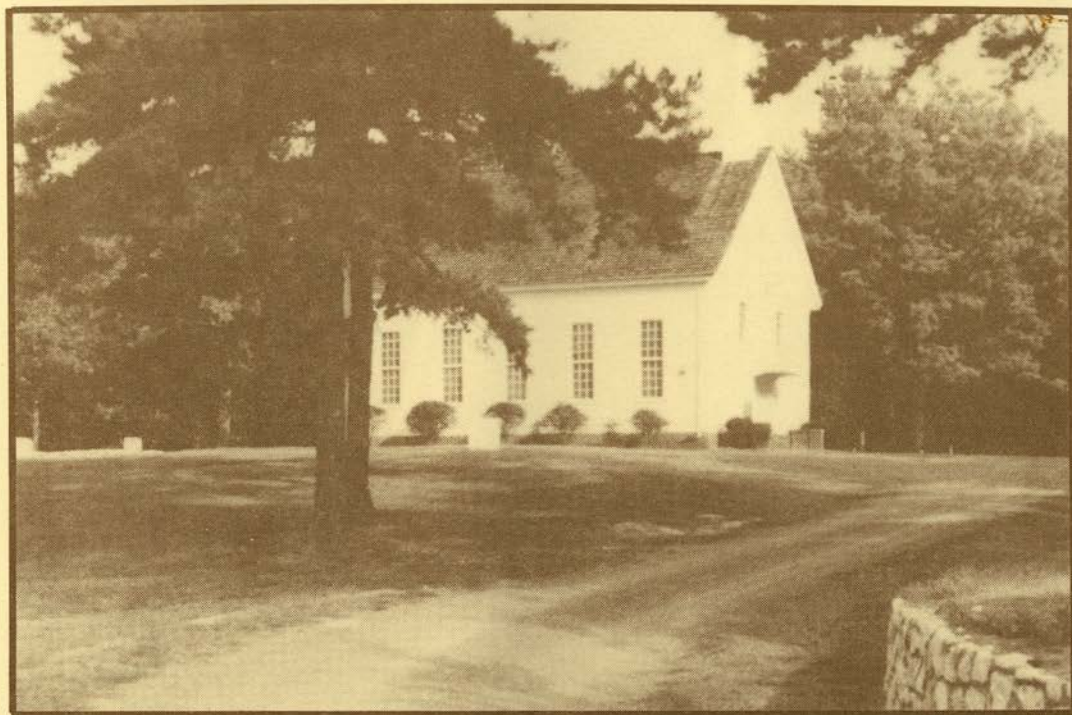


*Historic Lion
United Methodist
Church*



June 22, 1986

**BICENTENNIAL
1786 - 1986**

Jerry Jay Juren
Minister

C.P. Minnick, Jr.
Bishop
North Carolina Conference

J.C.P. Brown
District Superintendent
Sanford District

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

VIOLIN AND PIANO PRELUDE

"Adoration"

Berowski

Jake Rudisill, Violinist and Leah Barton, Pianist

GREETING AND PARISH CONCERNS

Rev. Jerry Juren, Pastor

*INTROIT

"We Will Glorify The King of Kings"

Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: In 1786, God called the people of this area into a community of faith, and there was hope.

PEOPLE: AND GOD CALLS US; WE COME IN HOPE TO PRAISE GOD.

Pastor: Across the years, God has touched a people and given them growth and vision, and there was love.

PEOPLE: AND GOD HAS TOUCHED US; WE COME IN LOVE TO PRAISE GOD.

Pastor: Let us claim our past! Let us live our now! Let us seek our future! God is here!
Let there be joy!

PEOPLE: THERE IS HOPE! THERE IS LOVE! THERE IS JOY! THANKS BE
TO GOD!

*THE HYMN OF PRAISE

"Come Thou Almighty King"

No. 9

WELCOME

J.C. McRae, Lay Leader

RESPONSE TO WELCOME

Dr. Vernon Andrews

PRESENTATION OF FLAGS

Jack Morrow

*ACCEPTANCE OF FLAGS

Congregation

WE ACCEPT THIS FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AS A SYMBOL OF A NATION WHICH STANDS FOR LIBERTY, JUSTICE AND PEACE FOR ALL HUMAN-KIND.

WE ACCEPT THE FLAG OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND RECEIVE IT AS A SYMBOL OF OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH, A KINGDOM WHICH UNITES ALL HUMANKIND IN SERVICE AND LOVE UNDER THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST.

*THE LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

Pastor: Almighty God, before whom do stand the living and the dead, we your children, whose mortal life is but a hand's breadth, give thanks to you for all those through whom you have blessed our pilgrimage.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO YOU, O GOD.

Pastor: For all lives that have quickened us, whose influence is a healing grace,

PEOPLE: WE PRAISE YOU, O LORD.

Pastor: For the dear friends and kindred of our homes whose faces we see no more, but whose love is with us forever;

PEOPLE: WE LIFT UP THANKFUL HEARTS.

Pastor: For those men and women who have ministered from this good place,

PEOPLE: WE LIFT UP OUR HEARTS IN GRATITUDE AND PRAISE.

Pastor: For the ways in which we have failed to be faithful inheritors of so rich a heritage,

PEOPLE: WE ASK YOUR FORGIVENESS.

Pastor: For the ease with which we received the blessings of a hard-earned past without the struggle to pass it on with freshness,

PEOPLE: WE ASK YOUR FORGIVENESS.

Pastor: For the beginning which is now,

PEOPLE: WE SEEK YOUR RENEWING POWER, O LORD; SAVE YOUR PEOPLE AND BLESS YOUR HERITAGE. DAY BY DAY WE MAGNIFY YOU, AND WORSHIP YOUR NAME, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.

THE PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

Rev. Paul Edwards

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Unison

THE ANTHEM

"The Church in The Wildwood"

Choir

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

PEOPLE: SING FOR JOY TO GOD OUR STRENGTH!

Pastor: Shout aloud to the God of Jacob!

PEOPLE: SHOUT WITH JOY TO GOD, ALL THE EARTH!

Pastor: Sing to the glory of his name; Offer him glory and praise'

PEOPLE: BEGIN THE MUSIC.

From Psalms 98, 80, and 66

CHOIR AND MUSICAL SELECTIONS

YOUNG WOMEN'S TRIO

"My House Is Full" and other selections

FIRST UNITED METHODIST BELL CHOIRS

"Brahm's Lullaby"

Johannes Brahms

YOUTH RINGERS

"Processional"

Donald E. Allured

"America, The Beautiful"

Samuel A. Ward

"Faith of Our Fathers"

Henri F. Hemy

ADULT AND YOUTH RINGERS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHANCEL CHOIR

"Sing Unto The Lord"

Yannerella

"Our God Is a Rock"

Davis

"Ave Maria"

Schubert

Instrumental: Leah Barton, Piano

Jake Rudisill, Violin

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Chester Andrews

We express our deep appreciation to these choirs and individuals for their willingness to share their time and talent with us and the occasion of this 200th Anniversary of Zion United Methodist Church.

History of Zion Church



Compiled By
Aileen R. McRae
from
previous histories
written by Zion members
and pastors.

Zion United Methodist Church has a noble heritage.

In the year of 1786, Rev. Hope Hull, who was a member of the Pee Dee Conference of South Carolina, organized a Methodist Episcopal Society in this community which met in a log building near the present Zion Church. This building was a Masonic and Temperance Hall and according to the recorded histories, the church society was known as Scarborough's Meeting House. Preaching was held the first Wednesday of each month.

This organization took place just two years after the American Methodist Episcopal Church was organized at the Christmas Conference in 1784.

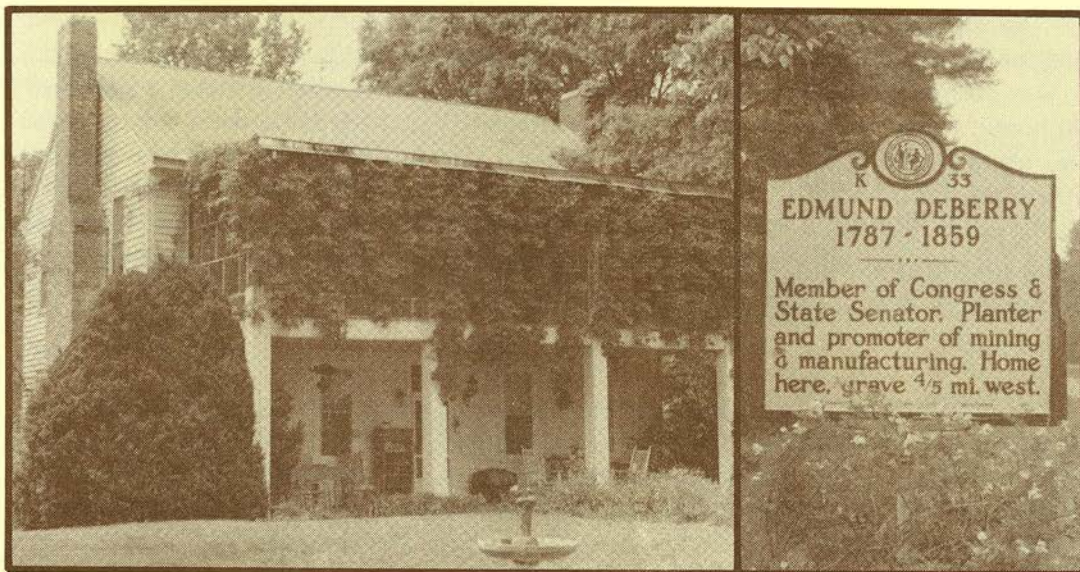
There is no record of when the name of the church was changed, but around 1810 a frame church was erected near the log building and it was probably at this time that it became Zion Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1854 the present building was erected on the property of Congressman Edmund DeBerry, who was one of several trustees of the church. This building was constructed mostly by John Boggan and Henry Mills (Fiddler Mills), near the original site. This building had slave galleries as most buildings had at that time. The new Zion Church building was dedicated on the 3rd Sunday of May, 1854, by Rev. C.H. Phillips. On the 21st day of May, 1859, Congressman DeBerry deeded the property to the trustess of Zion Methodist Episcopal Church and to their successors in office forever in trust.

Inside the church, the walls still bare the marks of the slave galleries, which were torn down in 1890 when the blacks built themselves a church nearby, which is known today as Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church.

Many celebrated men have preached at Zion; Lorenzo Dow, an eccentric and mighty preacher whose story will appear later in this history; Bishop Francis Asbury, Dr. Charles F. Deems, Julius Moore, Peter Doub and others. This church was home for Rev. Lew Scarborough of the S. C. Conference, Rev. D.R. Bruton, late president of the N.C. Conference, and a host of other men and women prominent in the church and state, serving as ministers, teachers, and statesmen.

Camp meetings were held at Zion from 1802 to 1855 and many colorful stories have been circulated about these meetings. And the fame of Zion's camp meetings with their great preachers and famous cooks spread abroad, and each year preachers returned to celebrate.



This is the home of Congressman Edmund DeBerry, where the visiting preachers to Zion always found a welcome.

As one story is told, one pilgrim whose fame went NOT before him, reined his horse towards Zion from the mountains of Tennessee. The year was 1833 and this roamer consigned his horse to a servant at the gate of Congressman DeBerry. With pious words, he won to himself the "Prophet's Chamber" in Mr. DeBerry's house as well as the good will of the host, who introduced him to the camp meeting as a Methodist Evangelist worthy of the pulpit. Once in the pulpit, he captured much attention; and so great was the outpouring to hear him that hardly a dog stayed at home to guard the country-side at night.

All of this was in accord with the preacher's plan as it left the neighborhood open to the invasion of his organized band of horse thieves at the hour of his final sermon.

The next morning the "Prophet's Chambers" in Mr. DeBerry's house was tenantless, and so were the stables of many farmers. The visitor was the notorious outlaw, John A. Murrell. After many years of confinement, he died as a convict.

The DeBerry house, which is located on Highway #73 about four miles from Zion, is owned today by Mrs. C.W. Widenhouse of Concord. She and her late husband attended Zion while they lived in the house.

The visit of Lorenzo Dow to old Zion during the camp meeting of 1815 was of abiding interest. He was on one of his famous tours from Maine to Georgia. In order to reach Zion, he was obliged to travel by way of Salisbury where he had expected to mount a fresh saddle horse. However, being a man of sudden notions, he changed his mind and made his way along sheep and cattle trails, little realizing that this deflection would exhaust his mount and force him to try his legs. His legs were long and trusty though, and he took no council of Mr. Faintheart. Behind this preaching pilgrim was a great memory and by this he was guided to seek out Old Zion and preach there. So it came to pass that he drew bridle there on a Sunday of the annual camp meeting.

It seems that about ten years after Rev. Hope Hull had lit the torch in this wilderness, he journeyed to New England and there among his followers, a tall ungainly youth was strangely captured and won in heart and imagination by the southern preacher. He followed him from one appointment to another. The Rev. Hope Hull had made his most famous convert, Lorenzo Dow.

Rev. Hope Hull's son, after his own fame had outranked that of his father's in faith, felt the need to seek out this old church and thither he came. But almost nothing is known now of this visit that set the seal of earthly immortality upon Zion.

Rev. Absalem Brown of the South Carolina Conference died in the home of Congressman DeBerry in 1833 and became the first person to be buried in Zion's cemetery. His grave is in the south-east corner of the church yard. North-east of the church lies the remains of Rev. A.H. Richardson, who was at one time the presiding Elder of this district.

Zion was at one time the strongest church numerically and financially in this section of the state. A district Conference was held in the church about 1871 and preachers and delegates were easily entertained.

Some of those attending and supporting Zion in those days were the Christians, Moores, Brutons, Smiths, Pembertons, Lillys, Masks, Gaines, Montgomerys, McRaes, McAulays, Stacys, DeBerrys, Boggans, Mathesons, Wooleys, Barringers, Ingrams, Andrews, Ledbetters, Zacherys, and many others. Decendents of these families are still in the church today.

The preachers who served Zion from it's beginning to 1928 were Hope Hull, Henry Ledbetter, Thomas Nelson, McCorquadale Zakey, Bradley Turrentine, Thomas Jones, Samuel Leard, Nathan Byrd, Charles H. Phillips, T.A. Boone, M.E. Sherill, C.M. Pepper, P.H. Scooville, N.W. Boyles, Perry Thompson, M.V. Hicks, L.R. Kearns, Zebedee Rush, Ira T. Wyche, A.W. Avent, J.D. Buie, Baxter Phillips, Rose M Motle, Lee Coltrane, James W. and Joseph Wheeler, and W.F. Traywick.

Zion was a station church in 1858 and 1859, with Rev. P.H. Scooville as pastor. He also taught school in the Old Masonic and Temperance Hall near the church for a year.

In 1928 the annual session of the N.C. Conference met in Wilson and united the Montgomery and the Mt. Gilead circuits and formed the Wadeville Circuit. From these two circuits the following churches were discontinued: Prospect, Beulah, Capelsie, Shiloh, Philadelphia, and Zion, where the membership was asked to transfer to First Methodist Church in Mt. Gilead. From 1928 until 1939 there was no Preacher assigned to this old church, although Dr. Oscar Haywood, a retired Baptist Minister, preached in the church when he was in this area without any compensation.

On May 17, 1932, Miss Glen Lefler organized a Sunday School with an attendance of 17. This Sunday School was active for several years and even held the annual homecomings for the benefit of church members, that they might have the opportunity to come to Zion and greet old friends once a year.

The first record of a wedding in the church was July 17, 1934, when Miss Glen Lefler became the bride of Attorney Merrill C. Lisk.

In 1939, Rev. John Edwards, pastor of First Methodist in Mt. Gilead, organized a Church Service and Sunday School at Zion. After reporting 45 members by certificate and 14 by profession of faith, the Conference attached it to the Mt. Gilead Charge, as it still is today.

After the church was re-organized, Mrs. Glen Lefler Lisk, Mrs. Lula Kearns, Jack Morrow and others played an important part in holding the church together.

Preachers serving Zion from 1939 were: J.E. Edwards (1939), D.M. Sharpe (1939-1941), M.W. Lawrence (1941-1944), S.J. Starnes (1944-1948), M.W. Maness (1948-1951), C.S. Boggs (1951-1954), L.C. Larkin (1954-1960), C.J. Andrews (1960-1964), J.C. Chaffin (1964-1968), S.D. McMillan, Jr. (1968-1972), L.E. Lugar (1972-1975), Al Morris (1975-1977), Arthur Winstead (1977-1980), Paul Phillips (1980-1985), Jerry Juren (1985-)

Since 1939, Sunday School Superintendents serving Zion were Marshall Williams, Wilborn Haithcock, E.R. Lefler, Jack Morrow (20 Years), Winburn Reynolds, and Stimpson McRae, the present superintendent.

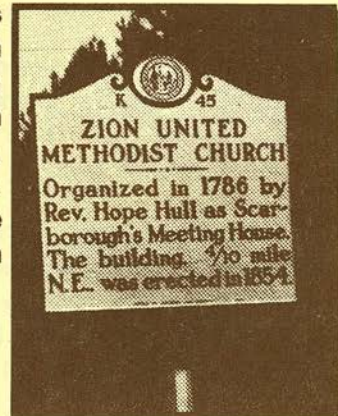


Zion Church as it was before 1969.

Around 1969 the first major constructional work, since the slave galleries were torn down, took place. Harry and Sally Harris, faithful members, had a well dug and bathrooms installed. Four Sunday School rooms were planned around this and were constructed without changing the outside of the existing building, except the two narrow entrance doors. One larger entrance was made. J.C. McRae, a long time member, designed the plans for the work.

1969 was also the year that a beautiful painting of Christ was donated to the church by Mrs. Delite Beasley, artist and friend of Zion members. The painting hangs behind the pulpit today.

On Sunday, June 24, 1973, a Historical Marker was unveiled on Highway 73 just 4/10 miles from the church. On the program at the unveiling were: Rev. Lawrence E. Lugar, Pastor; Mrs. Walter Johnson, oldest member; Mr. Lyman DeBerry, descendant of original land owner; Mrs. E.S. Kearns, Zion member; Jack Morrow, who read the history; Rev. Franklin Grill, of the Methodist Conference; and The Honorable Foyle Hightower, Jr., Representative of the 26th District of the State of North Carolina.



On Saturday, April 3, 1976, Zion Methodist Church was among the historic churches across North Carolina given special recognition as the United Methodist Church of North Carolina celebrated its Bicentennial at Cameron Indoor Stadium on the campus of Duke University. A banner, made by the women of the church, representing Zion, the oldest Methodist church in Montgomery County and the second oldest in the Sanford District, was used in the opening procession. Carrying the banner were Jack B. Morrow, Mrs. Stimpson McRae, Mitch Lefler, and Rev. Al Morris, Pastor.

In 1977, Zion members, with much work and encouragement from the women's U.M.W. group, started an extensive project of repairing, restoring and preserving this old church, in anticipation of it being as grand as it could be for the Lord and this 200th anniversary.

New pews were purchased with the help of many members and friends, who bought pews in memory of, or in honor of family and loved ones. A wall plaque showing the names of all who donated, is in the vestibule. At the same time, and before the pews were installed, the altar railing and pulpit were taken down, stripped, and refinished. Carpet was put down, and the U.M.W. purchased a vacuum cleaner.

A brass altar set was donated by Mrs. Sally Harris, and the old brass chandeliers were taken down and re-furbished. A matching chandelier was donated by Branson and Lorraine McRae to hang in the vestibule.

In 1979, a shake shingle roof replaced the old leaking tin one. Stimpson and Doris McRae donated the steeple, and Mrs. Nell Haithcock donated an antique church bell, which was installed in the attic.

In 1981, wooden shutters were placed on the interior windows, with the U.M.W. sharing half of the expense. The women of the church had begun having Chicken & Dumplin' Suppers once a year to help with the whole project.

In 1982, the U.M.W. had cushions made for the pews, the pulpit chairs, altar table, and Sunday School boards were re-finished and the chairs were reupholstered.

1984 was bicentennial year for the United Methodist Church in North America. A new banner representing this bicentennial and Zion was made by Aileen McRae and Ann Kearns. Stimpson McRae carried the banner in the Parade of Banners during the annual conference meeting in Fayetteville. Zion church was host for the District Bicentennial Celebration on Sunday, Dec. 2, in recognition of the Christmas Conference that was held Dec. 24, 1784, that established the Methodist Church in this land.

1984 was a busy year for the renovation project. The U.M.W. bought new song books for the church, cement benches and tables for the picnic area, and Jack Morrow had an outside area light installed on the front of the church.

In 1985, a rock wall was constructed around the south-east corner of the cemetery along the driveway to the church. The rock for this wall was donated by O.D. Smith, a friend and neighbor of Zion members. The construction was paid for by the Clay Bruton family of Mt. Gilead, who are members of First Methodist Church.

In 1986, the U.M.W. had new folding doors put in back of the church, replacing the old damaged ones. The church has been enclosed with vinyl siding to further protect it from the elements. The slate marker that was on the church was removed and placed on a stand at the corner of the church. Jack Morrow donated the flags that stand on either side of the pulpit, and there are plans to pour a small cement terrace just in front of the steps.

And thus we go forward.....
.....as the old church itself stands in quiet dignity on a hill where lie the graves of many of its members. It is the mother church of many Methodist churches in the county, including First Methodist Church in Mt. Gilead.

