



**UNION CHAPEL**  
**150th**  
**ANNIVERSARY**

**1829 – 1979**

HISTORY OF UNION CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

KITTRELL, NORTH CAROLINA

1829 - 1979

Union Chapel Church was organized in 1829 by Jonathan Fuller and James Hunt, two local preachers who were originally members of neighboring Plank Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church. They withdrew from Plank Chapel because of a conflict with the pastor over the reading of a religious paper, "Mutual Rights," published by the Methodist Protestant Church people in Baltimore, Maryland, which they had subscribed to. Seeking more independence from the governing body of the church, they, along with William B. Mann, founded Union Chapel Methodist Protestant Church.

The first building was a small log house surrounded by a bush arbor erected in the oak grove within a few yards of where the present building now stands.

Some of the charter members of the church were: George Kittrell; William J. Hunt and wife; Jonathan Hunt and wife; Benjamin Woodlief and wife, Polly; John Woodlief and wife, Ann; and Nicholas Woodlief and wife, Lucy.

The Third Session of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church met at Union Chapel on October 1, 1829, with W. W. Hill as president and W. C. Whitaker as secretary.

Thirty-eight years later, on November 6, 1967, the Forty-Second Session met at Union Chapel with John L. Michaux as president and A. C. Harris as secretary. There were 8,198 members of the Methodist Protestant Conference at that time, served by 51 ministers.

The first Sunday School at the church was organized in 1869 by Dr. C.J.H.W. Hester. A window in his memory now exists in the church sanctuary.



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In 1873 an Annual Conference was held at Union Chapel, The first and only one in the history of the church. The preachers and delegates stayed in neighboring homes and walked back and forth to the sessions.

The fiftieth Session of the Conference met at Union Chapel on November 1, 1875 with C. F. Harris as president and J. H. Page as secretary. There were 46 ministers in the conference with 9,090 members.

From 1889 to 1899, Union Chapel was one of four churches on a circuit valued at \$3800. with a total of 489 members. The other churches were Rehobeth, Mount Carmel and Antioch. In 1899, Gillburg Methodist Church joined the other four on the Granville Circuit. In that year Union Chapel was assessed \$135. for the minister's salary and paid \$142.25. There were 444 members on the circuit in 1900 and 459 in 1902.

In 1894 the present cemetery was put into use. Up to this time the area immediately back of the present building had been used for this purpose. Two Methodist ministers are buried at Union Chapel. They are Rev. James Hunt, who was admitted to the conference in 1832 and who died in 1848, and Rev. James Hugh Bilbreath who died on March 5, 1902.

The present sanctuary was renovated in 1902 with the removal of the slave gallery, the installation of stained glass windows, and the plastered walls covered with the present wood paneling. Henry Finch and Dave Gill were in charge of this work.

In 1922 Gillburg Church was removed from the Granville Circuit and the following year Antioch Church was closed. This left Union Chapel, Rehobeth and Mount Carmel on the Granville Charge.

Union Chapel held a centennial celebration in 1929, observing its 100 years service to the community, the Methodist Church, and to the Lord.

In 1948 the Sunday School rooms were added at the back of the present sanctuary.

Two years later the parsonage adjacent to the church was built with church member Philip Hunt serving as contractor. The previous parsonage had been located at Bearpond. Rev. Herman Winberry was the first occupant of the new parsonage.

The church's first electric organ was also installed in 1950.

A new floor and new pews were installed in the sanctuary in 1956.

Two major events in the life of Union Chapel occurred in 1959. The educational building was completed that year with members doing most of the work. Also, the Granville charge divided and Union Ch. became a station church. Rev. Carl Calloway was the first pastor of Union Chapel in its independent status. The church purchased Rehobeth's interest in the parsonage and became its sole owner.

In 1960 the porch and vestibule of the church were erected, gifts of Walter and Ollie Finch.

Modernization continued around the church in 1968 as the parsonage was renovated and added on to, and new carpeting and storm windows were added to the sanctuary.

Perhaps one of the most significant events in the appearance of the church was the brick veneering of the sanctuary in 1972-73. Also during this major renovation, air conditioning for the entire plant was installed and the breezeway between the main church building and the educational building was glassed in.

In 1978 Kittrell Methodist Church was sold and Union Chapel received \$1,000 from that sale. More importantly, several former members of that church joined our congregation.

After 150 years of continuous service in the Kittrell community, Union Chapel Church, first as Methodist Protestant, then as Methodist, and today as a United Methodist church in the Raleigh District of the North Carolina Conference, continues to serve its Lord and community with life, vigor and growth.



MINISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED UNION CHAPEL

1831-1885 (exact dates of service of each minister not available)

Samuel Harris	W. M. Willis	J. H. Gilbreath
James Hunt	John L. Mitchell	S. P. J. Harris
Caswell Drake	John Paris	J. R. Ball
John E. Speight	C. F. Harris	T. J. Ogburg
A. C. Harris	R. R. Michaus	T. F. McCullach
		T. T. Ferree

1885-1887	W. C. Kennett	1926-1929	H. F. Fogleman
1889-1890	Drewery A. Highfill	1929-1937	C. L. Spencer
1892-1893	Clifton L. Whitaker	1937-1942	J. P. Pegg
1893-1894	W. Lat Harris	1942-1945	H. H. Cash
1896-1900	C. L. Whitaker	1945-1947	Paul Carruth
1900-1902	R. M. Andrews	1947-1951	Herman S. Winberry
1902-1903	C. L. Whitaker	1951-1953	J. D. Stott
1903-1906	George W. Holmes	1953-1956	W. C. Loy
1906-1907	C. L. Whitaker	1956-1958	R. A. McLean
1907-1908	George W. Holmes	1958-1962	Carl R. Calloway
1908-1910	J. W. Frank	1962-1964	E. P. Armstrong
1910-1915	N. G. Bethea	1964-1968	James P. Speight
1915-1919	D. R. Williams	1968-1974	Eric O. Murray
1919-1924	C. W. Bates	1974-1976	H. W. Pearce
1924-1926	W. F. Kennett	1976-	Rayford H. Methvin

(No records are available for the several years when no minister is listed)

Rev. Neil G. Bethea, 1910-1915, and Rev. Cuthbert W. Bates, 1919-1924, are listed in the "Encyclopedia of World Methodism"

SIGNIFICANT GIFTS OF RECORD TO UNION CHAPEL CHURCH

1869

Baptismal Font, given by George Kittrell and Elizabeth Baswell

1902

Large stained glass window in back of sanctuary in memory of Sallie Lou Gill

Stained glass windows in sanctuary given:

In memory of Delilah Fleming Kennett by Rev. W. C. Kennett  
and children

In Memory of McDonald Edwards and Ida Edwards

In memory of William B. Mann and Eva Mann Ellis

In memory of Lucinda H. Stone and Robert T. Stone by J. C. &  
J. L. Stone

In memory of Stephen & Rachael Floyd by Mr. & Mrs. John Harris

In memory of Dr. C.J.H.W. Hester, Parthenia Hester & Vashti Hester

In memory of Pattie E. Hunt and Mettie L. Hunt, wife and Daughter  
of J. W. Coghill

In memory of Laura A. Finch

In memory of Mary E. Rowland and John H. Rowland by John A. &  
Lucy Fuller

Stained glass windows in pulpit given:

In memory of Pastors who served Union Chapel, 1831-1903 by  
K. W. Coghill

In memory of Willis, Maria, Pattie J., and Emma E. Rogers

In memory of Lewis J. and Annie P. Edwards

In memory of Henry A. and Katie H. Finch

1948

Stained glass windows in Sunday School rooms given:

In memory of William J. and Eliza D. Floyd

In emmory of Alridge E. Woodlief / In honor of Lucy W. Woodlief

In memory of Edward B., Ma ry G., and Edward B. Parrish Jr.

In memory of Myrtle H. Stone and Sedia Edwards Stone

In memory of Luther C. and Mable H. Stone

In memory of Evelyn Clayton

In memory of Lewis W. Huff/in honor of Sara Briggs Huff

In memory of John W. and Lula W. Hedgepeth

In memory of Clairborne M. Fuller

In memory of Lewis and Harry C. Hedgepeth

In honor of Edward E. and Clellie H. Wells

GIFTS (CONTINUED)

(2)

1950

Electric Organ given in memory of M. B. Hedgepeth and P. B. Finch by their families.

1955

Organ Chimes given in honor of Margaret Hunt by Nora Edwards Briggs

1956

Church Pews given:

- In honor of Emma R. Huff by Myra Huff Brooks
- In honor of Lewis W. Huff, Jr. by Myra Huff Brooks
- In memory of M. Ben Hedgepeth and Parry B. Finch
- In memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hedgepeth
- In memory of Edward H. Hunt
- In memory of J. Lou Davis
- In memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Stone
- In memory of Mr. and Mrs. S. L. C. Stone, Sr.
- In memory of John Floyd White
- In memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. Arch Woodlief
- In memory of Laura and March C. Woodlief, Sr.
- In memory of Zelma Fuller Clayton
- In memory of Virginia Evelyn Clayton

1960

Porch and Vestibule Construction given by Walter & Ollie Finch

1961

Central Heating Furnace in parsonage given by Dr. and Mrs. Ollie  
Finch

1964

Altar Rail refinished in memory of Frank Fuller by Mrs. Frank Fuller and the Young Adult Circle of the Women's Society

1968

Carpeting in Church Sanctuary installed by Methodist Men

1969

Two Brass Offering Plates given in memory of Ollie E. Finch by Mrs. Ollie Finch and Mrs. Gussie Houchins

Sixteen Cokesbury Hymnals given by Mr. & Mrs. Willard Clayton

Parking Lot covered with stone by Methodist Men



GIFTS (CONTINUED)

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1969

Fifteen "Singing Youth" hymnals given to Teen Age Choir by Spencer Circle of the Women's Society

Eighty Methodist Hymnals given in memory of Clifton H. Edwards by Mrs. Clifton H. Edwards

Pulpit Scarf and Bible Marker given in memory of Ralph E. Stone by Mrs. Ralph E. Stone

Motion Picture Projector purchased for church by Methodist Youth Fellowship

1972

Cover for Baptismal Font given in memory of Lewis W. Huff by his wife, Mrs. Emma Rowland Huff

1977

Veil and Cross for Pulpit given by Miss Alta Stone. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stone had them installed.

1979

Cushions for Church Pews given in the will of Mrs. Lessie Edwards

Early church records are incomplete and inadequate and therefore, numerous gifts and donations of time and talents are not recorded here. Countless other items have been given and good works performed during the life of Union Chapel Church, in love of God and of family members, which have contributed significantly to the growth of the church and its ability to better serve the community and the Lord.