



History of St. Mark's United Methodist Church 1956 - 1996

*Dr. T. Edwin Perry
Church Historian
Julia Moore, Assistant*

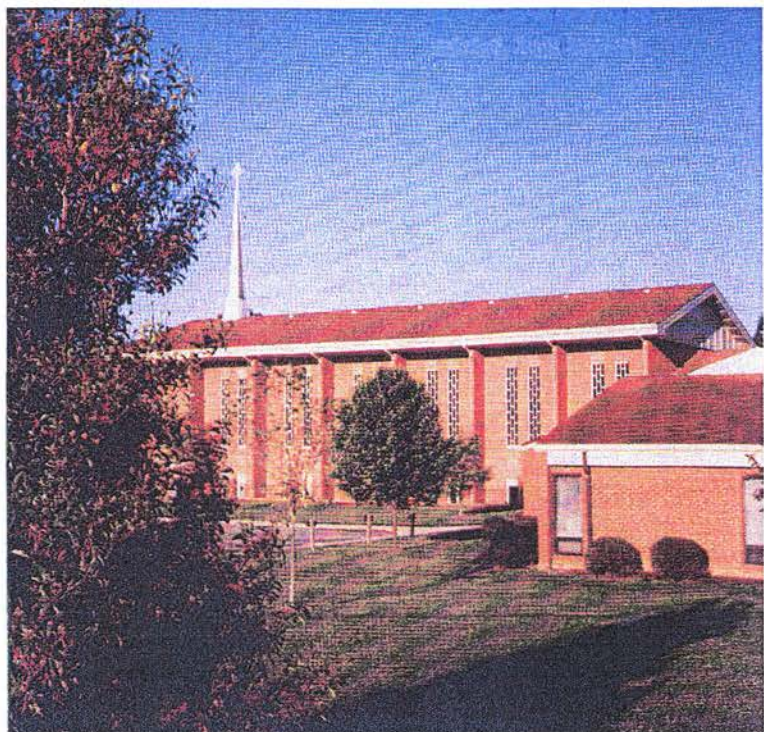


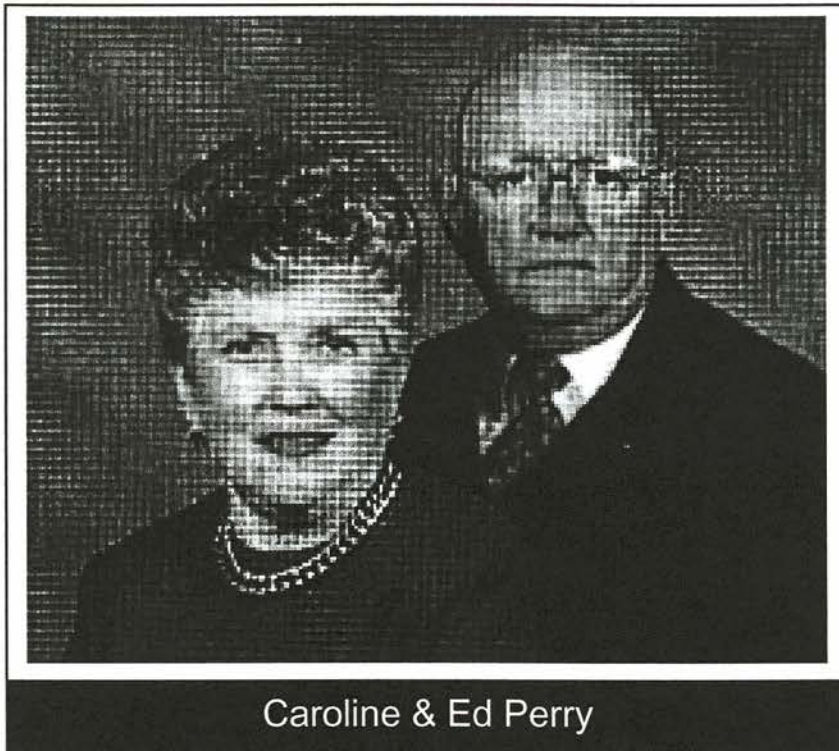
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Dedication

History is the record of people, places, and events. It must have a beginning, facts must be as accurate as possible, and it must be carefully documented. One person at St. Mark's has spent hours and years documenting and saving these records for all of us to use and enjoy. He saved bulletins and newsletters from the beginning (and he was a charter member) and was physically present at our most important events. He carefully collected and saved pictures and documents and even taped and had former ministers tape their stories and memories of their time at St. Mark's. He received documents from Olaf Wakefield and Mel Veach and others and together with help from his wife and partner of some 50 plus years he made it possible for us to pull together the first written history of St. Mark's United Methodist Church. It is with our gratitude and respect and certainly with our love that we proudly dedicate this church history to Dr. T. Edwin Perry.

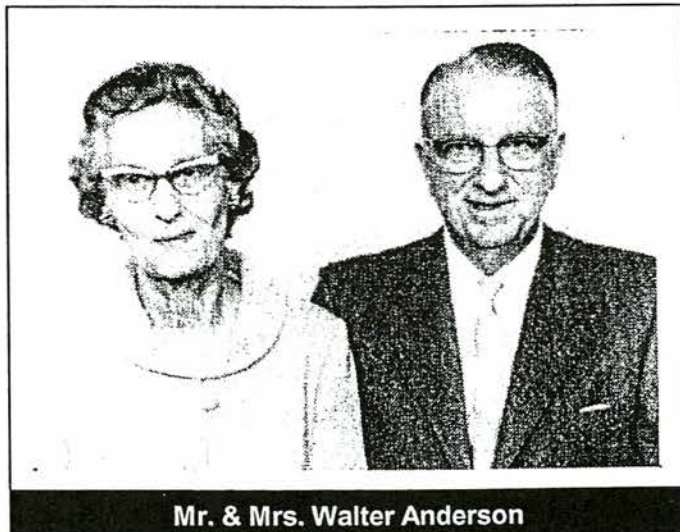


1 | *How It All Began!*

The origin of St. Mark's United Methodist Church is a phenomenon that evolved as a result of dreams and foresight. Its origin was a culmination of those dreams, the foresight of a few and the resultant phenomenal growth of the north side of Raleigh.

It is really not known exactly how many people met that cold, dreary Palm Sunday, March 25th, 1956, but there has been a traditional number of twenty-seven that some claim to have been present. Probably that figure was arrived at by naming twenty-six couples and one bachelor, Emil Hoffman, who were known to be present. There were, however, Mrs. Horace Jones at the piano (a piano was on loan from Mrs. Annie Cooper) and Mr. Walter Anderson who delivered the first sermon, and maybe Mrs. Anderson was present also. There is not a document to substantiate the number, but our composite memories tell us that we are approximately correct. As the expression goes, "good enough for government work." Mr. Anderson's sermon was Twin Pillars for a Firm Spiritual Foundation. Many years later Mr. Anderson was interviewed at his home and was given a copy of that bulletin and order of worship from the first service and he chuckled and said, "Wonder what I talked about that Sunday." Mrs. Horace Jones was the wife of Reverend Horace Jones, who was then a retired Methodist Minister. Reverend Jones later filled our pulpit during the extended illness of Reverend George Ports.

St. Mark's Methodist Church was a dream of two men, Dr. Thomas A. Collins and the late Walter Anderson. The two men and the Raleigh Board of Missions generated the impetus that resulted in the new Methodist church. The Raleigh Board of Missions authorized the purchase of seven acres of land on Six Forks Road for \$7,000.00, for a proposed new church in June 1954. On December 18, 1954 the Conference Board of Missions authorized the purchase of twelve Armco steel buildings for new church development with the first one to be erected at Layden Memorial and the second at Six Forks Road in the fall of 1955. Dr. Collins and Mr. Anderson had the materials delivered to the Six Forks site for a church in mid-winter 1955-56. The two men and two helpers erected the building during January and February of 1956 and made plans for an initial service in March.



Mr. & Mrs. Walter Anderson

Dr. Collins petitioned the Conference Board to assign a pastor immediately and with support from the Conference Board of Missions, and the Raleigh District Superintendent, R. Grady Dawson, Bishop Paul Garber appointed a Duke Divinity student, Norman Sabin, to be the interim pastor. The second service was conducted by Mr. Sabin, who served until July 8, 1956, when Henry Bizzell assumed the duties of pastor pursuant to his assignment by the Bishop at Conference. Reverend Henry Bizzell was appointed

to be the first full-time pastor at the Annual Conference on June 28, 1956. This conference was meeting at Jarvis Memorial Methodist Church in Greenville, N.C. By conference time the congregation had chosen the name of St. Mark's Methodist Church and the appointment was made to this charge.

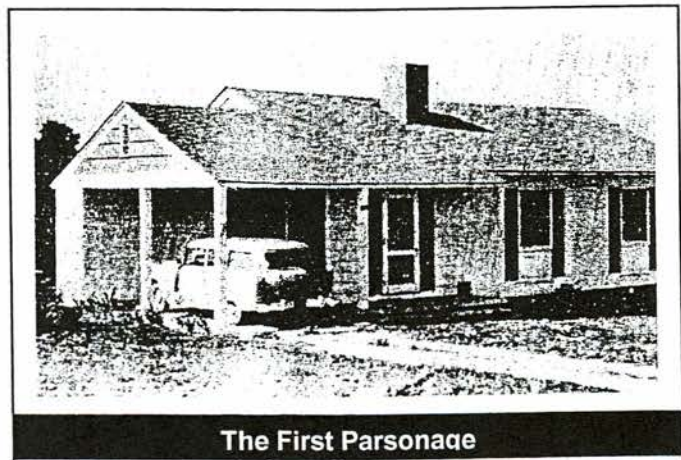
Reverend Henry Bizzell came on board the next week after his appointment. Mr. Bizzell had no quarters and Reverend Horace Jones provided him with living quarters until the church could provide a parsonage. The new church was obviously in need of a parsonage and immediately they purchased a home on Manchester Drive to house the pastor. Though it was a residence for the pastor, many church functions were held there as well as in the metal building.

Those early days of our new "Methodist Church on Six Forks Road," as it was called, offered many firsts. An interesting first occurred when it was announced in the church program on Sunday, June 3, 1956 that ... "This morning in the service you will be asked to approve a church name to be used hereafter on all church records and publicity. Names submitted are: Asbury, Christ, Divine, Divinity, Fair Haven, Grace, St. John's, St. Luke's, and St. Mark's. The steering committee submits the name St. Mark's Methodist Church for the congregational vote." It was a unanimous vote for the name, which Caroline Perry had proposed. Three days later on Wednesday, St. Mark's Methodist Church was authorized by Quarterly Conference, with Raleigh District Superintendent Reverend R. Grady Dawson presiding. Technically this is recognized as the birthday of St. Mark's by church records, even though the church started and held its first service on Palm Sunday, March 25, 1956.

Those first services were held in the temporary structure, a metal building with an A roof, that consisted of one large room serving as a sanctuary and a small classroom. As an indication of the optimism and zeal of those first members, a building committee was appointed. The first record of the building committee appeared in the July 15, 1956 church bulletin. There the announcement was made that Emil Hoffman was chairman, Faison Keene, Vice-chairman, and George Gentry, secretary. In the first issue of the St. Mark's Newsletter on August 10, 1956, the building committee announced its schedule for 1956 and 1957, projecting that construction would begin on May 1, 1957. Moving rapidly the committee announced in the August 15, 1956 newsletter that they had selected Mr. William Moore Weber as architect.

Another first was announced in the Sept. 8, 1956 newsletter. "Your pastor is now a resident of Chestnut Hills. He had moved into the new parsonage at 561 Manchester Drive on Thursday, August 30." It was noted in the remainder of the announcement that the parsonage was not completely furnished but would soon be.

In the Oct. 19, 1956 issue of the newsletter two more firsts appeared; the observance of the first "Layman's Day" with a special layman's program under the direction of Lay Leader Bob Montgomery, and then the youth choir's participation in the church service for the first time on October 21. In that same issue of the newsletter this statement relative to the Church School appeared. "It now appears that our enrollment will be about fifty."



The first financial report appeared in the newsletter on November 6, 1956. Mrs. Margaret Munns was Church Treasurer and the income to date was listed as \$2,189.77. One thousand dollars of that came from the Conference Board of Missions. It is interesting to note that Dr. Collins was executive secretary of the Conference Board of Missions at that time.

The first assigned pastor was Henry Bizzell. He had a most difficult task to get a new church underway when he arrived in Raleigh on July 5th or 6th, 1956. He stated in a letter that he lived with the Reverend and Mrs. Horace Jones for several weeks until the church purchased the first parsonage on Manchester Drive and he was in residence there by Sunday February 14, Valentines Day, 1957.

Food At St. Mark's

A document is in the hands of the history committee that is dated May 2, 1956, that lists the church members, actually their signatures, who attended the first family fellowship hour with a covered dish supper. This was a result of an invitation to the membership by the acting pastor, Norman Sabin. Incidentally, this document probably was included in copies of all the papers in Reverend Sabin's files made available by him following a visit to St. Mark's in 1992 for the retirement of Mrs. Margaret Munns, church secretary for 26 years.

The next record of covered dish suppers was the initiation of the Wednesday Night suppers on February 20, 1957. That tradition of Wednesday Night Supper Club continues to the present day.

Man does not live by bread alone, we have heard many times and it is true, but it does come in about second place for man. St. Mark's contributed to the feeding of the congregation and others in additional ways besides covered dish suppers. The membership of the church participated in several barbecues to earn money for church projects. The first of these barbecues was held on Friday, October 13, 1961. The barbecue was purchased from the Murphy House Barbecue in Louisburg, N.C. Murphy House sent a refrigerated truck to Raleigh with the amount of barbecue needed for the day. Since two meals were served, lunch and dinner, there was a sizeable amount on the truck. In addition to barbecue, the truck brought slaw and hush puppies. Prior to the day of the barbecue sale, church members solicited orders for plates in various places throughout Raleigh. Orders from state offices, work crews, telephone crews, etc. were solicited in advance. Assignments of workers on the preparation lines were made in advance also. After a day of hard work and close association with other members, fond friendships flourished.

Records show that in 1962 there were two barbecue dates, Friday October 12, and Friday November 16. The profit from the Friday November 16, 1962 barbecue was \$819.40. In 1962 that was an appreciable sum. In 1963 the records show that Friday February 8 was the next barbecue date.

Newsletters And Bulletins

There is hardly anywhere to tell about the evolvement of the church publications except to start with the first one and tell of a metamorphosis. The first on record was a letter signed by Reverend Norman Sabin, the minister of the Methodist Church on Six Forks Road area of Raleigh. It was mimeographed on the letterhead of the Board of Missions, North Carolina Annual Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction of the Methodist Church, Inc. The letter with that heading on it had a subheading on the left margin that said Reverend Thomas A. Collins, Executive Secretary, and his address. This letter was dated March 22, 1956, three days before the first service on Palm Sunday, March 25. This letter was hand delivered to the residents of the North Raleigh community. In a tape recorded interview with Reverend Collins in 1995, he referred to this letter and related how it was distributed door to door.

The next record available as a publication from the new church is dated April 26, 1956, approximately one month following the first service. Reverend Norman Sabin addressed the communication, a single spaced legal-sized document to "All members, Friends, and Interested Persons." In the first paragraph it said, "Newly organized groups for women, children, and church-goers are adding their part to the church fellowship of the community. This letter is their way of telling you about planned activities." It goes on to say, "Saturday, April 28, 1956, 2:00 PM is set aside to clean the church." The next sentence is of particular significance for it tells of the trials of that meager beginning. " We have been aided this past week by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Best and Mr. F.H. Keen, who pooled their efforts and scrubbed the sanctuary floor free of one layer of clay."

DR. J. E. GADSDEN, President
Rothero, North Carolina

REV. A. S. PARKER, Vice President
Henderson, North Carolina

REV. S. J. STARNES, Secretary
Piquette Springs, North Carolina

REV. MARK W. LAWRENCE
Missionary Secretary
Kinston, North Carolina

Board of Missions, North Carolina Annual Conference
Southeastern Jurisdiction of The Methodist Church, Inc.

March 22 1956.

REV. THOMAS A. COLLINS
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
970 Lake Boone Trail
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Friends:

We should like for you to consider this a personal invitation to visit with us on the occasion of our FIRST METHODIST CHURCH SERVICE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Sunday, March 25, 1956 at 11:00 a. m. our new Methodist Church will have the first public worship service at our temporary chapel on Six Forks Road. You may locate this steel chapel on our church site about two blocks from Chestnut Hills, towards town, and about two blocks from Farrior Hills towards the Chestnut Hills area.

We are happy to announce that Mr. Walter Anderson, former Associate Secretary for Church Extension, and also former State Director of the Prison System, will be our preacher for the opening service. We are certain you will profit spiritually from his message, "Twin Pillars For A Spiritual Foundation".

In the event you cannot be with us Palm Sunday, services will continue each Sunday morning at 11:00 a. m. Church School services for all ages will begin Sunday, April 8th, at 9:45 a. m. We invite you to participate in each of these.

Please feel free to call on us any time we can be of service to you and your community.

Sincerely,

Norman Sabin
Rev. Norman Sabin, Minister
The Methodist Church, Six
Forks Road Area of Raleigh.

March 22, 1956

2 | *The Ministers*

Eight ministers have been appointed to serve St. Mark's in its forty-year existence.

Before the first appointment there was a student minister, Mr. Norman Sabin. Mr. Sabin is now a retired Methodist minister in Pennsylvania. He served the interim period from the first service on March 26, 1956 until Annual Conference in June. Mr. Sabin was a seminary student at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

The bishop appointed Reverend Henry Bizzell, Jr. to St. Mark's at conference that June. Reverend Bizzell moved to St. Mark's from Gatesville Methodist Church in Gates County, North Carolina.

At Annual Conference in June, 1960, Reverend George Ports, Jr. was assigned to St. Mark's and though he spent a great deal of time in the hospital, he served St. Mark's until 1964.

The next assigned minister to St. Mark's was Reverend J. Malloy Owen, III, in what turned out to be an active and long pastorate at St. Mark's. He served at St. Mark's for sixteen years. These were the years of the greatest growth for the church and of the development of the north side of the city of Raleigh. Reverend Owen left St. Mark's to become the District Superintendent of the New Bern District.

Mr. Owen was followed by a man whose name was already prominent in the history of St. Mark's, Reverend Thomas A. Collins. Dr. Collins had held many important positions in the North Carolina Conference prior to his assignment here. He served at St. Mark's for six years.

Next to be assigned to St. Mark's was Reverend Herman Winberry. He left St. Mark's to go into retirement in 1988.

Reverend Charles Bryant followed Reverend Winberry at St. Mark's. He was relieved of assignment in January 1990. A retired minister, Reverend John Cline, filled in until the 1990 Annual Conference, when Dr. Brian Gentle was assigned. At the writing of this history in 1996, Reverend Gentle is still at St. Mark's.

Reverend Henry Bizzell, Jr. 1956 - 1960

The tenure of Reverend Henry Bizzell got off to a rousing start even though the physical plant was temporary and meager. He wrote in a 1966 resume of his years at St. Mark's in which he related... "First, the people were very optimistic and enthusiastic. Second, we had very little in the way of material resources at our disposal. The assistance of the North Carolina Board of Missions and Church Extension and the Raleigh Board of Missions was very valuable. This assistance, along with the firm support of the charter membership, formed the solid foundation upon which the church was structured."

In 1966, Reverend Bizzell wrote an extensive resume of his years at St. Mark's. Impressions related in his resume are vivid and probably best tell the story of those first four years. From his resume we quote:

The beginnings of St. Mark's Church were humble. The congregation met for three years, until Palm Sunday, 1959, in a pre-fabricated metal building which was more suited for a storage building or garage than a church. Soon we outgrew this building, and some of our church school classes met at the parsonage and in several of the homes of the congregation. The building was damp and cold in the winter and hot in the summer. Nevertheless, the congregation grew. The growth was slow and spasmodic, but it was solid.

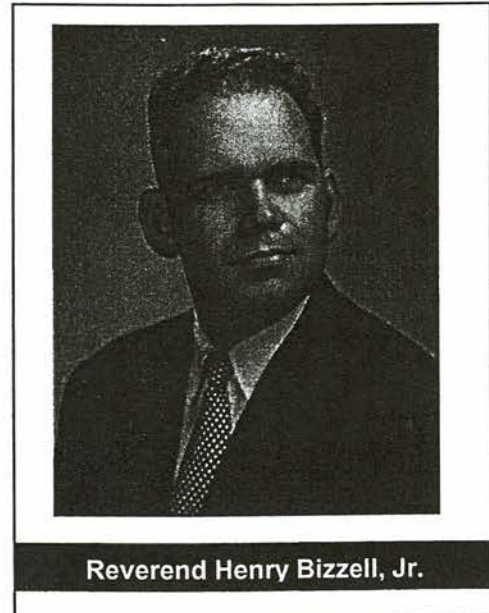
The first person I received into the membership of the church was Emil Hoffman who later served as chairman of the building committee and treasurer of the church. Mr. Hoffman presented his credentials for church membership and was received into the church on the first Sunday of my ministry at St. Mark's, July 8, 1956.

I remember the long months of planning for the first unit building. The building committee spent many hours in work and planning. William Moore Weber was hired as architect. The committee worked with Mr. Weber through each stage; preliminary sketches, the master plan, detailed and working drawings. There was a high degree of interest and enthusiasm in this work. The whole congregation became involved and cooperated in this effort.

The hard job was making financial arrangements for the erection of the building. The lending institutions were not able to help. Therefore, the congregation used another approach - selling bonds.

This was a venture of faith which required great effort, long hours, and a lot of courage. We felt like giving up many times, but would not admit defeat. As I look back on these very difficult days, I wonder how we kept trying when there was so little success. The fact that we did finally succeed is a tribute to the sixty persons who made up the congregation at that time. Since then, this group's courage and loyalty have been a source of encouragement to me.

When financial arrangements were made, we were ready for construction to begin. The ground-breaking service was held at nine o'clock, March 30, 1958. Those participating were the Reverend R. Grady Dawson, Raleigh District Superintendent; Harold Eckert, president of the Raleigh Board of Missions; the Reverend Thomas A. Collins, executive secretary of the Board of Missions and Church Extension, North Carolina Conference; the Reverend Frank Cade; W. M. Weber, architect; R. L. Caviness, contractor; Miss Susan Keen, representing the children of the church; W. P. Cranford, III, president of the MYF; T. L. Burgess, chairman of the Official Board; Mrs. J.W. Munns, chairman of the Board of Trustees; N.W. Sites, Jr., church Lay Leader; Mrs. W. P. Cranford, Jr., president of the WSCS; Emil Hoffman, chairman of the Building Committee; P.B. Dunn,



chairman of the Commission on Evangelism; P.E. Sharp, chairman of the Commission on Christian Social Relations; B.B. Ross, chairman of the Commission on Christian Fellowship; Dr. T.E. Perry, chairman of the Commission on Education; P.E. Taylor, church school superintendent; Olaf Wakefield, chairman of the Commission on Missions; V. C. Hewitt, vice-chairman of the Commission on Stewardship and Finance; and the Reverend Henry Bizzell, Pastor. As I recall, the morning was cold and damp with some rain.

One incident at the ground-breaking ceremony stands out in my memory. Mr. Dawson, our District Superintendent, was the first to turn a spade of dirt. Two of our junior boys, Roy Russell Jarvis and Tommy Jones, had moved up very close and were standing beside Mr. Dawson. When he moved the first dirt, Roy Russell said to Tommy, 'Do you see any worms?' Mr. Dawson replied, 'No, not one.'

Although construction was slow, held up by delay in delivery of materials, we were assured that the first service could be scheduled for Palm Sunday, March 22, 1959. As the time approached, it became more and more evident that the building would not be completed. Nonetheless, the first service in the new building was held at the scheduled time. Members of the congregation worked until very late the preceding night cleaning the building and moving furniture. Work continued on the building for several days after the congregation began to use it.

Those participating in the first service of worship in the new building were the Reverend Graham S. Eubanks, Raleigh District Superintendent; the Reverend W. A. Cade of the Raleigh Board of Missions; and the Reverend Henry Bizzell, Pastor. Mr. Eubanks, who was to deliver the sermon, became ill during the early part of the service and was rushed to the hospital. Mr. Cade preached the first sermon in the new church.

The new building was not completed at the time we began to use it, so work parties, volunteers from the church membership, were used in an effort to make the building more useable. These volunteers hung doors, painted walls, put down tile floors, etc. The biggest job undertaken by these volunteers in the construction of the church was the basement floor. Tons of rock had to be distributed over the surface before the concrete could be poured.

When the time came for me to move to another appointment, lay volunteers repainted the parsonage and prepared it for the next minister and his family.

During the first four years in the life of St. Mark's Church, the congregation did not lose a member by death, and there was only one case of serious illness. I remember the tragic fire at the Brooks' home which took two members of the family, Mrs. Brooks and her daughter, Bonnie. One year later Mr. Brooks died of a heart attack. The last I heard of Tommy and Bobby Brooks, both were students at Charlotte College.

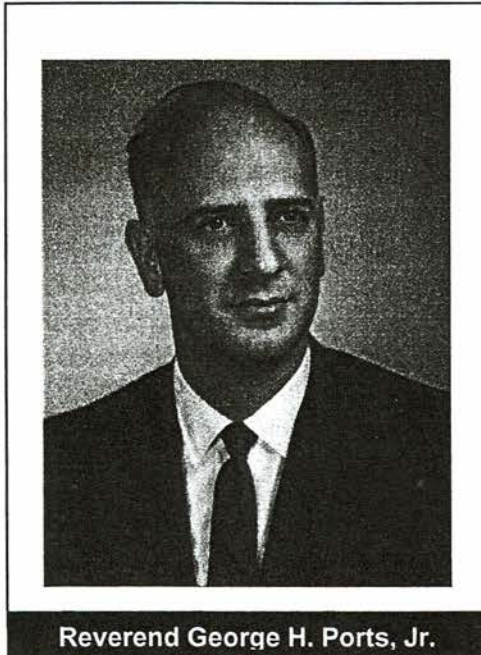
As I review these recollections, a profound and fundamental truth comes to my mind. The people are the church. Though others helped to found and nourish St. Mark's Church, though the pastors who have served St. Mark's have made their contribution, the truth remains that St. Mark's Church exists and lives because of the loyalty, service, and

love of its laity. This has been the story of St. Mark's past and it is the hope of its future.

Reverend George H. Ports, Jr. 1960 - 1964

At Annual Conference on June 27, 1960, held in Rocky Mount, N.C., Reverend George H. Ports, Jr. was assigned the pastorate at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. His first sermon was delivered on Sunday, July 3, 1960.

In those early days, during Reverend Ports' tenure, many significant things took place. In an interview in 1981, Reverend Ports recalled the fact that the congregation had just occupied the first unit of construction and held services in what is now the Walter Anderson Hall. Much of the building was unfinished. The floor of Anderson Hall was raw concrete and the walls were unpainted.



Reverend George H. Ports, Jr.

Another feature characteristic of Reverend Ports' four year stay at St. Mark's was the barbecues detailed in Chapter I. These events were very vivid in the memory of Reverend Ports and he made reference to them repeatedly in his interview.

Reverend Ports suffered many health setbacks during his time at St. Mark's. On two occasions he was absent for a considerable period of time, being hospitalized at Johns Hopkins Hospital in the Washington, D.C. area. During those times, it was necessary that the services of supply ministers were called upon. Reverend Horace Jones filled in the absence of Reverend Ports many times, to the extent that he was assigned by the District Superintendent as substitute minister at St. Mark's.

Reverend Ports and his wife Jaimie raised a son and a daughter while at St. Mark's and the two were actively involved in the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

Reverend J. Malloy Owen III 1964 - 1980

The pastorate of J. Malloy Owen, III began on June 28, 1964 and continued for sixteen years. The church bulletin for that service stated "we welcome our new minister Malloy Owen, III who comes to us from Horne Memorial Methodist of Clayton, N.C. We also welcome his wife, Pat, their daughter Patricia, three years old, and son John, twenty months old." The next sixteen years under the ministry of Reverend Owen were phenomenal not only in numerical growth but spiritual growth as well. Probably one of the most far-reaching endeavors was the Circuit Rider Television Ministry. It played a major role in the growth and development of St. Mark's because reference to the church was made each and every time the program was aired on the TV screen. The Circuit Rider will be treated separately elsewhere in the history.

Reverend Owen was a native of Fayetteville, N.C., born there February 4, 1927. He attended Fayetteville City Schools and graduated in 1945. Reverend Owen went into the Navy for duty in 1945 - 46. He attended Davidson College and graduated with a BS in 1950. Next he attended Duke University Divinity School, graduating in 1953.

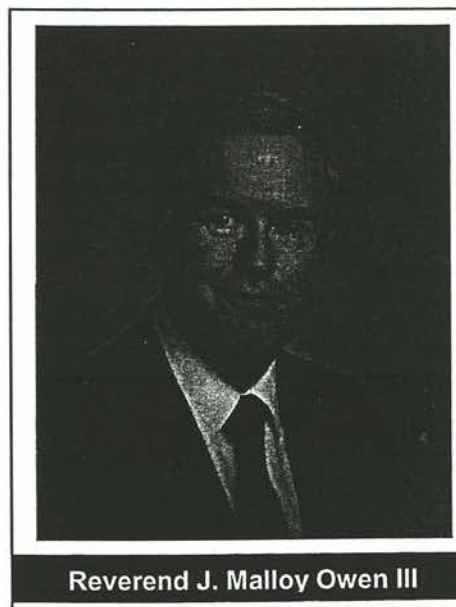
Reverend Owen was appointed to serve St. James Methodist Church in Greenville, N.C. from 1953 to 1959. From St. James he moved to Horne Memorial in Clayton, N.C. in 1959 and served there until his appointment to St. Mark's in Raleigh in 1964.

During his ministry in Greenville he founded and directed the Circuit Rider Television program on WNCT, Greenville (1954 - 1959) and moved the program to WRAL TV in Raleigh while he served at Horne Memorial in Clayton. He continued with the program when he was assigned to St. Mark's.

During those months and years of phenomenal growth at St. Mark's many things took place. One was the employment of additional personnel. One of the early employees was the Youth Coordinator, Reggie Johnson. He came as both youth coordinator and assistant to Reverend Owen. Reggie was a junior at Duke Divinity School at the time of his matriculation to St. Mark's.

Never one to shirk or avoid a controversy, "J. Malloy," as he was affectionately called by those who were his close friends, took a stand on the issues of the times. He was recognized as a very staunch conservative who was constantly urging his parishioners to register and vote. He urged them to vote their conscience, even though he repeatedly took a stand on the issues. On many issues that reached the floor of Annual Conference his opinion was voiced, even though at that particular time his was the minority view.

Reverend Owen was much sought after to conduct services, especially revivals. In August 1964, shortly after assuming his duties at St. Mark's, he was invited to be the guest preacher at his home church, Camp Ground Methodist Church, where he grew up.



Reverend J. Malloy Owen III

An indicator of Reverend Owen's influence in his sixteen year tenure was the phenomenal growth of the church. Though numbers are not always the barometer of success, they are sometimes indicative of what is going on. When Reverend Owen arrived in 1964, there were approximately 350 members on the rolls. When he was assigned elsewhere in 1980 the membership rolls listed slightly over 1700. He always said that the coming of IBM offices and the natural North Raleigh growth were the big reasons for the church growth, but other churches in the area did not grow proportionately.

In 1973 under the leadership of Reverend Owen, St. Mark's helped initiate and lead the interdenominational evangelical thrust for the greater Raleigh community. There was the Billy Graham Central Crusade in 1973, entitled "Here's Life America." Following that was the next Graham campaign, "I Found It" in 1976. Also we helped with "If My People," directed by author/composer Jimmy Owens.

Reverend Owen endorsed and furnished leadership for Raleigh's Christian Woman's Club and the Bible

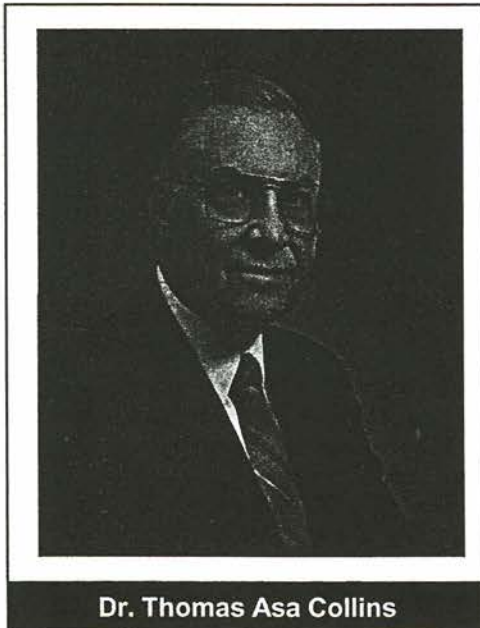
Study Fellowship, all of which extended the witness of St. Mark's and were used by God in the maturity of the congregation of St. Mark's.

In an effort to foster Christian growth and outreach Reverend Owen initiated the small group movement in homes. Two projects that Reverend Owen started and which took hold at the church were the United Methodist Men's sponsoring the Sweetheart Banquet at Valentine's and the Men's Retreat at Camp Willow Run.

Dr. Thomas Asa Collins 1980 - 1986

Bishop Garber referred to Reverend Thomas Collins as the man who was second only to Francis Asbury in establishing Methodist Churches. Dr. Collins has been involved in starting ninety churches in the North Carolina Conference. The following information about the ministry of Dr. Collins is a loose transcription of taped notes which the church history committee asked him to make for us. There are no quotation marks because this is not a word for word transcription of his tape.

I was appointed to the Gatesville Charge, four churches in Gates County, in October of 1944, coming directly from Emory University where I had completed my graduate work in the Candler School of Theology. I served at Gatesville for five years and was asked by Bishop Garber to come to Raleigh to establish a new United Methodist Church, the first one officially started by the conference in many years. That was Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, which began in the fall of 1949. I served there four years, beginning with a small group meeting at Myrtle Underwood Elementary School, completing the first and second units of that building program, leaving a membership of greater than three hundred in a period of three years.



Bishop Garber called and asked me to serve as Executive Secretary and Director of the Conference Board of Missions for the purpose of establishing new United Methodist Churches. I agreed and established Raleigh as the base of operations, since it also served as the conference center and headquarters. I served in this capacity for six years, and we succeeded in starting more than seventy-five new Methodist churches during this time. All but three or four continue as United Methodist churches today and the membership of these churches amounts to most of the total growth of the N.C. Annual Conference.

In April of 1959 I was visited by a member of the Board of Trustees of the newly proposed N.C. Wesleyan College, who interviewed me as one of several possible candidates for President of the college. On March 20, 1959, I went to meet with the Board of Trustees at a luncheon in Rocky Mount. On my arrival they introduced me as the new First President of North Carolina Wesleyan College and handed me a copy of the Rocky Mount Evening Telegram with this as its headline. Surprised as I was, I was pleased to accept with the endorsement of Bishop Garber. I served as the President of the college for sixteen and one-half years.

In 1975 I became pastor of First UMC in Roanoke Rapids, N.C. I served there for five years. As I neared the end of the fifth year in Roanoke Rapids Bishop Blackburn and I agreed it would be wise for me to move from there, since it would enable me to serve effectively at least two additional appointments in the years that remained before my retirement. Bishop Blackburn spoke to me about the possibility of serving as District Superintendent, which he had proposed when I left the college in 1975. Again I told him that I had been out of the pastorate for several years at the college and that I preferred the pastorate, but would do what he felt was best for the Conference and my pastoral service. He told me he had a church where he would like me to serve and he would like to talk to me about it. He began the conversation something like this:

"I know that your love is the ministry and it has been marked by a strong interest in evangelism and winning people for Christ and by a strong emphasis on missions. I have a church that is strong in both areas. The pastor is going to be leaving and I need someone like you to take this appointment. It may be a little difficult, because the pastor there has served successfully for sixteen years, and it will be a difficult appointment to follow, but I would like for you to go to St. Mark's Church in Raleigh."

As we discussed this appointment I told him that this appealed to me for several reasons. First, I helped to start this church and have followed its progress with great interest. Second, I know of the strong emphasis in missions and evangelism and the church growth that it represents and I would be pleased to serve as its pastor if you and the church and the cabinet would agree to send me to the appointment there. Shortly thereafter I was visited by a committee from St. Mark's, led by Benton Hamm and Bob Moyer. They visited us in Roanoke Rapids and we looked over the church and it was on a Wednesday Evening and we shared dinner. They came back after dinner and the choir was rehearsing. They were impressed by the magnificent organ that Roanoke Rapids has. They said we'd be happy to have you come to St. Mark's particularly if you bring that organ with you. We all laughed and we had shared a pleasant visit. Shortly after that, Bishop Blackburn shared with me his plans to make the appointment in June of 1980.

I came to St. Mark's in 1980 with enthusiasm and expectancy. We enjoyed six excellent years with progress on many fronts, and many rewarding friendships developed during that time. I found that Malloy and Roy Holley had received training and certification in Evangelism Explosion and I was pleased with Roy Holley's leadership, and I received certification myself. We went forward with this program of personal witness and an invitation for persons to accept Christ as their savior, and subsequent to that, to join the church. We had probably the strongest program of Evangelism Explosion in the State of NC and much of the Southeast. We trained and certified as witnesses in EE more than one hundred fifteen lay persons at St. Mark's Methodist Church and through this program, our congregation continued to grow from about 1650 under Malloy's leadership to about 2000.

In addition to the emphasis on evangelism, the program of Missions, which was strong at St. Mark's, continued to grow until it became the strongest mission program in the N.C. Annual Conference. We placed great emphasis on Faith Promise Giving and we often had sixty to seventy thousand dollars of Faith Promise Giving in addition to all of our budgeted giving and some advance special giving, which we already gave. We supported numerous missionaries around the world, a number of them persons who were from the membership of St. Mark's Methodist Church. St. Mark's received great praise for its achievements in Missions, the last two years giving almost \$100,000 to missions and to all areas of giving.

In 1986 Bishop Minnick began to talk to me about helping to develop a program for church extension again, since not much had been done as a conference since 1960. Again Bishop Minnick talked to me about returning as Assistant to the Bishop for the Development of New Church Extension, provided the

Conference of 1986 voted to approve a campaign to raise funds for new church development and camping ministries. Since this could not be decided until Annual Conference, the Bishop announced that I would return for a seventh year through the appointed process. At Annual Conference the group did approve the establishment of the Office for Church Extension and the beginning of a capital campaign to raise six to eight million dollars. Accordingly, about a month after Annual Conference, Bishop Minnick asked that I accept the appointment as Assistant to the Bishop in the Cabinet for New Church Extension, to which I agreed.

After careful study by the Cabinet, Reverend Herman S. Winberry was selected to succeed me as the new pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church. He was at that time the District Superintendent of the Fayetteville District. Having served successfully as pastor at Queen Street United Methodist Church in Kinston for three years, as pastor of First United Methodist Church in Garner, as pastor of First Methodist Church in Raeford, and as pastor of Chestnut Street Methodist Church in Lumberton, among others. The announcement was made early in July and the appointment change was effective immediately.

I became Assistant to the Bishop for New Church Development in 1986 and served in that capacity for two years, developing the Capital Campaign for eight million dollars, half of which was to be for new church development and half for camping development in our conference. During this time we began and established seventeen new United Methodist Churches, bringing to more than ninety the total number of Methodist churches I had initiated and established while serving the Conference as Director of Church Extension. In July of 1988, Joseph Bethea, who was District Superintendent of the Raleigh District, was elected as a bishop of the United Methodist Church in July. Again, Bishop Minnick came and asked if I would serve one or more years as District Superintendent of the Raleigh District to complete that year for Dr. Bethea. I agreed and served for that year as the Raleigh District Superintendent. Bishop Minnick came to me in the spring and asked if I would prefer to remain as the Raleigh DS or return to the position as Assistant to the Conference for New Church Development and the completion of the capital campaign. I offered to do whichever he needed for the best of the Conference. He asked me to return as Assistant to the Conference for New Church Development and appointed Dr. Belton Joyner as Raleigh DS to succeed me. I served for two more years until my seventieth birthday, at which time retirement was compulsory and I retired in June, 1991.

Though I was officially retired at that time, Dr. Joyner asked me to serve part time as the pastor of Layden Memorial United Methodist Church, a small church in Southeast Raleigh that needed a pastor. I served two additional years until June, 1994 as pastor of Layden Memorial. During that time I continued my interest in new church development and in missions growth and development.

My six years at St. Mark's were among my happiest and most enjoyable appointments, along with Gatesville, as our first appointment where we began our ministry and had two of our children, at Wesley Memorial where we more closely and intimately than ever before worked with a new church in its growth years, the events of watching new churches develop and grow along with the Conference Board of Missions, and of course the Presidency of NC Wesleyan College, all of which were different but were richly rewarding experiences. We will always treasure the years at St. Mark's, the friendships that we developed, and the achievements that marked it as one of the great churches of Methodism during the 1980's.

These memories of St. Mark's are some that I am happy to share. Some optic thoughts about the time at St. Mark's. The six years there were marked by a positive growth in attendance and interest. In 1985 and

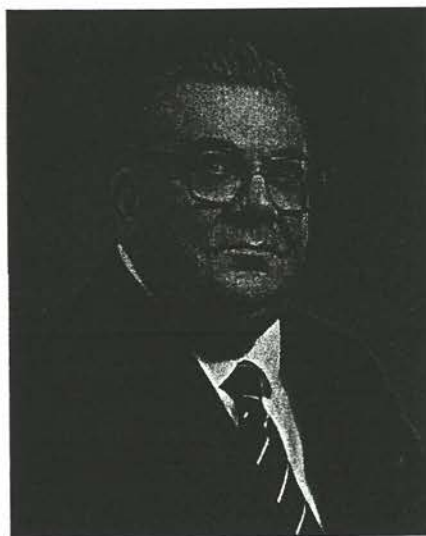
1986 attendance was such that we most often brought in chairs for the eleven o'clock service and sometimes people were standing around the walls. To enable us to better serve those seeking to come to St. Mark's, we initiated three worship services in the fall of 1985, extending into the pastorate of Dr. Winberry. We had the early service at 8:30, attended by 100 - 150 persons, we initiated a second church service at 9:40 which would emphasize more contemporary music and appeal to our young adult constituency that was rapidly growing, and then the traditional service at 11:00. Paired with this we also began two Sunday School sessions, the traditional Sunday School at 9:45 for those who attended the 8:30 service or wished to attend the 11:00 service, and we began a second Sunday School at 11:00 for those who attended the 9:45 service and wished to go to Sunday School at 11:00. Our total attendance grew at these three services and our Sunday School attendance grew, because the 11:00 Sunday School was attended by 150 - 200 persons. For the years from 1984 - 1986 the attendance at Sunday School at St. Mark's was the largest Sunday School attendance in the NC Annual Conference. In 1984 we also employed Billy Riggs as Associate Pastor for Young Adult Development; and through his leadership St. Mark's developed the largest Young Adult Ministry in the NC Annual Conference, attracting between three and four hundred young adults to the Thursday Night Young Adult Fellowship named SOLO. He developed several Sunday School classes for young adults and SOLO II for single, single again, and older adults, and a couple's fellowship for young married couples. This ministry proved to be very rewarding in attendance and participation with many of these young adults drawn from across the city, then becoming a part of the life and membership of St. Mark's UMC.

Reverend Herman Stanford Winberry 1986-1988

This description of Reverend Herman Winberry's years at St. Mark's United Methodist Church was taken from notes furnished by Reverend Winberry entitled "Just Thinking Out Loud." One of the highlights of Reverend Winberry's ministry was the reorganization of the Methodist Men. When District Superintendent Joseph Bethea visited St. Mark's, early in his tenure as DS, he was surprised that the WSCS was so active and that Methodist Men was inactive. He told the Administrative Board that the Methodist Men's Club would be reactivated immediately. Without question his directive was carried out and was a highlight of Reverend Winberry's two years at St. Mark's.

Quoting from Reverend Winberry's "Just Thinking Out Loud," he said "... we had fifteen prayer groups that met regularly, some in homes, some at the church, a highlight of the church's mission and fellowship." He went on to say, "In 1987 - 88 we received 164 new members into the church family - the laity reached out." During his two years tenure the church had three worship services on Sunday, some Sundays there were over a thousand persons at Worship.

He tells how "... we had a large number of visitors each Sunday, from 46 to 111." Lay men and women were careful and loving in follow-up of visitors, using phone calls, notes, and visits. Reverend Winberry had some small brochures that told briefly of the programs at St. Mark's. He started a new ministry of volunteers called the Door Step Ministry. Volunteers would divide the visitor list (first time visitors) each Sunday afternoon, take the brochures, and make brief



Rev. Herman Stanford Winberry

visits to these folks who had come here for the first time.

Reverend Winberry stated in his notes, "I have believed in the Sunday School all of my years. In 1986-1988 St. Mark's had the second largest Sunday School in the conference. Wow! Praise Him!"

He went on to say, "St. Mark's was, and I am sure still is, a warm friendly congregation of persons. St. Mark's proved to me that you could be a large church and still be a close warm fellowship."

He complimented the church secretary, Mrs. Margaret Munns, saying that she was the very best. Reverend Winberry relates how on a certain Sunday morning one of the men of the congregation came and hugged him with tears in his eyes. He said, "It was one of those Sundays when the Holy Spirit fell on us."

Reverend Winberry remembers that "... on my retirement in 1988, the church family did many things to bless the Winberrys, a very generous honorarium. Two personal gifts for me. Fishing tackle from the United Methodist Men. I am still using the fishing tackle and do enjoy this so much."

He went on to tell ...

five of us met every Friday morning from 7 AM to 8 AM in a prayer fellowship. This meant so much to me and blessed my soul with joy and assurance! The Preschool program was a bright spot and definite in its Christian Mission. Many of these came into the church family.

I better not mention names for fear I would miss some, but there were so many stalwart Christians, joyous and caring in their life and witness in St. Mark's. We spent two very happy years at St. Mark's.

I rejoiced at the number of tithers in St. Mark's Church. I do not know how many but there was a large group. I recall individual acts of second mile giving (one man was in financial trouble and one of our members gave him \$3,000 in a lump sum.) Preaching...I enjoyed preaching at St. Mark's not only the large numbers but also I could feel the prayers and yearnings of the church family. They wanted you to preach the Gospel and they wanted you to do it well.

Reverend Winberry retired in 1988 after preaching for forty two years. Since he retired he has served four churches, giving him 51 years in the pulpit. One of the highlights of his ministry was being the first pastor and founder of Westover United Methodist Church in Raleigh in 1945. Another highlight in his ministry was when he was elected by his peers to serve as chairman of the Board of Ordained Ministry for four years. Reverend Winberry served as district superintendent of the Fayetteville District from 1982 - 1986. Following that, the bishop assigned Reverend Winberry to St. Mark's. He served eleven churches in all, including Chestnut Street in Lumberton.

Reverend Winberry was born in Verona, Onslow County, January 8, 1923. He married Mary Christine Crawford on June 9, 1950. The Winberrys have two children and two grandchildren. Reverend Winberry graduated from Hallsboro High School in 1940. He obtained his undergraduate degree from Duke University in 1945 and finished Divinity School there in 1948. Reverend Winberry and his wife are retired and live in Lumberton, N.C.

Reverend Charles V. Bryant 1988 - 1989

Dr. Charles V. Bryant came to St. Mark's from his position as Associate Director of the Conference Council on Ministries. He and his wife Wanda are the parents of four adult daughters and they have six grandchildren. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati, graduated from Duke Divinity School, and earned his Ph. D. from Drew University. Dr. Bryant was ordained a Deacon in 1959 and became an Elder in 1961.

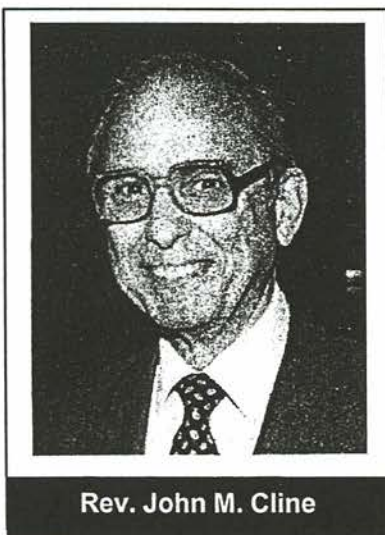
He had already published two books when he came to St. Mark's and had served in sixteen United Methodist Churches. Among the churches he served were Broadway, Grace, Lillington, Garner, Chapel Hill, Fayetteville, and Lumberton.

Dr. Bryant was a true believer in using the computer to streamline our church's records and make them readily available. Under his guidance and with the unceasing and untiring help from several of our members, we came into the computer age when we purchased the Automated Church System, a program developed for churches, and entered our records, membership and financial onto the computer. He had a very powerful and compelling preaching style and he was truly willing for us to explore and use alternative styles and forms of worship services. This strong preaching style and willingness to try different things worked for the good of St. Mark's and also created controversy in the congregation.

Dr. Bryant asked for and was granted a study leave, effective the end of December, 1989, and the Conference appointed Reverend John Cline to serve us until the next Conference assignments.

Reverend John M. Cline January - June, 1990

When it was necessary that Dr. Charles Bryant leave St. Mark's in January, 1990, Bishop Minick called upon Reverend John M. Cline, at that time a retired minister, to be the interim pastor at St. Mark's until new appointments could be made in June of that year.



Reverend Cline served as a soother of raw feelings that six months at St. Mark's. Many of the congregation at St. Mark's were disturbed at the end of Dr. Charles Bryant's tenure at the end of December, and the understanding and quieting attitude of Reverend Cline was quite evident after he assumed the duties of pastor.

Reverend Cline had retired in 1988 with forty-some years of service in Methodism. In his resume it is noted that he started by serving from 1945 to 1948 in the Duplin Circuit. The next charge was the Bynum Charge, 1948 - 1952. Following in order after this charge were appointments at Durham Bethany from 1952 - 1957, Ann Street from 1957 - 1961, Siler City from 1961 - 1964, Raleigh Fairmont from 1964 to 1970, Burlington Front Street from 1970 - 1974, Rocky Mount District Superintendent from 1974 - 1980, and Highland UMC in Raleigh from 1980 - 1988. Not only did he serve five months in a part

time appointment at St. Mark's, but in 1996 he served a part time appointment for two months at White Plains in Cary. He was a member of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 1968, 1972, 1976, and 1980. He was a member of the General Conference, United Methodist Church in 1976 and 1980.

Reverend Cline is married to Alice Stewart Cline and they were married in 1951. He graduated from New Hanover High School in Wilmington, NC in 1938. He graduated from Duke University in 1943 and received his Masters of Divinity from Duke in 1946. He was ordained a deacon in the North Carolina Conference in 1946 and was ordained an Elder in 1948. Reverend and Mrs. Cline live in retirement at 2713 Wycliff Road in Raleigh.

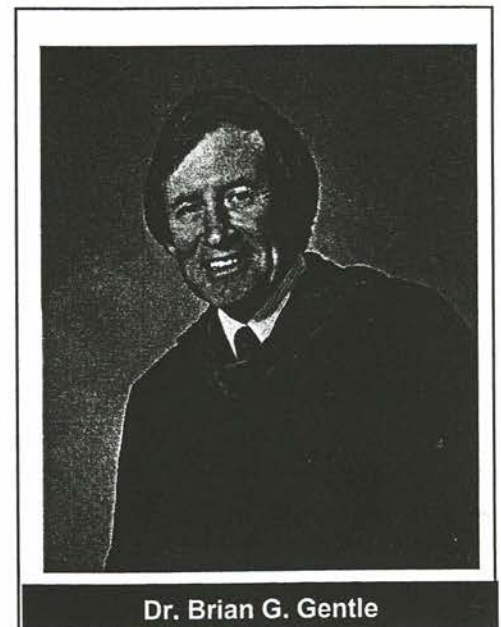
Reverend Brian Glynn Gentle, 1990 -

I was raised in Mordialloc Methodist Church in a suburb of Melbourne, Australia. I left school when I was sixteen and worked in an architect's office while studying for the Bachelor of Architecture degree at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. I became a Methodist Lay Preacher at seventeen and it was then that I first sensed a call to the ordained ministry. Although I could have gone to Melbourne University to study at Wesley College for the Methodist ministry, I chose rather to come to the U.S.A. to study at Wheaton College, Illinois, because, at that stage, I was still not completely certain whether being an ordained Methodist minister was what God wanted to me to do.

At Wheaton, I majored in history and philosophy and upon graduation, enrolled at Garrett Theological Seminary at Northwestern University. After one year, I transferred to Yale Divinity School and received my degree in theology. While at Yale, I met and married Arden.

My first appointment was as Associate Minister, Asbury United Methodist Church, Crestwood, New York, in lower Westchester County. Asbury was a dynamic, creative congregation with a membership of about 1200. While there, my responsibilities were in youth and young adult ministries, education and outreach ministries as well as pastoral duties including occasional preaching. While at Asbury, I took my MA at Columbia University in Religion.

In 1969, I was accepted into the Ph.D. program at Duke University and majored in Religion with a focus on Church History. While studying for the Ph.D. I served as pastor of Gibson Memorial United Methodist Church, Spring Hope. I also served as a Teaching Assistant at Duke after I had completed my second year. I served at Spring Hope for four years and it was in my fourth year that my Rocky Mount District Superintendent, Paul Carruth, asked me whether I had ever thought of joining the North Carolina Annual



Dr. Brian G. Gentle

Conference. I said my plans were to return to the New York Conference after I had completed most of my work on my doctoral dissertation.

Although I have always had a strong interest in academics and had contemplated teaching in college or seminary, my real love was for the pastoral ministry. One reason why I pursued advanced degrees was so that I might be a more effective apologist for the Christian faith within an increasingly sophisticated world.

I really enjoyed the four years I served at Spring Hope. While there, the church began a preschool, developed strong community oriented youth ministries, started a thrift shop and built a new parsonage. It was in my first year at Spring Hope that I first met Malloy Owen, who had been asked by the previous preacher to come to Spring Hope and preach a revival. Little did I know that one day I would be serving at the church where he was then minister!

Towards the middle of my fourth year, I decided to join the N.C. Conference, partly because I believed Methodism had so much potential for impacting society down here in N.C., partly because I enjoyed the warmer climate and also because Arden's mother lived in Norfolk. Of great weight, however, was that I was impressed by the caliber of preachers who were in the Rocky Mount District at that time.

In 1973, I was appointed to Benson Memorial U.M. Church, Raleigh. Dr. Carruth had asked me what type of congregation I would like to serve and I had said I preferred an urban setting and preferably a young congregation where together we might create history. Benson Memorial provided such a challenge. I was the third minister and in my first year, the church celebrated its tenth anniversary.

My eight years at Benson Memorial were truly fulfilling and exciting years. While St. Mark's was growing, so too was Benson Memorial. Over the eight years, the church grew from 250 to 850 members. In addition to building a new sanctuary, the church also purchased an additional 6 acres of land for future growth. During the same time, a preschool was started, one of the first singles ministries in the area was begun and the congregation enjoyed the reputation for being a progressive, dynamic congregation.

The church also had a strong emphasis on music and the arts and under the leadership of the Methodist Men, became involved in local outreach ministries that included the church adopting several needy families. The men repaired and painted their houses and during the year, these families were the guests of the congregation at special events. Benson Memorial also became involved in sending members overseas as part of the N.C. Conference mission work teams.

On several occasions, the growth of Benson Memorial was compared with that of St. Mark's since both congregations were on the northern side of the beltline. It was in my second-last year at Benson Memorial that Asbury was started.

I was planning to go back to Benson Memorial for my ninth year when, during appointment time, my Raleigh District Superintendent phoned and said the Bishop and Cabinet wanted me to go to Epworth U.M. Church in Durham. My first response was

that I felt flattered but was happy at Benson Memorial. Not only did I love the congregation but with the purchase of the additional six acres, we were ready to move forward in seeking to respond to the ever-growing ministry challenges and needs of the congregation and community. The third time Dr. Ponder called, however, I realized that the Bishop and Cabinet did really want me to go to Epworth! Leaving Benson Memorial was a very difficult and painful move but I believed that the God who had blessed the people would continue to bless them as God would bless me!

I was appointed to Epworth at the 1981 Annual Conference. Located on Southwest Durham near Hope Valley and South Square Mall, many of the members were a part of the Duke University community and many members were associated with the Medical School, Athletic Department and University as well as the Durham business and professional community. I served Epworth for nine years and during that time the church experienced positive growth from 850 members to about 1500 members. The church also completed a \$1.2 million building program that included building a fellowship hall, additional educational space, and administrative wing and the renovation of the sanctuary.

Epworth was known for its strong worship and music ministries, its excellent youth and children's ministries and its commitment to outreach ministries that included an active participation in Durham Congregations in Action. Each summer, members also participated in the N.C. Conference Work Teams and sent members to Mexico and other areas. The congregation also began a close working relationship with Duke Divinity School through its Lay Academy ministries. The Epworth Preschool was also among the strongest in the Durham community. Because many Epworth members were community leaders, as minister I had many opportunities to become involved in civic events.

At the end of my ninth year at Epworth, I was appointed to come to St. Mark's. During the process, my District Superintendent, Dr. Wallace Kirby shared with me the names of several churches where appointments would be opening up, I had asked that the Bishop and Cabinet might consider me for St. Mark's. I made this request even though I realized that St. Mark's had gone through some difficult times which included the short tenure of its previous minister, Dr. Charles Bryant and some painful divisions. I told Dr. Kirby I would go to St. Mark's if it wanted to be a United Methodist Church. Dr. Kirby informed me that according to the Raleigh District Superintendent, Dr. Joyner, the leadership of St. Mark's stated that this was the commitment of the congregation. As a United Methodist pastor, I believed that one of the true strengths of our denominational heritage was its connectional system.

I truly believe God was leading me to St. Mark's. I realized the challenge would be great but I also knew that St. Mark's had a wonderful heritage that emphasized evangelism and strong outreach ministries. I believed that its strategic location and the commitment of those who had made the choice to stay with St. Mark's (even though many of their friends had left) spoke well for the future of this great congregation. At the same time, I did come with "fear and trembling" not knowing what to expect.

From the very first Sunday here, I realized that this was a special congregation. The leaders that first year, Don Shackelford, Lay Leader; Tom Walden, Chairperson of the

Administrative Board; Delaine Bradsher, Chairperson of Staff Parish Relations Committee, had a depth of commitment and love for St. Mark's and their Lord that was a true source of encouragement and inspiration. It was clear, however, that St. Mark's was in dire need of serious rebuilding from the ground up.

I will never forget the first Sunday here. The church Treasurer, Ted Prather, came into my study and said, "Brian, look at this cash slip. This is how much money we have in the bank!" I still have the slip which read, "Balance, \$531.59!" The church had managed to meet its financial obligations by drawing on its Special Fund. The figures read, "Specials \$17,307.92+; General Fund \$16,776.33 -; Total balance 30 June '90 \$531.59.

As might be expected, a first priority was to stabilize and strengthen the financial situation of St. Mark's. Under the leadership of successive Finance Chairs, Tom Perry, Steve Thompson and Ken Reece, St. Mark's has now achieved a stronger financial status with each budget year showing a healthy increase in support of our local and outreach ministries. The initial financial state was such that in 1990, only \$15,000 was given to support N.C. Conference ministries. By 1996, however, St. Mark's was budgeted at \$665,000 with the goal of accepting full 1997 apportionments. A second strategy for renewing St. Mark's was the growing of our children's ministries. On my first Sunday, a friend of mine from Durham, who had come to St. Mark's to lend support, told me over lunch, "Brian, the first thing you need to do at St. Mark's is to get the nursery painted and make it more attractive. If you don't, you'll never attract any new, young families!" A Children's Council to oversee and grow children's ministries was formed and through the efforts of so many members, our ministries for children have grown to the point that now, at this writing, we have four bright, cheerful and professionally manned nurseries. The reputation of the children's ministries at St. Mark's has been enhanced through our Sunday Schools, children's music programs and the excellent weekday Preschool.

Wherever I have served, I believe that strong children's and youth ministries, as well as strong worship service, Sunday School and music ministries are keys to growing a dynamic congregation. St. Mark's already had Tom Harris on staff to work with singles ministries, but other than Tom and the office staff, (Margaret Munns, Secretary and Julia Moore, Financial Secretary) there was no full-time staff. Kay Johnson, the Music Director was part-time. Rather than hiring a Duke student, as was suggested, I asked that I might have the opportunity to evaluate the situation. Kim Strong (Lamb) was then serving as a youth counselor. I sensed Kim had the gifts to be a strong Program Director and when she expressed a sense of calling to be in local church ministry, she was hired for fifteen hours in the Fall of 1990 with the understanding that if both parties agreed, she would become full time in January 1991. This was with the understanding that Kim would attend Duke and take a graduate degree in theology. The constraints of our budget did not allow for a staff person specializing in youth alone (as has been a tradition). Therefore, Kim's responsibilities were in the areas of children, youth, education and family life ministries.

Another immediate strategic step was to upgrade the quality and appearance of the facilities. Not only was Raleigh blessed with strong churches inside the beltline but there were also many excellent congregations on the north side of the city. This meant that the

options open to potential worshipers were far more than in the days when St. Mark's was first started. Furthermore, the 1990's marked a sharp shift in the way church visitors responded to congregations. The age of "Baby Boomers," as the early 1990's were called, meant churchgoers became church "shoppers." What they looked for were not only strong preaching, strong ministries and vital spirituality, but also a church whose facilities were positive and inviting. Indeed, some church consultants suggested that the three key facilities for newcomers were the quality and appearance of the nurseries, the rest rooms and the sanctuary.

Thanks to the efforts of the Board of Trustees and many hours of work by lay volunteers, the facilities of St. Mark's were upgraded, painted and made more welcoming. This emphasis continues with ongoing work including planting flowers, improving the yard care and now with a building committee whose mandate is to prepare a Master Plan that will give priority and direction to the development of our facilities in response to our strategic ministry objectives.

Suggested facility considerations included either the renovation of the present sanctuary (acoustics, light, heating and air conditioning, chancel area) or the building of a new sanctuary; additional space for a Day Care and Elder Care. There was also the expression of need for additional parking, handicapped access, an elevator and additional educational and fellowship space. The architectural firm of Tise-Kiester was hired to prepare a master plan with suggestions as to facility and design options and priorities. At the same time, the Building Committee on Finance was asked to prepare strategies for reducing the existing debt and for financing new construction. The outstanding debt at the time was \$435,000.

Another key strategy in seeking to move St. Mark's forward was to expand and upgrade the quality and scope of the music ministries. Kay Johnson had expressed the call to the ordained ministry and took an appointment with the N.C. Conference in June, 1993. A search committee was appointed to hire a full time director of music. After a national search, Kevin Kerstetter was hired and began duties in August, 1993. St. Mark's has three children's choirs, a youth choir, the Chancel Choir, a young adult choir, handbell choir and music ensemble. I have always believed music is strategically important both in building a strong worship service as well as a positive way of providing opportunities for lay ministries.

Our Wesleyan tradition has always affirmed the importance of the ministry of all believers. As early as 1994, St. Mark's started the Stephen Ministries of lay care giving. Since then, the ministry has grown and has provided a positive model for the development of other lay ministries. In 1995, the Monday morning caregivers were formed. Under the leadership of Roy Holley, this ministry provides a lay ministry of visitation to those who are sick, shut in or in need of pastoral care. The Tuesday morning folders is another strong lay ministry as is the nursing home vespers ministries under the leadership of Jim Tucker.

Another new ministry that has gradually become a part of the ongoing life of St. Mark's is the Lay Academy that has now been renamed the St. Mark's Center for Learning. The vision for this ministry is to provide settings for Christian Education aside from Sunday

School classes. Course offerings include Bible studies, short term specialized courses as well as courses offered by Duke Divinity School faculty.

Assistant Ministers and Youth Ministers

During these forty years - it is 1996 when this part of the history is being composed - there were several assistant ministers who in many instances were referred to as directors of the youth ministries. Most of them were not assigned by the Annual Conference, but were employed by St. Mark's. Many of the assistants had other employment to support themselves.

David Schadt

The first we have record of was David Schadt. He came to St. Mark's on June 11, 1958 during the pastorate of Reverend Bizzell. David was a divinity student at Duke University from St. Joseph, Missouri. The Duke Endowment Work Scholarship Program made his assistance at St. Mark's possible.

Reggie Johnson

The next assistant of record was Reggie Johnson. He joined the staff on January 17, 1965. Mr. Johnson was a graduate of Wake Forest College and was then a junior at Duke Divinity School. He is a native of Greenville, N.C., and attended Rose High School. Reggie Johnson was listed in the June 11, 1967 bulletin to preach the service and then he would be leaving St. Mark's. Mr. Johnson is presently an ordained Methodist Minister and is on the staff of Asbury College in Kentucky.

John Weigle

On June 16, 1967, the church bulletin announced the arrival of John Weigle. During his four years at St. Mark's his emphasis was on the Youth Ministry of the church and youth throughout North Raleigh. He soon became known as a "pied piper," for his youth following grew rapidly. During his youth ministry at St. Mark's he developed the Teen Breakfast Club for the youth of North Raleigh, regardless of their church affiliation, making it an interdenominational affair. At times he would have as many as 300 youngsters for breakfast and the Methodist Men of would cook pancakes for the crowd. John did not continue in the ministry after his years at St. Mark's but chose the business world for which he was trained in his years at the University of South Carolina.

TBC Combines Elements Of Hee Haw, Crusade

By JOE McLEAN
Times Church Editor

What does it take to get 200 teenagers up for breakfast on a regular school day?

The answer, at least the one for St. Mark's United Methodist Church, is TBC, an acronym standing for Teen Breakfast Club.

John Weigle, associate minister for the church, heads the program which combines aspects of Hee Haw, "Hellzapoppin'" and a Billy Graham Crusade, all to the obvious delight of a full house of demonstrative teenagers.

At a typical session this week, a black-robed judge sentenced a high school sophomore to a pie in the

face, hillbillies romped on the stage in what could have been a scene from "Hee Haw" and Weigle, in a more serious moment, led the group in a devotional.

Four teens eating pancakes, coffee and juice, were enthusiastic about the early morning program.

Jack Brinson, a Presbyterian from Sanderson High School, has been attending the breakfasts about six months.

"It's not really the breakfast," Brinson noted. "I enjoy coming very much. It's really right much fun."

John Theidieck, a Methodist

from Sanderson, spotlighted "mainly the fellowship. The skits are real funny," he said. "John's talks are real good. I learn a lot from them."

Sylvia Griffin, a Methodist from Sanderson, was attending for her first time. "It had a lot of meaning for me. I plan to keep coming to the meetings," she said.

Rosemary Vann, a Presbyterian from Broughton, is especially fond of "talking to all of the people and listening to what is said about life and the Bible."

All high school students, the participants come from Broughton, Sanderson and Millbrook high schools and represent as many as six denominations.

Laymen from St. Mark's and other churches team to turn out the immense amounts of food required. One, shutting down his grill for the morning, estimated he had cooked as many as 650 pancakes for the 200 teenagers attending, about an average crowd.

The walls are cheerfully decorated with drawings from the comic strip "Tumbleweeds." Mascots and drawings representing each school contain initials of those attending the breakfasts.

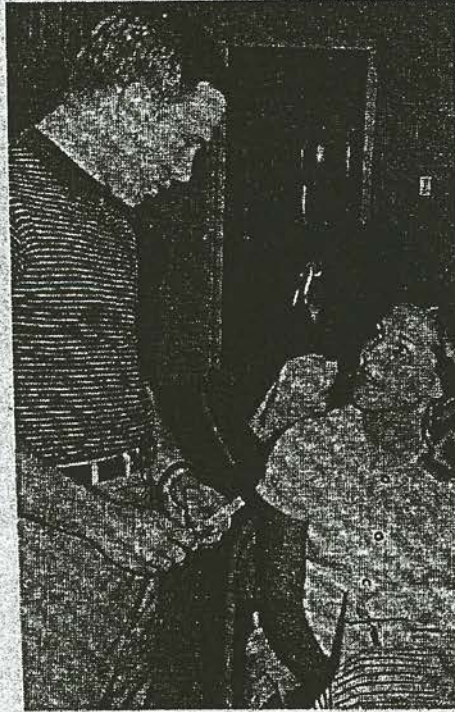
Weigle opens the meetings with a lustily shouted "hello" responded to by an equally loud identical greeting. During the breakfast, he roams the hall answering questions and chatting.

He is an equally enthusiastic song leader for the hymn-singing session. "V stands for victory, not peace," he shouts before a hymn and exhorts the teenagers to sing louder.

"God's really been good to us," he said following the breakfast. "The kids really want to find out whether He is for real."

He is assisted by a group of college students who come from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University and North Carolina Wesleyan to the breakfast sessions.

"I don't know what we will do if we keep growing," he said. "I guess we'll have to knock down a wall or something."



TBC Host and Friend

John Weigle and Debbie Brown

Floyd Green

Floyd Green, who assisted John Weigle, was appointed to succeed John on June 2, 1972.

Charles Rector

On April 9, 1972, Mr. Charles Rector became assistant to the minister on a part time basis. Many of the assistants had other places of employment because St. Mark's could not afford full time salaries. Miss Julie Ballou, a native of the Morehead City Area, joined the church staff on April 16, 1972 as assistant youth director. The next recorded assistant to the minister was George W. (Bill) Ralph. He came to St. Mark's in June of 1973. Jack Peacock was the next assistant of record. Robbie Carruth served for a couple of years as assistant to Reverend Owen.

David Banks

One assistant to the minister was a member of St. Mark's. David Banks served here as an assistant minister and now is a senior minister at a church in Morehead City, N.C. David Brownlee was assigned by the Conference to assist at St. Mark's. He was later assigned to start Asbury Methodist Church located on Creedmoor Road in North Raleigh. He is at the present serving as a senior minister in our conference.



Rev. Murry Dehart

Reverend Murry Dehart

Reverend Murry Dehart was appointed in 1983 by the conference to the assistant minister's position at St. Mark's. He served six years until he was appointed as senior pastor at Wesley Memorial in Raleigh. He is now retired and he and his family have joined the congregation at St. Mark's. Following Reverend Dehart's appointment to Wesley Memorial, we had David Dunson as associate minister here. David came to us from the Dallas, Texas conference and he served here one year before returning to Texas. He was here in the 1989 - 1990 conference year, serving as assistant to Reverend Charles Bryant and for the six months until the appointment of Dr. Brian Gentle.

Church Treasurers

Mrs. Margaret Munns

The first treasurer of St. Mark's Methodist Church was Mrs. Margaret Munns. She served in that capacity in 1956, 1957 and 1958. This is authenticated by a copy of April 30, 1958's records. In the first few weeks of Mrs. Munns' position as treasurer, she was confined at Mary Elizabeth Hospital for the birth of her first child. On a Monday morning the acting minister, Norman Sabin, dutifully arrived at Mrs. Munn's bedside with the church offering in a small brown paper bag. Mrs. Munns was unable to make a deposit to the bank for several days.



Mrs. Bruce Ross

There was one period of time that St. Mark's had two treasurers. The second one was to account for the building fund for the first unit of construction. Mrs. Bruce Ross served as the building fund treasurer. Many times some difficulties were experienced in determining which monies were given for what in the Sunday collection during this building project

Mr. Amil Hoffman et al

Mr. Amil Hoffman served as treasurer in 1959 and 1960. Mr. V.C. "Red" Hewett followed Mr. Hoffman for 1960 - 1961. Mr. Carl Richardson was the treasurer in 1961 - 1962. Millard Fogleman followed Mr. Richardson in 1967 and was treasurer until 1988. In 1988 Ted Prather became treasurer, a position that he holds today.

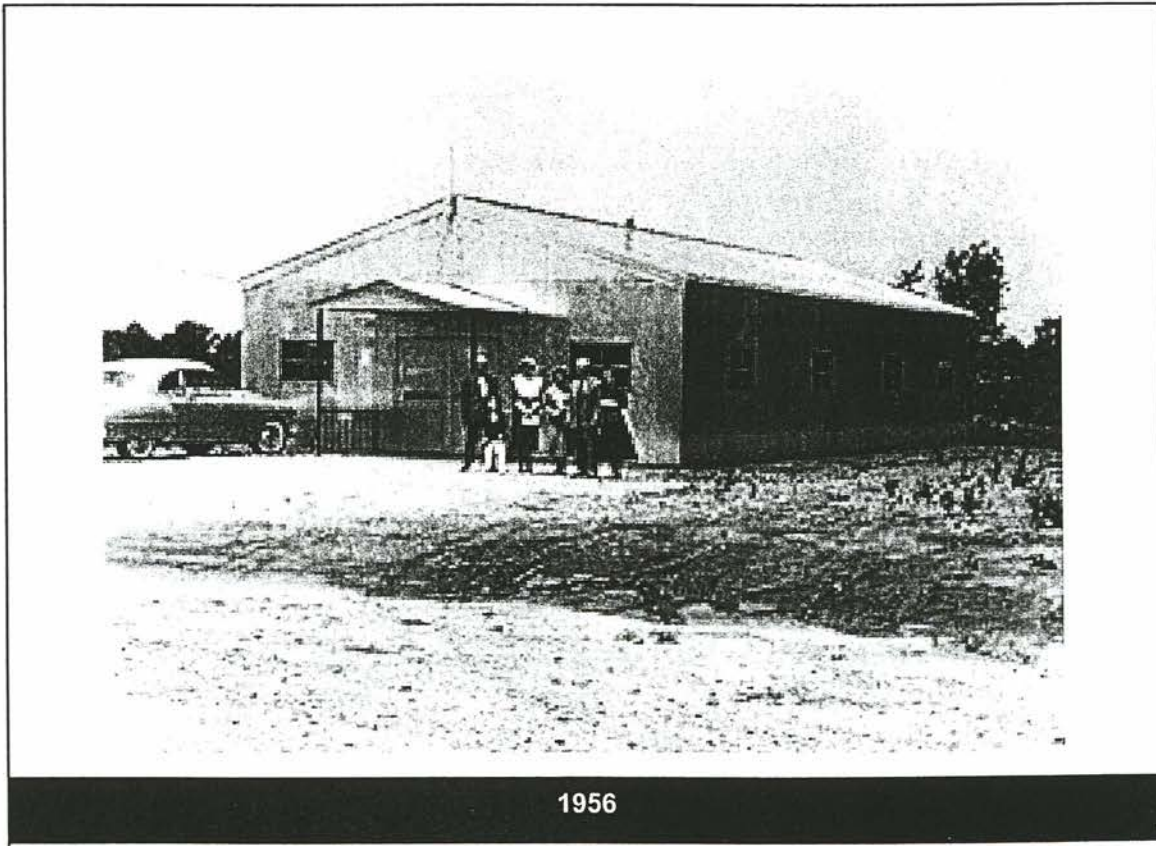
3 | *The Buildings*

The construction of St. Mark's United Methodist has gone through four phases in its forty year history. The physical plant is presently valued at three million dollars at today's (1996) estimates.

Armco Steel Building

The first unit was the metal two-room Armco steel building that was constructed on site at the directive of the North Carolina Conference Board of Missions. The Board purchased twelve units and one was allocated to the Methodist Church on Six Forks Road. Reverend Thomas A. Collins, Executive Secretary to the Raleigh District Board of Missions and Walter Anderson, a prominent Methodist Layman, erected the building with the help of two laborers. A local contractor poured the concrete slab on grade and Dr. Collins placed the metal bolts that were called for in the plans from Armco. It took five weeks to construct the building.

The land on which the church is built was originally a seven point one acre site that the Board of Missions purchased for seven thousand dollars in 1954. There were many people who questioned the



wisdom of going out in the country to purchase land in an untested area. It is recorded that the Raleigh Board of Missions paid a \$200 option for the property on Six Forks Road on May 11, 1955. The Raleigh Board then borrowed \$6,000 from the North Carolina Conference to be repaid in ten years at 4 1/2% interest and on August 5, 1955, the remaining \$6,800 was paid. The land was purchased from Marion W. and Pauline D. Nelson.

The First Permanent Structure

After the appointment of Reverend Henry Bizzell as the first pastor of St. Mark's on June 28, 1956, not much time elapsed until July 15, 1956, when the church bulletin stated that a building committee had been appointed to look into the matter of a permanent building. The bulletin listed Mr. Emil Hoffman as chairman; Mr. Faison Keen, vice chairman; and Mr. George Gentry as secretary. A short time later the committee engaged the services of Mr. William Moore Weber as architect.

In December 1956, Mr. Weber presented the building committee with his sketches of the master building plans. In just over one year from the first service at St. Mark's on April 24, 1957, the Official Board and Quarterly Conference, and Church Conference were convened to approve the plans for construction of the first unit. At the same time approval was granted for a bond issue of \$60,000. The bonds were in \$500 denominations. In addition, the Methodist Conference designated \$17,500 to be granted to St. Mark's from the Ten Dollar Club, a fund set up to help finance new churches in Eastern North Carolina. Things went rather slowly those first months. A bond drive was organized and bonds were printed. It was not until March 19, 1958, that the Quarterly Conference authorized the trustees to sign a contract to commence building. Ground breaking ceremonies were held at 9am on March 30, 1958, two years after the first meeting in the metal building.

The bids were advertised, but when they came in they were too high and the bids were rejected. Instead a contract was negotiated with Chambers and Caviness General Contractors to start the building, provided the expenditure of funds be limited to \$76,000 total. The negotiations with the contractor specified that \$70,000 was for building and that \$6,000 be set aside to finish certain parts of the building. Over all, it was specified that the most essential equipment be obtained within the limitations of the funds available. The resolution that authorized the construction authorized the building committee to negotiate with the architect and contractor for modifications of building plans and construction schedules to be completed within and in conformance with available funds. The resolution was so worded because all of the bonds for construction had not been sold at that time. On April 29, 1958, a Quarterly Conference was called. Its purpose was to authorize the trustees to receive a gift from the General Board of Missions of \$1,000 and the \$15,000 from the Ten Dollar Club.

Progress was slow on the building and it was evidenced by the slow sales of bonds. A notice in the church bulletin on September 14, 1958, stated that seventy-five of the one hundred twenty bond issue had been sold. "Forty five to go," it said. The bulletin in each edition then started referring to the "magic number." On November 23, 1958, the number was 20. On December 28, 1958, the number was 16. By June 25, 1959, it was down to 12. A note in the February 8, 1959 bulletin said that the building was taking shape - "the rooms are evident."

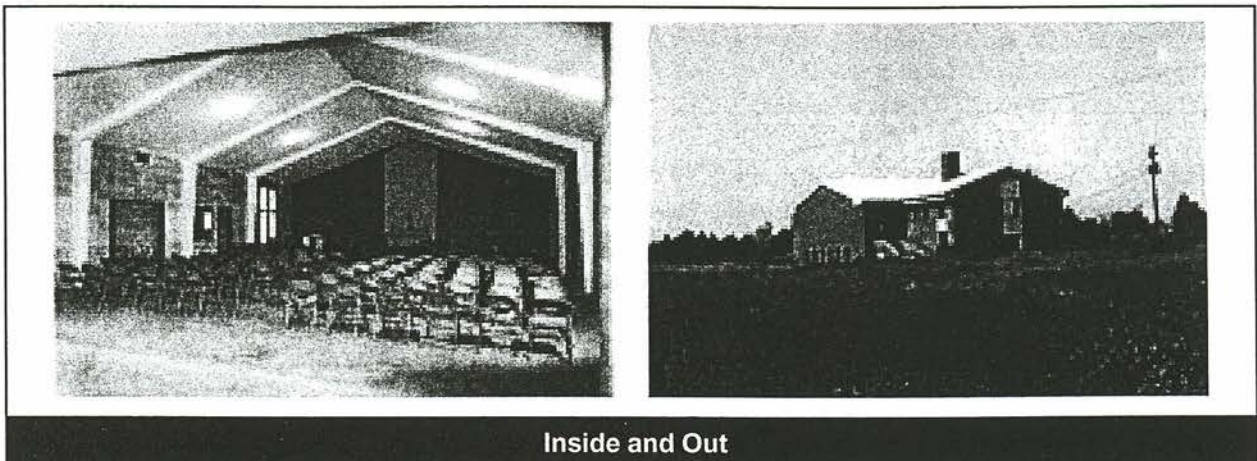
The only record of the completion of the building was in a letter written by Olaf Wakefield to the pastor on Loyalty Sunday, 1966, in which he stated that "on March 22, 1959, we moved into an unfinished building." An anecdote is told in which the unfinished building played a part. As indicated, the first unit

was constructed as a shell and included the present Anderson Hall, the Wakefield Room, the kitchen, two bathrooms, and six classrooms. The bottom floor was not completed. The floor was red clay and needed gravel before pouring concrete. Dr. Ed Perry decided to seek a donation of gravel, 52 tons of walnut-sized stone. He called a local quarry and asked if they would donate the 52 tons of gravel. The quarry representative agreed to donate the stone if the church would find some way to have the stone moved to the church site. Dr. Perry had a friend who was a member at Hayes Barton Methodist Church. He called him and explained the problem. This friend owned Lane Trucking Company. He agreed to haul the stone at times when his trucks were idle. When loads of stone were dumped on the site, the men of the church made a chute through the window downstairs and came to the church, when time permitted, and shoveled the stone down the chute. Other men waited below with wheel barrows to catch the stone and distribute it to the various areas downstairs. When this project was completed Mr. Olaf Wakefield and Dr. Perry approached Mr. Ed Richards, who built North Hills, and asked him to donate the concrete necessary to finish the ground floor. Mr. Richards agreed to purchase the concrete. Incidentally, Mr. Richards was instrumental in moving St. Timothy's Episcopal Church to North Hills from its downtown location on Tucker Street, where it was St. Savior's Episcopal Church, a parish of its mother church, Christ Church.

The church bulletin on August 2, 1959, stated "operation basement" is a success. "The rock is in place and the concrete will be poured within a few days. Almost 30 men participated in this project."

Another interesting story about the first unit of construction concerned the kitchen off Anderson Hall. There was no money for appliances and cabinets. Again Mr. Olaf Wakefield and Dr. T. Edwin Perry approached Mr. Walker Martin, a General Electric distributor in Eastern North Carolina, and asked for help to furnish the kitchen. They asked him to donate two double sinks, a disposal, ovens, island range tops, and a refrigerator. He agreed to do this if someone would get cabinets installed so General Electric could send prospective buyers to see "a state of the art kitchen." Cabinets were donated and that is how St. Mark's obtained a "state of the art" church kitchen.

Bit by bit the first unit of construction was completed.

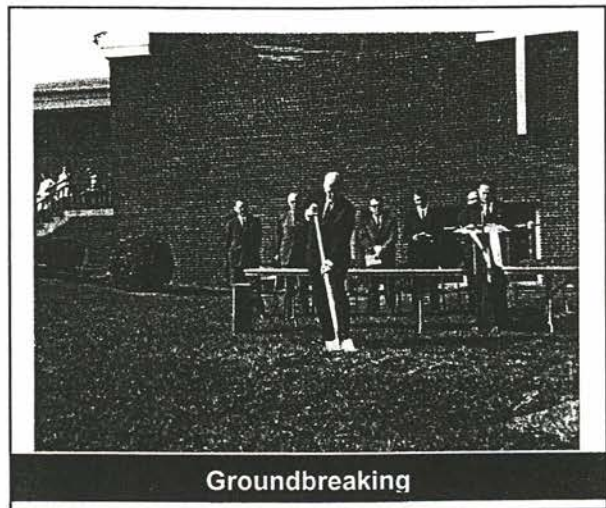


The Sanctuary Wing

The first indication of a new Sanctuary Wing for St. Mark's Methodist Church was the announcement that a Quarterly Conference would be convened on November 29, 1964, to elect a planning committee to later serve as a building committee. In the December 6, 1964 bulletin there was a notice that read "Last Sunday the Quarterly Conference elected the Church Building Committee. Elected were Mr. Joe Trollinger, chairman; D. B. Shehee, vice chairman; other members were Nelson M. Ayers, Mrs. Roger F. Eller, Kenneth L. Jarvis, J. Malloy Owen III, Dr. T. Edwin Perry, Noah W. Sites, Joseph I. Szabo, and Turner Williams." This group had met for seven Sunday nights as a planning committee.

On March 21, 1965, the St. Mark's Quarterly Conference met to vote approval of a recommendation for a sanctuary wing. The architect's plans had been received for the wing in January, 1965. Raising funds to build the wing was a difficult job. In January of 1966 the church engaged the services of Dr. James E. Bartlett from the National Board of Missions to serve as a financial advisor for a church building crusade.

A church conference was called on April 3, 1966, with a two-fold purpose. Preliminary plans for the sanctuary wing were presented for approval and a financial plan was presented for approval. The infamous "crying room" that existed for years in the rear of the sanctuary was about to come into play. On December 13, 1966, Noah Sites, vice-chairman of the building committee flew to Philadelphia to present St. Mark's Sanctuary Wing drawings to the Architectural Department of the Methodist Board of Missions to qualify for a construction loan of \$250,000. Other references will be made to the "crying room" elsewhere in this history. On March 11, 1967, the North Carolina Board of Missions unanimously endorsed the \$250,000 loan for the building.



The ground breaking ceremony for the sanctuary was held at 3:30 pm on Sunday, April 9, 1967. Bishop Paul N. Garber, resident bishop of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church officiated at the ceremony. The construction of the sanctuary wing of the church took somewhat over a year to complete, but in the January 27, 1968 issue of the church newsletter, The Messenger, it was announced that February 4, 1968 was designated as "Red Letter Day" for St. Mark's. To quote the Messenger, " The congregation of St. Mark's will worship for the first time in the new sanctuary on February 4, 1968." That service accommodated eight hundred and two persons - quite a record, for all the aisles and standing room were used.

In that same January 27, 1968 newsletter it was announced that at Quarterly Conference the building committee was authorized to obligate the church for the following contracts: 1) Vick Construction, \$178,000; 2) Raleigh Electric, \$32,000; and 3) Mechanical Associates, \$49,000 -for a total of \$259,000. In addition, architectural fees were \$27,500 and furniture from Southern Desk was budgeted at \$16,000, making a grand total of \$302,500.00.

The Education and Office Wings

St. Mark's and the North side of Raleigh were still experiencing growing pains in the early 1970's. The church purchased four mobile units, each free-standing, for classrooms and placed them in the area where Owen Hall is presently located. Soon these temporary classrooms were outgrown. In 1971 a building study committee was appointed to do a feasibility survey of the church building needs. W.C. "Bill" Sain headed the committee. The report was submitted on June 17, 1971. It was always referred to as the "Sain Report."

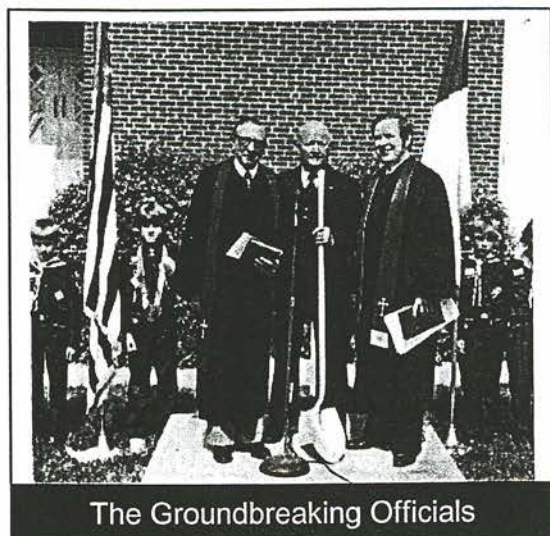
On the front page of the church bulletin and newsletter for February 3, 1974, was printed in bold type "We Are Outgrowing Our Buildings." It stated further that motions and resolutions had been initiated to start a new building phase. Special permission was granted by the District Superintendent to hold a special Charge Conference for the purpose of electing a building committee. The Charge Conference was scheduled for Thursday, February 14, 1974.

The first meeting of the committee to investigate the building needs and feasibility was convened on Monday, February 26, 1974. Dr. T. Edwin Perry was appointed as chairman. Others on the committee were: W. Edwin Adcock, Walter F. Anderson, Julie Ballou, Walter E. Behringer, Franklin W. Brearly, Mrs. Annie Cooper, John Dew, R. Floyd Green, Col. Roy L. Holley, Col. and Mrs. Frank Rawley, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Sain, Sam L. Stowe, Russell A. Williams, and J. Malloy Owen.

On August 15, 1976, the architectural firm of Smart and Isley was selected to prepare plans and specifications for a new addition to St. Mark's. The Building Committee interviewed several architectural firms before a final decision was made. The building fund for the new addition was established and a building crusade was announced by the Administrative Board to commence in May, 1977.

The church bulletin for June 5, 1977 announced in a special highlighted box that we had pledged to the Building Fund for \$210,000 through the building crusade. Then on June 19, 1977, the crusade total was up to \$220,735.00. The plans for the new construction had to have Charge Conference approval and on Sunday, January 22, 1978, at 7:00 pm the Conference gave their approval. This Charge Conference approval was the signal to begin construction.

Before the construction could be started, however, bids were advertised to general contractors. When the bids were opened, much to everyone's surprise, the low bid was over one million dollars. This figure was several thousand dollars in excess of funds available. At this point the building committee and the architect began to readdress certain features of the plans in an effort to reduce costs. After considering various alterations, the committee approached Davidson and Jones Co., Inc., to negotiate a contract. Davidson and Jones was probably the largest and most respected general contractor in Raleigh. A modified plan was negotiated for



approximately \$640,000. The St. Mark's Charge Conference met that Sunday night and unanimously approved the contract.

The final modifications provided all the space of the original plan, but replaced complex features with simplified construction. As a matter of fact, the fellowship hall area was a bit larger than originally planned. The bulletin stated that ground breaking was right around the corner. Two things needed to be accomplished; first we had to select a lending institution for construction loan and another for the long-term loan, and then the District Committee of the North Carolina Conference needed to approve the actions. Keith Harrod, of Davidson and Jones, who did the negotiating and architect George Smart estimated a completion date of Christmas, 1978.

The ground breaking ceremony was held on the front lawn on May 21, 1978. Present, in addition to the building committee, were District Superintendent Warren Petteway, Architect George Smart, Attorney Richard Titles, and Davidson and Jones representatives Keith Harrod and Eddie Brown. The predicted completion date of Christmas, 1978 did not happen, but on February 11, 1979, the church bulletin in bold letters read BUILDING COMPLETED - FLOOR SPACE DOUBLED. The cost in rounded figures was \$623,000. It also announced that Bishop Robert Blackburn would participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony and preach at both services. The fellowship hall was not finished completely but the kitchen was ready.

Two items of interest that occurred during and after the building completion were the announcement on April 2, 1978, of the cancellation of the paid out mortgage on the Sanctuary Wing on April 2, 1978 and then on September 9, 1979, the church bulletin and newsletter read, "In both the 8:30 and 11:00 services today we announce the renaming of the old Fellowship Hall to the Walter Anderson Classroom. Walter F. Anderson, a genuine Christian Layman, former SBI Director, who delivered the message at that first service ever held at St. Mark's in 1956, now teacher of the class which bears his name will respond to the honor." The Walter Anderson Class had a picnic lunch following the 11:00 service.

The Parsonages

When the conference assigned Reverend Henry Bizzell to us we were without a parsonage. Shortly after he came, the matter of a parsonage came up and with the help of the Raleigh Board of Missions, we purchased a house at 516 Manchester Drive. Meanwhile, he lived with Reverend and Mrs. Horace Jones. We used this same parsonage during the ministries of Reverend Bizzell and George Ports. After Malloy Owens was assigned to St. Mark's his family was too large for this Manchester Drive parsonage, and we were able to find a parsonage at 204 Westridge. That remained the parsonage for sixteen years. When Reverend Owens was assigned to be a District Superintendent and Dr. Collins was appointed to St. Mark's we sold the house on Westridge and bought one at 208 Ellwood, primarily because of its proximity to the church. During Dr. Collins' ministry the house next door at 4806 Terry Street was made available and the church purchased it with the sale of bonds. It remains in our possession as our parsonage today.

The Church Property

As mentioned in Chapter 1 of the history the Raleigh Board of Missions purchased the original seven acres of property with Dr. Tom Collins' guidance for \$7,000.00 in June of 1954.

The first change to that original acreage concerned the present driveway that runs from Terry to Six Forks and lies between the present church and the North Hills Daycare and the Parsonage. That piece of property had been designated by Marion W. and Pauline D. Nelson, then the property owners, as a dedicated street to the City of Raleigh. When it was decided that the church would be built, negotiations started to do away with the dedicated street with the idea of making it a driveway for the property owners on both sides. This was a sixty foot driveway and they concluded negotiations to make this a private drive, the footage split equally between the church and the adjoining property.

The next addition to the property for St. Mark's concerned a three-bedroom brick home and lot located on the northeast corner of the present campus. It was affectionately known as the Jones House. It was purchased with a bond issue and remains as St. Marks' property today, but the house was sold and moved to a new location. The only other property available around us at this time concerned a zig zag property line between Trinity Baptist and St. Mark's Methodist. To straighten the line it necessitated a swap of acreage determined by a surveyor. No money changed hands, only property.

The last change to take place was the purchase of the present parsonage. When it became available the church arranged again for a small bond issue and the property was purchased from Joel and Paula Long, St. Mark's members. The first minister to live there was Charles Bryant.

4 | *St. Mark's in the Raleigh Community*

Outreach

The influence of St. Mark's United Methodist Church has been wide and varied in its forty years of existence. It is of interest that we occasionally take stock of what has happened and what the influence may have been, particularly this month as we celebrate birthday number forty. It is redundant to tell what and how many souls were won to Christ in this period. What is not redundant is to list the projects that are considered an outreach of the church. New congregations that have originated by the church action, the people who have become missionaries, the programs that exist by the support of the church are the outreach ministries of St. Mark's.

Church Outgrowth

To list the outreach ministries in any order would be tedious but we may consider them as they come to mind. One of the first outreach ministries was the group of people who pulled out of the St. Mark's congregation to form North Raleigh United Methodist Church on March 12, 1971. North Raleigh celebrates its twenty-fifth birthday in March this year, 1996. A few years later, on November 18, 1979, another group left St. Mark's to form the Asbury United Methodist Church under the leadership of David Brownlee, who had been Assistant Minister at St. Mark's.

Then later, Billy Riggs, our Assistant Minister for Young Adults, left St. Mark's and started the Crossroads Fellowship Church. Several St. Mark's members followed Billy in his venture. Charles Moore took with him a small group to form a fellowship that meets regularly in the former location of Soapstone UMC on Old Creedmoor Road. These were formal church groups who were organized at St. Mark's to break away. There are other outreach ministries of St. Mark's that still exist in St. Mark's facilities. First to come to mind is the Bible Study Fellowship, a group of over five hundred men who meet each Monday night for about two hours and use the church facility. On Thursday mornings the Women's Community Bible Study meets at St. Mark's.

During the 1987-88 year, a delegation from the Korean United Methodist Church came to Dr. Tom Collins, who was then serving as the Conference Director of New Churches. This group had met a few times at Edenton Street UMC and was looking for a church in which to meet on Sunday afternoons where they could have a meeting room and use of a kitchen. Dr. Collins came to Reverend Herman Winberry here at St. Mark's and they worked with the Administrative Board and secured permission for this church to use Anderson Hall and its kitchen for their Sunday services. They met here at St. Mark's for two years, and then they began to look for a place where they could meet on Sunday morning. They were invited to return to Edenton Street UMC, for St. Mark's did not have the room for them to meet here in the mornings on Sunday.

Missions

One strong outreach of St. Mark's is the people who have entered the missions field by one avenue or another. St. Mark's supported, and in many cases still supports many different missions. An example; some circles of the Women's Society have underwritten the work in many fields in conjunction with other agencies in the mission fields. An example is the work of one circle of the United Methodist Women which contributes monetarily to the mission of Harold and Elsie Armstetz in Africa. Support is also afforded to Sherry and Andrew Galtman as Wycliff Bible Translators. Then there is the ministry of Marion and Jean Wofford in Zaire Africa. Not only was there support to the foreign mission field but local missions were and are still being supported. We have sent work teams to Bolivia and other countries in the summer and our Youth now go regularly each summer to do projects for the needy in the mission field. We give support to the Shepherds' Table, Raleigh Rescue Mission, The Methodist Home for Children, and Habitat for Humanity. Through the church we give support or gave support when they were in the mission field to the Carraways, Louise Tietgen, Florence Fiandach, and the Lehardys. This list could go on for many pages and still not cover all of the many outreach ministries of St. Mark's. St. Mark's has hosted a number of groups that would be part of our outreach to the community. Among these are Alcoholics Anonymous, Alanon, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Overeaters Anonymous, AARP, and English as a second language.

BSF

One of the largest groups that meet at St. Mark's is the Men's Bible Study Fellowship. This group began in 1981 and the lecturer is Joe Knott. They follow a 7-year commitment to daily Bible study, weekly group meetings, weekly lecture and commentary. The group is interdenominational and 500 men from the whole area meet here every Monday night during the school year.

CBS

The second largest group that meets at St. Mark's is the Thursday morning Community Bible Study for women. It began here in 1987, with Brenda Ham as the lecturer. The ladies follow an interdenominational in-depth Bible study with daily personal study, and with small group discussion, a lecture, and overview weekly. The program is open to anyone on a yearly basis and 200 plus women make up this group.

GKGW

Another group meeting here regularly since 1995 is using a video teaching series and is called Growing Kids God's Way. This study, led by Kay and David Flythe, enables parents to raise their children using Christian and Biblical principles. Eighty or so parents are attending these sessions on Tuesday nights and there are support groups connected with this study.

The Circuit Rider

The following material is quoted and is taken from a tape made for Dr. Ed Perry by Malloy Owen. It was during the ministry of Reverend Malloy Owen that the Circuit Rider was on the air here and was partly responsible for the significant number of new members that we gained during his ministry:

We went on the air first in Greenville when I was pastor of St. James in Greenville in 1954 and were on there five years and then moved to Clayton and moved the program to Channel 5 in Raleigh and were already on the air when we moved to St. Mark's and were delighted to be continuing. It had a large viewing audience. We would make a videotape on Monday night and broadcast at 1:30 on Sunday. This was a thirty minute variety program. Often I would preach and often use the same theme I used that Sunday in the church year. We used the musicians from St. Mark's, our organist - Mrs. Moye, our choir, and occasionally other people's choirs and instrumentalists. Then we got to the point where we would have the same group the first and second Sunday of the month and have an interdenominational mix. We would have groups from Highland Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville or from the Gospel Center in Durham, etc. Our own musicians were usually on the air. Bishop Garber and other bishops would preach as well as District Superintendents. If we were having a revival, we would have our guest preachers and we would try to get them to come early and tape so we would have them on the air.

The program was supported by the viewers. To get started we had much St. Mark's support. It was an opportunity to preach the Gospel to people in one hundred miles of Raleigh every Sunday afternoon and people would send in their letters and let us know they were viewing, and many new people came to St. Mark's because of the Circuit Rider. They would hear us when they moved to Raleigh and hear of our church out in the suburbs, and they would say, "Let's go and see what it's like." So we feel like it was an arm of St. Mark's, though it was independent of St. Mark's. It was its own little anarchy with its own treasurer and it always paid its own bills and never had a surplus. It was a miracle. Just enough money came in to meet its needs and that was it. We never made any profit from it and neither did St. Mark's - not a financial profit. It was an outreach of the ministry of St. Mark's. This was identified at the beginning and end and was clearly identified. Pictures and the name of the church came on the screen. The last edition was 1977 - 1978. It ended gradually as Jim Goodman made the decision that WRAL would no longer sell time for religious programs except on Sunday mornings. There were so many religious programs on Sunday mornings that we figured we were not needed. We were twenty-four years on TV.

Youth Ministries

The story of our Youth Ministries begins with the early church and illusions are made to this in the stories of the ministers and in the early church history. The Youth Ministries really gained attention and focus during the ministry of Reverend Malloy Owen, because it was during this time that it was the wish of the church and minister to really focus on the Youth Ministries and to hire a staff member who would devote the time and programs toward focusing on the youth. Again, we are quoting from the tape made

by Reverend Owen for Dr. Ed Perry.

Our first youth director was a student at Duke Divinity School, C. Reggie Johnson, who now is on the faculty at Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky and has his doctorate from Edinborough University. He came to us in his first year in Divinity School. He was a graduate from Wake Forest and was from Greenville, N.C. We originated with him the idea of having one person just to do the youth and we elected to go in that direction instead of an Associate Minister. We could not do both and we wanted to put the emphasis on our own youth and reach them as they reached the teen years. North Raleigh was beginning to team with youth. After Reggie had been there a year or two, we brought in the first full time person, John Weigle, and I remember finding him at USC, where he was president of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. He had a heart for Methodism and young people and I often referred to him as the "Pied Piper." The kids would follow him anywhere. He just had that touch. They loved him and he loved them, and he built the youth ministry. We had Thankful Thursdays at 6:30 AM and over 300 kids came for the Youth Ministry Breakfast. John jettisoned all the old terms and did not call it the MYF. He came up with new terms being used with youth interdenominational ministries. He took our kids to a youth camp in West Virginia run by Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Md. where a friend of his was the full time youth director. John would work with another youth director who had a successful youth program and learn from them and would come apply it to us. (John is in business in Charlotte now). It greatly strengthened St. Mark's to have that growing strong youth program under our roof. Our kids were in the vanguard. Kids were coming from other churches and from no church at all and were bringing their friends. Sanderson was new and it gave them a place. These were Senior Highs, not Junior Highs. This was a real miracle. It was a time to remember and a time to thank God for because many youth came to know Christ as John would work with them. His objective was to make disciples and not just entertain. He did entertain too, though and he had a great program. He had one level for kids who were ready to go deeper in their study of the Word and Walk With the Lord. He had a good grasp on ministry in general and was a good person to have on the staff.

After John Weigle left we had Floyd Green, who had grown up under the ministry and came to us right out of college. He had trained under John and was ready to take over. (He later went to Dallas Theological Seminary). He carried on with great effectiveness. A very gifted man, he had the same apparent objectives as under previous directors and had amazing success. He led us very well and sustained the idea of having a full time person just for youth. He worked with Junior and Senior Youth. He brought in Julie Ballou from Beaufort (who became Julie Logan) and she became assistant and then Youth Director. She married Robert Logan, Jr. and is a member at Wesley Methodist Church in Raleigh today.

Then came Tom Bruner from Asbury, a very polished gentleman, who conducted the Youth Ministry for two years. He had a good rapport with the kids. Each of the Youth Ministers had his own appeal and ministered to the kids in his own unique way, and Tom continued the full time Youth Ministry and then we had David Banks. David grew up in the church here at St. Mark's. His parents were very faithful and very active members. David was between college and seminary when he served here. He is now a pastor in

Morehead City. He led our youth ministry and our daughter Patricia was finishing at Peace College. David took her to a college day at Columbia Bible College in Columbia, S.C., and she went there and met her husband. David Banks and St. Mark's Youth Ministry were used to bring her to her husband. Our second child has been close to the church also because they were so rooted in the Youth Ministry at St. Mark's. Parents who were at St. Mark's then can say now about the benefits to their own children being so rooted in the Youth Ministry at St. Mark's.

Mike Powers came from Asbury and married the daughter of one of St. Mark's members and he served us as Youth Director. He is now a minister in Kentucky.

These Youth Ministers devoted their time to reaching the youth when the minister could not have time to do all the jobs that needed emphasis. Three of the Youth Ministers during Malloy's time at St. Mark's became full time ministers in their own right. They are Reggie Johnson, David Banks, and Robbie Hammond.

David Banks had served as Youth Minister during the last two years of Reverend Owens' pastorate at St. Mark's. He continued to serve during the first year of Reverend Collins' pastorate here and then he left to go into the pastorate himself. Steve Jones was the next Youth Minister and he served until 1987, when he left to go into Christian Counseling. Charles Moore came during Mr. Winberry's pastorate and he left to form a church of his own during the ministry of Charles Bryant. David Dunson was the Associate Minister at this time and he took over the responsibilities of Youth Minister, serving until Kim Lamb came to St. Mark's in the summer of 1990 to serve as part time Youth Director. She was hired as a full time staff member beginning January 1, 1991 and the Youth Program really began to move forward again.

The first meeting which Kim had responsibility for as a part-time youth director was attended by six youth and two adults.

From that foundation, our youth program was rebuilt. Over the next six years, the goal of our youth program was to help youth develop spiritually, emotionally, and socially. All of our programs were based around that goal. Our youth traveled to retreat centers one or two times each year for weekends of spiritual growth, to Christian festivals for times of evangelistic speaking, and to service centers for week-long experiences of serving God by serving others. The program has included UMYF with challenging programs and good fellowship, Bible Studies for exploring God's word and applying it to daily life, basketball and recreation days, giving youth a non-threatening way to bring friends into the youth group. The core of the youth ministry over the last six years has been the volunteer leadership in the form of parents and other adults who have a passion for helping youth discover for themselves the call of God on their lives. These adults, including Glenn Parham, Lynn & Vicki Oehling, Lane Cloaninger, Mike Main, Alice Cason, and many more have loved the youth by opening their lives as role models and examples of Christ.



Rev. Kimberly Strong Lamb

Girl Scouts

Girl Scout Troop #515 was formed in the fall of 1960 sponsored by St. Mark's UMW. The leaders of this troop were Irene Hewitt and Mary Richardson. For six years the service project of the troop was to help serve at the bar-b-que dinners the Church served during the year. The second service project was the County Home. The girls made many visits, took treats, made gifts - such as pine cone turkeys - to go on their Thanksgiving trays. Special Christmas gifts were also made. These were always joyful visits for the girls and especially for the patients.

We always had our troop limit of 32 girls each year and had a waiting list for any vacancy that might occur and for the next year. One of our highlights of the year was Girl Scout Sunday, celebrated the second Sunday in March. This was the date nearest the birthday of founder Juliette Lowe. Our girls all came to church in full dress uniform, marched in together behind the color guard. They led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner." They also took part in the readings of the Scripture.

Many of our St. Mark's women worked diligently with the leaders: Ginette McPeters worked in the Scout office and helped us when needed. Nan Ayers was the District Troop Organizer and helped Mary Richardson get our Junior Troop started. Rachel Herring was always our Cookie Chairman and yearly had a living room and den filled with boxes of cookies. Troops picked up their cookies from her. Eleanor Cranford worked long and hard in teaching the girls the art of painting. A showing was held at the end of the course. A very good drama project was done by the troop under the leadership of Betty Ord and Persis Batts and the Drama Badge was earned. David and Amy Shaffer made sets for this project and helped in many other ways. We had many individual projects going along for different badge requirements, such as sewing, needlework, and many arts and crafts that seemed to interest the girls.

Our outside activities were all of the aspects of camping; fire building, cooking over an open fire, setting up camp sites, hiking and learning to identify the trees, flowers, etc. in the camping area and most important, learning First Aid. This is where they learned to care for God's world and to keep it clean and safe. Most of our camping trips were at Umstead Park, Kerr Lake, and Camp Mary Atkinson.

The second set of leaders were Irene Hewitt and Vernelle Jones. From 1967 - 1970 Betty Ord and Persis Batts served, followed by Betty Walden in 1970 - 1973. About that time the leaders came from people outside of St. Mark's. Many others helped in the program in various ways. Some of those are Carol Behringer, Mary Farmer, and Margaret Munns, who was our church Scout Representative for many years. Many of our girls were active through the entire Girl Scout program, especially through the Cadet Program. In our area no Senior Program was available at that time. Led by Caroline Perry and Nan Ayers, one was started at St. Timothy's at a later date. At one time, St. Mark's had three Brownie troops, the Junior troop, one Cadet troop. They were all very active. Some of the girls were: Martha Danden, Susan Ord, Rachel Herring, Parker Herring, Cheryl Richardson, Judy Ayers, Patricia Farmer, Ellen Munns, Martha Muth, Gail Cranford, Kathy Mitchell, Janie Walden, Kathy Hewitt, Dawn Zabo, Paula Freeman, Susan Shaffer, Susan Swartz, Elizabeth Carrington, Carolyn Dew, Kathy Hight, Cheryl Lingerfelt, Susan Shelton, Beth Tuttle, Carolyn Dixon, Annette McPeters.

St. Mark's has always been happy to house and sponsor Brownie and Girl Scout troops, but in recent years have had a smaller program because it is increasingly hard to find leaders and participants. At the present time we have one Junior troop and two Brownie troops.

Boy Scouts

Appearing in the May 5, 1957 St. Mark's Church bulletin was the announcement "Tuesday night, April the 30th, a Boy Scout Troop was organized in our church. Seven boys were present and joined. Meetings will be held each Monday night at 7:30 pm. The Scoutmaster is Roger Bostick." The first Scout Sunday at St. Mark's was on Sunday, February 16, 1958, and the Charter was presented. The second Scout Sunday was held on February 7, 1960. The troop number was 344. Mr. Bruce Ross, still a St. Mark's member, was the institutional representative present. The Scoutmaster was Perry Taylor.

Appearing in the July 24, 1965 St. Mark's Messenger was the following: "Copperhead Meets Match. Congratulations to the scouts of our Troop 344. Steve Stowe, Tommy Perry, and Gary Baker probably saved the life of Scout Chris Woody. Chris was bitten by a copperhead snake. The three friends used their knowledge of first aid, cutting little crosses on the fang marks, applying suction, and applying pressure to blood vessels above the wound. Chris was taken to a hospital. Scoutmaster Jack Holsten says the trio did an excellent job."

The Preschool

St. Mark's Preschool first opened its doors in the fall of 1985. St. Phillip's Lutheran Church on Falls of the Neuse Road had a preschool, and as the church was moving to a new location with construction going on, some of the teachers approached St. Mark's about moving the preschool to our church. We decided that we wanted a St. Mark's Preschool, not a St. Phillip's Preschool at St. Mark's, and with the help of Susie Cloaninger, Sally Atkinson, and Pam Schrader, the school opened that fall. Lisa Rector, one of the teachers from St. Phillip's, became the part time director and then the full time director. St. Mark's paid for the school insurance during these first years, because the premium was around \$1,000, a sum that the tuition from the school could not support. Other than those first years' help with the insurance, the St. Mark's Preschool supported itself entirely from tuition as it continues to do today.

Brenda Tate, one of the St. Phillip's teachers became the director for the 1988 - 1989 year and continued in that capacity until she left to teach in public school in the summer of 1992. Janet Edwards became the director for the 1992 - 1994 years. During the years with these two directors the preschool continued to grow, adding a four day four year class, a transitional class for early fives, a scholarship fund, a new preschool office, a large storage area, and contributing to the funding of the playground, built for the church and preschool use. We also had by this time added a formal music program and a movement program. We had a very active Preschool Board, separate from the church but with representatives from different areas of the church. The bookkeeping was done separately from the church bookkeeping but was done by the church financial secretary. Janet Edwards left in the summer of 1994 to take a full time job in another preschool and child care field. The new and present director is Julie Realon.

Under Julie's directorship we have instituted some new programs that further strengthen the preschool. Helped by some beautiful donations from some of the parents, a children's library has been opened in the preschool area. In conjunction with their philosophy of multicultural education, the teaching of Spanish has been instigated. They now have use of computers, because of the belief that this will help the children be better prepared for kindergarten. The school is working hard toward obtaining full NAEYC

accreditation, a process that takes several years. The following article from the "Markings" was written by Julie at the church's request as we celebrated the tenth anniversary of the preschool on September 3, 1995.

St. Mark's United Methodist Church Preschool opened in September 1985, offering morning classes for 2, 3 and 4 year old children. Mother's Morning Out, which had been operated by the church using volunteers, became a part of the preschool program in September, 1986. In September, 1990, a class for 5-year-olds was added. In September, 1993, the Mother's Morning Out Class was changed to a toddler class for children 12 - 24 months.

The continuing goal of St. Mark's Preschool is to prepare children spiritually, physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually in a loving, Christ-centered environment, and to develop an awareness of God's presence in our daily lives. We believe that each child is special and unique, and we want to encourage total development and creative expression in work and play by exposing children to a varied, stimulating and developmentally appropriate curriculum.

As we plan for the preschool to open for the 10th year in September, we look back with gratitude to those church members, volunteers and leaders who started this program and nurtured it through the years. The preschool currently enjoys support from the church through its hard-working nine-member board, helpful trustees, wonderful administrative staff, Sunday School teachers who share their space and materials, and parents who are actively involved in their child's program.

Soon the education building will be filled with laughter, smiles, and curious minds. We will serve approximately 125 children and employ 18 staff members. Our program's special features will include Chapel, Music, Creative Movement, Spanish and Computers. We will also continue work toward achieving Accreditation by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs by meeting high standards in all areas of our program.

We ask for your prayers and we invite you to celebrate with us our 10th Birthday on Wednesday, September 6, 1995 at 10:30 am in Owen Hall. We particularly hope that anyone directly involved with the Preschool in the last 10 years will be able to join us.

The Playground

The playground renovation was a particular dream of the Preschool and the plan for this renovation was begun thanks to the vision and persistence of Brenda Tate, Preschool Director; Ruth Andrews, Chairman of the Preschool Board; and Mark Faulkner, a Preschool Board member and a parent of a Preschool student. In May of 1992 the project began to take shape with the drawing of a plan for changing the playground into areas to serve the toddler to age three group and the four to five age groups. At this time the church had no money for such a project but they approved the project as it was outlined.

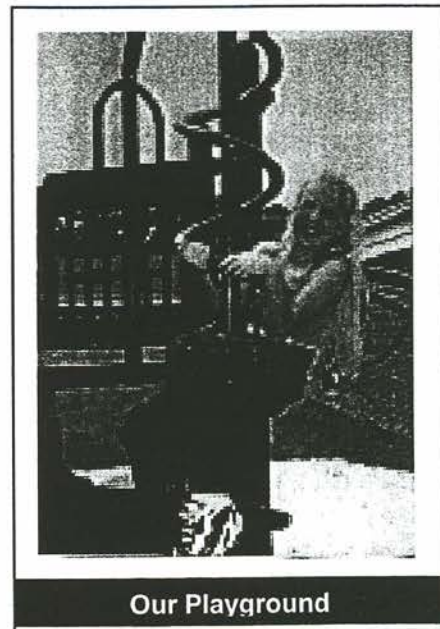
The committee looking for ways to go on the renovation decided they would put enough equipment on the playground as possible but be very serious about safety and developing the motor skills of the

children. After careful research, it was decided that the project would go with Landscape Structures because of its safety and landscaping record. It was obvious that good drainage would be a major concern. The only pieces on the playground at this point were a wooden homemade sandbox, a wooden swing, a teeter totter, and a metal mesh climbing device. Some of these items were unsafe and they definitely needed to be brought into the Twenty-First Century.

The Preschool gave \$3,000 toward the project, which was estimated to cost about \$35,000 and be executed over a three year period. Thanks to contributions from the United Methodist Men, the 5% Club, the Children's Council, and fundraisers, \$3268 was raised to add to the Preschool gift. In 1992 the circle cycle and a portable basketball goal were purchased. The first large piece of equipment was the swing set combination for the small children. It was determined that instead of providing a sand pile or sandbox for the children, all large pieces of equipment would be placed in a sand pit, both to separate the pieces for safety and to insure installation with excellent drainage. The extra bonus is that the sand also serves as a play area for the children. That first year of 1992 there were expenses for moving the fence back to incorporate some more area, and some landscaping expense.

All of the major work on the playground had to be done during the Easter Break when the students were not here. In order to save money and to promote friendship and a spirit of working together to accomplish this project for the children, Mark Faulkner assembled a group he called the "swat team" and this group of parents and interested people did the herculean task of getting each section installed, shaped up, landscaped, and completed. People who served on this swat team deserve a great deal of recognition. They are: Mark Jones, Lane Cloaninger, Ben Shore, Steve Dail, Tony Doster, Ed Sullivan, Robbie Clyburn, John Crouch, Claude Felmet, Jerry Marks, and the head of the team, Mark Faulkner.

In 1993 there was another \$3,000 donation from the Preschool and nearly \$11,000 was raised from donations from the 5% Club, Children's Council Fund raisers, UMM, etc. The next large piece of equipment to be purchased was the red and blue piece for the older children. This piece cost over \$10,000 and was a massive piece to install. The company sent a supervisor to oversee the installation and to ensure that everything was done according to the company's standards and safety codes. It is appropriate to say that in addition to the enormous amount of work done by the "swat team" the fundraising was spurred on by the efforts of Cathy Bolch, Colleen Zavatson, Brenda Shore, Cathy Crouch, and Donna Jones. Bruce Robertson, a church member and wood craftsman, made picnic tables and benches for the playground so that the children of the church and Preschool could enjoy these.



In 1994 donations of \$3061 came in and in 1995 the final piece of equipment was installed. This was an addition to the small children's piece and it is something for the children to climb through. The project was finished in a little less than three years and the total expenses were \$23,264, much less than originally thought, thanks to the money saved by all the volunteers who worked to install the equipment and do the landscaping.

United Methodist Men

The Saint Mark's UMM applied for and received their first charter on June 4, 1959. The President was Dr. T. Edwin Perry, Vice - President was W.P. Cranford, and Secretary was Richard B. Cheves. Meeting in the Parsonage at the church and at homes, the men were working to better this new church. There were work times, barbeque times, and time to sponsor and nurture the Boy Scout Troop 344. There was little money, especially when Reverend Bizzell was the minister, and the UMM always set out to raise money for their own projects to better St. Mark's.

However, by the 1980's the Methodist Men had ceased to exist at St. Mark's. Reverend Winberry was the minister and at the charge conference in 1986, District Superintendent Joseph Bethea laid down the law that the Methodist Men would reorganize and become active. Once again Mr. Winberry was proud to have the group beginning, but the men were not so active as before. Beginning in 1990 the president was Jerry Owen, in 1991 it was Walt Moore, in 1992 it was Ed Wilson, in 1993 Stan Stager, in 1994 the president was George Waters, and in 1995 and 1996, Mark Faulkner. Different meeting times were tried and the men were addressed by various members of the staff of St. Mark's. Mark Faulkner had the men working with the playground, had some political forums here, and had a special session where people came with their children to have pictures taken and identification cards made. Starting in the 1990's barbeques were brought back into play and chicken seemed to be the meat of choice. The men began doing Church Work Days, in connection with the Trustees, and once again the men began actively contributing as a group to St. Mark's.

United Methodist Women

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church has declared that "In every local church there shall be an organized unit of United Methodist Women." St. Mark's formed their organization on April 18, 1956 in the home of Mrs. William P. Cranford with thirteen charter members : Bobbie Best, Eleanor Cranford, Lois Garrett, Irene Hewitt, Edith Hutchins, Grace Keen, Betty Mitchell, Rachel Pattishall, Caroline Perry, Hattie Rhodes, Elsie Sabin, Nancy Thomas, and Rosa Wakefield. This brand new organization set forth with determination and during the first ten years they formed four circles, the Night Circle, the Lelia Coltrane Circle, the Mary Mark Circle, and the Susanna Wesley Circle. They completely furnished the church kitchen except for the cabinets, stoves and refrigerators, providing dishes, silver, cooking utensils, etc. They contributed money (\$750) toward the down payment on the parsonage and \$500 for the chapel at the Correctional Center. Their major projects those first ten years were church bazaars, turkey dinners, meals for Episcopal ministers, flowers for the altar, and nursery help. They also sponsored Girl Scouts and Brownies at the church. They raised money to retire church bonds.

Since its inception, more than a hundred years ago, the women of the churches with Evangelical and Methodist backgrounds have supported missions at home and abroad. St. Mark's has continually sponsored missionaries and have sent hygiene kits to missions. Gifts are collected annually for distribution to patients at Dorothea Dix Hospital and for many years birthday cakes were sent. To Dillon School at Christmas. Service projects have included Meals on Wheels, visits to shut-ins, and monthly programs and luncheons for senior citizens. Attendance at one time at these luncheons was 80, currently it is about 30. Food Lion sales receipts for specific dates are collected to benefit Methodist Homes for Children. Labels and postage stamps benefit Conference UMW projects. An active prayer chain has always been an important part of the organization. The UMW presidents during the first ten years were Mrs. W.P. Cranford, Mrs. Carol Dixon, Mrs. Olaf Wakefield, Mrs. Ginette McPeters, Mrs. Roger Eller,

and Mrs. Harry Kurz.

Membership has ranged in numbers and is currently about 108. The UMW Board meets monthly. General meetings which included worship and a guest speaker were conducted the first Tuesday of each month. Currently, the general meetings have been in March and October, the fall meeting also for the purpose of voting on the budget and electing unit officers. The highlight of the year has been the May Brunch to which non-members were invited to hear a special speaker and special music presentations. New members were recognized and Special Mission Recognition pins continue to be presented. As of 1996, 72 members and one deserving man have been so honored. Special food is served, and the dining area is transformed into a garden for the occasion. The Christmas Tea, the first Tuesday afternoon in December, is likewise a special occasion dedicated to senior citizens.

In the beginning circle meetings were held in private homes. Currently there are three daytime and one evening circle that meet nine times a year in the church. They are Belva Wright, Susannah Wesley Circle of Love, Lydia, and Mary Mark. The Rosa Wakefield Room was furnished by the women to be used by brides and for specific functions. The women furnished the parlor and maintained it for many years also.

UMW presidents since Bonnie Kurz are: Mary Freeman, Pauline Dutt, Brenda Ham, Jan Plyler, Pat Owen, Phyllis Sain, Sandy Veach, Dot Davis, Cheryl Theriault, Brenda Ham, Beverly Jones, Joy Owen, and Marion Weber.

Funds for missions and local church building were raised through bake sales, the sale of greeting cards and gift wrap and by serving at barbecue dinners and catered wedding receptions. The women voted to limit fund raising to catering wedding receptions and to benefit missions. Pledges to missions were emphasized. Cookbooks were sold. For a brief period (1990 - 1991) the pledge to Conference was called The Master's Mission and the pledge was made to Society of UM Church. In 1993 it reverted back to Pledge to Mission (UMW) following explanation by NC Conference UMW treasurer, Jeanne Rouse, guest speaker at St. Mark's UMW general meeting. An UMW yearbook or directory is printed annually with current information.

The UMW Wedding Receptions were begun by Caroline Perry and Barbara Gouge and they continued to direct these for eight or nine years. Many of the silver items were donated by Caroline and by Miss Annie Cooper. They charged the princely sum of \$.35 per person. Tate Wall took over the receptions and continued for some time, and up to the present time various members of the UMW took turns being wedding chairman.

Senior Citizens were started by Rachel Herring about two years after Malloy Owen became the minister at St. Mark's. Senior Citizens consisted of a meditation and a meal. Many friends from Capital Towers have come to this through the years. Brenda Ham headed the program for eighteen years. Others who helped head the program are Carolyn Buller, Mary Dudas, Julia Moore, Ruth Thomas, and Margaret Waggoner. This is an active program today.

Lay Academy / Center for Learning

In the fall of 1991, a committee headed by Freddie Jones, and composed of Brian Gentle, Ben Cason, Mike and Renee Meador, Roy Holley, and Vickie Lupton met to work on courses and a schedule for a Lay Academy. The purposes would be multiple: to give more opportunities for spiritual growth for

church members and members of the community; to give opportunities for further discussion of challenges for Christian living in today's world; and to give opportunities to explore all these offerings as members of the Christian community and citizens of the United States and of the world.

Some of the first courses offered had themes of Bible Study, Daily Life Experiences, Christian Liturgy, Counseling the Bereaved, Managing Your Money in a Christian Home, Dealing With Teens, Problems in Disfunctional Families, Arts and Crafts. Dr. Gentle and members of the congregation were the main teachers with added participation by some members of the community. It was decided that these first courses would run for four, five, or nine weeks, except for some one or two session special classes. The courses would be offered on Wednesday nights following the Wednesday Night Suppers, and would run from 7:00 to 8:00. We committed ourselves to offer nursery care during these classes. Webb Howell became the director in 1992 and the vision expanded from Lay Academy to the idea of a Center for Learning. Our vision included our congregation and also the North Raleigh area.

5 | *Vignettes & Anecdotes*

Over the forty years of the existence of St. Mark's there have been many interesting occurrences. Some of them have had a direct influence on the development of the church, others only serve to pique one's interest.

The St. Mark's Memorial Prayer Garden and Columbarium

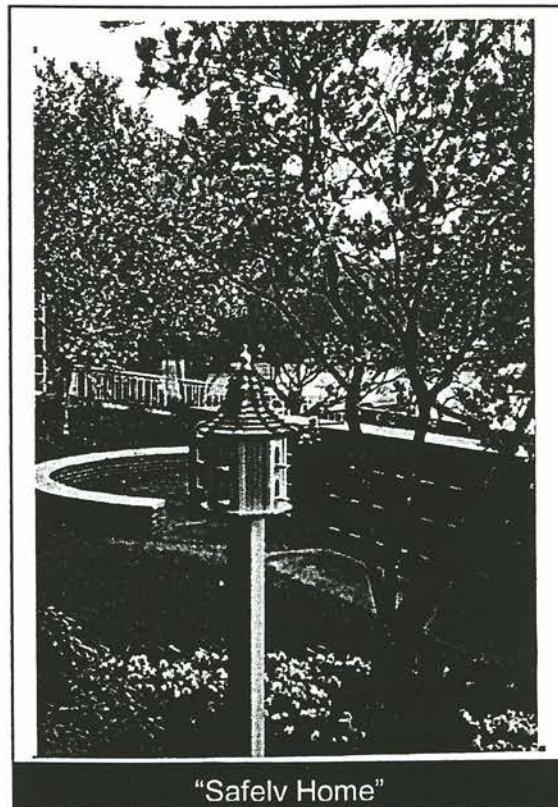
In the year 1995 a group of St. Mark's parishioners developed a prayer garden on the southwest side of the sanctuary. The garden and columbarium were made possible by an original financial grant from Bob Bimm. It was designed and construction was supervised by the firm of Pearce, Brinkley, and Cease and the columbarium holds both ashes and plaques in memory of church members and their direct families. The maintenance and supervision of the area is under the Memorials Committee, a subdivision of the Trustees.

In preparing the history of St. Mark's there were many papers, letters, and drawings that had been stacked away for future reference. One such drawing was found that was a layout for planting shrubbery and trees on the grounds of the church. Many will remember that such a drawing or plan was developed to make the grounds uniform and nice looking rather than a hodgepodge of plantings. When this drawing was opened up and perused with other documents that had been tucked away, it was found to have a title in the lower right hand corner that was "planting plan for St. Mark's." This plan was made by Wayside Nursery of Raleigh. The scale was 1 inch to 20 feet and was dated March 26, 1971.

Careful reading showed that there was drawn in a "John and Mary Doe Memorial Garden" in the same exact location as the present prayer garden. The drawing called for a 60 inch high brick wall on the outer border. Inside, the specifications called for a twenty foot diameter circular pool. Though this drawing had been stored away for over 24 years the prayer garden was built in the same location. Was it coincidence or providence?

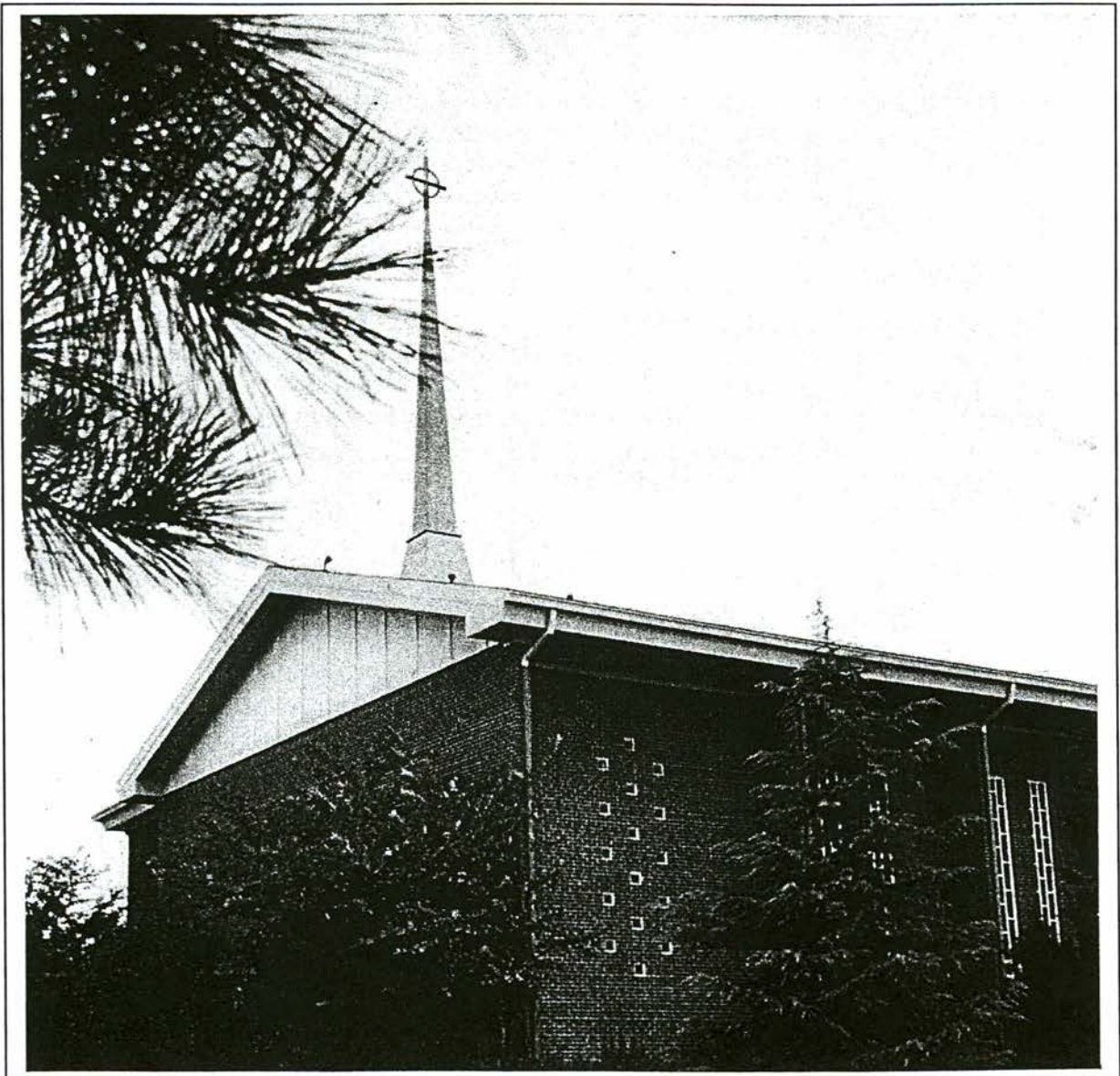
The Church Steeple

During the ministry of Malloy Owen and just following the Vietnam Conflict, Marine Corps Major Richard Roddy and his wife Artie wanted to erect a steeple at



St. Mark's in memory of the Vietnam Veterans. They donated the money for the steeple and the metal structure was hoisted atop the sanctuary. As far as we can determine, the steeple was the first standing tribute to Vietnam Veterans in the city of Raleigh.

By 1993 the steeple was in bad need of a paint job and there was no money in the church budget for it. The Pairs and Spares, a small Sunday School class of about 10 people came to Trustee Chairman Walt Moore and asked if he would get paint bids so that they could raise the money to have the steeple painted. They raised the entire amount of \$1200 and the steeple was painted, showing that a group might be small but when they have high hopes and a right spirit anything is possible.



Altar Appointments and The Anderson Hall Stage

When the present Anderson Hall was the Sanctuary for the church we needed altar appointments and a raised area at the front. Nelson Ayers, Ed Perry, and Noah Sites built the altar, the lectern, the pulpit and the communion rail. These were done at Nelson Ayers' house and brought here and installed. When we built our new sanctuary these items were stored downstairs and the Methodist Church on Hwy 50 (Asbury) borrowed them. They were destroyed in Hurricane Fran. The stage was made during the time that pipes were being laid in Six Forks Road. The pipes were braced on the trucks by sturdy 2 / 4's and Ed Perry and his cronies went out every afternoon and put them in his station wagon until they had enough to build the base for the stage.

One More Anecdote

Can you imagine that half of the ladies' room adjacent to Anderson Hall was once the church office! It was. Mrs. Margaret Munns relates how that area then designed to be a closet was used as the office. The closet was later closed and incorporated into the enlargement of the ladies' room. Margaret had a tiny desk, small file, and an addressograph machine similar to a stapler that she operated by hand. She said she had to 'whop it' to make it print a label. Later she tells how Olaf Wakefield bought a foot pedal operated version of the addressograph machine. That machine continued in use until 1981 or 1982 when the computer era started. She relates that we attempted to salvage some value from that machine and offered to trade it in. The addressograph representative agreed to give the church twenty-five dollars for the machine so they could use it as a museum piece that was still operational.

The Story of the Crying Room

The Trustees decided for various reasons to make a change in the sanctuary - namely to remove the gray-windowed wall that separated the last two pews from the rest of the sanctuary. The Methodist Men furnished the labor and tools for the venture. To remove this wall was a major undertaking and it brought about questions concerning the whys and wherefores of that wall.

When the design of the sanctuary was completed by the architect, the "wall" was not in the plans. At that time the plans and design were sent to Philadelphia, PA for approval by the Methodist Investment Fund of the General Board of Missions, the agency that St. Mark's had petitioned to provide funds for construction. Mr. Noah M. Sites, Jr. took the plans and design work to the MIF as a representative of the building committee and St. Mark's member. Mr. Sites was an engineer for the State of NC. After due consideration by the design people of the Methodist Investment Fund, Mr. Sites was told that the sanctuary design was out of proportion. The sanctuary design was too long for the width and that if the length were reduced the funds would be approved. To return to Raleigh and to revise the design would be costly and delay the construction schedule. Mr. Sites went to work and revised the design by placing the wall in the plans to reduce the overall length, thereby getting the loan approval at that time.

When Mr. Sites returned and reported his changes, the building committee approved the action retroactively. That was when it was decided to designate that area isolated by the wall as the "crying

room,” a place for small people and babies to occupy with their parents and not disturb the church service.

The Walter Anderson Story

Two men have been honored by having large meeting areas of our church named for them: first in the naming of Anderson Hall after Walter Anderson and second in naming Owen Hall after Reverend J. Malloy Owen, pastor here at Saint Mark's for 17 years.

Walter Foster Anderson was a prominent lay preacher in America Methodism. Mr. Anderson once served as lay leader of St. Mark's. He was elected four times by the NC Conference as lay delegate to the General Conference, the governing body of the Methodist Church in America. By such election he automatically became a member of the Jurisdictional Conference. Mr. Anderson was a lifelong law enforcement official in NC. He was the youngest police chief in Winston Salem, NC. Later he became police chief in Charlotte, NC. Following that he was appointed Director of the State Bureau of Investigation. He served as head of the NC Prison System. He was a much sought after speaker as a Methodist layman. He was the lay minister who preached at the first service of St. Mark's. At the tenth anniversary celebration of our church he delivered the same sermon as on the first Sunday service.

Reverend Owen referred to Walter Anderson as the ...”first missionary at St. Mark's.” In 1968 this preaching layman led sixteen revivals and seven stewardship crusades for Methodist churches from the mountains to the sea. Approximately \$300,000 was raised for debt retirement, building programs, and budgets for Methodist churches.

He taught the Walter Anderson Adult Class at St. Mark's one Sunday each month. He left his class at 10:35 in order to speak at the Women's Prison, an appointment he always kept after the time when he was head of the entire prison system of NC. Reverend Owen wrote “This capable Christian, having served as Head of the SBI under five governors and Prisons Director under one, has turned his premature retirement into a new career in evangelism.” People in the western half of the state knew and loved him as much as those in the eastern part of NC. Mr. Anderson was a native of Mocksville, North Carolina.

The “Squire of Six Forks” Is Dead

The following article is one written by Dr. Perry upon the death of one of St. Mark's most generous and faithful members, Olaf Wakefield.

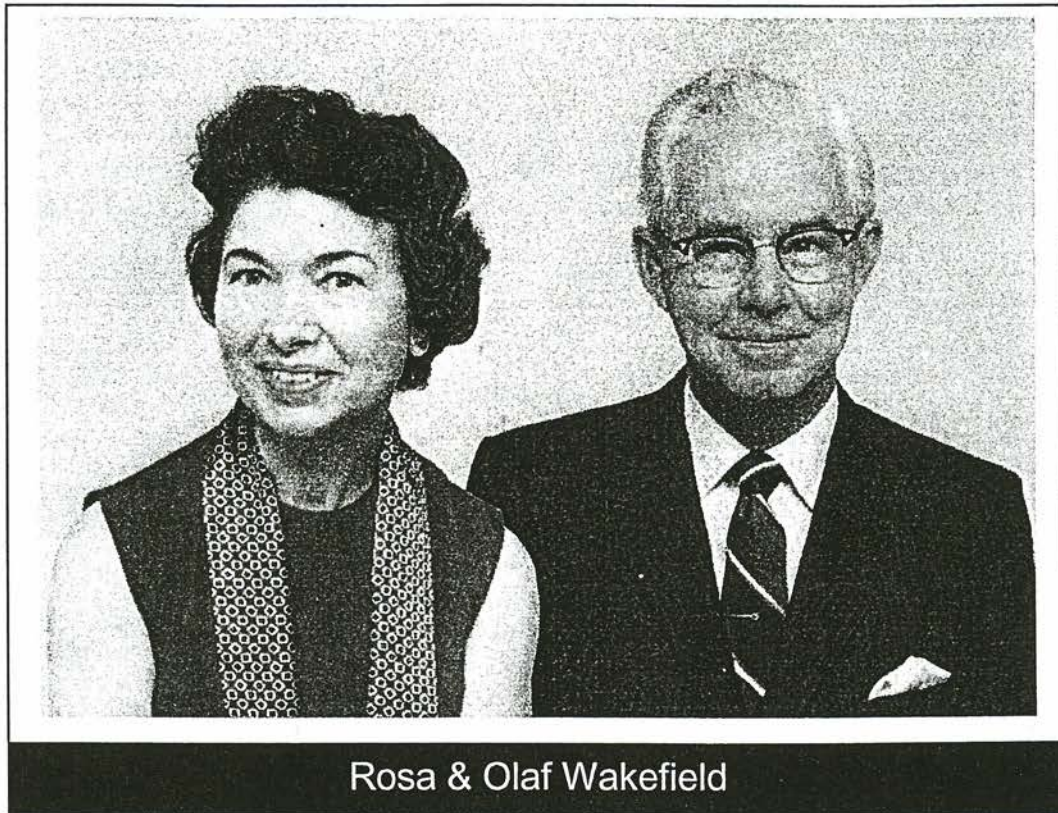
Olaf Wakefield was a quiet man who seldom made waves, but his influence and work have had considerable impact at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Olaf was a statistician for the US Department of Agriculture and he used his knowledge of numbers to guide and predict the fiscal goals of his church.

I gave him the name “Squire of Six Forks” years ago, for Olaf owned all the property on the several points at Six Forks Road. He and wife Rosa lived in a quaint old white house on the corner of Six Forks and Strickland roads where Wachovia bank is located until he built a home across the road in a pine grove.

I had the pleasure of working on many projects at St. Mark's with Olaf. Once we went to see the developer of North Hills, Ed Richards. We needed money for the lower floors below Anderson Hall. In his quiet but convincing manner, Olaf prevailed upon Mr. Richards and a donation was made that gave us the needed concrete. Another time we went to see Walker Martin, the General Electric distributor in this area and he gave us all the appliances and cabinets for our first kitchen - the one off Anderson Hall.

Besides his dedication to his job at USDA and St. Mark's Methodist Church, he was a strong supporter of the NC State Wolfpack Club. Olaf was an NCSU alumnus. It was always amusing to see his smile when the Wolfpack had won a game - especially at Chapel Hill.

St. Mark's has lost a staunch strong member but his mark will live into eternity. St. Mark's will miss the "Squire of Six Forks."



Rosa & Olaf Wakefield

History is the story of people, places, and events. History is on going; it never ends.

We have written the history of St. Mark's United Methodist Church from its beginning in 1956 until its 40th Anniversary in 1996.

There are areas of the history that we have not documented and it needs to be updated and preserved to the present date and each year after. Supplements need to be printed and documents and pictures need to be carefully preserved.

We issue this challenge to the next Church Historian.

