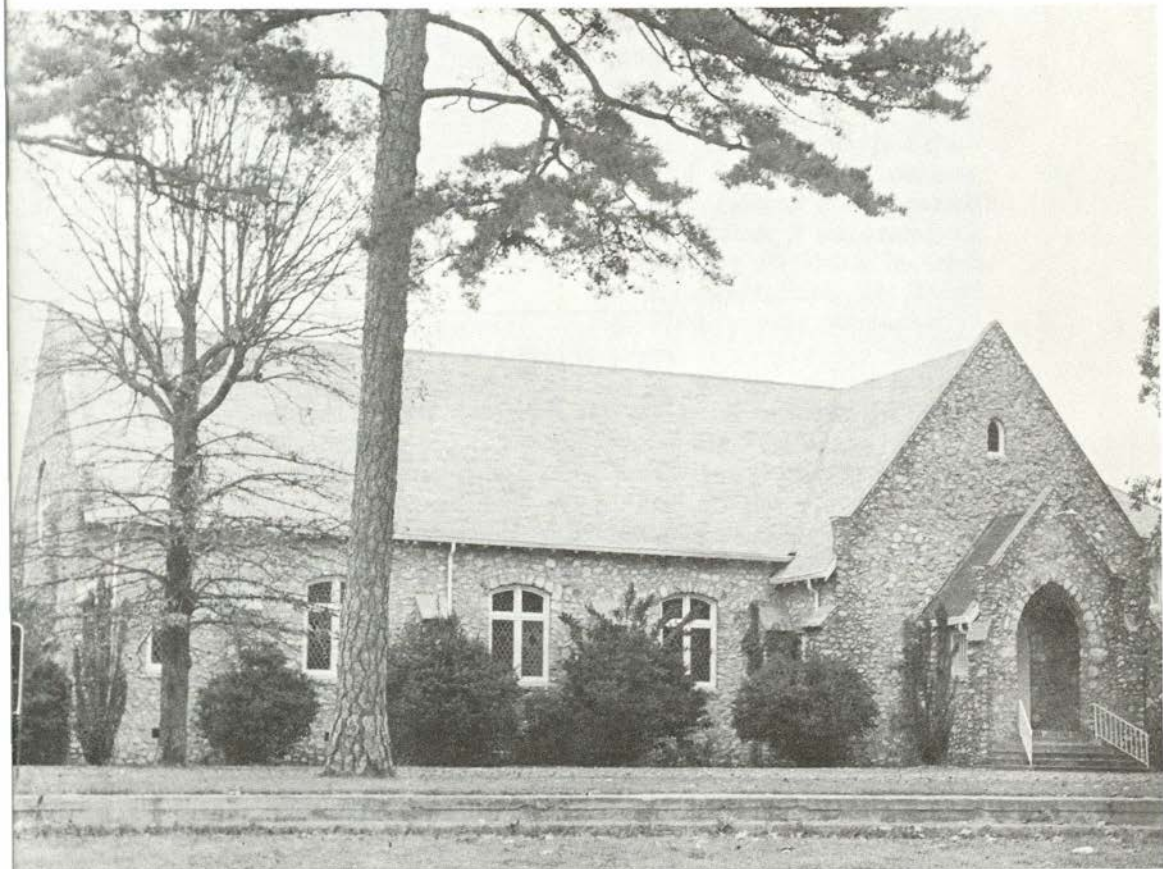


Walnut Grove  
United Methodist Church  
1841-1970



Route 1  
Hurdle Mills, North Carolina



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CELEBRATION OF  
100th ANNIVERSARY  
OF COMPLETION OF FIRST  
CHURCH

NOVEMBER 1, 1970

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*This booklet is dedicated to all the loyal, devoted members who down through the years have shown their faith in God and His Church by their willing service and to all present and future members who through His help will serve faithfully and be proud of their Christian heritage.*

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## History of Walnut Grove Church

In the year of 1841, an early Methodist Circuit Rider, whose name is not known, and who was very anxious that the people be brought to the knowledge of the power of God, came to a section of Orange County, North Carolina, ten miles north of the town of Hillsborough, in Cedar Grove Township, and organized a church.



FIRST CHURCH 1841-1893  
*Drawing by Mrs. Rachel Hawkins Cole*

A strip of land was given by Samuel Woods, about one-half mile south of the place where the present structure stands for the purpose of building a church. The first meeting house was a simple log building, no glass windows, just shutters and slab benches and construction covered a long period of time. Before it was completed it was sold for debts incurred during construction. Mr. David

B. McKee bought the property and gave the people permission to use it as long as it was used for worship.

This church was finally completed in 1870 by adding window panes, benches and ceiling. It was perhaps never formally dedicated.

In 1868 a Sunday School was founded by Mr. Washington Jordan, who served as Superintendent. Being unable to get church literature Mr. Jordan had the children bring their regular school readers, spellers and slates. He would read a passage of scripture and then explain it, thus helping the children, and adults too, become familiar with Bible words.

The next Superintendent was Mr. W. Y. (Robert) Walker from near Schley, who walked five miles to teach Sunday School each Sunday for about two years. When his shoes were worn from the long walk, the congregation gave money to buy him a new pair.

In 1882 a Bible was given to the church by Mr. John E. Blalock with the stipulation that it was not to be removed from Walnut Grove Church. This cherished old Bible is on display in the present building.

About 1882 a seat for the pulpit was made by Mr. John Wagoner and given to the church. It is now in possession of Mr. Elbert Allison, a great-grandson.

The church had no table for communion services so one was borrowed from the nearby home of Mrs. David McKee. This table is today in possession of Mrs. McKee's great granddaughter, Mrs. Lessie Woods Phelps and is over 200 years old.

On January 6, 1891, the land for a new church (the present site) was bought from Mr. A. W. Cole and his wife Sarah A. Cole and



SECOND CHURCH



SECOND CHURCH

deeded to Walnut Grove Church Trustees—John Horner, Eli D. Berry, John Parker, John Wagoner and D. B. Blalock. Here church number two was built. Mr. Don Frederick was the contractor and Mr. John Smith, Mr. Sam Horner, and Mr. Jeff Riley were the builders. The first service was held July 5, 1891. The second Walnut Grove Church was dedicated by the Rev. Mr. Bishop, October 29, 1893 with Nehemiah 4:6 used as the text.



REV. S. F. NICKS

On June 2, 1894 the land for the cemetery was deeded to Walnut Grove Trustees by David B. McKee for the sum of \$1.00. The first grave in the cemetery is Martha Wagoner who died in 1897.

The first Epworth League was organized in 1922 by Miss Hazel Thompson, now Mrs. Hazel Stutts of Mt. Gilead, N. C. The first president was J. M. Hawkins.

On July 1, 1934, a history of the two churches had been compiled for a special day of worship. On this day the oldest and youngest members of the Sunday School were favored with flowers. Mrs. Mollie Turner Tilley was the oldest member and John Wesley Laws the youngest.

Recognition was made of gifts to the church that were in use on this day in 1934. The seat in the pulpit was given by Mrs. H. G. (Birdie Blalock) Laws, and Mrs. Vernon (Vesta Breeze) Ray. The chairs were given by Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Miller. The altar table was given by Miss Nettie Wilson and the table scarfs by Mrs. Pattie Roberts.

In the fall of 1936 The Rev. S. F. Nicks asked the fourth quarterly conference for an order or privilege of building a new church on the present site. The old church had been in use for 46 years and for some time the members had seen the vital need for a modern house of worship in this community. After much thought and prayer with Brother Nicks, the planning began with the following chosen building committee:

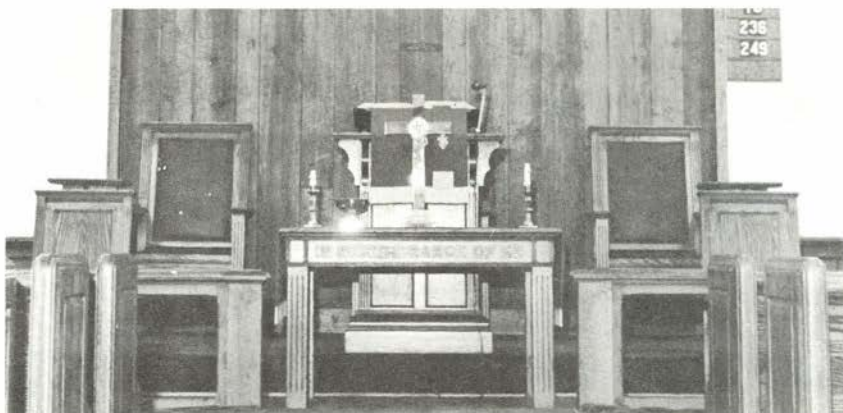
Charles E. Berry, *Chairman*, Luther C. Tilley, *Secretary*, Hubert G. Laws, *Treasurer*, John E. Hawkins, J. Vance Roberts, Gorman Wilkerson, Brodie T. Blalock, J. Andrew Jordan, Newby N. Jordan, Joseph D. Woods, S. Josh Parker and John H. Brown. H. N. Haines was chosen as architect.

The present Walnut Grove Church, the third house of worship, is symbolic of the dedication, effort, work, and determination of the people of this community to fill a vital need for an appropriate place to worship God. The same spirit was alive in the community when the first two churches were built, filling the need to the best of their ability and always looking upward to the glory of God and feeling the need to do better each time.

When the work began on May 4, 1937, the people had already begun to see how much sacrifice would be involved. Native flint rock had been gathered from the fields of farmers and piled in a huge mound on the grounds, almost a monument to the coming efforts that would be needed to carry on this great work.

There was very little money in this farm community in the 1930's, but the people gave what they could, more than \$1,000, so the work could begin. The Duke endowment gave \$2500. The farmers gave the money made on the amount of tobacco grown from one bag of fertilizer. This amounted to more than \$1,000, and along with other donations that came in the fall, work continued through the winter. A sawmill was set up on the grounds to saw 60,000 feet of lumber from timber donated by local members from their farms. Cement, nails and other materials were bought or donated by members. Most of the labor was given by members, who donated many uncounted hours to help realize a dream, all hand labor because at this time the community had no electricity for the use of power tools.

While the building was being erected the Rev. S. F. Nicks was looking ahead to the interior furnishings. He was continuously visiting members and other interested people seeking donations, asking them to buy a window, a pew, a chair or a light fixture. The large



windows were bought by members as memorials to loved ones, and there are bronze plates with this information at each window. All donations could not be so honored but were no less appreciated because it took them all to make the whole. The first service was held the first Sunday in November, 1939 by the Rev. S. F. Nicks, and he was assisted by Mr. Alan Browning of Hillsborough. The building was wired for electricity, but alternate lighting plans had been made to be used if needed. However, on December 9, 1939 the community was lighted by the R.E.A.

The church was almost finished when the Rev. J. C. Williams came to the charge in November, 1940. There was a little carpentry work to be done and about \$1500 to be raised to pay off the debt. The approximate cost was \$18,000, a fine testament to a community which now had a church valued at \$65,000.

Walnut Grove Church, on the Cedar Grove Charge, was dedicated on Tuesday, April 14, 1942, the same date as the Durham District Conference. Bishop Clare Purcell preached and led in the dedication, and District Superintendent A. J. Hobbs, directed the work of the conference, both of which were well done.

The following is copied from an article found in the N. C. Christian Advocate:

"The work of the day centered about the dedication, but this in no way detracted from the fine program of the conference. The discourses were above the ordinary and the reports from the preachers were excellent. More than four hundred crowded the house and partook of the bountiful dinner on the loaded tables in the yard.

"But in it all that beautiful and adequate stone church must not be overlooked. If there is a better appointed and more beautiful church in all rural North Carolina, we have not seen it. The design and simplicity of arrangement will endure the passage of time. The atmosphere and churchly appointments will satisfy the most exacting in their tastes."

The first funeral in this church building was that of Mrs. Lulu Morton Vanhook, in 1939.

The first wedding was Ellen Frances Laws to Madison A. Wilkins on December 21, 1946.



OLD PARSONAGE



NEW PARSONAGE

In 1956 a Fellowship Hall was built to provide a place for fellowship meals and other social needs of the church.

At a special session of the Quarterly Conference of the Walnut Grove Charge, held on January 18, 1959, permission was authorized to construct a parsonage. The Rev. Norman A. Desrosiers was pastor at that time. It was completed in the Spring of 1960.



FELLOWSHIP HALL

The parsonage was dedicated Sunday, April 21, 1963 at 2:30 P.M. by the Rev. O. L. Hathaway, District Superintendent. The Rev. Sidney E. Stafford was pastor. Open house was observed from 3 to 5 P.M. Refreshments were served by W.S.C.S. members from Walnut Grove and Carr Churches. RESOLUTION: The Official Boards of Carr and Walnut Grove in joint session on April 19, 1963 passed the following resolution: "Be it resolved that all the following be commended for their service and dedication in the establishing of a parsonage on the Walnut Grove Charge: Mrs. I. S. Rogers of Carr, and Mr. Jim Hawkins of Walnut Grove for serving as treasurers; Mr. Will Wade, Mr. Cleon Roberts, and Mr. Jim Hawkins for serving as parsonage trustees; Mr. Rainey Terry and Mr. Jim Hawkins for serving as primary contractors, and all others who worked on the building; Mr. W. W. Cole (deceased) for donating the land; and the church members and friends for their donations, both in money and in furnishings."

Walnut Grove Parsonage — Total Cost \$15,534.68  
20 per cent Carr \$3,106.92  
80 per cent Walnut Grove \$12,427.76

Additional land for the cemetery was deeded to the church by Mr. I. H. Parker in 1968.



REV. R. D. SHERIDAN  
*Present Pastor*  
Walnut Grove Church

In the known history of Walnut Grove Church there have been two men who have, from a profession of faith and membership in this church, entered the ministry.



*Robert Drewry Daniel*—born in November 1874, professed his faith in 1891 and was admitted to the North Carolina Conference in 1904. His first appointment was the Henderson Mission in the Warrenton District. He served in the itinerant ministry from 1904-12. He requested voluntary location at the Annual Conference in 1912. He continued to serve as a local minister in several areas until he died in Oxford on September 9, 1952.



*Lester Archie Tilley* is an A.B. graduate of Duke University and a B.D. graduate of Duke Divinity School. He preached his first sermon at Walnut Grove during the ministry of the Rev. E. C. Durham. He was admitted to the North Carolina Annual Conference in 1929 and his first appointment was Hemp charge in the Fayetteville district. He has served eleven pastoral charges, a total of 28 churches in eleven counties in North Carolina. He retired from the Annual Conference, held in Fayetteville, in 1968. He is presently serving as minister of visitation at Edenton Street United Methodist Church in Raleigh, N. C.



# NORTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## The Methodist Episcopal Church, South

### FLAT RIVER CIRCUIT — HILLSBOROUGH DISTRICT

Year	Pastor	Presiding Elder
1873	W. R. Webb .....	J. P. Moore
1874	T. J. Gattis .....	L. L. Hendren
1875	J. B. Martin .....	L. L. Hendren

### ORANGE CIRCUIT — HILLSBOROUGH DISTRICT

1876	J. B. Martin .....	L. L. Hendren
1877	J. B. Martin .....	L. L. Hendren
1878	J. B. Martin .....	S. D. Adams

### HILLSBOROUGH CIRCUIT — HILLSBOROUGH DISTRICT

1879	T. A. Stone .....	S. D. Adams
1880	J. O. Guthrie .....	N. H. D. Wilson
1881	J. O. Guthrie .....	N. H. D. Wilson
1882	J. E. Gay .....	N. H. D. Wilson
1883	J. E. Gay .....	N. H. D. Wilson

### HILLSBOROUGH CIRCUIT — DURHAM DISTRICT

1884	J. E. Gay .....	W. S. Black
1885	L. E. Thompson .....	W. S. Black
1886	J. G. Nelson .....	W. S. Black
1887	W. H. Puckett .....	W. S. Black
1888	W. H. Puckett .....	J. T. Harris
1889	W. H. Puckett .....	J. T. Harris
1890	J. E. Bristowe .....	E. A. Yates
1891	J. M. Lowder .....	E. A. Yates

### CALDWELL CIRCUIT — DURHAM DISTRICT

1892	E. E. Rose .....	E. A. Yates
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### HILLSBOROUGH CIRCUIT — DURHAM DISTRICT

1893	D. N. Caviness .....	E. A. Yates
1894	D. N. Caviness .....	J. A. Cuninggim
1895	D. N. Caviness .....	J. A. Cuninggim
1896	L. Leitch .....	J. A. Cuninggim
1897	J. M. Terrell .....	J. A. Cuninggim
1898	E. W. Fox .....	E. A. Yates
1899	E. W. Fox .....	E. A. Yates
1900	E. W. Fox .....	W. H. Moore
1901	J. T. Draper .....	W. H. Moore
1902	R. Bradley .....	J. T. Gibbs
1903	N. C. Yearby .....	J. T. Gibbs
1904	N. C. Yearby .....	J. T. Gibbs
1905	M. M. McFarland .....	J. T. Gibbs
1906	M. M. McFarland .....	J. B. Hurley
1907	M. M. McFarland .....	J. B. Hurley
1908	M. M. McFarland .....	J. B. Hurley
1909*	C. R. Ross .....	R. C. Beaman
1910	C. R. Ross .....	R. C. Beaman
1911	J. M. Ormond .....	R. C. Beaman
1912	J. M. Ormond .....	R. C. Beaman
1913	J. M. Ormond .....	H. M. North
1914	J. M. Ormond .....	H. M. North
1915	T. M. Grant .....	J. C. Wooten
1916	T. M. Grant .....	J. C. Wooten
1917	M. W. Hester .....	J. C. Wooten
1918	M. W. Hester .....	J. C. Wooten
1919	J. E. Blalock .....	M. T. Plyler

\* S. F. Nicks was appointed to this Charge in 1909 per the 1909 Conference Journal but for reasons unknown did not come to this Charge but remained at his old work.

1920	J. E. Blalock .....	M. T. Plyler
1921	J. E. Blalock .....	M. T. Plyler
1922	J. E. Blalock .....	M. T. Plyler

#### CEDAR GROVE CHARGE — DURHAM DISTRICT

1923	E. C. Durham .....	M. Bradshaw
1924	E. C. Durham .....	M. Bradshaw
1925	E. C. Durham .....	M. Bradshaw
1926	E. C. Durham .....	M. Bradshaw
1927	F. A. Lupton .....	J. C. Wooten
1928	F. A. Lupton .....	J. C. Wooten
1929	F. A. Lupton .....	J. C. Wooten
1930	F. A. Lupton .....	J. C. Wooten
1931	J. W. Dimmette .....	H. C. Smith
1932	J. W. Dimmette .....	H. C. Smith
1933	S. F. Nicks .....	H. C. Smith
1934	S. F. Nicks .....	H. B. Porter
1935	S. F. Nicks .....	H. B. Porter
1936	S. F. Nicks .....	H. B. Porter
1937	S. F. Nicks .....	H. B. Porter
1938	S. F. Nicks .....	A. J. Hobbs

### The Methodist Church

#### CEDAR GROVE CHARGE — DURHAM DISTRICT

Year	Pastor	District Superintendent
1939	S. F. Nicks .....	A. J. Hobbs
1940	J. C. Williams .....	A. J. Hobbs
1941	J. C. Williams .....	A. J. Hobbs
1942	J. C. Williams .....	F. S. Love
1943	J. C. Williams .....	F. S. Love
1944	K. F. Duval .....	H. C. Smith
1945	J. B. Hurley .....	H. C. Smith
1946	J. B. Hurley .....	H. C. Smith
1947	J. B. Hurley .....	H. C. Smith
1948	H. B. Lewis .....	E. L. Hillman
1949	H. B. Lewis .....	E. L. Hillman
1950	H. B. Lewis .....	E. L. Hillman
1951	H. B. Lewis .....	E. L. Hillman
1952	H. B. Lewis .....	E. L. Hillman
1953	R. Z. Newton .....	W. L. Clegg
1954	R. Z. Newton .....	W. L. Clegg
1955	R. Z. Newton .....	W. L. Clegg
1956	O. V. Elkins .....	C. D. Barclift
1957	O. V. Elkins .....	C. D. Barclift

#### WALNUT GROVE CHARGE — DURHAM DISTRICT

1958	N. A. Desrosiers .....	C. D. Barclift
1959	S. E. Stafford .....	C. D. Barclift
1960	S. E. Stafford .....	C. D. Barclift
1961	S. E. Stafford .....	C. D. Barclift
1962	S. E. Stafford .....	O. L. Hathaway
1963	D. R. Dickerson, Jr. ....	O. L. Hathaway

#### WALNUT GROVE CHARGE — BURLINGTON DISTRICT

1964	D. R. Dickerson, Jr. ....	T. B. Hough
1965	D. R. Dickerson, Jr. ....	T. B. Hough
1966	D. R. Dickerson, Jr. ....	T. B. Hough
1967	R. D. Sheridan, Jr. ....	E. B. Fisher

### The United Methodist Church

#### WALNUT GROVE CHARGE — BURLINGTON DISTRICT

Year	Pastor	District Superintendent
1968	R. D. Sheridan, Jr. ....	E. B. Fisher
1969	R. D. Sheridan, Jr. ....	E. B. Fisher
1970	R. D. Sheridan, Jr. ....	E. B. Fisher

Those who have served as Sunday School Superintendent are:

Mr. J. H. Woods, Mr. Debrow Turner, Mr. Robert Daniel, Mr. W. L. McDade, Mr. J. D. Woods, Mr. J. M. Hawkins, Mr. L. C. Tilley, Mr. Alvin H. Hawkins, Mr. Charles W. Tilley, Mr. Clifton R. Parker.

The W.S.C.S. of Walnut Grove Church was organized in 1929 by Miss Florine Robertson. The following members have served as president:

Mrs. Henry Cole, Mrs. Ed Laws, Mrs. Lacy Tilley, Mrs. Jim Hawkins, Mrs. John Hawkins, Mrs. Luther Tilley, Mrs. Rainey Terry, Mrs. Vance Roberts, Mrs. Draughn Rountree, Mrs. Charles Tilley, Mrs. George Woods.

### SPECIAL INTEREST ITEMS

Special invitations have been sent to former pastors and their wives, to all members 80 years or older and to the Rev. and Mrs. Lester Tilley, to attend this celebration day. All attending will be favored with flowers.

Former pastors and wives still living:

The Rev. and Mrs. E. C. Durham, Mrs. F. A. Lupton, Mrs. J. W. Dimmette, Mrs. S. F. Nicks, Mrs. K. F. Duval, The Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Hurley, The Rev. and Mrs. H. B. Lewis, Mrs. R. Z. Newton, Mrs. O. V. Elkins, Dr. and Mrs. N. A. Desrosiers, The Rev. and Mrs. S. E. Stafford, The Rev. and Mrs. D. R. Dickerson, Jr.

Walnut Grove Members 80 years old or over:

Mr. John H. Brown, Mrs. Sallie Porterfield Clayton, Mrs. Mamie Berry Jordan, Mrs. Hannah Parker Parker, Mrs. Ethel Hawkins Roberts, Mr. D. Tom Roberts, Mrs. Ida Jordan Roberts, Mr. Draughn Rountree, Mr. Walton Wilson, Mrs. Tina Wilson, Mrs. Rena Daniel Woods, Mr. Arthur T. Wright, Mrs. Delia Cates McCulloch.

Items of special interest to the history and commemoration of Walnut Grove are on special display in the Sunday School Room.

The old Bible that was given to the church by Mr. John E. Blalock on September 3, 1882.

Old church Records and Deeds.

The table used for Communion in the first church. Loaned for the day, courtesy of Mrs. Lessie Woods Phelps, great granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. David McKee.

The pulpit seat made by Mr. John Wagoner for the first church, loaned for the day, courtesy of Mr. Elbert Allison, great grandson.

The pulpit, pulpit seat, a pew, carpet and lamp from second church.

The list of donors for furnishings in present church, kept by The Rev. S. F. Nicks.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY 1970-1971

Bishop, Raleigh Area .....	William R. Cannon
District Superintendent .....	Edgar B. Fisher
Pastor .....	Rutledge D. Sheridan, Jr.
Lay Leader .....	Charles Tilley
Chairman, Administrative Board .....	Donald Roberts
Chairman, Council on Ministries .....	George Woods
Treasurer .....	Mrs. Alvin Hawkins
President, W.S.C.S. ....	Mrs. George Woods
President, U.M.Y.F. ....	Kathy Woods
Communion Steward .....	Mrs. James Hawkins

### CHURCH TRUSTEES

Alvin Hawkins, 1971  
 Ormond Woods, 1972  
 Rainey Terry, 1972  
 Claiborne Roberts, 1973

### PARSONAGE TRUSTEES

Cleon Roberts, 1971  
 James Hawkins, 1972  
 James Wade, 1973

### THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Henry Ashley	Clifton Parker	Rutledge Sheridan
Mrs. Delmo Berry	Mrs. Clifton Parker	Mrs. Hattie Slack
Ralph Berry	Cynthia Parker	Rainey Terry
Mrs. Ralph Berry	Mrs. David Parker	Charles Tilley
Wayne Berry	Nelson Parker	Mrs. Charles Tilley
Mrs. Rachel Cole	Mrs. Eva Porterfield	Mrs. Russell Wagoner
Alvin Hawkins	Jesse Porterfield	Richard Wilkerson
Mrs. Alvin Hawkins	Claiborne Roberts	George Woods
James Hawkins	Cleon Roberts	Mrs. George Woods
Mrs. James Hawkins	Donald Roberts	Kathy Woods
Mrs. John Hawkins	Draughn Rountree	Ormond Woods
Newby Jordan	Mrs. Draughn Rountree	Mrs. Ormond Woods

### COMMITTEES

**Pastor-Parish Relations:** Clifton Parker, Chairman; Alvin Hawkins, Mrs. Claude Tilley, Mrs. Sudie Warren, Cleon Roberts.

**Parsonage:** Mrs. Ralph Berry (1973), Chairman; Mrs. John Hawkins (1971), Mrs. Clyde Roberts (1971), Mrs. James Hawkins (1972), Mrs. Charles Tilley (1972), Mrs. Howard Lunsford (1973).

**Social Hall Regulations:** James M. Hawkins, Chairman; Mrs. Ralph Berry, Mrs. Russell Wagoner.

**Cemetery:** Nelson Parker (1971), Jesse Porterfield (1971), Ralph Berry (1972), Wayne Berry (1973), Ollie Blalock (1973).

**Nominations and Personnel:** Henry Ashley (1971), Mrs. Rachel Cole (1972), Mrs. John Hawkins (1973).

**Finance:** Richard Wilkerson, Chairman; Donald Roberts, George Woods, Charles Tilley, Mrs. Alvin Hawkins, Mrs. George Woods, Rutledge Sheridan.