
 partment: Mrs. Garland Scott and Mrs. C. M. Reeves, Jr.

Junior High 7th Grade: Mrs. H. R. Baucom.

8th Grade: Mrs. W. R. Makepeace, Jr.

9th Grade: F. M. Humphries and Kenneth Farrior.

Senior High—10th Grade: Mrs. R. L. Miller.

11th Grade: Mrs. Vance Neal.

12th Grade: Robert Groome.

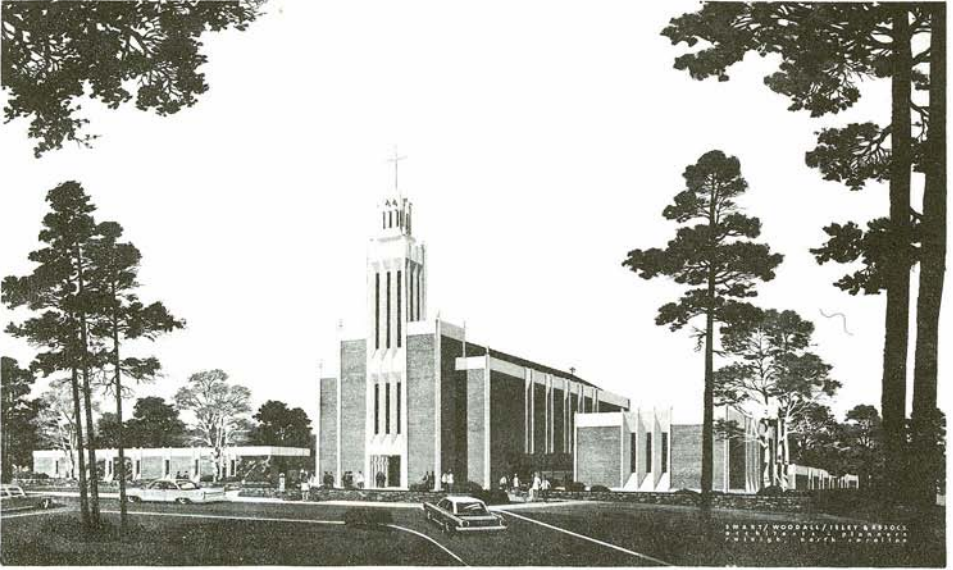
The Methodist Youth Fellowship—Senior MYF, Adult Counselors: Mr. and Mrs. H. C. "Pete" Mace. Officers: Richard Shope, President. Junior High MYF, Adult Counselors: Mr. and Mrs. William B. Ellington. Officers: Lynn Cobb, President.

A. S. Parker Class: Using Unit Selector Plan—Leaders selected for each unit. Officers: H. H. Brooks, president; Dalton O'Guin, vice president; Mrs. Robert Groome, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. E. C. Deibler, assistant secretary-treasurer.

Lucile Hunter Class: Teachers: Mrs. Edwin A. Hubbard, Miss Pete Hill, Mrs. Jack Sloan. Officers: Mrs. Claude A. Eury, President; Mrs. Roy Thomas, vice president; Mrs. Wade Jones, secretary; Mrs. W. H. Ray, treasurer.

Woman's Wesley Class: Teachers: Mrs. W. Stanley Potter, Miss Pete Hill, Mrs. D. C. Lawrence, Mrs. H. Pat Nixon, Mrs. S. W. Allen, Miss Mary Wishard. Officers: Mrs. Roy Ledden, president; Mrs. Henrietta Nixon, 1st vice president; Mrs. R. N. Hanner, 2nd vice president; Mrs. C. H. Griffin, recording secretary; Mrs. A. E. White, assistant; Mrs. W. H. Walker, corresponding secretary; Mrs. J. L. Sauls, treasurer; Miss Effie Crabtree, assistant; Mrs. M. W. Harriss, Sr., chairman for securing teachers.

T. R. Moffitt Bible Class: Teachers: Judge Clawson L. Williams, K. R. Hoyle. Officers: W. R. Makepeace, Jr., president; Bill Parrish, vice president; Peyton Williamson, secretary; George McBride, treasurer.



Saint Luke United Methodist Church

(Formerly Steele Street United Methodist Church)

Sanford, North Carolina

Organized January 29, 1887 - Rebuilt August 29, 1915

Relocated May 12, 1974

REGINALD W. PONDER, MINISTER

Edward M. Gunter, Associate Minister

W. Stanley Potter, Minister Emeritus

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
CONSECRATION SERVICE
ST. LUKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
May 12, 1974

THE ORGAN PRELUDE

THE CHIMES

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Sanctuary Choir

"How blessed is this place, O. Lord,
Where Thou art worshiped and adored;
In faith we here an altar raise
To thy great glory, God of Praise."

THE INVOCATION

*THE HYMN OF ADORATION

"I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"

No. 294

THE COLLECT: (Congregation seated and bowed)

Blessed be thy name, O. Lord, that thou hast given to thy servants a holy will and sacred desire, to erect and sanctify to thine own worship this building, which we now open for thine honor and glory. Grant that we, and all who come within these portals, shall ever make right use of it, and that the splendor of thy presence shall be manifest therein, and the hearts of thy people be ever blessed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**THE ORGAN INTERLUDE

THE ANTHEM

"Prayer For My Parents"

Bennett (Arr. Wallace)

Junior and Sanctuary Choirs

O God, My Father and Maker of the world,
I ask you to keep my parents from all harm.
Give them health of body and soul;
Give them the patience they need
To bring me up in ways of goodness.
And to guide me to understand Your way.
Give them the strength they need to do Your will.
Help me to do as they wish,
So I may please both them and You;
For You have said:
"Honor your father and your mother."
Look upon my parents
And lead them with Your kindness.
Surround them with Your loving care.
Give them Your protection.
Hear and accept my prayer
For the sake of Your dear Son, Jesus.
For Yours is the glory
And power and blessing forever. Amen.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BUILDING FOR CONSECRATION
THE RECEPTION OF THE BUILDING FOR WORSHIP AND STUDY
THE ACT OF CONSECRATION

Minister

In holy reverence, and in confidence that God our Father will accept that which we do in his name, I now declare this house to be open for the worship of Almighty God.

For the preaching of God's Word; for the due administration of the holy Sacraments; for the conversion of sinners, the edification of believers, and the salvation of the world, we reverently set apart and consecrate this building. For nurture in the truth of the Holy Scriptures; for Christian teaching, fellowship, and service, we reverently set apart this building, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Unison

Now therefore, O Lord, let thine eyes be open toward this house day and night; and let thine ears be ready toward the prayers of thy children, which we shall make unto thee in this place. And whensoever thy servants shall make unto thee their petitions, do thou hear them, and when thou hearest, forgive. Amen

THE WELCOME TO VISITORS

THE CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE ACT OF PRAISE "The Earth Is The Lord's" No. 561

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "The Apostles' Creed" No. 738

THE GLORIA PATRI

THE READINGS FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURES: I Kings 8:22-30
I Corinthians 3:9-23

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE OFFERING

Offertory Anthem "Hymn Of The Times" Briggs-Beck
Sanctuary Choir

The Doxology

THE SERMON "FOR THE LIVING OF THESE DAYS" Mr. Ponder

*THE HYMN OF DEDICATION "God Of Grace And God Of Glory" No. 470

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE RESPONSE Sanctuary Choir

THE CHIMES

THE POSTLUDE

*The congregation please stand.

**Ushers will seat worshipers at this interval.

The lovely flowers are in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Perry and are given by their children, Mrs. T. G. Beck and Mr. Hugh Perry.

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

Bishop	Robert M. Blackburn
District Superintendent	James H. McCallum
Minister	Reginald W. Ponder
Associate Minister	Edward M. Gunter
Minister Emeritus	William Stanley Potter
Church Secretary	Mrs. O. B. Stokes
Minister's Secretary	Mrs. Peyton Williamson
Director of Music	Mrs. E. C. Wallace
Organist	Mrs. Van Paul Watson
Custodian	James McNeill

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. LUKE CHURCH

The Steele Street Church was organized on January 29, 1887 with thirteen charter members. The present property on Steele Street was deeded to the trustees on March 28, 1888. The original structure was begun immediately and dedicated in August 1888. The first church was a large one room white frame building with a vestibule, bell tower and steeple. It served the needs of the congregation for more than a quarter of a century.

The present sanctuary was begun in 1914. On August 29, 1915 the first worship service was held in the new church. By December 1, 1917 all indebtedness of the church was paid. It was a high moment in the history of the church.

In 1940 the church bought the land adjacent to its sanctuary from Mrs. T. A. Riddle and began construction of the present educational building. This building was completed in 1941. This venture completed the present facilities.

In November of 1949 the Steele Street Church was the host church for the North Carolina Annual Conference. This was a great honor for Sanford and the Steele Street Church.

In 1955 Steele Street Church was instrumental in the organization of Trinity Methodist Church on Bragg Street. Twenty-two members of the Steele Street Church transferred to the new congregation.

In 1957 plans were set in motion for a new church home for the Steele Street Church with the purchase of a site on Carbondon Road. In 1961 a Financial Crusade was conducted to raise funds for the new church building which netted more than \$325,000.00.

In 1968 a Building Committee was elected by the Charge Conference. A site on Wicker Street extension was chosen for the new structure. Two years later the congregation approved the plans for a \$1,250,000.00 building to be erected on this site. Another financial drive raised \$450,000.00 in cash and pledges for the building. In January of 1971 the "Groundbreaking Ceremony" was held. Construction was begun in July of the same year.

The Steele Street Church moved to its new location May 12, 1974 and became St. Luke United Methodist Church. It is hoped that the historic past of a great church will be but the prologue to a new chapter in the history of serving the city of Sanford in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.