

Trinity United Methodist Church

824 North Bloodworth Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604

1942 - 1992

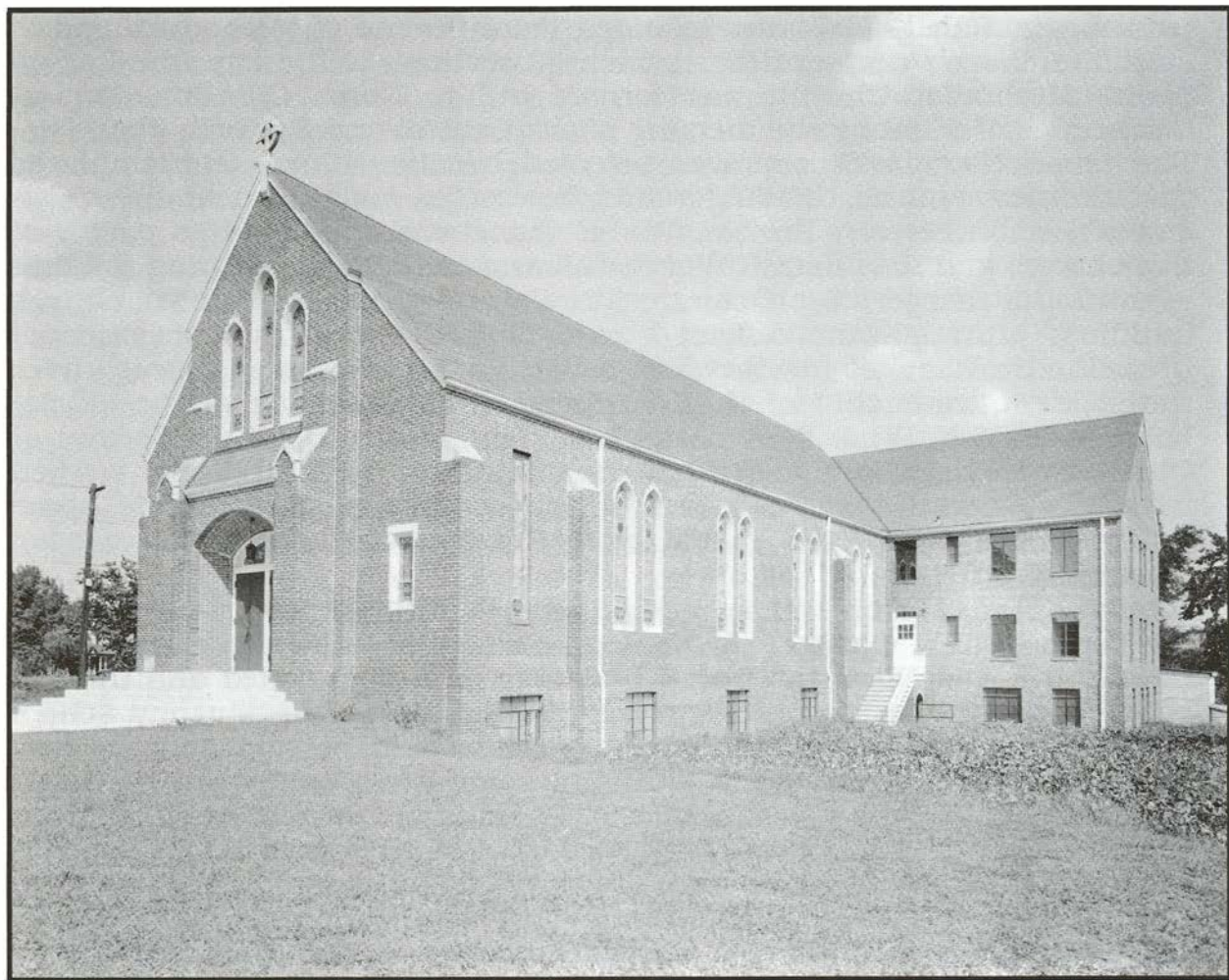
Sunday October 25, 1992



Anniversary

A Proud Heritage - A Promising Future

HISTORY OF TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA



THE ROOTS of Trinity Methodist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina, run back into the 19th century and find their origin in two Methodist churches which were known as Central Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and Epworth Methodist Episcopal Church South. Since the life of Trinity United Methodist Church is inseparably linked with these churches, the history of the present church begins with the origin of Central and Epworth.

The history of Central Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and Epworth Methodist Episcopal Church, South, will be in separate articles following this history of Trinity Methodist Church.

In keeping with a foresighted plan of relocating the Methodist churches of Raleigh, in order to widen the influence of Methodism and to meet the church needs of the residential sections of the city, the Person Street Methodist Church was formed at the North Carolina Annual Conference of 1939 by the merging of the Central and Epworth churches. The name "Person Street" was selected because it was contemplated that the new church building would be erected on a lot near the north end of Person Street. Rev. M. W. Lawrence was appointed as pastor of this charge, and Rev. Kermit Wheeler as assistant pastor. During the first year of the merger, each congregation worshipped in its own church building, although the official boards and the Woman's Societies of Christian Service met together and carried on their work as a unit under the efficient leadership of H. R. Williamson as chairman of the official board and Mrs. W. I. Wellons as president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service. Rev. M. W. Lawrence and Rev. Kermit Wheeler worked faithfully to knit together the two congregations. They made some progress, but found many obstacles to overcome. The union needed more time to develop.

At the Annual Conference of 1940 Rev. D. M. Sharpe was assigned to the Person Street Charge. At the beginning of the new conference year, the Central and Epworth church buildings were abandoned and the two congregations were brought together to worship in the Murphy school auditorium until the two church properties could be sold and the new church building erected. A building committee, composed of J. M. Thompson, R. J. Bryan, L. C. Finley, J. O. Markham, Mrs. H. R. Williamson and Mrs. S. T. Lumsden, was appointed. Mr. H. N. Haines of Durham was secured as architect. Plans were drawn up and discussed. The Epworth Church property was sold, and every effort was being made to dispose of the other piece of property. In the meantime it was deemed wise to place the new church building on the parsonage lot of the Epworth Church, located on the southeast corner of Bloodworth and Sasser Streets. Late in the summer of 1941 the Raleigh public schools became interested in the Central church property, but the final decision could not be reached and the sale consummated until after the Annual Conference of 1941. And so, another year passed and no ground had been broken for the new church building. The congregation was becoming restless and discouraged trying to carry on the work of the church and church school under adverse circumstances in a school

building.

The third year of the merger dawned with a third pastor in charge, Rev. R. Grady Dawson, who was appointed to the Person Street church by Bishop Clare Purcell at the Annual Conference of 1941. Soon after he came on the field the sale of the Central church property was completed, the plans for the new building were checked over with the building committee and approved. Everything was in readiness to let the bids when the nation was suddenly plunged into war at Pearl Harbor. Several days of doubt and indecision followed, but faith and courage finally prevailed. The bids were let and the contractors selected. The general contract was given to S. R. Lee, and the plumbing and heating contract to Bashford Plumbing and Heating Company. A Ground breaking ceremony was held on January 19, 1942, excavation began immediately.

In the days that followed the pastor and building committee had many breath-taking experiences as conflicting orders concerning building projects came from many directions; but foresight, fortitude, a fine spirit of unity, and hard work pushed the project through to completion.

Since the location of the church was changed from Person Street to Bloodworth Street, it became necessary to change the name of the church from Person Street Church to some other name. On September 6, 1942, the name "Trinity" was unanimously chosen by the congregation as the permanent name of the new church.

LIVING CHARTER MEMBERS

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Margaret W. Austin | Bertha Glass | Earl Purnell |
| Mary Averett | A. T. Goodwin, Jr. | F. L. Register, Jr. |
| Leona Bagley | Virgie B. Goodwin | Alene Rhodes |
| William Barham | Zelphia T. Grissom | Mary Jo Sandlin |
| Mabel W. Burnette | John L. Hester | Julia E. Smith |
| Helen M. Conyers | Allene Hobbie | Louise P. Smith |
| Anna Jean Conyers | Mrs. J. G. Hobgood | Doris S. Stephenson |
| Lucy Denton | J. Lonnie Holt | Rebecca C. Strickland |
| Martha B. Emery | Frank Holt | Hal A. Thompson |
| Ellen B. Etheridge | P. N. Humphreys, Sr. | Ellen S. Tunstall |
| Vera B. Etheridge | Erdie Johnson | Roy S. Tunstall |
| Paul Etheridge, Jr. | Mary E. McDade | Doris T. Wall |
| Charles D. Garris | Mary J. McDade | Sallie O. Williams |
| Geraldine Gault | May W. Montague | |
| Mary H. Gay | Fred W. Montague, Sr. | |

Since a permanent name had not been chosen when the building reached the proper stage in erection for the laying of the cornerstone, the ceremony for placing of the cornerstone was postponed until a later date.

And on October 25, 1942, a happy rejoicing and grateful congregation filled the beautiful new church sanctuary to overflowing to hear the first sermon in Trinity United Methodist Church by Bishop Clare Purcell assisted by Raleigh District Superintendent, Rev. H. I. Glass.

The later date for the laying of the cornerstone was set for March 28, 1943. On that date the cornerstone, bearing the following inscription, "Trinity Methodist Church 1942, " was placed with an appropriate service. The following articles were placed in the cornerstone: a Bible, a Methodist Hymnal, a Discipline of the Methodist Church, a copy of the Annual Conference Minutes of 1942, a copy of the North Carolina Christian Advocate, a copy of the World Outlook, a copy of The Methodist Woman, a copy of the News and Observer and of The Raleigh Times, a list of the church official board, and a resolution of appreciation for the work of the building committee, and a copy of this brief history of Trinity Methodist Church.

When the congregation moved into their new church building there remained a debt of about \$30,000. Although the church had secured a 15 year loan, to be liquidated through monthly installments, the official board and the Pastor set about to clear the church of debt as soon as possible. In the latter part of 1943 plans were drawn up to liquidate the remaining debt during the next three years and to dedicate the church building on October 27, 1946, on their fourth anniversary. Through the faithful work of the official board and the pastor, the systematic giving of the members and the generous donations of friends, these plans were carried to successful completion. At a victory service on October 6, 1946, the church was cleared of debt with an offering of \$2900., and with deep rejoicing on the part of both pastor and people.

Plans for the dedication service on October 27, 1946 were immediately set into motion. These plans include a morning service at which time Bishop W. W. Peele will preach, and assisted by the Raleigh district superintendent, Rev. H. B. Porter, will dedicate the church building. At one o'clock a picnic lunch will be served on the church lawn by the ladies of the church. At 2:30 there will be a service of praise and thanksgiving in which the former pastors of the merged church will participate. Rev. M. W. Lawrence, pastor of Asbury Methodist Church, will deliver the message of the hour. Rev. D. M. Sharpe of Roseboro and Rev. Kermit Wheeler of Wilmington are expected to take part in the

worship service. During the service the pastor will preside and receive into church membership a class of candidates.

The present pastor, Rev. R. Grady Dawson, will complete his fifth year at Trinity on the 6th of November. During his pastorate the church building has been erected, at a cost of approximately \$60,000., paid for, and dedicated. During this time he has received into the membership of the church 446 members. Including those to be received on the day of dedication. At a meeting of the official board on October 7, 1946, a resolution requesting the return of the pastor for a sixth year was unanimously adopted.

In 1946 a small building was erected on the back of the lot for much needed church Sunday School space.

In November 1952 women were elected to the Official Board for the first time.

In November 1953 a campaign was began to raise funds to increase the educational facilities. A beautiful new addition to the church building was completed in 1961-1962 at a cost of \$65,000..

A new parsonage, costing \$25,000. Was built in 1960 and occupied for the first time by Rev. R. E. L. Moser and his family. The parsonage is located at the corner of Mordecai and Chestnut street.

The following are ministers who have served Trinity United Methodist Church:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| R. G. Dawson | 1940 - 1947 |
| R. F. Munns | 1947 - 1950 |
| C. S. Hubbard | 1950 - 1953 |
| J. Kern Ormon | 1953 - 1958 |
| R. E. L. Moser | 1958 - 1962 |
| W. A. Tew | 1962 - 1966 |
| John R. Poe | 1966 - 1973 |
| J. Claude Chaffin | 1973 - 1975 |
| H. M. Chrismon, Jr. | 1975 - 1980 |
| W. Eric Carson | 1980 - 1984 |
| W. Allen Wentz, Jr. | 1984 - 1989 |
| James L. Hobbs | 1989 - 1992 |
| Michael Pasquarello, III | 1992 |

THE FIRST MARRIAGE IN TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

Mrs. Mary Hopkins Topping and Henry C. Gay, Jr.

Thursday September 23, 1943

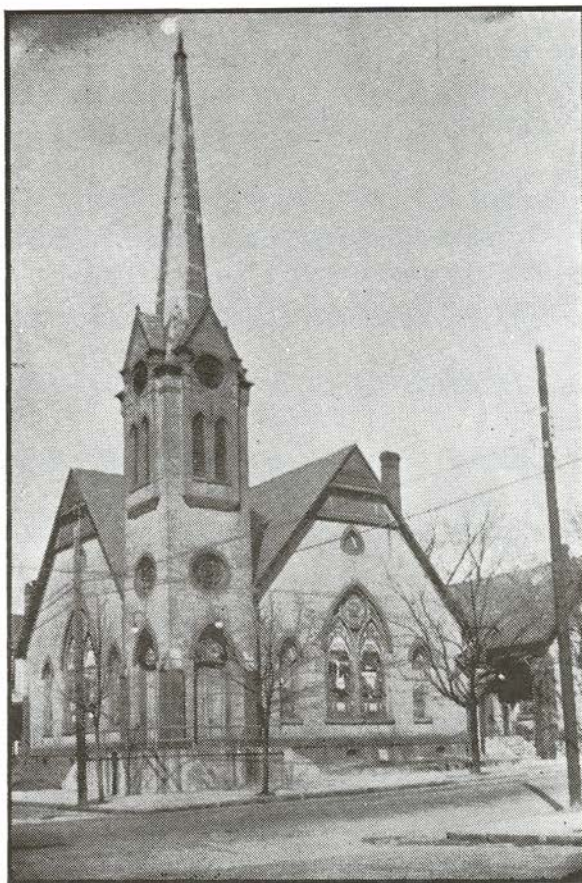


PFC. AND MRS. HENRY C. GAY, JR.

Whose marriage was solemnized in the Trinity Methodist Church of Raleigh on September 23, 1943. Mrs. Gay, before her marriage was Mrs. Mary Hopkins Topping, daughter of Mrs. Richard Hopkins and the late Mr. Hopkins of Raleigh, PFC. Gay is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Gay of this city, and is now stationed at Barksdale Field, La.

The Rev. R. G. Dawson officiated using the double ring ceremony. Ushers were Harold Hopkins, brother of the bride, and George Gay brother of the bridegroom. The bride wore a street length dress of soldier blue with matching accessories and a shoulder corsage of American beauty roses.

HISTORY OF CENTRAL METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA



The Central Methodist Episcopal Church, South was organized in 1888, but was without a church home for more than a year. During this time the congregation worshipped in a building located on the southeast corner of Person and Davie Streets, and was known as the Person Street Church. Under the leadership of the first pastor, Dr. L. L. Nash, and with the loyal help of W. M. Snelling and S. N. Parrish, a new building was erected in 1889 on the northwest corner of Person and Morgan Streets. This building, dedicated on November 22, 1891, by Bishop Galloway, was for fifty years the sacred sanctuary of Central Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
OCTOBER 25, 1992

"But the steadfast Love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon the faithful, and the righteousness of the Lord to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.: (Psalm 103: 17-18)

PRELUDE
"Intonation on the Sixth Tone" - Andrea Gabrieli
"O Great Mystery" (Organ and Brass) - Giovanni Gabrieli
"Intonation on the Fourth Tone" - Andrea Gabrieli
"Musique Royale" (Organ and Brass) - Michel DeLalande

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES Jennifer Reed and Courtney Reynolds

WELCOME AND GREETINGS Rev. Michael Pasquarello

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Michael Pasquarello

CHORAL INTROIT "O Be Joyful In The Lord" - John Yarrington
(congregation seated)

*PROCESSIONAL Hymn No.110 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" Martn Luther

*CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. W. Allen Wentz, Jr.

Minister: With joy and gladness let us honor God.

People: Holy God, with heart and mind, soul and strength, we worship You.

Minister: For by your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

People: Holy God, with joy and gladness we honor You.

*Morning prayer:

Almighty God, we praise You for your faithfulness to your church from generation to generation. We celebrate fifty years of your blessings, gifts, care and generous love to the people named Trinity United Methodist Church of Raleigh. We pray for patience, hope and courage, so that we may be faithful to your high and holy calling through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR:

"Great Is Our God"

THE FIRST READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES:

Deuteronomy 6: 1-13
Rev. John R. Poe

RECOGNITION OF CHARTER MEMBERS

Robert L. Mayton, Jr.

TESTIMONIES BY MEMBERS OF TRINITY CHURCH: D. B. Grubbs, Mary Rust,
Ann Thompson, Melissa Brown, Grace Thompson

HYMN No. 57 (Verses 1-5) "O For A Thousand Tounges"

- Charles Wesley

THE GOSPEL

St Mark 12: 28-34

Rev. John R. Poe

SERMON

"God Has Gone Ahead"

The Rev. Dr. Belton F. Joyner, Jr.

Superintendent, The Raleigh District, United Methodist Church

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"The Apostles' Creed"

No. 881

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Harold M. Chrismon

Let us give thanks to God our creator for all gifts so freely bestowed upon us.
(Silence)

For the gracious call of God upon our lives to follow and obey Jesus Christ

We thank you Lord.

For the vision and willingness to venture forward into the unknown by our
mothers and fathers in faith from the Trinity congregation

We thank you Lord.

For the generous provision of God who has blessed, sustained and protected this
congregation for fifty years

We thank you Lord.

For the faithful servants who have shared their gifts, talents and resources so
freely for our benefit and God's Glory

We thank you Lord.

For the promises of God, in whom we hope and entrust our future

We thank you Lord.

For the call of God that we hear today, fresh and anew

We thank you Lord.

**To Christ be Praise and Glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever,
Amen**

ANTHEM

“Go Ye Into All The World”

- Robert Wetzler

WORSHIP WITH OUR GIFTS, TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

“Fourth Ricercar”

- Marc Charpentier

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*A TIME OF RECOMMITMENT

Rev. Michael Pasquarello

Pastor: You are beloved by God, called and chosen by grace from all Eternity for
God's good purposes in the world.

**People: We have been given the gifts of memory and hope on this special day;
God has renewed our faith in Him.**

Pastor: Will you recommit yourselves to Jesus Christ and his Kingdom, ventur-
ing into the future, trusting in God's sure and certain promises?

**People: By God's grace we will! This day marks a new beginning for the Trinity
Congregation. We Will gladly accept Christ's call to be his followers,
counting the cost, forgetting what now lies behind, looking forward to the
future that God desires to give us.**

*HYMN No. 159

“Lift High The Cross”

- William P. Merrell

Blessing

Rev. Michael Pasquarello

POSTLUDE

“Festival Te Deum” (Organ and Brass)

- Marc Charpentier

GUEST TRUMPETEERS:

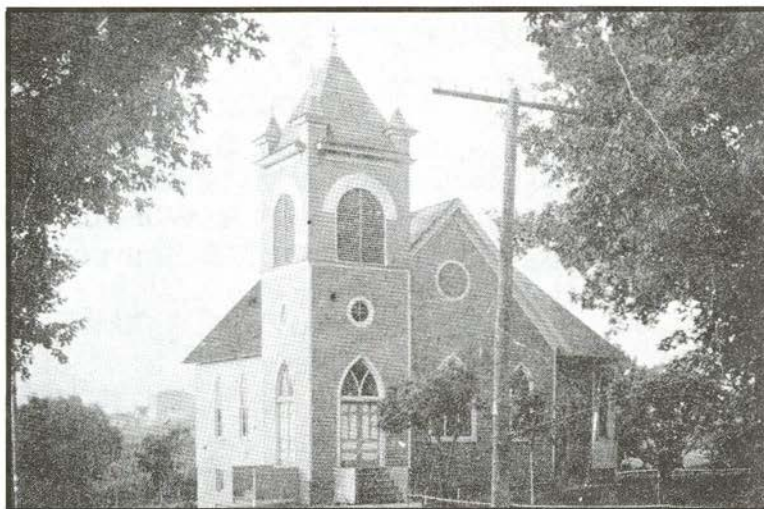
Mark Beamish and Jimmy Burns

A Proud Heritage - A Promising Future

The following are ministers who have served Central Church:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| L. L. Nash | 1887 - | J. F. Herbert | 1928 - 1931 |
| D. H. Tuttle | | A. S. Parker | 1931 - 1935 |
| C. E. Glenn | | S. J. Starnes | 1935 - 1937 |
| J. H. McCracken | 1913 - 1916 | E. G. Overton | 1937 - 1939 |
| S. E. Mercer | 1916 - 1918 | M. W. Lawrence | 1939 - 1940 |
| C. K. Proctor | 1918 - 1922 | F. R. Wheeler | 1939 - 1940 |
| H. I. Glass | 1922 - 1926 | D. M. Sharpe | 1940 - 1941 |
| E. L. Hillman | 1926 - 1928 | | |

EPWORTH EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA



Rev. R. W. Whitaker, D.D., was the founder of Epworth Church. The movement was initiated and promoted by the Presiding Elder, Rev. Jesse A. Conningim, D.D.. The building was erected in 1894, enlarged and improved in 1902. The basement was fitted up for the Primary Department in 1916. In 1924, under the direction of Mr. Edward Murray, the Bumpass Class built a partition in the east Sunday School room.

THE NEW DAY FOR EPWORTH EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

By Rev. M. T. Plyler

Presiding Elder, Raleigh District

“An undesirable location and an inadequate equipment have hampered the efforts and fettered the growth of Epworth Church from the first. Absolutely no future development was possible with the old plant at the present location; the entire situation had become desperate. This has all changed. Because of the larger vision of the work in Raleigh and the ready spirit manifest at the Edenton Street Church, a lot has been purchased at the corner of Bloodworth Street and Porter Avenue (now Sasser

Street) as the site for the new Epworth, This lot is ample for church, parsonage and Sunday School unit. Nothing more could be desired in the way of size, location and fitness. Edenton Street gives the lot and assures friendly cooperation in the enterprise.

This new site on the edge of one of Raleigh's finest developments and a long way from a church of any denomination makes sure the success of this new and enlarged enterprise. The desirable site, admirable location, and the increasing population of this section of the city give finest assurance for the future.

The dwelling on the premises can easily be converted into an admirable parsonage; a unit suitable for all present purposes must be built at an early day. The present congregation will transfer from the old place, and with them will join many who are interested in making possible a strong church to minister to this section of the city. All Methodists in this section of Raleigh will be interested the success of this larger venture. Our connectionalism makes one all our denominational enterprises in a sense not possible to a church that stresses congregationalism; Epworth has a peculiar claim on many in the Capital city. Keep your eye on Epworth at the new site.

The present congregation should be a unit in a most aggressive and big way. All should be hospitable to ideas and to suggestions; all undertakings must be on a larger scale than ever before. Many Methodists should join in with this movement at once to help plan and promote the enterprise in a great way. All must think in terms of the future and plan fifty years ahead. Let the possibilities of the future relate themselves to the next century. But the immediate task is to get the work going on the new lot. A notable start has been made now press it to a finish.

Funds for building must be secured, a growing congregation must be fostered, building sufficient to meet present needs must go up, and the Methodist public should come to know his day of opportunity for aiding in a great and growing enterprise. Our Methodist people of Raleigh are not a part of a country town but an essential portion of a rapidly growing city. The provincial spirit can never win in such a situation. The new Epworth craves to become a vital and vigorous unit in the expanding Methodism of Raleigh; believing that when one member suffers the whole body grows weak. Who is willing to have a

big place in a growing enterprise? This is only one of several pressing upon us Methodist.

The new day for Epworth dawns gloriously, and all those who have watched for this day have their faces to the sunrise. Surely no one who is anxious to have a part in an effort really worth while could ask for anything finer and of larger import."

In 1927 the Sunday School had outgrown its quarters, and under the leadership of the pastor, a small building was built on the east side of the church to take care of the Primary and Junior Departments, the basement was at that time adopted to the Beginner's Department. By 1931, there was need for still more room and two Sunday School rooms were added at the front of the church, which are now used by the Intermediate and Young People's classes. In 1935, under Rev. W. H. Brown, the main auditorium was redecorated, the church repaired and new roof put on.

The Church membership in 1935 was 285 members and the Sunday School had 350 members.

The following are ministers who have served Epworth Church:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| R. H. Whitaker | 1884 - 1897 | D. N. Caviness | 1925 - 1927 |
| J. M. Culbreth | 1897 - 1910 | E. M. Hale | 1927 - 1930 |
| J. W. Carraway | 1910 - 1911 | Forrest Heddenn | 1930 - |
| C. J. Harrell | 1911 - 1914 | | 10-1930 |
| C. B. Culberth | 1914 - 1915 | H. C. Rickard | 1930 - 1932 |
| A. S. Parker | 1915 - 1916 | O. L. Hathaway | 1932 - 1935 |
| W. G. McFarland | 1916 - 1923 | W. H. Brown | 1935 - 1937 |
| R. F. Bumpass | 1923 - 1925 | H. C. Rickard | 1937 - 1939 |

EPWORTH CHURCH ORGANIZATION 1937

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

W. B. Duncan
 H. R. Williamson
 T. M. Phillips
 J. O. Markham
 W. M. Richardson

BOARD OF STEWARDS

H. R. Williamson, Chairman
 T. M. Phillips, Secretary
 W. B. Duncan, Treasurer
 T. E. Ratcliffe
 J. L. Hester J. W. Wallace
 J. O. Markham W. F. Danieley
 A. T. Goodwin L. C. Finley