

HISTORY OF WESLEY HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

In the year 1946 several people in this community decided that a Methodist Church was needed in this area of Fayetteville. Meetings were held in the home of Mr. M. D. Riddle and others who were interested. The Reverend T. J. Whitehead, pastor of the Fayetteville Circuit and The Reverend W. L. Clegg, Superintendent of the Fayetteville District, were contacted. Both were enthusiastic and a survey was made which showed the community wanted to support a Methodist Church.

A committee was appointed to find a location and the present site was chosen. After the location was approved by the Church Extension Board, three lots were purchased at a cost of \$1,000.00. The first meetings were held under the pines where the church now stands. An improvised Altar was erected and on September 29, 1946, the church was organized. The Reverend Mr. Whitehead was serving as pastor at this time.

The Hut, costing approximately \$4,500.00, replaced the improvised Altar in December of 1946. The question of the name of the church was discussed and Rev. Whitehead suggested that it be named Wesley Heights Methodist Church.

At one time Wesley Heights, Johnson Memorial and Gardner's Chapel were known as the Northmount Charge. At the organizational meeting, The Reverend C. G. Piner was asked by Reverend Clegg to serve as pastor under Reverend Whitehead. He continued to serve when the Reverend Russell Harrison came in 1947, when Reverend Walter Smith came in 1948, when Reverend M. R. Chambers came in 1949, and during the four years the Reverend Barney Davidson served from 1950 - 54. Reverend Davidson is now serving as District Superintendent of the Fayetteville District. He was followed by the Reverend D. W. Charlton who served until 1958 when the Reverend R. W. Pritchard came for three years. The Reverend J. R. Regan served from 1961 - 63 when Reverend N. B. Hill, Jr., our present minister was appointed.

There has been a growth from a membership of thirteen at the organizational meeting in 1946 to the present membership of four hundred and fifty-one. The first budget was approximately \$500.00. This year our budget exceeds \$46,000.00. The present Sanctuary seating 165 people is inadequate. A house and lot has been purchased on Langdon Street and additional property beside and behind the present buildings purchased in order to build a proposed new Sanctuary seating approximately 450 people. The Hall Educational Building was named for Mr. Fleet Hall and his son Murray Hall, two departed members who worked so faithfully. This building was dedicated by Bishop Paul N. Garber on July 3, 1966.

Looking back over the twenty years, one can see the progress which has been made from a material as well as a spiritual standpoint. Each member should thank his Heavenly Father for the ones who had foresight to see the need of a Methodist Church in this area of Fayetteville. Let each one pray that this church will continue to ask God for His guidance. We must in order that we, His stewards, will help to build to His Glory a church of worship, of service and of dedication.