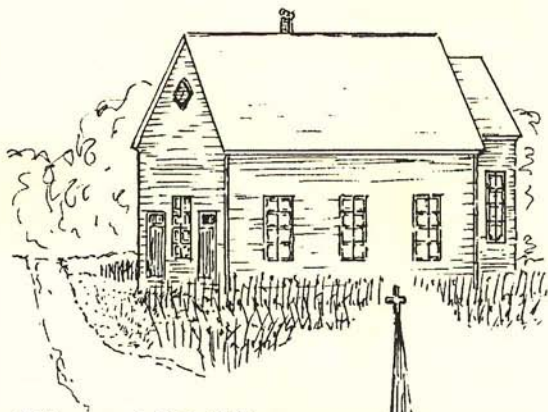


# Woodington United Methodist Church

*A History Spanning . . .*



*Our First 100 Years*



***1898 - 1998***

## *METHODISM IN LENOIR COUNTY*

Methodism had its beginning in Lenoir County in 1785, when Bishop Francis Asbury preached while the Assembly was in session. Asbury, a well-known Methodist circuit rider, was a guest of Governor Richard Caswell. He preached in the old County Courthouse. In 1796, he was in Kinston again, when there was an organized society of 100 members, white and black, but the society owned no house of worship, and Asbury preached in the Episcopal Church.

It has been said that Bishop Asbury, on his visit to Kinston in 1785, baptized two of the daughters of Governor Caswell. The old Colonial Court House, where Asbury preached, continued to be used by the Methodists as a house of worship for many years. In 1851-52, the first Methodist Church building was erected. It was used for seven or eight years when it burned by lightning. The erection of the next building, which now stands on the corner of Caswell and Independent Streets, was begun in 1859 and known as Caswell Street Methodist Church. It was occupied during the war by the Confederate troops as a hospital. The basement was used as stables.

Snow Hill Circuit was formed in 1830 and included Kinston. During 1851, Kinston was made a station. In 1887, the New River Circuit included the following counties: Lenoir, Jones, and Onslow. Later, Greene, Lenoir, and Craven were on the Neuse Circuit.

## *METHODISM'S ROOTS IN WOODINGTON*

In the years prior to 1900, there was only one church building in the Woodington community. It was known as a "Free

Church," since any denomination could use it. Woodington Methodists used this building, and probably the early Methodist circuit riders preached in it. Whatever organization Woodington Methodists had was part of a circuit in Jones County with six other churches. The earliest written record of Woodington is from a Quarterly Conference held at Lee's Chapel in Jones County on October 11, 1879. Mrs. Henry A. Edwards and Mr. Daniel Hasket were named as officers from Woodington.

### *WOODINGTON'S FIRST CHURCH*

Until 1901, there was not a Methodist church in Lenoir County on the south side of the Neuse River. In the years 1896-98, during his pastorate in Kinston at Caswell Street Church, Rev. D.H. Tuttle, who was always looking for new territory to conquer for his Master, crossed the river and was a leader in soliciting funds, with which to build a church at Woodington. Mr. and Mrs. James Herbert Waller donated some land on January 16, 1901. Work began, and the church was completed on June 30, 1901, on which date it was dedicated.

Though the Reverend D.H. Tuttle helped raise funds to build the first Woodington Church building, he did not get to preach in the church, because the conference moved him before the building was completed. The first pastor was the Reverend W.E. Brown, a young preacher who had studied and worked with the Reverend Tuttle.

In Woodington, the first church register had the following entry: "Woodington Class, Dover Circuit, New Bern District, North Carolina Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church South. This last year, a circuit was formed at Wilmington Conference, comprising six appointments, Bethany and Dover in the Craven Circuit, Woodington, Webbs, Beulah, and East

Kinston in the Lenoir Mission, March 20, 1903. Signed by Thomas W. Mansfield P.C.”

We have no records of when the circuit was divided, but Woodington and Webbs were on a charge with Caswell Street until December, 1921. The Conference then transferred Woodington to the Pink Hill Charge.

### *A NEW CHURCH FOR WOODINGTON*

During the years 1934-1939, under the leadership of the Reverend Howard McLamb, the Woodington congregation was inspired to start a new church building. Mr. Max Becton donated quite a sum of money to the church in memory of his mother, Mrs. Eliza Denny Becton. Mr. Becton grew up in the Woodington Church and went on to become cofounder of the Becton-Dickinson Company (makers of medical equipment, such as the fever thermometer).

Additional land was donated by Preston Waller (minor) through his mother, Mrs. Lottie G. Waller (guardian). In 1940, the Reverend Robert Walston came to the charge. While he was pastor, work on the new church was completed. On April 28, 1946, dedication services for the church were held, a Hammond electric organ donated by Mr. Max Becton was dedicated, and a Memorial Service was held for all members who had lost their lives in World War II.

### *CHARGE CHANGES & CHURCH ADDITIONS*

In the conference year 1953-1954, Webbs and Woodington became a two-point charge, with the pastor's residence built on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Preston Waller, and money, material, and labor given by both churches.

In 1972, a new brick bulletin board was erected in front of the church. In 1973, a ground-breaking ceremony was held for a much-needed fellowship hall, and it was completed within a few months. This building has been used and enjoyed on many occasions.

In 1974, Webbs asked to become a one-point station charge. At the Annual Conference in June this was done, and St. Mark's Church in Kinston was put with Woodington as a two-point charge.

In 1992, a new steeple was erected in memory of Warren Harper and in honor of Frances Harper. Steeple chimes were given in memory of Oscar Waller, and a steeple floodlight was given in memory of Gordon Rouse.

For many years, members had wished for a building which would connect the sanctuary with the fellowship hall. This seemed almost an impossibility because of a difference in the floor level of the two buildings. In 1994, meetings were held with the Building Coordinator of the N.C. Conference, Jim Ward (an architect), and the Duke Endowment. A building committee was elected, and loan money was secured from the Conference Board of Missions.

Some years earlier, Clara Becton died in California and in her will bequeathed to Woodington Church a sizeable gift of Becton-Dickinson stock. Clara had attended Woodington Church in summers of her childhood, when she visited her grandmother, Mrs. Eliza Becton. With her gift, a generous grant from the Duke Endowment, and loan money, the project began. It was completed and consecrated on March 26, 1995.

This building project was composed of several parts: a multipurpose/choir room (named the Becton-Rhoads Room in memory of Clara Becton and Bill Rhoads, a member who died during the building project in 1994 and bequeathed a considerable gift to the church), renovation of the narthex, kitchen, and fellowship hall, changes in classrooms to provide a pastor's study, installation of a public address system in the sanctuary, and a memorial garden.

The new building was largely furnished with money from memorial gifts and the new addition made all church facilities handicapped accessible. Memorial gifts are noted on a board and in a book of remembrance located in the new passageway leading into the Fellowship Hall.

### *WOODINGTON UMC TODAY*

In this centennial year, 1998, Woodington United Methodist Church has 108 members. There are 57 members in the Sunday School, composed of five classes. There is a unit of United Methodist Women and there is a United Methodist Men organization. Each summer, a Vacation Bible School ministers to children in the community. Homecoming is observed each year on the first Sunday in November.

The church has been involved in a number of projects to benefit others. The annual missions emphasis is filling "rice bags" during Lent for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering received on Easter Sunday. Each year, this offering sets a record. The congregation has helped to build new United Methodist churches in the N.C. Conference by having up to 13 people as members of the Ten Dollar Club. During the Persian

Gulf War in 1991, members filled and shipped boxes filled with gifts and personal items to National Guard members from Kinston who were serving in the Gulf region.

One winter, members contributed over 100 coats and shipped them to people in Armenia. United Methodist Women made school kits and sent them to children in Liberia.

On this occasion of the centennial of Woodington United Methodist Church, the past must be viewed as a treasure given to this generation of members by many saints who have been faithful and hard-working through the years.

Their example should stimulate in those of us who celebrate the centennial a renewed commitment to carry out Christ's ministry to those who live in this community and to the ends of the earth, in the name of Woodington United Methodist Church. Thus, we look ahead with confidence and excitement to the second century.



*Following is a list of ministers and the years of their service at  
Woodington United Methodist Church:*

W.E. Brown	1901 - 1902
Thomas W. Mansfield	1903
J.M. Carroway	1904 - 1905
W.D. Forbes	1906
W.F. Galloway	1907 - 1908
F.D. Swindell	1908 - 1909
F.S. Love	1909 - 1910
F.S. Becton	1910 - 1911
R.R. Johnson	1911 - 1913
E.L. Hill	1913 - 1915
E.N. Harrison	1915 - 1917
Daniel Lane	1917 - 1918
J.M. Carroway	1918
L.M. Hall	1918 - 1919
J.R. Edwards	1919 - 1921
R.W. Barfield	1921 - 1924
K.S.L. Cooke	1924 - 1925
Sam Lefferts	1925 - 1927
J.W. Dimmette	1927 - 1928
W.J. Freeman	1928 - 1930
H.LeRoy Harris	1930 - 1934
Howard M. McLamb	1934 - 1939
R.L. Walston	1939 - 1942
Ralph Jolly	1942 - 1944
W.G. Lowe	1944 - 1945
W.B. Cotton	1945 - 1946
R.W. Goodchild	1946 - 1948
Thomas N. Horner	1948 - 1950
Daniel C. Boone	1950 - 1953
Walton N. Bass	1953 - 1957
Tracie Varnum	1957 - 1961
Virgil N. Moore	1961 - 1963
Henry F. Pollock	1963 - 1965
F. Gerald Peterson	1965 - 1967
John D. Long	1967 - 1970
Arthur G. Fisher, Jr.	1970 - 1972
Billy Cuthrell	1972 - 1976
Donald Burns	1976 - 1977
Walter W. Gaskins	1977 - 1980
Wallace Lewis	1980 - 1982
Jere Rouse	1982 - 1992
Marty Cauley	1992 - 1994
Claude Wilson	1994 - present



*ABOUT THIS BOOKLET*

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