

H I S T O R Y

WEST BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Corner Trollinger and Kivett Streets

Burlington, N. C.

(1924 - 1979)

Rev. R. S. Brodie, Pastor

Prepared and Written

By

Clyde W. Cable

HISTORY

WEST BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The West Burlington United Methodist Church was begun in January of 1917 and finally organized in November of 1924.

On January 18, 1917 a group of women from the west part of Burlington, mostly from the Plaid Mills and Elmira Mills communities, met in the home of Mrs. J. P. McPherson on Plaid Street and organized a Women's Missionary Society. Miss Agnes Stewart, Deaconess of Front Street Methodist Church, organized this Society with President, Mrs. J. P. McPherson, Vice President, Mrs. A. A. Apple, Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Flora Stubbins, Treasurer, Miss Eula Neese, Recording Secretary, Mrs. A. M. James, Miss Adelaide Whittemore, Miss Mary McPherson, Mrs. Sally Foster, Miss Sallie Huffines, Miss Agnes Stewart, Mrs. W. A. Neese, Mrs. Grover Cable, Mrs. Deliah Jane Danieleley, Mrs. J. W. Sykes, Mrs. Joseph Whitsell, Miss Annie James, and Miss Viola Cable.

Realizing the need for a Methodist Church in the West Burlington area, these women worked to establish one. Their prayers, faith, and efforts were to be rewarded. A committee, composed of Mrs. J. C. Crutchfield, Mrs. A. M. James, Mrs. A. J. Whittemore, and Mrs. J. P. McPherson, was delegated to find a place and inquire into purchasing it for the establishment of a meeting place and eventually a church. These women selected the present site of the church and made arrangements with the W. E. Sharpe Real Estate Agency for the purchase of this property.

The women of the Society, with their husbands and families, worked hard in raising money by donations, solicitation, bake sales, and suppers and bought the Uncle Billy Oldham homeplace on the corner of Kivett and Trollinger Streets, present site of the church. There was a large two-story frame dwelling on this lot. The partitions on the first floor were removed to make an assembly room, or sanctuary.

The first public meeting held in this building was a prayer meeting on February 25, 1924. Many prayer meetings followed and on June 29, 1924, the West Burlington Methodist Sunday School was organized with 125 people present on Organizational Sunday. Messrs. R. Y. Whittemore and J. A. Lowe were elected superintendents of the Sunday School.

Realizing the need for establishing a church in West Burlington, as well as a Sunday School, the congregation of the West Burlington Methodist Sunday School had Dr. J. B. Hurley, pastor of Front Street Methodist Church, organize the West Burlington Methodist Church on November 2, 1924, with 77 charter members.

The charter members are as follows: Charles M. Shoe, Earl Everett Shoe, Mrs. Leroy Crawford, Mary Reiber, Mrs. Alice Faucette, Mrs. B. M. Terry, Millard Sharpe, J. Rankin Cates, Mrs. Annie Cox, Mrs. Robert Self, Sr., Rena Springs, Delilah Danieleley, John Reiber, Robert L. Self, Sr., Mrs. Grover Cable, Mrs. J. C. Crutchfield, Mrs. C. J. Durham, Sr., Viola Cable, Grace McPherson, Mrs. Carl C. Vaughn, Bruce Durham, Mrs. C. E. Stubbins, Annie James, Alvin Cable, Mrs. W. H. Hunt, Opal Whitesell, Mrs. J. A. Lowe, R. Y. Whittemore, Ruth James, Earl Sharpe, John A. Robertson, G. Leroy Crawford, Grover Cable, Mrs. Bruce Whitesell,

Mrs. Joe Whitesell, Clarence Whittemore, A. J. Whittemore, Bruce Whitesell, Mrs. Charles Tillman, Kelly James, Melvin Kinney, B. M. Terry, A. J. James, Mrs. John Long, Mrs. W. J. Smith, Mrs. A. M. James, Pauline Whitesell, Mrs. Mable M. Wilkins, Mrs. Martha Kinney, Mrs. Earnest Rippy, W. J. Smith, Mrs. Alpha Godfrey, James Whitesell, Mrs. James Mansfield, Mrs. Clay Moser, Mrs. Lee Murray, Pauline Whittemore, Mrs. James Whitesell, Lena Isley, Martha James, Dave Staley, Lyman James, Luther James, Mrs. J. T. McAdams, Mrs. Albert Kenney, J. A. Lowe, Mrs. Will Whitesell, Carl C. Vaughn, Mrs. Joe Sharpe, Etta Springs, C. J. Durham, Sr., Mrs. J. P. McPherson, Mrs. A. J. Whittemore, James A. Mansfield, Mrs. R. Y. Whittemore, and Lee Murray.

In November of 1924 the North Carolina Methodist Conference met in its annual conference and appointed Rev. E. G. Overton to serve as pastor of the new church. On November 23, 1924, Rev. Overton preached his first sermon in the church.

The first Quarterly Conference of the new church was held in December of 1924 by Rev. M. Bradshaw, District Superintendent (known then as the Presiding Elder) of the Durham District.

The name "West Burlington Methodist Church" seems to be a communal name. It seemed appropriate for the Woman's Society to be called the Woman's Missionary Society of West Burlington, so the Sunday School and church took its name from that. No particular person seems to have suggested it.

The church progressed and grew. More class room space was needed. A large hut was built on the property in 1935 to help alleviate the situation. As the church steadily grew in membership, plans were made for erection of a modern sanctuary and Sunday School building. In 1940, during the pastorate of Rev. L. L. Parrish, part of the frame structure was torn down and the sanctuary was built. The first service in the new sanctuary was held October 9, 1940, with Rev. E. G. Overton, first pastor of the church, preaching. In 1941, still during the pastorate of Rev. Parrish, a lot at 909 Askew Street was purchased and a seven-room parsonage was built.

One of the highlights of the church's history was the laying of the cornerstone and dedication of the sanctuary. On August 1, 1943, Bishop Clare Purcell, assisted by Dr. E. S. Love, District Superintendent, and Rev. M. C. Henderson, Pastor, laid the cornerstone and dedicated the sanctuary.

During the pastorate of Rev. G. W. Blount in 1949, the remainder of the frame building and hut were removed, and a modern three-story brick Sunday School Department building was built.

Since the church has been organized, the enrollment has grown to 615 membership and the Sunday School enrollment has grown to 595 membership.

In 1957, under the pastorate of Rev. W. A. Tew, the sanctuary was completely renovated, including the fellowship hall and kitchen. This project was under the supervision of the church, the Young Men's Class, and the Woman's Society of Christian Service. When this was completed, a lot next door to the church on Kivett Street, was purchased for further expansion of the Sunday School Department.

In 1960 the house on this lot was removed and the lot was graded and paved for parking.

The West Burlington Methodist Church has had three persons to go into the ministry. They are: Rev. C. M. Fogleman, of the Kansas Methodist Conference; Rev. D. M. Meadows, of the North Carolina Methodist Conference; Rev. L. H. Marshall, of the Evangelical Methodist Church in Burlington.

To list the officials of the church down through the years and the willing workers who have helped build this church would require listing a majority of the membership. The people of this church have always worked, both spiritually and manually, to build this church.

During the pastorate of Rev. Randall Baker in 1968, it was decided to build or buy a larger parsonage. A home at 1331 Granville Street was purchased and the parsonage at 909 Askew Street was sold. A mortgage was secured for the difference of the sale of the Askew Street property and the cost of the Granville Street property. This mortgage was paid in full in 1977 during the pastorate of Rev. George Ports.

During the pastorate of Rev. George Ports a new organ for the sanctuary was purchased and was paid in full in 1977. The organ was dedicated shortly after it was paid in full.

One of the highlights in the church's history was the dedication of the parsonage at 1331 Granville Street. On November 12, 1978, Bishop Robert M. Blackburn dedicated the parsonage. Rev. Barney L. Davidson, District Superintendent, and Rev. R. Stewart Brodie, Pastor, assisted in the Dedication. Immediately following the dedication, open house was held for the congregation and friends.

ROSTER OF PASTORS

E. G. Overton -----	1924-1927	G. W. Blount-----	1946-1950
E. C. Durham -----	1927-1929	J. R. Poe-----	1950-1956
B. L. Poole -----	1929-1930	W. A. Tew -----	1956-1960
A. C. Thompson-----	1930-1932	P. F. Newton-----	1960-1963
C. F. Heath-----	1932-1936	C. D. Brown-----	1963-1968
J. A. Martin-----	1936-1937	M. R. Baker-----	1968-1974
B. O. Merritt-----	1937-1939	G. W. Ports-----	1974-1978
L. L. Parrish-----	1939-1942	R. S. Brodie-----	1978-
M. C. Henderson -----	1942-1946		

ROSTER OF DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

M. Bradshaw -----	1924-1926	W. L. Clegg -----	1953-1955
J. C. Wooten-----	1926-1930	A. P. Brantley-----	1955-1960
H. C. Smith -----	1930-1934	W. L. Clegg-----	1960-1962
H. B. Porter-----	1934-1938	T. B. Hough-----	1962-1967
A. J. Hobbs -----	1938-1942	E. B. Fisher-----	1967-1973
F. S. Love -----	1942-1944	N. W. Grant-----	1973-1978
H. C. Smith-----	1944-1948	B. L. Davidson-----	1978-
E. L. Hillman-----	1948-1953		

ROSTER OF BISHOPS

C. Denny -----	1924-1925	C. Purcell-----	1940-1944
E. Mouzon -----	1925-1933	W. W. Peele -----	1944-1952
P. B. Kern-----	1933-1938	P. N. Garber-----	1952-1968
C. Purcell-----	1938-1939	W. R. Cannon-----	1968-1972
W. W. Peele-----	1939-1940	R. M. Blackburn -----	1972-

