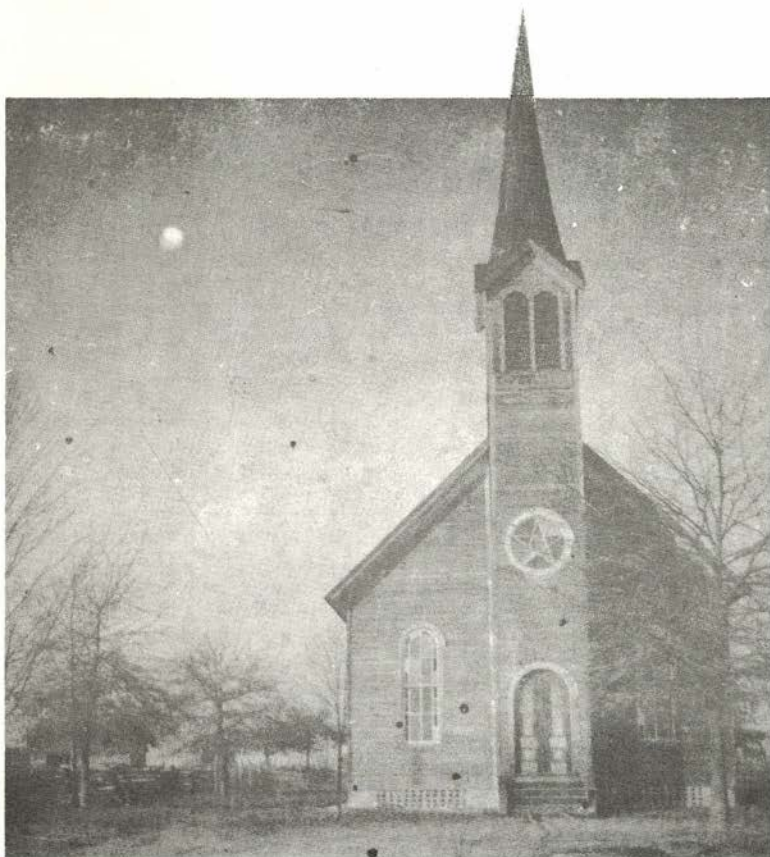


*The First Seventy-Five Years*  
of  
**Trinity Methodist Church**

South Mills, N. C.



1888

WRITTEN AND COMPILED  
BY  
MRS. A. M. SPENCER  
SEPTEMBER, 1963



REV. J. W. SEWELL ROBINS.

**FIRST PASTOR OF TRINITY CHURCH 1888**

## Acknowledgements

I would like to take this means of gratefully acknowledging the assistance of the following people in getting this little booklet together:

Rev. Gordon E. Allen, Jr. - For his kindness and patience.

Miss Emily Love Spencer - For answering a million questions.

Mrs. B. W. Benton - For her kindness in typing and cutting stencil.

There were also many favors from too many people to mention. I thank you one and all.

## INTRODUCTION

Trinity Methodist Church was erected 75 years ago. It is regretted that I have found no records that were made at that time. I have undertaken this little booklet from personal recollections handed down by word of mouth. Therefore, in the event any authentic contradicting records are found this booklet stands corrected.

## DEDICATION

Respectfully dedicated to the memory of the Founders of Trinity Methodist Church, who had enough faith in God and themselves to found and erect this church.

## CHARTER ROLL

Abbott, W. H.	Norris, Charles
Abbott, Emma	Norris, Nathaniel
Beveridge, Fanny	Pool, John H.
Burnham, Mattie A.	Pool, Sarah J.
Crawley, J. G.	Pool, S. E.
Crawley, Allen	Pool, Jesse
Butt, C. H.	Pearce, Charles W.
Etheridge, Francis	Pool, Bettie Lee
Eason, Alvin	Richardson, Annie
Eason, Eliza	Spence, Amanda A.
Foster, Jno F.	Spence, Rencher
Foster, Clara J.	Spence, Clarkey A.
Forehand, B. F.	Spence, Judith C.
Forehand, P. A.	Spence, Maggie A.
Hinton, Wm. M.	Spence, Samuel E.
Hinton, F. S.	Spence, Jos. R.
Hinton, L. A.	Spencer, Geo. F.
Jacobs, John	Spencer, Alice
Jacobs, Henerietta	Spencer, Jos. A.
Jacobs, Carl	Spencer, Emily D.
Jacobs, Pauline	Stevens, J. A.
Jones, Mary E.	Upton, Lizzie E.
Jones, Willis	Upton, Haywood, B.
Mullen, Elizabeth	Upton, H. B. Jr.
Mathews, Addie V.	Upton, Lettie



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## CHAPTER 1 IN THE BEGINNING

In the beginning there was only the Sunday School. It became increasingly difficult, in those horse and buggy days, to get from South Mills to McBride Church. Lacking a ride, walking was the only alternative, and this was impossible for the children, as well as adults in bad weather.

Rev. Alex M. Hall, pastor at McBride, and some leaders in the community organized a Sunday School. Mr. Willie Hinton was running a private school in his home, which was approximately 100 yards from the west side of the canal and the south side of the highway.

Mr. Hinton offered his large class room and the Sunday School met first in this room, and his daughter played the piano.

In a short while the Sunday School outgrew this room. Mr. John Jacobs had a store near the west side of the canal, the north side of the highway. He had a large room over his store equipped with chairs and such, which was used for parties. He offered this room so, this became the second home of the Sunday School. It was here that the talk of building a Church first began.

Dr. and Mrs. F. N. Mullen gave the land to build the church on and also money to help build it, and Mrs. Mullen named the church Trinity. The deed for the land was recorded at the court house on June 15, 1888.

Donations were solicited from all around; Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Elizabeth City. When they had enough money for everything except the flooring, the Masons laid the corner stone.

This occasion was further marked by a big dinner on the yard of Jos. A. Spencer. Plates were sold and enough money was made to buy the flooring and help put the ceiling on. So, a wood structure was built.

After all debts were paid, Trinity held her first dedication service on Dec. 16, 1888. Miss Gertie Forbes found this account of the first dedication among her papers, written by Mrs. Lina Brite Gordon.

"Trinity M. E. Church in South Mills was dedicated the 16th of December, (on Sunday) by Rev. W. E. Edwards of Portsmouth, Va., pastor of Monumental Church. First lesson was 28th Chapter of Genesis beginning at the 10th verse. Second lesson was Hebrews 10th Chapter beginning at the 19 verse down to the 25th. The text was the 20th Chapter of Luke 17th and 18th verses. The trustees are Dr. F. N. Mullen, Willis Hinton, Dr. J. H. Pool, G. H. Riggs, John Jacob and William Foster. The ministers present were Rev. J. W. S. Robbins, (who is our pastor), Rev. W. W. Kennedy of Elizabeth City and Rev. Hall of the Baptist Church".

Trinity has had two dedications since then. One on Aug 17, 1952, when Rev. C.A. Johnson was here. The building had been brick veneered. Bishop Paul Neff Garbor conducted the service of dedication. This was the first bishop to visit Trinity.

A third dedication was held July 1, 1956. Rev. Key W. Taylor was our pastor then. Bishop Garbor paid us another visit and dedicated the Fellowship Hall.

George F. Spencer and Alice Mcpherson were the first people married in Trinity.



They were married on Dec. 19, 1888, by Rev. J. W. S. Robbins.

It is well to note here that at this writing, the last bride to be married in Trinity; Ann McPherson, who married Glenn White, is a distant relative of the first bride. Rev. Gordon E. Allen, Jr., our present pastor officiated in this ceremony on August 31, 1963, 7:00 PM.

HERE IS A COPY OF THE EARLIEST CHURCH MINUTES FOUND:

South Mills, N. C.

Jan. 12, 1905.

"The first Church Conference of Trinity M.E. Church, Camden Circuit, met pursuant to a call by the pastor, Rev. R. L. Davis.

J. F. Foster was elected Secretary, Calling of the roll of the church was referred to another meeting, owing to the lateness of the hour.

Question was asked in reference to the W.H.M. Society. This was referred to Mrs. G.H. Riggs for information.

Question: Can anything else be done to advance the cause of the Church.

The question was raised in reference to some needed repairs of the Church, moved and seconded that we proceed to raise a sufficient fund to do the needed repairs to the Church and the 5th Sunday was suggested as to the opportune time to begin this work and was left to the pastor as to the proper steps to take."

It is well to note here that Trinity still uses somewhat the same method to raise money, to meet special needs, today.

## CHAPTER 2

### HOW THE BUILDING GREW THROUGH THE YEARS

At first the building was a wood framed construction consisting of one room. This room had to accommodate Church Service and Sunday School. During Sunday School the classes separated into little groups about the room.

In 1923 the back part of this high ceilinged room, (front of building) was partitioned off into four class rooms, two up and two down. These were probably used as children's class rooms, and the adults remained in the sanctuary.

In 1927, money was borrowed from the bank to build three class rooms on the back of the building. This was the first addition to the original building. The Ladies Bible Class moved into one of the original down stairs class rooms in the front of the church and the young people in the other. The Men's Bible Class remained in the sanctuary and the children occupied the new class rooms in the rear.

In 1932, the building was given a fresh coat of white paint.

The next major addition to the church was in 1940. Three more class rooms were added to the back and one of the old class rooms was converted into a choir loft. The Sanctuary was renovated. Wall board covered the original ceiling on the walls, new pews installed, and stained glass windows replaced the old windows, as memorial windows, inscribed as follows:

(LEFT SIDE)

Mullen

Benjamin F. Forehand  
Parthenia F. Forehand

Norris

Halstead

Service Men

Wesley Bible Class

*Etheridge*

(RIGHT SIDE)

Foster

George F. Spencer  
1865-1934  
Alice Spencer  
1865-1920

Eason

Dorothy S. Burnham

Ladies Bible Class

Riley Clarence Dozier

*Dozier*

A nursery was built in the back on the right side of the building. This enabled the young mothers to attend Sunday School.

In 1947, a Hammond electric organ was placed in the choir loft. In 1948, the church was brick veneered and in 1951 a hot air heating system was installed.

The Fellowship Hall was the next big addition. This was built in 1954. The planning and building committee for this project were:

Mr. W. S. Forehand  
Mr. H. H. Brothers  
Mr. R. K. Benton  
Mrs. H. T. Mullen

Miss Gladys Norris  
Mr. T. L. Norris  
Rev. Key. W. Taylor

The Fellowship Hall consist of three rooms; a furnace and storage room, a kitchen and a large hall. This building is connected to the original building by a corridor. The kitchen is equiped with two stoves, a sink, a



refrigerator, cabinets and a pass through with a sliding door. The hall has a fire place at one end and is equiped with enough chairs and tables to serve a banquet to 100 people.

During the course of a year several banquets are held in this hall. Two have become traditional. A Youth Banquet, held in May to honor the high school graduates, and another is held about the middle of December. This last, a Christmas Banquet is the biggest church social affair of the year. Approximately 100 people attend every year. This Hall also lends itself well to other social functions and all sorts of meetings.

In 1960, the sanctuary was completely renovated. The committee for this was:

Mr. J. F. Eason	Miss Gladys Norris
Mr. R. K. Benton	Mrs. Irene Southerland
Mr. W. S. Forehand	Mrs. Alma Dozier

At this time the sanctuary was painted, light green, new floors laid, new carpeting put down and new pulpit furniture bought. The Young Adult Class donated two flower stands for the pulpit at this time.

In 1962 the two upstairs class rooms were painted and fixed so they could have ventilation and be comfortable to use.

In 1963 the Young Adult Class and the Woman's Society of Christian Service, painted, refinished the floors, and bought new drap-



eries for the class rooms and hall in the back of the church.

The building now consist of a beautiful sanctuary, fellowship hall, and nine class rooms.

Trinity Church was a self supporting church from the beginning. There is no record of Trinity receiving any money from the Conference, sō long as she was in the Virginia Conference, which was up through 1895.

## CHAPTER 3

### OUTSTANDING PERSONALITIES - CLERGY & LAYMEN

#### LIST OF PASTORS

1886-1889 J. W. S. Robins - First pastor (copied from the TWENTIETH CENTURY EDITION of sketches and portraits of the Virginia Conference, by John J. Lafferty, D. Litt) "He excells in the pulpit and in conducting the business of the church. He is an eloquent preacher. He has a powerful, flexible, rich voice. In argument he is able and convincing. He builds elegant churches and lengthens the roll of members. The picture would be incomplete if the writer were not to add that Sewell is wonderfully gifted in song."

#### JOSEPH E. POTTS - 1890

Fine preacher - well liked by everyone.

#### CHAS. R. TAYLOR - 1891-1892

After leaving South Mills, founded the Albermarle High School, in Elizabeth City, A Methodist School.

#### C. D. CRAWLEY - 1893 - 1894

Remembered for the big Tabernacle meeting held in a tent about 200 yards west of Bunker Hill Bridge, on the north side of the road to Camden.

#### JANOTHAN SANFORD- 1895

This was the last pastor from the Virginia Conference.

SOLOMON POOL 1896

Relative of Love Lee Burnham Johnson and Lizzie Burnham Detrick.

JAS. Y. OLD 1897

Relative of Spencer family - Remembered for sermon he preached to the children.

A. J. PARKER 1898-1899

Big man--loved to sing - member of the Conference Quartet.

W. J. CROWSON 1900

Became a Baptist after leaving South Mills.

W. E. HOCUTT 1901-1904

The Missionary Society was organized when he was here. He liked to sing. The text of his last sermon was, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith." 11 Timothy 4:7.

R. L. DAVIS 1905-1906

Very strong able man. His wife organized the Bright Jewels, First time Trinity had a children's organization, other than the Sunday School.

D. L. EARNHARDT 1907

Strong preacher and very well liked by everyone.

L. M. CHAFFIN 1908

Good preacher. His son W. S. Chaffin, Sr., lives here now.

C. P. JEROME 1909-1912

Fine man, good preacher. The father of our present District Superintendent, Rev. Robert L. Jerome.

A. W. PRICE 1913-1914

Very nice man and good preacher.

E. L. STACK 1915 - 1918

Remembered for sermon with text, "The stone that was rejected."

J. L. SMITH 1919

Nice man and good preacher.

DANIEL LANE 1920

Baptized 75 people while he was here. He had the two churches from the other end of the county removed from our charge, namely, Nash's and Wesley's Chapel.

MCNEER 1921

Nice man-Had to leave before the year was up.

R. G. L. EDWARDS 1921

Good preacher.

L. M. CHAFFIN 1922-1923

Second appointment here-Once made the remark, "I don't know why I was called to preach except to save my self".

A. B. CRUMPLER 1924-1925

A happy preacher.

W. F. WALTERS 1926-1929

Good visitor to the sick and giving help to the needy, Liked by everyone.

J. M. JOLLIFF 1930-1933

Very well liked by everyone.

L. E. SAWYER 1934-1936

Grand preacher.



E. W. DOWNUM 1937-1940  
Quiet genteel preacher.

W. N. VAUGHAN 1941-1943  
Very good preacher.

L. T. SINGLETON 1944-1947  
Very good visitor to the sick and troubled.

C. A. JOHNSON 1948-1952  
Good pastor in every way.

KEY W. TAYLOR 1953-1957  
Good organizer-First time we had a preacher for five continuous years-Under his leadership our charge became a three point circuit. Newland went with Grace. Mr. Taylor is remembered for introducing the hymns "Old Time Religion" and "Jacobs Ladder", to us. How the church rafters did ring at revivals as everyone, from the youngest to the oldest, sang enthusiastically. Extremely well liked by everyone.

IRVING E. COOK 1958-1963  
Good preacher and good leader. With this family we were twice blessed for we not only had one good preacher but two, for Mr. Cook's wife, Evelyn, was also a good preacher. We considered ourselves most fortunate to have had the privilege of keeping this family for six years. They greatly endeared themselves to us all.

GORDON E. ALLEN, JR. 1964  
This family has just come to us but already we love them and know them to be deeply consecrated people.

## LAYMEN

### WILLIAM WEST NORRIS

This was the first member of Trinity to go into full time Christian Service. We grieved his untimely death after serving as a pastor for just a few years. He died at the age of 37.

### WILLIAM EVERETTE EASON

We are proud of this second member from Trinity Church, to go into full time Christian Service. He has served as a pastor in our own North Carolina Conference for the past ten years. He is now pastor at Four Oaks, N. C.

### W. S. FOREHAND

On March 31, 1957, a special service was held at the Sunday School hour, at Trinity Church, South Mills, honoring Mr. W. S. Forehand for his long years of service. On this occasion a brass cross was placed in the church, having the following inscription:

IN HONOR  
W. S. FOREHAND  
35 CONTINUOUS YEARS  
OF FAITHFUL SERVICE  
AS SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Concluding the service, Mr. John T. Chaffin gave the following citation:

CITATION TO  
W. S. FOREHAND  
BY JOHN TAYLOR CHAFFIN

"Today we have a fine building which is a great improvement over the one-room building that was here a few years ago. It stands as a

tribute to your efforts.

It is our purpose at this time to recognize your contributions to this institution and especially to recognize the work done by you in causing the attendance to grow so that we have a wonderful congregation this morning.

Only you know the many problems you face, the steps taken by you in helping to build and establish the Sunday School and Church as we have them today. Only you know the hours of toil and labor which you spent on the task that must have, at times, seemed impossible. Your perseverance was the key factor in achieving what you have, as superintendent. That is not to say that others did not have a part on this building program, but today is your day.

We do not attempt to reward you physically for what you have done, nor could we if we tried, but we do wish to honor you by the presentation today of a symbol or token of our appreciation for the services you have rendered not only to the Church, but to the parents, to the children, and indeed, to the community. All of us are deeply appreciative of your accomplishments.

In presenting this cross today, the members of our church do so to honor you for your unselfish services. We wish to put the cross in a conspicuous place so that all who come to these doors may see this symbol of appreciation, and know what you have done for us, and know what we think of you.

Again, for all you have done for us, we wish to thank you from the depths of our hearts.



WILLIAM I. HALSTEAD

In 1957 the Men's Bible Class placed a brass plaque in the sanctuary with the following inscription.

IN HONOR OF  
WILLIAM I. HALSTEAD  
FOR  
45 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE  
AS  
TEACHER AND MEMBER OF  
MEN'S BIBLE CLASS  
TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH  
1957

T. L. NORRIS, SR.

36 years of faithful service as treasurer for the Sunday School and Church, at Trinity.

MRS. IRENE ETHERIDGE SOUTHERLAND

Trinity is greatly indebted to Mrs. Southerland for our fine choir. She has willingly given much of her time and fine talent to train and develop it. She has two assistants, Mrs. C. L. McPherson and Miss Virginia Jones.

MISS GLADYS NORRIS

The first woman steward at Trinity was Miss Norris. She took her father's place after he passed away in 1941. She serves in many other places in the church.

MR. JOHN T. CHAFFIN

Mr. Chaffin was the first Chairman of the Official Board. He served in this capacity four years.

MR. R. K. BENTON

Mr. Benton is the present Chairman of the Official Board. He has served since 1957.



MR. JOHN F. EASON

Mr. Eason was presented resolutions of respect and appreciation for his church and civic activities by the Official Board, in May, 1956.

LINDA EASON

Linda Eason has received perfect attendance pins for 10 years, in Sunday School.

COPY OF PLAQUE IN VESTIBULE OF CHURCH

STEEPLE LIGHTING  
IN MEMORY OF  
MARGARET BARTLETT ETHERIDGE  
AND  
JOSEPH GORDON ETHERIDGE  
THE CHILDREN

TWO RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT SPREAD UPON THE MINUTES:

"We, the members of Trinity Methodist Church and the citizens of South Mills Township will greatly miss the presence of our friend and brother, Charles H. Norris, who passed from our presence August 13th, at 10:15 P. M., at the age of 74 years. A great host of friends were his as evidenced at the funeral service which was conducted at the church he loved. Not only a faithful member of the church, Mr. Norris served on the Board of Stewards many years and also served as district steward.

In his community he was one interested in the betterment and welfare of all. He served several times as County Commissioner and also was representative in the House of Delegates,

in 1922.

To his wife, son and daughters, we extend our sympathy and want them to know we consider it a privilege to have known such a good man.

Resolved, that a copy of this tribute be spread on the minutes of the Trinity Methodist Church, that one copy be sent to the family, and that one copy be sent to the Christian Advocate for publication."

Signed: F. N. Mullen  
J. G. Etheridge  
T. L. Norris  
W. S. Forehand  
W. Norman Vaughn

Resolutions passed on February 13, 1962, by the Official Board of Trinity Methodist Church, on the death of Mr. Frank N. Mullen, Sr.

IN MEMORIAM OF FRANK N. MULLEN, SR.

Resolved, that in behalf of the entire membership of Trinity Methodist Church the Official Board adopts these resolutions in tribute to the memory of our late fellow member, Mr. Frank N. Mullen, Sr.

Each member mourns the death of our beloved fellow member with a sense of personal loss of a sincere, kind, and honored friend.

It is fitting that we should record this tribute because of Mr. Mullen's noble life and his long years of faithful, loyal service as a member of the Board of Trustees. His sterling character was evidenced by his high-minded sense of duty, his clean living, his kindness, and his simple genuine friendliness.

The words of Kipling's dedication is best expression of our feelings.

"He scarce had need to doff his pride or  
slough the dross of earth  
E'en as he trod that day to God so walked  
he from his birth  
In simpleness and gentleness and honour  
and clean mirth".

Resolved further, that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the Official Board and that a copy be transmitted to Mrs. Mullen that we may extend to her and to the members of the family an expression of our sincere sympathy and our heartfelt condolences".

Attest:

Mrs. A. M. Spencer  
Secretary

Mr. R. K. Benton  
Chairman



## CHAPTER 4

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

As has been stated elsewhere in this booklet, Trinity began as a Sunday School, which, would probably explain why for many years, all business of the church was carried on in the Sunday School. This was true until the organization of an Official Board in 1956, by Rev. Key W. Taylor.

A large attendance and a keener interest is shown by the congregation toward the Sunday School than any other part of the church. The Sunday School has the usual three departments, children, youth and adult. Many teachers have labored in these classes with loving patience. Some, for many continuous years.

Mrs. Mattie Burnham is said to have been the first teacher of the Ladies Bible Class. Many have followed her including: J. A. Whitehead, Dr. J. L. Lister, W. I. Halstead, J. E. Kootz, Miss Emily Love Spencer, Mrs. F. M. Eason, Mrs. H. T. Mullen, Mr. R. Clarence Dozier, Mrs. Irving E. Cook, The present teacher is Miss Gladys Norris.

The Men's Class or Wesley Bible class has also many teachers. Judge W. I. Halstead served for the most continuous years. At present the class has three teachers who are responsible for teaching on certain Sundays of the month. They are: Mr. J. T. Chaffin, Mr. W. S. Forehand, and Mr. H. T. Mullen.

These two classes have been the backbone of the church, but they have functioned as classes. They have promoted programs, done evangelistic work, and raised money.



In 1956, a drive was put on in the Sunday School to raise money enough to pay off the indebtedness on the Fellowship Hall, so, that it could be dedicated when Bishop Garbor was going to be on the Charge to dedicate some work which had been done in the other churches on the Charge. Each class was allocated a certain amount to raise by a certain date. Each class met or went over her quota, and Trinity was ready for her part in the dedicatory service.

A similar drive was put on in 1960 to clear up our part of the debt on the parsonage, so that we could begin our work on the sanctuary.

Near the end of each fiscal year, if it appears probable that we are not going to have enough money to pay off our obligations for the year, a drive is put on in the Sunday School and money is raised.

Attendance drives are promoted in the Sunday School occassionally by dividing the membership in two groups, the reds and the blues. Much enthusiasm is evidenced in this and the loser treat the winners.

To encourage a regular attendance it has become customary to award attendance pins at the end of each year. Some children have<sup>ye</sup> received these for several consecutive years. The names of some have been noted elsewhere in this booklet.

At first adults, as well as children participated in the Christmas Tree party held every year. Everyone received a bag of candy and fruit, and a gift. Santa Claus has always been on hand to pass out these gifts.

In these last years, the teachers and parents of the children are the only adults on hand for this party.

Vacation Bible School has been held at Trinity for many years. In the past transportation was provided and the children from Sharon and McBride joined our children at Trinity, for Bible School. Lately the Bible School is held at McBride, and our children and Sharon's go there. Close to 100 children attend.

Sunday School picnics were first enjoyed as all day affairs under the shade trees on the church yard. These trees have since been cut down. Later, as now, they have become excursions to Ocean View. Transportation is always offered to those who may not have a way.

For a long time, some years back, the Ladies Bible Class held regular monthly meetings. Four officers; President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer were the officers they elected. These meetings were held in the homes. The ladies looked forward to this social event. Each member paid ten cents a month dues. They also employed other means of raising money; such as, selling flavoring, having suppers, and such. The money was always spent to improve the Church building in some way. This meeting has been discontinued and has been absorbed by the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

A few years back a Young Adult Class was organized. The young married and college students make up this class. Mrs. Doris Dozier Davis was the first teacher of this



class. These folks are continually busy about some church building improvement project of their own or lending assistance to others. Mrs. H.T. Mullen is the present teacher, and Henry Eason is president of the class.

The church as a family is very much in evidence here in the Sunday School. From the youngest child to the oldest adult takes part in every project; be it raising money or putting on programs. A very unique custom has been developed here in the Sunday School. Each department has the responsibility of the morning devotional for a certain Sunday, in the month. The first Sunday is the responsibility of the Adult Department; second Sunday, "Youth", third Sunday, "Children", and the fourth Sunday, "Adult Superintendent". This has afforded a means of instilling a joint sense of responsibility and training of leadership ability.

This training of leadership might in some small way be responsible for the increased number of our Young People going to college. Fifteen young people from our church are attending this year. Becky Ann Mullen, Herbert Taylor Mullen, Gail White, Glenn White Robert Dozier, Franklin Dozier, Franklin Brothers, Mary Lena Halstead, Van Johnson, Mary Van Riffle, Robert Chaffin, Francis Eason, Decelie Whitehurst, Audrey Dowdy, and Alvah Spencer, Jr.

Quite a number have already graduated and are now starting careers, they are: T.L. Norris, Jr., Kemp Forehand, William Norman Dowdy, Louise Davenport Dowdy, Ann Turner, Cecil Irving Harris, Ann McPherson White, Betty Sue Brothers Sawyer, Bobby Jane

Brothers Fleming, Jeanie Forehand, Hobson Turner, Alice Spencer, Jimmy Duncan, and Joey Hobbs.

Many have served through the years as Superintendents and treasurers. Mr. W.S. Forehand served as Superintendent from 1921 through 1955, 35 years of continuous service. Mr. T.L. Norris has served as treasurer for 36 continuous years. Mrs. Irene Southerland served as Superintendent of the Children's Department for many years. She was followed by Mrs. C.L. Mcpherson who served for 11 years. Mrs. Frank C. Jones is the present Superintendent of this department.

BELOW IS THE ROSTER OF SUPERINTENDENTS FROM THE EARLIEST RECORDS FOUND:

G. F. Spencer	1904	J.G. Etheridge	1917
Prof. C.M. Bevins	1905	J.G. Etheridge	1918
J. F. Foster	1906	J.G. Etheridge	1919
J. F. Foster	1907	J.G. Etheridge	1920
J. F. Foster	1908	W. S. Forehand	1921
B. F. Forehand	1909		1955
B. F. Forehand	1910	H.T. Mullen	1956
B. F. Forehand	1911	H.T. Mullen	1957
B. F. Forehand	1912	H.T. Mullen	1958
B. F. Forehand	1913	H.T. Mullen	1959
B. F. Forehand	1914	H.T. Mullen	1960
B. F. Forehand	1915	H.H. Brothers	1961
B. F. Forehand	1916	H.H. Brothers	1962
		H.H. Brothers	1963

THE PRESENT STAFF ON THE SUNDAY SCHOOL IS:

Superintendent	H.H. Brothers
Asst. Supt.	F.C. Jones
Treasurer	T.L. Norris
Supt. Adult Dept.	R.K. Benton
Teachers-Wesley Bible Class:	H. T. Mullen
	W. S. Forehand
	J. T. Chaffin



Teachers of Ladies Class:	Miss Gladys Norris
Asst.	Mrs. C. C. Johnson
Young Adult Class:	Mrs. H. T. Mullen
Asst.	Mrs. J. W. Halstead
Supt. Youth Dept:	Mrs. Dorothy Norris
Teacher of Young People:	Mr. A. W. Pearce
Asst.	Mrs. Irene Southerland
Teacher of Intermediates:	Mrs. A. W. Pearce
Asst.	Mrs. Dorothy Norris
Supt. Children's Dept:	Mrs. F. C. Jones
Teacher of Juniors:	Mrs. B. W. Benton
Asst.	Mrs. Ivor Hubbard
Teacher of Primary:	Mrs. F. R. Dozier
Asst.	Mrs. C. A. Harris
Teacher of Beginners:	Mrs. H. W. Eason
Asst.	Mrs. W. A. Jones
Teacher of Nursery:	Mrs. Watt Chaffin
Asst.	Miss Mary Katherine Tyus

THE PRESENT ENROLLMENT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL IS 145, AND THE AVERAGE ATTENDANCE IS 130.

## CHAPTER 15

### THE WOMEN'S WORK

It is believed that Trinity was without an organized women's group until 1903.

In July, 1903, Rev. J. E. Underwood, our Presiding Elder at that time, held a Quarterly Conference at Trinity. His wife came with him. After the Conference was over, she organized a Ladies Aid Society. A large number of both men and women joined that day. This organization was active as such for 16 years.

In November, 1919, the Ladies Aid Society met at the home of Mrs. Alice Spencer for a regular meeting. Mrs. Daniel Lane, the new pastor's wife, met with the group and suggested that a Missionary Society be organized. This was the new Women's Organization in the Methodist Church, replacing the Ladies Aid Society.

The nineteen women present that afternoon decided that they would organize a Missionary Society at the next meeting. So, in December, 1919, the Missionary Society was organized. However, some of the women were reluctant to give up the Ladies Aid and now two Ladies groups met separately. Later, they decided to meet together, but have separate secretaries and treasuries. It finally became one organization.

It is believed that Mrs. Parthenia Forewas the first president of the Missionary Society.

About a year after the death of Mrs. Alice Spencer, in 1920, the Society was named for

her and became the Alice Spencer Missionary Society.

The Methodist Church has reorganized this Society several times. Each time, new by-laws were drawn up and a larger slate of officers demanded. These changes presented problems to such a small Society, but they persevered and with able leadership were a vital part of the church.

No minutes of these early groups have been found, so, the officers are not known. Would that they were known so that proper tribute could be paid them in this little booklet.

Some later presidents were: Miss Emily Love Spencer, Mrs. P. M. Mathews, Mrs. F. N. Mullen. Also, Mrs. W. S. Forehand served as treasurer for eight years, and Mrs. Dallas Williams as recording secretary for some time.

In 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, united with two other branches of the Methodist Church, which were: The Methodist Episcopal Church, North, and the Methodist Protestant Church, thus, forming what is now known, simply, as The Methodist Church. The Women's group was also reorganized and became the Women's Society of Christian Service, in 1940. Trinity held her meeting of organization in September, of that year. The following women made up the charter roll:

Mrs. R. C. Dozier	Mrs. P. M. Mathews
Mrs. E. W. Downum	Mrs. F. N. Mullen
Mrs. F. M. Eason	Mrs. H. T. Mullen
Mrs. W. S. Forehand	Mrs. Chas. Norris
Mrs. B. L. Ivey	Miss Gladys Norris
Mrs. F. V. Jones	Mrs. R. M. Phelps
Mrs. J. G. Jones	Mrs. A. M. Spencer
Mrs. C. G. Johnson	Miss Emily Love Spencer



Mrs. Mary Tyus  
Mrs. M. R. White

Mrs. W. K. White  
Mrs. W. O. Winslow

All officers who have served in this new set up are not known but the presidents are: Mrs. H.T. Mullen, Mrs. W.K. White, Mrs. C. C. Johnson, Mrs. E. G. Forehand, Miss Gladys Norris, Mrs. E. B. Inge, Mrs. Dorothy Norris, and Mrs. A. M. Spencer.

The women, organized or unorganized, have ever played a vital, active part in Trinity Church. They have been ready to aid any program presented. These dedicated women have accepted Jesus' great commission, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations," Matt. 28:19. They did not go but they sent their money and their prayers and developed a broader vision and a greater spiritual depth than they would have without this organization.

The present membership of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, is 41, and Mrs. Dorothy Norris is now serving as president.



## CHAPTER 6

### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

In the early years of Trinity, the youth organization was called Epworth League. When children became too old for Bright Jewels (the childrens group), they were promoted to the Epworth League. After awhile the youth lost interest and so few attended, that one Sunday afternoon, Miss Emily Love Spencer said, "the pastor suggested that the Epworth League be declared dead and it's funeral be preached right then".

It does seem that for a number of years Trinity was without a youth organization.

In 1947, Miss Ann Southerland, later Mrs. Forest Old, became interested in organizing a youth group. It was now called The Methodist Youth Fellowship, or MYF. The evening meeting of this new set up was organized. Mrs. H. T. Mallen was named Counselor and Miss Ann Southerland was elected president. This organization is still very active. Later Ann Old served as Counselor a few years. She was followed by Mrs. Dorothy Norris, who served for 7 years. She was followed by Mrs. R. E. Whitehurst. Mrs. C. E. McCoy is the present Counselor and Miss Jean Davenport is president.

This youth group regularly conducts the first Sunday night, Church services, except for the preaching.

Mrs. C. L. McPherson has been assistant to all the Counselors and served as pianist for this group.

## CHAPTER 7

### PROSPECTIVE

So we come to the end of this little booklet. I pray that it may be the means of awakening us to our great heritage and proding us to measure up to our full potential in our service for God. So, I close this little booklet with this prayer.

Heavenly Father, be with our Church through the years, in all of her endeavours. Be with her when there is worship, that it may truly be of Thee. Be with her when there is fellowship that it may be invigorating. Be with her in conferences, so, when there is planning, that it may be constructive. Should differences arise be with her that they may resolve peaceably.

Lay it upon the hearts of each of us to seek a closer walk with Thee, and that there shall be a great witnessing and Thy Kingdom, shall come to a fuller realization in Trinity Methodist Church, in the community of South Mills, N. C. Amen.

THE END



**NEW TRINITY CHURCH**