

WARREN PLAINS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HISTORY 1889 to 1989

Warren Plains Methodist Church was organized in the year 1889 under the leadership of Rev. John N. Cole with 42 charter members.

At this time there was no church building. Church services were held in an old school building which stood about one-half mile north of here on the left side some distance from the road near the drive that leads to the Issac Weldon Place, now the home of the late Willie White.

Plans were made to begin a Church building and the members began to raise money in various ways. They purchased an acre of land from G. W. Purefoy and Lizzie Purefoy, his wife, of the County of Buncombe and R. D. Fleming and A. V. Fleming, his wife, of the County of Warren. The deed was to the trustees at the time; A. S. Webb, W. J. Davis, F. P. Wiggins, L. H. Hawks and G. C. Fitts.

The main building was built under the supervision of the late W.D. Weldon assisted by various members and friends of other denominations. Much of the material was donated on the stump then cut, sawed and hauled free of charge. The weather boarding on the auditorium is popular and was all sawed from one tree. The tree was a forked popular which was donated by the late Larkin C. Overby. At the time this history was first compiled in 1950 by Jerman T. Walker, Mr. Jim Harris was the only living person who helped in the construction of the church and gave some information on this.

The construction was completed in 1890 and the Methodist Conference appointed Rev. Alpheus McCullen the first pastor on December 15, 1890 and the Rev. S. D. Adams as presiding Elder.

Among some of the earliest stewards were Mr. Stephen Tucker, Mr. Gaston Walker, Mr. George Hester, Mr. Howard Hawks, Mr. Sam Wilson and Mr. Walter Hundley. Mr. Gaston Martin Walker served as the first superintendent of the Sunday School and held this position until his death in 1914, a total of 24 years. John H. Fleming served as the next superintendent for 41 years, followed by James S. Wilson, who served for 10 years. Following a change to rotating officers three others have served; Macon Myrick, Robert Rivers and Lonnie Cox who is serving at the present time.

Around 1925 beaver board was placed on the walls and new pews were installed. A few years later three Sunday School rooms were built across the back and electric lights were installed.

In 1948 some talk started about possibly building a new structure. After much discussion it was decided that it would be best to remodel the present facility. A building committee was appointed by Rev. W. C. Robbins, pastor, with Jerman T. Walker as chairman. Work continued under the able leadership of the next pastor, Rev. LaFon C. Vereen when memorial windows were installed and the work was completed in 1950.

In 1959 more classrooms were needed. Under the guidance of Rev. Leon W. Ross three classrooms and one bathroom were completed. Mrs. Oliver H. Yancey served as Treasurer of this building fund. Mr. J. Hugh Stegall gave the lumber for this addition and R. Lee Yancey looked after getting the trees to the lumber company to be cut and brought back to the church.

In 1964 the vestibule was added as a memorial to Robert Lee Yancey, Sarah Smiley Yancey and Eva Underwood Yancey by his children.

In 1970 the Ladies Classroom was renovated and named "The Mary Tucker Rodwell Room" as a memorial to a lifetime dedicated member. A lighted church sign was erected as a memorial to Mary Tucker Rodwell to be a "Continuous Light Of Love" by the ladies class. Her sons Stephen and A.P. Rodwell, Jr. contributed twenty two folding chairs for use in this room.

In 1971 Kitchen cabinets were built by Robert Rivers as a project of The Methodist Youth Fellowship.

The church pews were refinished along with all the other furniture in the sanctuary in 1974. Following this in 1975 the picture frame paneling was completed in the sanctuary by Oliver H. (Sam) Yancey, assisted by his wife and Doris H. Williams, after which the wall to wall carpet was installed.

History continued;

A large monetary gift was offered by Eula Wilson Wake in 1981 if the church would put air conditioning in the sanctuary. The church members followed through and central air was installed that year. In 1982 the classrooms were air conditioned with window units as gifts were shared from various sources. One unit was in memory of Kathleen Copley Wilson.

Aluminum siding was put on the classrooms under the direction of Robert M. Stegall. A much needed gutter and drainage system was installed under the guidance of W. Lonnie Cox.

We are very proud of our church and would like to think of it as a memorial to our forefathers who pioneered in its organization and construction.

PASTOR'S WHO SERVED

Warrenton Charge		Macon Charge	
Rev. J.N.Cole	1888-1890	In 1955 Hebron, Macon and Warren Plains became the Macon Charge	
Rev. A.A.McCullen	1891-1895		
Rev. P.L.Herman	1895-1898		
Rev.J.A. Guthrie	1898-1900	Rev. A.W.Nichols	1955-1956
Rev. E. H. Davis	1900-1903	Dr.F.S.Love	1956-1958
Rev. C.W.Robinson	1903-1905	Rev. Leon W.Ross	1958-1960
Rev. W.W.Rose	1905-1909	Rev. H.L.Harris	1960-1962
Rev. D.N.Caviness	1909-1913	Rev. M.T.Mann	1962-1965
Rev. R.H.Broom	1913-1917	Rev.Al E. Thompson	1965-1968
Rev.J.A.Hornaday	1917-1918	Rev. Lynn Ogborne	1968-1970
Dr. J. T. Gibbs	1918-1922	Rev.Richard Parsons	1970-1972
Rev. H.B.Porter	1922-1925	Rev. Dennis Weaver	1972-1975
Rev. B.P.Robinson	1925-1929	Rev. Floyd Morrow,Jr.	1975-1979
Rev. J.A.Martin	1929-1931	Rev. Martin Armstrong	1979-1982
Rev. E.C.Durhan	1931-1933	Rev. Jonathan Strother	1982-1986
Rev.O. I.Hinson	1933-1937	Rev. Kenneth Hall	1986-
Rev. J. O. Long	1937-1941		
Rev.E.R. Clegg	1941-1945		
Rev. C. Robbins	1945-1949		
Rev. LaFon C. Vereen	1949-1952		
Rev. H. L. Davis	1952-1954		
Rev. W.A.Crow	1954-1955		

To be remembered are those who gave of their time and talents in the area of music at the piano or organ throughout these years;

Tempie Tucker	Mary Elizabeth Walker Taylor
Drusa Wilker Sherman	Eva Underwood Yancey
Mrs. Marvin Davis	Dorothy Stevenson Stultz
Essie Wilson	Peggy Collins Wilkerson
Minnie Wilson	Judy Shearin Clark
Blanche Harris Walker	Ann Duncan
Lois Fleming Price	Geraldnye H. Yancey
Mary Hester Shearin	Debra Brantley

An interesting story about raising money to help with the church was that Mrs Susie Webb Fuller started a quilt and distributed squares among the ladies of the community who would embroider anyones initials on them that would donate the large sum of fifty cents. This brought in a good deal of money. It was put up at public auction and the successful bidder was Benjamin Moore of Ridgeway at a price of \$90.00. Names and initials on the quilt were as following;

1.F.P.W.	Frank P. Wiggins	16.W.R.C.	Willie R.Coleman
2.J.R.P.	J. R. Paschall	17.G.T.W.	George T.Walker
3.W.T.F.	William T. Felts	18.W.B.D.	Willie B. Davis
4.E.H.P.	Edward H. Plummer	19.F.B.W.	Fred B. Wiggins
5.G.W.B.	George W. Bennett	20.L.T.S.	Lonnie T. Shearin
6.J.E.R.	J.Edward Rooker	21.G.M.W.	Gaston Martin Walker
7.B.M.D.	Bessie Mae Davis	22.J.P.	John Petar
8.W.G.P.	Walter G. Plummer	23.R.S.P.	Spencer Plummer
9.B.D.M.	Benjamin D. Moore	24.S.W.	Susie Webb
10.W.W.W.	Walter W. Wiggins	25.P.A.N.	Ashby Northcott
11.C.A.M.	Charlie A.Moore	26.J.E.T.	James Early Tucker
12.A.W.	Adam Wilker	27.H.?.R.	
13.A.H.W.	Alex H. Walker	28.O.P.H.	
14.W.P.C.	Warren Plains Church	29.1889	
15.F.A.F.	Fannie A. Fleming	30.?.?.D.	