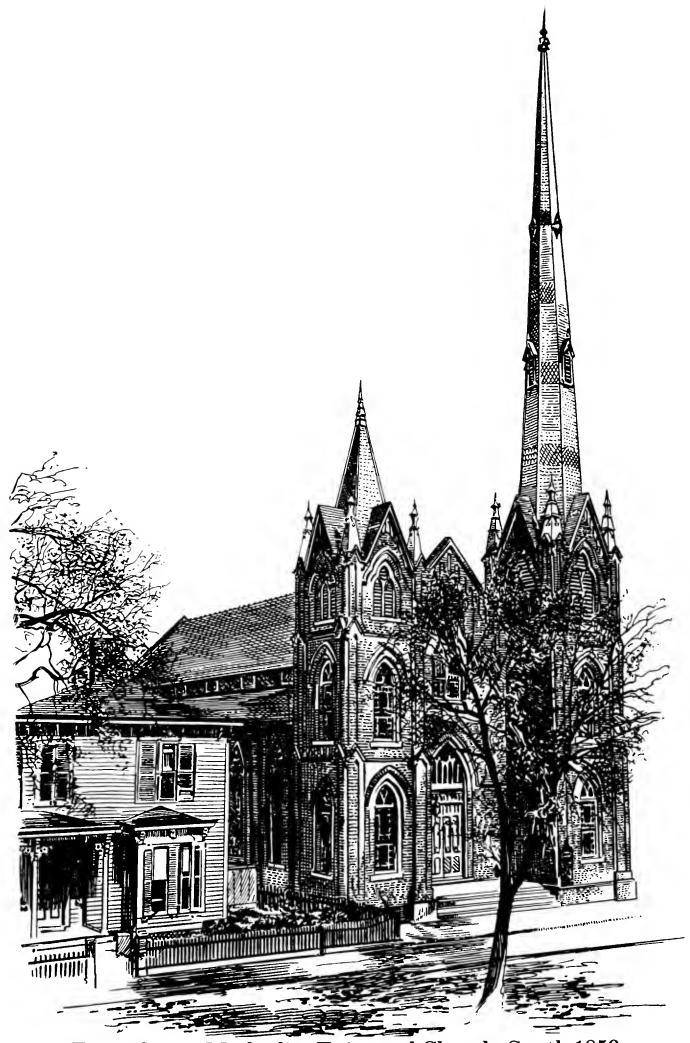


Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, South 1896



Tryon Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South 1859

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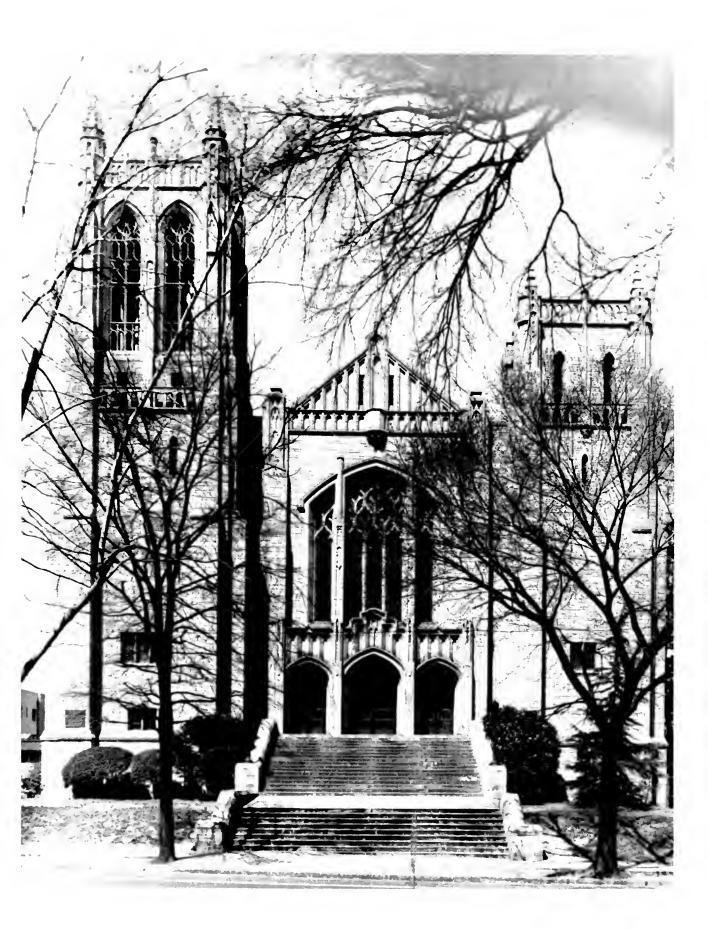
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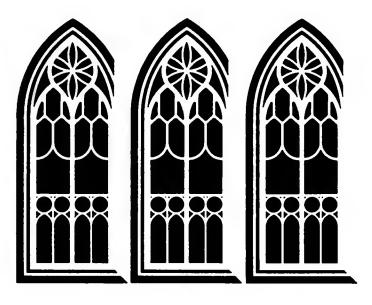
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First United Methodist Church Charlotte, North Carolina

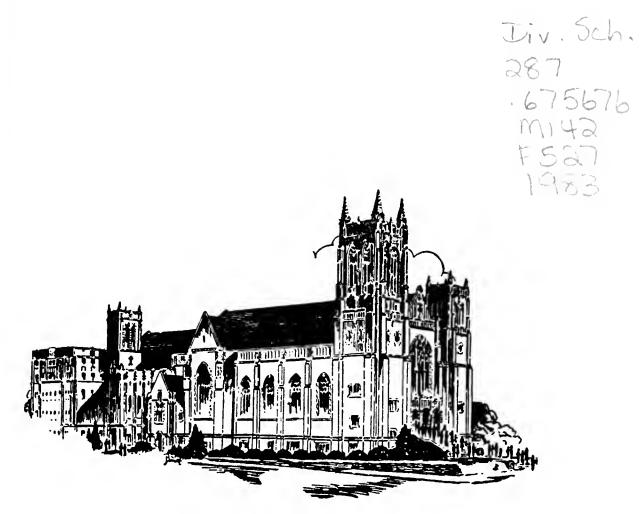


Mildred Morse McEwen 1983

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THIS BOOK is dedicated to the charter members of First United Methodist Church whose vision and efforts made this present church a reality. Especially honored are those charter members who made many personal sacrifices during the depression years of the early 1930's to save this church.

•

FOREWORD*

By JACOB B. GOLDEN, D.D.

WRITING A FOREWORD for a volume I haven't read is a bit like describing the taste of a soup I've never eaten, but having been intimately involved in much of the study and preparation for this history and knowing of the loving concern and justifiable pride that have gone into this "backward look" at the life of a great church, I feel inspired to express my thoughts and feelings here and now.

I confess to some of that "pride" myself. A look at the history of First United Methodist Church makes one aware of the struggle, the dedication, the perseverance of the "saints" in the face of some pretty difficult times. You likewise sense the costly commitment to Christ which makes up the past 50 years of this church and indeed further back than that in the history of two great church families—Tryon Street and Trinity—who came together to become First United Methodist Church. It is truly a privilege to be a part of that tradition.

But a "backward look" has value only if it helps us to see where we need to go. My "justifiable pride" in this church lies not simply in the knowledge of where we came from but also in the knowledge of where we are and where we intend to go. First Methodist Church is ministering today in exciting new ways. Even in the face of current "downtown church" problems—smaller membership, older median age, higher operating expenses and so forth—this church is speaking today of the love of God in Christ perhaps more eloquently than ever. Spend time around here on almost any day of the week, not just on Sunday, and you'll see what I mean.

If the same kind of faith in and commitment to Christ which shines through the pages of this history be given to our members, the future of First United Methodist Church as a beacon of Christ's love in the city of Charlotte is assured.

God grant us in the present that same faith and commitment so that our own history may one day read as well as that of our forefathers in Christ!

* The foreword was written when it was expected this history would be published on the fiftieth anniversary of the church in 1977, when Dr. Golden was senior minister.

OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS, a Records and History Committee in First Methodist Church had kept a *Memorial Book* which listed gifts that individuals and organizations had made to the church.

In 1975 Dr. Jacob B. Golden, senior minister at that time, greatly enlarged this committee and added the responsibility of planning a fiftieth anniversary celebration in 1977 and writing a history of First United Methodist Church. Mrs. Joe M. Van Hoy (Helen) was appointed general chairman of this committee and Charles J. Henderson was made chairman of the book committee. Mrs. George N. Scranton (Jeanne) became church archivist.

The initial plan was for the history of First Methodist to begin when Tryon Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, South, made the decision to recombine and build one large uptown church. With the idea of having a Reader's Digest type of format, a number of the church members wrote articles for the projected history that was supposed to be finished in 1977. Finally, it was 1981 and the history had not yet been put together.

During these years Jeanne Scranton had gathered church records that were in boxes stored in the furnace room and had spent many hours cataloging and getting all records and memorabilia into a History and Records suite of rooms. She deserves much of the credit for this history because without her monumental effort this book could not have been written.

In 1981 Mildred Morse (Mrs. J. L.) McEwen took on the responsibility of working all of the material into a history going back to the beginnings of Methodism. No by-lines have been used but this book contains the work of many people. Among those who contributed articles are: Kenneth Austin, Anne J. Batten, Mr. and Mrs. J. Webb (Clara) Bost, Mr. and Mrs. E. Raymond (Marie) Brietz, Mrs. Bruce (Marjorie) Cunningham, Mrs. John (Marjorie) Douglas, Mrs. Parker (Peggy) Duncan, Charlie F. Flournoy, Kays Gary, Charles J. Henderson, Mrs. R. Pressley (Barbara) Hoover, Monroe M. Landreth, Jr., Mrs. Edyth Lewis, Barbara Lupo, Mrs. David (Joan) Miles, Hunter M. Jones, Mrs. Alan (Jeanne) Newcomb, Mrs. Mack H. (Dorothy) Powers, Mrs. John C. (Ethel) Rhyne, John L. Rosenblatt, Mrs. George N. (Jeanne) Scranton, Henry B. Simpson, Mrs. Andrew (Mabel) Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Sam (Fay) Springs, Jr., Mrs. H. Watson (Travis) Stewart, Mrs. George F. (Mary) Stratton, Mrs. Wilson L. (Lura) Stratton, Mrs. Victor B. (Stelle) Templeton, Mrs. Grady G. (Georgelyn) Thomas, Dr. and Mrs. Joe M. (Helen) Van Hoy, Mrs. Charles (Nancy) Walkup, Mrs. Miles H. (Jessie) White, and Dr. Howard Wilkinson.

There are others who have contributed to the writing of this book but their names are included in their "Memoirs."

Special thanks should go to Martha F. (Marty) Washam, who was in charge of the graphics; to Mrs. Frank O. (Wincy) Porter for research and handling book sales; to Mrs. Leslie (Lurlene) Barnhardt for the gift of many church related materials; to M. Sue Brown for typing the current church roll; to Mrs. Fred E. (Canses) Smith for keeping the church roll up-to-date; to Mrs. Fred D. (Anna Clark) Stallings for typing and for proofreading the galleys; to Mr. and Mrs. J. Webb (Clara) Bost for distinguished service to the Records and History Committee; to Hortense Stone for transporting many boxes of historical materials back and forth between Westfield Road and the Records and History rooms at the church; to Mrs. Raymond (Marie) Brietz, Mrs. A. L. (Belle) Howell, Mrs. George F. (Mary) Stratton, and Mrs. Wilson L. (Lura) Stratton for their many valuable services to the book committee; to Mrs. Jack (Jean) Gilbert for handling publicity and book sales; to Miss Mae Tucker of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library for expertise in many areas; to Mrs. L. M. (Virginia) Walker for help in editing the manuscript; to Virgil Hurley and Fred Stallings for photographing many of the activities of the church; to William W. Hagood, Jr., the only living member of the original building committee, for reading the final manuscript and offering suggestions; to Dr. and Mrs. Joe Van Hoy for help in editing the manuscript; and to Mrs. Van Hoy for "keeping the wheels turning."

Lastly many, many thanks to those "saints" of First Church, who subsidized the publication of this history so that copies could be sold at about half the actual publication cost.

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AFTERWORD-AFTERWARD!

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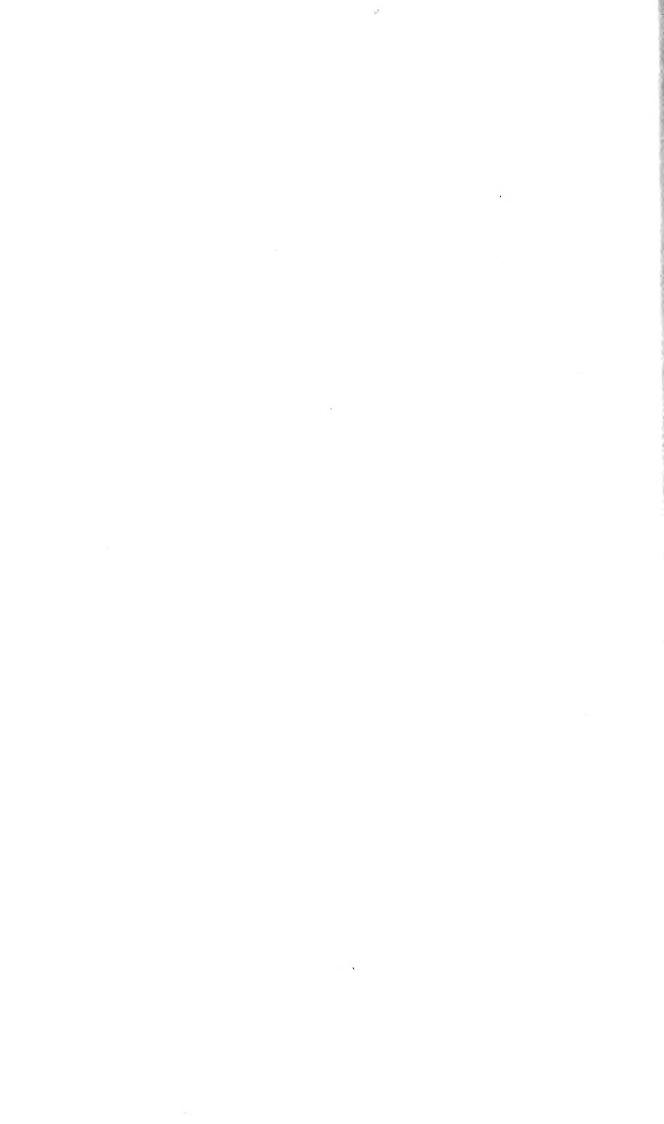
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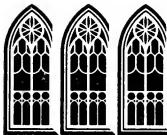
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CHAPTER ONE

THE BEGINNINGS OF METHODISM

THE "HOLY CLUB" AT OXFORD



The Methodist movement began in England in the second quarter of the eighteenth century at a time when religion was at a low ebb and gambling, drinking, and other vices were commonplace among the members of the Church of England. Oxford University authorities

were alarmed at the growth of infidelity in the university and it was in this atmosphere in 1729 that a small group of ministerial students formed a club for the promotion of personal religion. They drew up a set of rules to live by and had stated times for prayer, study, and discussion. Their rules of conduct were strict for the times, and the group was derisively referred to as "Methodists" or "The Holy Club." One Oxonian wrote, "They imagine they cannot be saved if they do not spend every hour, nay minute, in the service of God."

The first members of this club were Charles Wesley, a Mr. Morgan, and a Mr. Kirkham. In 1730 Morgan, who was a warm-hearted Irishman, led in visits to the poor and to prisoners in the jails but soon wore himself out and returned to Ireland. His place in the group was taken by George Whitefield, whose gift of oratory had already been noted. These first Methodists were devout members of the Church of England and had no idea of founding any new Christian body. The club came into being during the time that John Wesley, who had already been ordained a priest of the Church of England, was helping his father in the parish of Epworth. When he came back to Oxford as a Greek lecturer and moderator of the classes in Lincoln College he soon became the leader of the group.

Although Charles Wesley had founded the "Holy Club," it was John Wesley who had the gift of organization and who is recognized as the Father of Methodism. Here it is interesting briefly to go into the early life of the Wesleys and George Whitefield because their backgrounds were so very different.

THE WESLEYS

The Wesleys came from a long line of Anglican ministers. Greatgrandfather Bartholomew Wesley who had also studied medicine became a Puritan. At the time of the Restoration he was exiled from the people to whom he had preached and from that time on he lived by his medical profession. His son John (who spelled his name Westley) studied at Oxford but was never an ordained minister because he refused to take the oath to conform "to the Prayer-Book and to the Church." He was jailed several times for laypreaching and in 1668 when he died at the age of forty-two the Vicar of Preston (where he died) forbade his burial in the church; however, his grave is in the church-yard. His son Samuel was the father of John and Charles Wesley.

Samuel Wesley entered Oxford at the age of sixteen and while a student there he visited prisoners and the neglected poor. "In fact, he set an example that his sons afterward did well to follow." When he left the University he went to London where he married Susanna Annesley, the daughter of a well-known Anglican minister of noble ancestry. Susanna's father, Samuel Annesley of the noble house of the Earl of Annesley, was Oxford-educated and Susanna was herself well educated when she married at twenty years of age. At the age of thirteen she had studied the controversy between the Church of England and the Dissenters; and, in spite of the fact that her father was a Dissenter, Susanna took the side of the Church. At the age of thirty she resolved to spend an hour each morning and evening in prayer and study.

Samuel was a curate in London until 1697 when he became rector of a church in the obscure village of Epworth in Lincolnshire. At this time Samuel and Susanna had six children.

Samuel Wesley was a very learned man and a prolific writer. Both Samuel and Susanna were evidently strong-willed individuals. John Wesley himself told the following anecdote about his parents:

One evening as he (Samuel) read prayers for the King, William III, Mrs. Wesley did not say Amen. He asked the reason. She did not believe that William had a right to be King. "We must part," said Mr. Wesley; "if we have two kings we must have two beds." Susanna was inflexible. Samuel left the house and did not return until after a year when William's death and the accession of Anne gave them a sovereign whom both acknowledged. Married life was then resumed as quietly, devoutly, and faithfully as if nothing had happened. The birth of John Wesley on June 17, 1703 firmly re-cemented the household.

Susanna and Samuel were the parents of nineteen children not all of whom lived to maturity. Susanna's training of these children was "methodical" as she in later days related to her son John. The first three months were to be spent by the infant mostly in sleep, three hours in the morning and three in the afternoon. At one year the child was taught to "cry softly." None ate or drank between meals and at eight o'clock they went to sleep. No study began until the child was five years old. Then six hours were allotted for learning the alphabet. The next task was to spell and read a chapter in Genesis. This was the beginning of the education of the Wesley children. Ten of them lived to adulthood and five became noted for "rare and brilliant endowments." John Wesley was called "Jack" or "Jacky" by his mother.

John Wesley was six years old when the parsonage at Epworth burned in 1709. All of the other seven children had escaped when John was seen at an upstairs window. A strong man lifted another man on his shoulders and John was taken from the window just before the roof collapsed. This event made a lasting impression on John Wesley. He felt that he had been "a brand plucked from the burning."

At the age of thirteen John left Epworth for Charterhouse School in London as preparation for Oxford. Charles (who was five years younger than John) at the age of eight years was sent to school at Westminster where his eldest brother Samuel was an usher. He was eighteen when he first went to Oxford. From this background it is obvious that John and Charles Wesley had always been Christian young men.

GEORGE WHITEFIELD

George Whitefield, who was destined to become a great orator, was born in Gloucester in 1714 and had come from a different back-

ground. He had led a worldly life in his youth yet he had some deep religious feelings. At fifteen years of age he was a waiter in a hotel. A copy of Kempis' "Imitation of Christ" fell into his hands and it touched his heart. He became extremely devout and was constant in prayers and fasting. He entered Oxford as a waiter and servant in order to get an education. His gift as an orator was soon recognized and his friendship with Charles Wesley gained him entrance into the "Holy Club."

THE WESLEYS' TRIP TO AMERICA

In October, 1735, John and Charles Wesley left England and came to America and the "Holy Club" at Oxford soon ceased to exist. General Oglethorpe had invited John to come as a missionary to the Indians in Georgia, and Charles came as secretary to the governor. Their visit was not a happy one and after a year Charles returned to England. John soon followed. George Whitefield had by this time become known as a flaming evangelist and John Wesley had written from Georgia asking him to come to America. Whitefield's ship leaving England and John Wesley's ship returning to England passed each other. Whitefield spent four months in continuous travel and returned to England. His trip had been more successful than that of the Wesleys.

John Wesley records that he had left his native land to teach the Indians Christianity; but, "What I myself learned meantime? What I least suspected—that I myself was never converted to God."

John Wesley's trip to America had one unforeseen result. On the ship coming to America there was a group of Moravians with their bishop. The ship was for them both a church and a school afloat. Even the children in the group had their part such as John had been accustomed to in his childhood in Epworth. "Here was proof of piety that touched Wesley's heart." John Wesley had noted that the Moravians were free from pride, anger and revenge. When a terrible storm came up and most of the passengers were in wild alarm the Germans sang calmly, showing that they were not afraid to die. This simple faith of the Moravians made a great impression on John Wesley and was the beginning of an association with the Moravians that had an effect on Methodism, because "Moravians directed the feet of both Wesleys into the way of peace."

It must be remembered that John Wesley was an ordained Anglican priest. It was living with these Georgia Moravians for a month that made him realize that there could be holy living without the strict observance of high church ritual.

Apparently this new idea did not carry over into his emotional life because he thought celibacy should be the life of a clergyman. In spite of this conviction he was attracted to women, but it was not until he was thirty-three years old that he became seriously involved in a romance in Savannah that affected his entire life. Here he fell in love with Sophia Hopkey who was eighteen years old at this time. Although in theory favoring celibacy for clergymen, this was forgotten when he was in her company. Finally, John Wesley resolved his conflict by casting lots. When the slip that he drew said, "Think of it no more," he was heartbroken. A year later he wrote that she had been the "one thing upon earth that I longed for."

Miss Hopkey rather immediately married someone else. John Wesley refused to admit her to communion and her new husband sued him for \$1,000 for ". . . defaming his wife . . ." It was soon after this fiasco that Wesley returned to England.

THE REAL CONVERSION OF CHARLES AND JOHN WESLEY

The real conversion of Charles Wesley came on May 21, 1738, and three days later on May 24, 1738, John's heart was "strangely warmed" at a religious society meeting at Aldersgate Street. This experience was a turning point in the life of John Wesley and the beginning of his emergence as a religious leader.

THE EARLIEST METHODIST MEETING PLACES

The earliest Methodist sermons were preached outdoors because churches were closed to the Wesleys and Whitefield. They preached to the poor. Among their practices which were contrary to the rules of the Church of England were: preaching without regard for parish bounds, preaching out of doors and in unconsecrated houses, preaching by laymen, building of preaching houses, establishing schools, organizing United Societies and substituting the singing of hymns for the Psalter.

"The Foundry" in 1739 was the first Methodist meeting place in London, having been given this name because it was an old building that had once been used for the casting of cannon. In addition to having a chapel this building became the headquarters of the Methodist movement and both John Wesley and his mother lived there. It was here that the first Methodist Conference was held on June 25, 1744.

George Whitefield "parted asunder" with John Wesley in the early 1740's although they remained life-long friends. Whitefield held the Calvinistic view about predestination while Wesley believed in the Arminium "freedom to choose or reject salvation." In 1769 Whitefield came to America for the last time, the seventh of his visits. He died in Newburyport, Massachusetts, in that same year and there he is buried.

JOHN WESLEY'S HOME LIFE

There is little said about John Wesley's home life. Susanna lived at The Foundry with him until her death July 23, 1742. Mrs. Grace Murray was in charge of Wesley's Orphan House at Newcastle for years and had been of much help in organizing societies for women in both England and Ireland. Wesley had hoped to marry her but she married someone else, although she and John Wesley were life-long friends. He married a lady of good character (Mrs. Vazeille) but the marriage was the mistake of his life. His wife soon left him and is seldom mentioned.

METHODISM SPREADS IN AMERICA

By 1769 there was a tiny community of Methodists in New York and soon thereafter Methodist "societies" had spread throughout the colonies. Francis Asbury arrived in Philadelphia on October 27, 1771, and remained in America for the rest of his life. In 1783 Dr. Thomas Coke was sent by John Wesley to America to help set up an autonomous church, and his visit resulted in the first Methodist Conference in Baltimore in 1784. A prayer book that had been prepared by John Wesley and was similar to that of the Church of England was adopted and American Methodism was born under the leadership of Coke and Asbury as "superintendents." The name Methodist Episcopal Church was adopted because the new church was Methodist in doctrine and Episcopal in organization. It was organized under bishops although it was not until 1787 that the title of superintendent was changed to bishop, much to the displeasure of John Wesley.

John Wesley died at the age of eighty-eight on March 2, 1791, (Charles had died three years earlier) and is buried in the little graveyard at the rear of Wesley's City Road Chapel in London, which had been built in 1777 near the site of The Foundry. In Westminster Abbey there is a monument to John and Charles Wesley.

John Wesley was the great organizer of the Methodist movement and Charles was the great hymn writer. Charles eventually wrote approximately 5,000 hymns among which are: "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," and "Oh, For a Thousand Tongues."

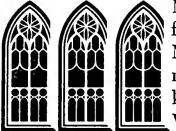
Francis Asbury traveled throughout the colonies until he died in Virginia on March 31, 1816. It was Asbury who shaped the fastdeveloping Methodist Church in America. When he came from England there were approximately 500 members of Methodist societies and when he died the societies had approximately 200,000 members in America.

That Bishop Asbury must have had a good sense of humor is shown in the following story. Presbyterians looked down their noses at the poorer Methodists. On one platform Asbury was between two Presbyterian clergymen when one said to Asbury, "I don't know whether you are a rascal or a rogue." Asbury replied, "At the moment I seem to be half-way between."

Bishop Asbury is buried in Baltimore, Maryland.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In 1828 or 1830 a group left the Methodist Episcopal Church and formed the Methodist Protestant Church. In 1844 the original church was again divided, this time over the issue of slavery; and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South came into being. It was not until 1939 that all three of these groups came back together to form The Methodist Church. In 1968 The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren combined to form today's United Methodist Church. METHODISM COMES TO MECKLENBURG COUNTY



Methodism came to North Carolina long before a Methodist "society" was organized in Mecklenburg County. The first Methodist sermon (and probably the first sermon of any kind) was preached by the Reverend George Whitefield in October, 1742, under a large pop-

lar tree on what is now the campus of Davidson College.

Mecklenburg County was larger then than now and the first settlers had arrived in the Rocky River community in 1732. [This area is now in Cabarrus County.] The earliest churches in the county were Presbyterian and the first of these was organized as the Rocky River Presbyterian Church in the early 1750's with the Reverend Hugh McAden as its leader. Definite records of this church begin in 1758 when the Reverend Alexander Craighead became minister of both the Rocky River Church and the Sugar Creek Church that had been organized in 1755. In the few years that followed six more Presbyterian churches came into existence in Mecklenburg County; but when the town of Charlotte was incorporated in 1768, there was no church of any denomination within the limits of the town.

HARRISON METHODIST CHURCH (1785)

The first Methodist church in Mecklenburg County, or certainly the first one still in existence, was Harrison Church whose actual records going back to 1815 are in existence and are still in good condition. From these records it is evident that the Harrison Society existed prior to this time. The date accepted by the present Harrison Church is 1785 for its beginnings. This church is on the southern border of Mecklenburg County near the town of Pineville, North Carolina.

Pineville is actually on the North Carolina-South Carolina state line and the Harrison congregation was in the Santee Circuit of the South Carolina Conference which was organized in 1785. The society met in a brush arbor for twenty years before having a church building. There were few families in this church and James David Jonathan and Daniel Mills are regarded as founders of this society. "Uncle Jonathan" was the licensed exhorter and "Uncle Daniel" was the class leader. The P.C. (pastor-in-charge) or his assistant would visit a church in the circuit every two or three weeks and the "exhorters" within the local societies would hold services in the absence of the P.C. Nothing is known about the first preacher-incharge in the Santee Circuit in 1786.

The church building was finally constructed between 1805 and 1815. During this period Harrison was part of the Wateree Circuit of South Carolina. The land was donated by Harrison Hood who, although he was a Presbyterian, was in favor of the church being established in the community. He not only gave the land but furnished most of the logs, lumber and slave labor to help erect the church. It was a log building about thirty feet wide and forty feet long. There was a pulpit at one end and the benches were made of split slabs.

In 1809 the circuit membership consisted of 498 whites and 124 blacks. In 1811 James Jenkins was one of the pastors in this circuit. In 1815 quarterly conference records began and Harrison was now in the Sugar Creek Circuit of North Carolina. William B. Barnett was the pastor-in-charge. In 1834 the charge name was changed to the Charlotte Circuit. In 1815 this resolution was adopted: "Resolved, that a collection be taken up in each society in this circuit to pay for a Book to keep its own Church Records, according to Discipline." [Editor's note: Oh that such a book could be found for the earliest Methodist church in the town of Charlotte!]

Although Harrison was the first Methodist Church in Mecklenburg County it had no part in the establishment of the Methodist Church within the town of Charlotte. There are several theories regarding the name of Harrison for this church, but the most probable one is that it was named for Harrisons who were living in the community in the latter part of the 18th century. George Washington's diary reveals that on May 28, 1791, he had breakfast at Harrison's before going on to Charlotte thirteen miles farther.

In the early years of the twentieth century Dr. J. B. Alexander, who was then an old man, wrote a history of Mecklenburg County and Charlotte from his own recollections and from what he had been told as a child. This is the comment that Dr. Alexander made about the early Methodists in the Charlotte area:

As the Presbyterian Church pre-occupied and held full possession of this county and Providence Church had been organized in 1765, and every family that was able to have horses and vehicles attended Providence, and only those who were too poor to have these conveyances attended Harrison, the old log meeting house, as it was then called, and the new methods of Methodism were regarded scornfully, the best of society were ashamed to be seen at Harrison.

BUCK HILL CHURCH (1815)

The following sketch, written by the Reverend William Martin of the South Carolina Conference, appeared in the Southern Christian Advocate on June 30, 1887, and was read by the pastor of Tryon Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Dr. W. S. Creasy, at the opening of the newly remodeled Tryon Street Church in March of 1892. Buck Hill, the place referred to, was about seven miles northwest of Charlotte off the Beattie's Ford Road near the present Trinity United Methodist Church. There is no trace of the old Buck Hill Church left today.

That grand and beautiful picture drawn by Dr. Carlisle in his Sunday School lesson for June 26th of the gathering of the tribes of Israel in the wilderness for the purpose of erecting a house of worship, "of all those who had a willing heart to work," reminded me vividly of a scene which I personally witnessed threescore and twelve years ago, viz., 1815. It occurred in a section of country where Methodism had hitherto been unknown, at a small log cottage, the humble home of a poor widowwoman, whose heart, like Lydia's, the Lord had opened to receive his messengers.

The Reverend Wm. B. Barnett, of the Sugar Creek Circuit of the South Carolina Conference, was the preacher. Mr. Barnett had been preaching in this cottage some two or three months, once in three weeks, as he passed round on his circuit, and his congregation had increased until it was no longer convenient to worship in that humble home of the widow, and the question now was, "What shall we do?"

The people were too poor, or thought themselves too poor, to attempt building a church. But the preacher had been a pioneer elsewhere, and was accustomed to expedients, so he requested that at his next appointment everybody in the neighborhood who desired him to continue preaching there should be present and they would see what could be done. He had a plan in view by which he believed they could build a "meeting house." [Editorial comment: We took the liberty of paragraphing this quoted material.]

Well, at the time appointed a large congregation met him, and after preaching, Mr. Barnett said: "Now, I wish to know how many are willing to work two or three days. We want no money, we want workers, willing workers."

The good widow said: "Mr. Barnett, I can't work much, but I will give a lot of land to build on and trees for logs to build the house." Two men said: "We will furnish teams to do the hauling." Another said: "I will furnish planks for the floor, door and pulpit, and also slabs to make benches." Others cheerfully agreed to do the work of chopping, building, etc.

So, on the day appointed, those of willing hearts and strong arms gathered in crowds on "Buck Hill" and went to work—some to cutting down trees, some to riving boards with which to cover the house (no shingles), others to hauling, others to notching and rearing the walls, and others again, among whom was this present writer, then a lad of eight years, were employed in clearing away the brush and bringing water to the laborers, while the good women were busy providing food for them.

And so the work went swiftly on, until in a very few days there stood the simple log house, covered with oak boards about four feet long, riven with a crowbar, and held to their place by what were called weight poles (no nails). The house had one door, part of a log was cut out at each side and in rear of the pulpit for windows (no glass). The whole establishment did not cost five dollars.

In that humble house a Methodist society was soon organized, that same widow-woman leading the way. Dr. D. R. Dunlap, of precious memory, was appointed class leader, which office he held until a society, which grew out of this, was formed in Charlotte, his home, to which he was transferred. And so from this small beginning of willing hearts in that widow-woman's humble home sprang the present large and beautiful church, with its prosperous congregation, in the city of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Mr. Martin did not mean that Buck Hill became Tryon Street Methodist Church because Buck Hill became the present Trinity United Methodist Church on Beattie's Ford Road, although the original Buck Hill Church was about one mile southwest of the present day church. Dr. Dunlap, however, became one of the founders of the earliest Methodist church in the city of Charlotte and that town church became the grandparent of today's First United Methodist Church.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODISM COMES TO CHARLOTTE

MEMOIRS OF THE REVEREND JAMES JENKINS (1842)



In the preceding chapter it was mentioned that in 1811 the Reverend James Jenkins was a preacher in the circuit to which Harrison Church belonged. In 1842, now an old man, Mr. Jenkins came to a conference in Charlotte and wrote an account of what he had learned

about the introduction of Methodism into Charlotte. His writing gives such a clear picture of conditions at that time that much of it is included here in spite of the fact that there is some repetition about the founding of the church at Buck Hill.

.... While in Charlotte I received the following account of the introduction of Methodism into that place, which I here submit with no essential alteration. [This is Mr. Jenkins' punctuation and not that of the editorial committee.]

In the year 1814, a Dr. David Dunlap, passing through Mecklenburg County in quest of a suitable place to commence the practice of medicine, called on the Reverend Samuel Craighead Caldwell, a Presbyterian clergyman and a first cousin; who, upon ascertaining the doctor's object, advised and urged him to settle in Charlotte; it being the most eligible stand in that part of the country, and then, comparatively, unoccupied. The doctor alleged the impropriety of placing himself in the midst of a Presbyterian community, for having become a Methodist, he would exert what influence he might have in procuring Methodist preaching in the place. To this the clergyman replied jestingly, if he did he would oppose him, doubtless feeling himself perfectly secure in his stronghold, which consisted in the almost unbounded influence at that time exercised over three congregations of which he had the pastoral charge, and all living within twelve or fifteen miles of Charlotte, completely surrounding it.

The doctor understood this reply as a jest, and had no doubt, that if the clergyman should oppose him, it would be in a friendly manner. He therefore took his advice, and located himself in Charlotte, in the month of April, 1814. For some months he encountered no difficulties; his prospects were constantly brightening; but some time in the summer the Rev. William Terry, a local preacher, then of Fayetteville, N. C. on his return from the west, came to Charlotte on Saturday evening, and hearing at the tavern that Dr. Dunlap, an old acquaintance, had moved to the place, he went to his house to spend the Sabbath; and upon his agreeing to preach, notice was given to the community. A large congregation assembled at the appointed hour, and listened to the first Methodist sermon ever preached in Charlotte or its vicinity. The discourse was accompanied with power, producing general feeling and many tears; all of which, however, were soon wiped away.

Not long after, the Reverend Jonathan Jackson, on his way from Lincoln County, then his residence, to Wadesborough, came on Saturday, spent the Sabbath, and preached to a considerable congregation in the Court House, there being no church in the place at that time for any denomination, nor for some years after. The people were serious, solemn, and attentive, and appeared well pleased. Now it was that the Rev. Samuel Craighead Caldwell took alarm, and began his opposition in good earnest. After a few days he called on the doctor, and said many harsh things, assuring him he was no longer his friend, but would oppose him in every way he could. In this he was as good as his word; he went through his congregations, from house to house, warning them to have nothing to do with Dr. Dunlap, saying he was a dangerous man, etc; and at the same time recommending a Dr. McKenzie, an avowed infidel, and the only opponent with whom Dr. Dunlap had to contend. In consequence of his influence, thus exerted, the doctor was entirely shut out from practice in the bounds of his congregations, until God, in his providence, opened the way.

Toward the close of the year, as well as my memory serves, old Mr. William Fincher, a local preacher from the lower part of the county, visited the town, and spent the night with the doctor. Before bed-time he went to prayer with the family (then living in the densest part of the town) and having a very strong voice, and becoming warm in his devotions—a servant woman at the same time shouting loudly—produced considerable alarm; the neighbours went running from all parts, rushed first to the windows, and at length burst open the doors and entered, until the room was filled. All appeared lost in astonishment; yet said but little. This put the stamp of fanaticism on the doctor and his family, and well nigh banished them from respectable society.

Sometime previous to Dr. Dunlap's settling in Charlotte, several of the most pious and respectable families belonging to one of the Reverend Samuel Craighead Caldwell's congregations had been denied the privileges of the church for attending a camp meeting, and communing with the Rev. W. C. Davis, a clergyman who had withdrawn from the Presbyterian connection some time before, and was then preaching independently of their authority. These families were required to make a public acknowledgement of their crime before they could be restored; but not being conscious of having done wrong, (believing Mr. Davis to be a good man) they would not give the satisfaction required; and, consequently, were still without the pale of the church. The noise which now began to be made in Charlotte about Methodism attracted their attention, and one of them, a Mrs. Martin, mother of the present Rev. William Martin, now of Columbia, visited the doctor and his family, with whom she spent the night, using the occasion to inquire into the doctrines and usages of the Methodists. These were explained to her satisfaction, and before she left, she extorted a promise from the doctor to visit her, and hold a prayer meeting in her house, which he did shortly afterward. These prayer meetings were continued, and attended by the above-mentioned excommunicated families, and laid the foundation of a Methodist Society, about seven miles north of Charlotte. The Rev. Samuel Harrison who had located about fifteen miles below Charlotte, by request, preached once a month to as many as pleased to hear him. At Mrs. Martin's a small society was raised, and the congregation increased, until it was determined to build a church, which was done by the assistance of neighbours and friends, and called Buck Hill;--this name having been formerly given to the hill on which it was built.

The first that joined the church at this place were the above-named persons, who had been denied the privileges of the Presbyterian Church. Seeing Methodism thus introduced into their midst, the Rev. Samuel Craighead Caldwell advised them to return to the mother church, and professed a willingness to receive them without acknowledgements. This invitation they refused to accept, professing to be perfectly satisfied with their change, and willing to bear the reproach of Methodism.

About that same time that the little society at Buck Hill was forming, several members belonging to the Presbyterians and seceders, in a neighborhood four or five miles distant, went to market; and somewhere on the waters of Black River they passed a Methodist camp meeting. Curiosity prompted them to stop, and hear for themselves. They did hear, and became convinced that there was a power in religion which they had never felt. On their return home they instituted a prayer meeting, and being entire strangers to Methodist economy, they stirred up some others to join them and raised a subscription to procure a Methodist preacher to labour with them. They were, however, told that Methodist preaching was not to be obtained by hire. Accordingly, application was made to the said Samuel Harrison, who preached to them also once a month, and shortly afterward formed a little society there.

These two societies being formed (in addition to a few in other parts of the country, which formerly belonged to Lincoln circuit) the conference thought proper to form a new circuit, making the Catawba River the dividing line between the aforementioned circuit and the one embracing the above-named places, which was called Sugar Creek Circuit. The Rev. William B. Barnett was the first preacher sent, who preached at each place once in two weeks. In passing round he came through Charlotte, and made it one of his appointments. This was opening the wound afresh. Regular preaching had continued but a short time in the village by Mr. Barnett, when Dr. Samuel Craighead Caldwell made an appointment to preach on the same day, and invited his congregations from the country to attend: a large number attended; and though Mr. Barnett and the doctor were immediately in Mr. Caldwell's way as he passed on to preach, he spoke to neither, but went directly on the platform and preached on the imputed righteousness of Christ. After finishing his sermon, (before the benediction) he observed to the congregation, that he had understood there was an appointment there for Methodist preaching on that day, and he wished to let them know what he thought of these people. Said he, "So far as I am concerned, I am determined to have no communication or intercourse with them, for these reasons: First, Because they deny imputed righteousness of Christ; Secondly, Because they deny the decrees of God; and, Thirdly, Because they vilify the Presbyterians wherever they go." Further, "if they were Presbyterians, to be Presbyterians, and have nothing to do with the Methodists, who were a sneaking lot; sneaking into every nook and corner, breaking up congregations, etc." As soon as he had dismissed the assembly Mr. Barnett rose and observed, that after a short interval he would preach to as many as chose to hear him. Mr. Caldwell left immediately, doubtless expecting, or hoping the congregation would follow his example. In this, however, he was mistaken: they expected a controversial sermon, and curiosity induced them to stay and hear what the babbler had to say.

After a short time Mr. Barnett took the stage, and observed to the people, that they no doubt expected a reply to Brother Caldwell's observations respecting Methodists; in this they should be disappointed: his business was to preach the gospel for the salvation of sinners, and not to make proselytes. And observed further, that if any person wished to know the doctrines and usages of the Methodist Church, their books were abroad in the land, could be easily procured, and examined deliberately at their leisure. In his first prayer he appeared fervently to pray, that the preceding labours of the day by Brother Caldwell, so far as consistent with God's word and will, should be sanctified to the good of those who heard. This being done, he preached a very excellent gospel sermon, on Acts X: 34, 35, to a deeply attentive congregation.

The difference in the spirit of the two preachers was so manifest, as to elicit many observations favourable to Methodism. The same evening one of Mr. Caldwell's elders was heard to say, that he had a good will never to hear him (Mr. Caldwell) preach again, in consequence of the spirit manifested on that occasion. This day's work may be said to have laid the first corner-stone of Methodism in Charlotte; seeing it so far removed prejudice, as to induce the people to hear, and judge for themselves. All this served but to enrage the parson the more; and thicker and heavier blows were aimed by him at the head of the poor doctor, (who warded them off with as much patience as possible) until his (Mr. Caldwell's) own people condemned him for his improper and uncharitable temper; so much so, that had it not been for the extra exertions of a few of his particular friends, he would have been dismissed from his congregations for want of support—a number refusing to subscribe anything for his preaching.

Shortly after this he (Mr. Caldwell) was attacked violently with acute rheumatism; and after suffering excessively for several days, he sent for Dr. Dunlap one morning in haste. He went, and after the common salutations, he began, "Cousin David, I have been rolling and tossing all night like a wild bull in a net, and wondering what object the Lord could have in view in afflicting me so severely; at last I concluded, it was to learn (sic) me patience. Until last night I thought I had patience, but then found I had it yet to learn." He paused, and the doctor expressed a hope, that if the Lord had brought him so far on the list, he would carry him through before he was done with him. He immediately asked, what list? Though afraid of giving offense, the doctor saw no way of retreat, and replied, that St. Peter, in his second epistle, exhorted us to add to our "faith, virtue, diligence, patience, etc." He (Mr. Caldwell) at once saw the bearing, and felt its force. Both remained silent for some time, and the subject was dropped.

But this most fortunate hit produced an entire change in his conduct ever afterward: he used to tell the anecdote himself merrily, and observe, that he had never received so pointed and so appropriate a reproof in his life.

After the Presbyterians had their prejudices sufficiently removed to hear the Methodists, the first-fruits appeared among them. Previous to this it had been a general custom, as the young people grew up, they went forward and joined the church, and partook of its ordinances; but never appeared to think that they were thereby laid under any obligations to forsake their old customs and habits. Their conduct seemed to say, that a name in the church was all the religion the Bible required. Hence every fashionable vice was tolerated in the church. Dancing was an innocent amusement, swearing was manly, and drunkenness common. The writer of this sketch has repeatedly seen the elders of the church reeling in the streets, under the influence of ardent spirits. Experimental religion, as preached by the Methodists, began to arrest attention: many jested and made light of it; but notwithstanding, it had a gradual influence on the public mind, and soon rendered those habits unpopular, at least among professors.

If the memory of the writer serves him correctly, the first class was formed in Charlotte in the latter part of the year 1818, composed of two male, and four or five female members. Soon afterwards it was attempted to build a house of worship, and though the building was not entirely completed, it served as a place of worship for a number of years.

From this small beginning, the influence of Methodism has spread, until, with its doctrines at least, it has leavened the greater part of the lump: and though there have been fightings without, and fears within, we can raise our Ebenezer and say, "Hitherto the Lord hath been our helper."

THE EARLIEST METHODIST CHURCH IN THE TOWN OF CHARLOTTE

The town of Charlotte was incorporated in the year 1768. Although some graves in the Old Settlers' Cemetery are older than 1819 it was in this year that the cemetery was established and the first church within the town limits was begun on the site of today's First Presbyterian Church. This church, completed in 1823 and sometimes referred to as "the brick church," was a community church used by all denominations until it was taken over by the Presbyterians in 1835. Dr. Dunlap was a member of the Town Commissioners and was instrumental in the building of this community church.

The year 1832 is the generally accepted date for the first Methodist church to be built within the town limits of Charlotte although the deed for the church property on the northeast corner of North College Street and East Seventh Street is dated January 5, 1833.

In 1955 the Western North Carolina Conference Historical Society met in annual session in Charlotte and G. W. Bumgarner gave the historical address. He said, "In 1832 the Methodists built a neat and comfortable house of worship on Seventh Street."

In the *Miner's and Farmer's Journal*, March 30, 1833, the following notice appeared:

Notice. Stolen from out of my Hat in time of service, at the Methodist Church, on Sunday night, the 10 th inst. a large Silk Handkerchief. The only particular marks recollected are one or two black circles in the middle. If the scoundrel will return the article in the course of the next week and fasten it upon Colonel John Sloan's door latch, I will not proceed against him—otherwise he must suffer the penalties of the law.

R. N. Robbins

Charlotte, March 28, 1833

In the same paper for June 22, 1833, there is an advertisement on sale of lots. One of these is "Lot #365 on Methodist Street."

In 1834 when the pastor was David J. Allen, the Methodist Church membership consisted of 81 whites and 115 blacks.

However, bits and pieces of information from old records indicate that there might have been a Methodist church building in Charlotte in the 1820's. Recall that the Reverend James Jenkins said that the first class was formed in 1818 and "soon thereafter it was attempted to build a church and though it wasn't completed it served as a place of worship for years." [Editor's note: This might have been the 1819 community church.]

From *Quarterly Conference Minutes*, April 20, 1822:

Proceed to appoint trustees to build a church in Charlotte. The following were appointed, viz. Dr. D. Dunlap, Caleb Norwood, Jeb Cannon, Jacob Hill, William McKee. [Editor's note: This would not refer to the community church because that was begun in 1819.]

The Catawba Journal was the first Charlotte newspaper. An advertisement in the Catawba Journal, December 15, 1824, says:

A Bargain

Any person desirous to settle in the village of Charlotte, North Carolina, and save the trouble and expense of building, will do well to call on the subscriber, who offers for sale his house and lot on terms to please a purchaser, viz: — three front lots and two back, lying in the Sandy Hollow, and adjoining William Lacky's land; also, two lots, the front on Broad Street, and back lot, *adjoining the Methodist Church*, — Also, a two story dwelling-house on Broad Street situated a few rods northeast from the Court-House, with two lots. On the premises are an excellent cellar, kitchen, Smoke-house, Barn, Stables, and every other necessary outbuilding.

Edward W. Bronson

[Editorial comment: In the early newspapers Tryon Street is often referred to as Broad Street.]

In the church archives there is an interesting letter. In 1905 Mrs. Rachel Holton wrote the letter to Dr. T. F. Marr who was then pastor of Tryon Street Methodist Church. In the letter she described Charlotte as it was in 1829 when she and her husband Thomas J. Holton came to Charlotte to live. They bought and published the Catawba Journal but soon (1830) changed its name to the Miner's and Farmer's Journal. After Mr. Holton's death in 1861 Mrs. Holton continued to publish the paper for some years. She was a member of Tryon Street Methodist Church. In her letter she says:

There was but one church and it still stands there. . . . Tryon Street was the principal street and cattle roamed around it pretty freely . . . It was a long time before a church was built. It was a wooden one. The colored people bought the place and are now preaching there.

This letter was written by Mrs. Holton when she was in her nineties. It is a little confusing but can be interpreted to say that the community church (now First Presbyterian) was the only church in town in 1829 and that the Methodist Church on the corner of North College and East Seventh Streets was built "a long time" later than 1829. Definitely, she tells us that the first Methodist church was built of wood.

We have nothing else about the Methodist church until shortly before a new church was built on North Tryon Street. *The North Carolina Whig* for May 5, 1857, reports that:

A protracted meeting commenced on Sunday last at the Methodist Church... the Presbyterians are waking up and there is every prospect of a gracious outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord on that church also... Lord revive us, all our help must come from Thee.

And on May 12, 1857, in that same Charlotte newspaper we find:

The meeting that commenced in the Methodist E. Church on the 3 rd instant is still in progress and there are indications of the commencement of a glorious revival in that church. God grant it.

DR. DAVID R. DUNLAP



Much has already been said about Dr. David R. Dunlap who may be considered to be the founder of Methodism in Charlotte. He was born in Anson County and came to Charlotte to live in 1814. His tombstone says, "He departed this life on Sunday, the 8th of Decem-

ber, 1861 aged 84 years, 2 months, 2 days" so he must have been born October 6, 1777.

Dr. Dunlap was married three times. He first married Charlotte Jennings and after her death he married her sister Mary. The father of the Jennings girls was president of a school in Wadesboro, North Carolina. It has been said that this marriage to the sister of his first wife caused Dr. Dunlap to be expelled from the Presbyterian Church and become a Methodist. How could this be true when the Dunlap monument in the Old Settler's Cemetery in Charlotte says that Charlotte J. Dunlap "died October 25, 1815, aged 24 years" and it was in 1815 that Dr. Dunlap was involved in the founding of the Buck Hill Methodist Society? From this it would seem that he was a Methodist before he married the sister of his first wife.

Dr. Dunlap's second wife was Mary J. Dunlap and they were married only a few years after the death of his first wife. A son aged 8 months died October 31, 1820. Mary J. Dunlap died in 1848 and Dr. Dunlap then married Polly Lowrie. Both Mrs. Polly Dunlap and her sister Mrs. Brawley Oates were influential members of the early Methodist Church in the town of Charlotte.

On the Dunlap monument are the names of a son by the first marriage, who had died at the age of 33 years, and four other children, the oldest of these being five years old. Polly Lowrie Dunlap had a daughter named Harriet K. who married Dr. Edmund Jones of Morganton and after his death married Colonel T. H. Brem of Charlotte.

According to a History of Mecklenburg County Medicine by Dr.

Charles M. Strong (1929), Dr. Dunlap was "a large, fleshy, jovial, and popular man" and was referred to as "the Falstaff of the profession." This description does not fit the picture of Dr. Dunlap that came from Dr. J. B. Alexander's *History of Mecklenburg County* (1902).

Dr. Strong's history continues:

He (Dr. Dunlap) was not only a successful physician, but was accredited as the founder of Methodism in this part of the State. Dr. Dunlap and Dr. D. C. Caldwell ran a preceptor school preparing young medicos for medical college. Among the number were Drs. C. J. Fox and Robert Gibbon, the latter a gifted surgeon, father of our own Robert. He and Dr. Fox were the only surgeons in this part of the country.

Dr. Dunlap was an influential Charlotte citizen and old deeds show that he owned a considerable amount of property both in town and in the surrounding area. In October, 1844, he gave as security for a debt to his brother-in-law Brawley Oates:

7 lots in Town of Charlotte known as the present and former residence of the said Dunlap situated on Trade Street opposite the residence of Peter M. Brown with all improvements . . . and also the following negroes: Cherry age 40, Charlotte age 22, Sarah age 16, Hannah age 8, Isham age 50, and Ulises age 4.

Since the Peter Marshall Brown home was on the northeast corner of Caldwell and East Trade Streets, this indicates that the Dunlap home would have been on the south side of East Trade Street between Caldwell and Davidson Streets.

Also, in the settling of Dr. Dunlap's estate after his death we find in *The Daily Bulletin*:

December 17, 1861. I will sell at the plantation of Dr. David R. Dunlap, deceased, about 3 miles south of Charlotte, on Monday the 5 th of January next, the following property, viz:

3 horses; 3 mules; 12 or 14 head of cattle, among them, several good milch cows, 27 head of pork hogs, now being fattened for bacon; 5 or 6 breeding sows, and 18 or 20 hogs in range; 500 or 600 bushels of corn; 7 stacks of fodder; 1 four horse wagon and gearing; several plows and other farming tools; 1 threshing machine and gearing; 1 wheat tan; 1 straw cutter and corn sheller. Also about 25 or 30 acres of growing crops of wheat and oates, together with other articles.

Terms made known on day of sale.

Sam'l J. Lowrie, Ex'r of D. A. Dunlap, deceased.

December 14, 1861. I will rent at the Court House door on the 1 st of January, the plantation lately belonging to said deceased lying about 10 miles North-West of Charlotte, on the Beaties Ford Road, for the ensuing year. The plantation is in good repair, about 100 acres of good land for cultivation. There is a small but comfortable house on the premises.

Sam'l J. Lowrie

Dr. Dunlap's obituary was printed in the Southern Christian Advocate January 30, 1862:

... In the death of this venerable and godly man, our common Methodism has lost an ardent supporter, and the church in Charlotte one who fostered its infancy and was devoted to its interests to the day of his death. He was the first to secure the services of a Methodist preacher at this place, and for more than forty years he watched the varying fortunes of the church of his choice with constant solicitude, and gave the full weight of his influence to every measure which in his judgement would promote its prosperity.

... His resignation to the will of God was illustrated by a remark to his pastor, during his last interview with him — "I don't think I have any desire to die, and I am very sure I have no anxiety to live. I can leave the matter entirely with my Heavenly Father."

CHAPTER FIVE

TRYON STREET METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH (1859-1896)



In Charlotte's earliest Methodist church blacks and whites had worshipped together; but when a new church was built in 1859 on the southwest corner of North Tryon Street and West Sixth Street, the blacks requested that they remain in the old church. Later, the old

church property was sold to the Lutherans who in turn sold it to black Presbyterians. This site on the northeast corner of North College and East Seventh streets is today (1983) occupied by the First United Presbyterian Church.

TRYON STREET METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

The cornerstone of the first Tryon Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South building was laid August 17, 1859. The Western Democrat for August 23, 1859, says:

The corner-Stone of the new Methodist Church edifice was laid last Wednesday by the Masonic Fraternity,* Daniel Coleman, Esq. officiating. The address by Mr. Wrightman was very appropriate. He spoke without manuscript, and the chaste and beautiful thoughts embodied in the Address couched in elegant language, together with the manner and delivery of the speaker, were captivating.

Until the cornerstone of this first Tryon Street Methodist church building was opened in 1891 there were no records of charter members of this church. *The Charlotte Chronicle*, May 17, 1891, gives an account of the opening of this 1859 cornerstone and tells of its contents. According to the article there was a copy of *The Western Democrat*, May 26, 1857, William J. Yates, editor, and E. A. Yates, associate editor. The Chronicle article says that a paper on

*Phalanx Lodge. At this time the Reverend E. J. Meynardie pastor (1857-1859) was the Grand Chaplain of this lodge. which was written interesting facts in regard to the building of the church and the membership was so badly disfigured that it was with difficulty that any of the facts and names could be obtained. In the list of members of the church many of the names were totally obliterated. However, the following was legible:

M. E. Church, South, Charlotte, N. C. August 17, 1859.

Presiding Elder, Wadesboro District, S. H. Browne, Preacher in Charge, Charlotte, E. J. Meynardie.

Stewards of Charlotte Station, E. H. Andrews, Chas. Wilson, T. J. Holton, Dr. D. R. Dunlap, E. A. Yates, R. W. Beckwith.

Superintendent Sunday School, Samuel Wolfe.

Superintendent Colored Members, E. H. Andrews.

Trustees of the church, Emmor Graham, E. H. Andrews, C. Wilson, B. M. Blair, J. M. Sanders.

The church edifice Building committee, E. H. Andrews, Thomas H. Brem, James M. Sanders.

Architect, E. H. Saurs of Charlotte.

Carpenter, Jonas Rudisill.

In the list of the church members that follows note that the name of no church officer is repeated.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF TRYON STREET METHODIST CHURCH 1859

Andrews, Catharine Andrews, Sarah A. Ballard, Nancy Ballard, Noah Badger, Jane Beckwith, Virginia Bernhardt, Mary Berryhill, Elizabeth Berryhill, Harriet Berryhill, Harriet Berryhill, Mary A. N. Blalock, I. H. Brem, Harriet N. Byerly, David A. Byerly, Jane Chapman, Elizabeth Chapman, Hannah Colbert, Sarah Cross, Wealthy Ann Cruse, Henry	Davidson, Mary Jane Eagle, Mary Ervin, Andrew Eberhardt, Charles Eberhardt, Charles Eberhardt, Elizabeth Frazier, Virginia Gibson, Charles Gibson, Mary Graham, Lizzie Graham, Teresa Gray, Henry H. Gray, James Hill, Mary Holton, Eliza Holton, Harrison Holton, Rachel Howell, Chaney F. Jordan, Sarah Ann Kidd, Christina	Ledwell, Thomas McClure, Sidney McGilvary, Caroline Owens, Jane E. Phelan, Ann Phillips, Jane Propst, Henry Propst, Maria Rigler, George Rudisill, Elizabeth Rudisill, Jonas Smith, Dova Smith, Dova Smith, Lydia Stevens, Rebecca Todd, Robert L. Wilson, Mary E. Windle, R. Wriston, Louise
Cruse, Henry	Kidd, Christina	
Cruse, Mary E.	Ledwell, David	

We have been unable to find a picture of this 1859 building. The earliest item that has been found about this church is in *The North Carolina Whig*, October 23, 1860:

... The Rev. F. A. Mood, Presiding Elder of Lincolnton District, will preach a sermon in the basement of the new Methodist Church on Friday the 26 instant, that day having been set apart by the Methodist denomination of this place as a day of Fasting and Prayer in reference to the present state of our National affairs

THE CHURCH BELL

In reading old Charlotte newspapers, by November of 1860 one can sense the gathering war clouds. *The Western Democrat* for May 6, 1862 notes that:

The Methodist, Episcopal, Baptist, and Lutheran churches had given their bells to the government . . . They were removed last week and broken up for shipment to Richmond, where a battery of guns will be immediately prepared for Capt. Brem of this place.

Note that there is no mention of the Presbyterian Church bell having been sent. This Presbyterian Church bell was old, having been purchased in 1825.

The Charlotte Daily Observer for April 29, 1873, states that:

The new bell for the Presbyterian Church arrived yesterday from the North and was conveyed to the churchyard. Its weight is 811 pounds. The old bell of the Presbyterian Church is now used for the Town Clock in the steeple of the Methodist Church where it was placed during the war. It was the only bell in the city that was not sacrificed for the Confederate cause. The new bell will be the first one that has been placed in the Presbyterian Church since the war.

Sometime between 1874 and 1896 the old bell was removed from the steeple of the Methodist Church to a tower behind the courthouse which from 1845 to 1897 was on the northeast corner of West Trade and North Church Streets. An 1891 newspaper article tells us that "the front part of the Methodist church was built (rebuilt?) in 1884" so this would seem to be a likely date for the moving of the bell.

According to Elizabeth Williams, historian of Charlotte's First

Presbyterian Church, when the First Ward School was built in 1900–1901 the old bell was moved there where it stayed until 1943 when it was returned to the First Presbyterian church.

In the late 1930's Mrs. J. A. Yarbrough wrote an article entitled "Three Famous Old Bells of Charlotte Preserved." One of these was the one that is described above, another was the fire bell that is now on the firemen's lot in Elmwood Cemetery, and the third is the bell that now hangs in the tower of the educational building of First United Methodist Church.

EARLY RECORDS IN THE CHURCH ARCHIVES

One of the oldest records in the church archives is a large *Register* of Members published for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South in 1857. This book has spaces for name, how and when received, class, how and when disposed of, and remarks. There is no space for address.

A list of pastors in the church archives says that W. C. Power and C. E. Long were pastors 1865–1866 but a note in this Church Register signed by William C. Power himself says that he was pastor 1866–1867. The first page of this book says:

Note*

The leaves confined together contain the record of members on this Station to the 19th of November 1867 --- at which time the roll was copied : See new roll.

> William C. Power Pastor 1866–1867

Working with a magnifying glass in good light one can decipher most of the names copied by Mr. Power in 1867. From the number of people who joined the church in the early 1860's, some idea of the rapid growth of the Tryon Street church is evident. From the number of deaths during this same time it would seem that many of the charter members of this church were well up in years. One gets an impression of the pastor himself from the remarks that he made about some of the church members. Near the end of 1867 the church had approximately 306 members.

* Mr. Power liked "squiggly" lines.

One wonders if the pastor had the power to expel church members or if there was a "trial" and, if so, by whom. Not mentioning names [because we might be talking about someone's ancestor] here are the reasons given for expelling certain church members: "Expelled 1867 for keeping a drinking saloon; expelled for drinking 1867; has left the country under a cloud 1866; withdrawn under evil report 1867; expelled 1867 for neglect of duty; she was disreputable; expelled for adultery 1867; expelled for dancing 1867; withdrawn under censure; removed without certificate 1860 [was about to be cited for trial when he left]; stricken off in 1867."

Other reasons are given for the loss of church members in the copying of this 1867 list. Among them are: "Joined the Baptists, was led off by one; withdrew to go to the circus; in the army; dead [there are several of these]; gone to the country [there are several of these]; has taken work in the S. C. Conference; wife done with him."

One interesting reason for several people leaving the church in 1866 "without certificate" was "No certificate to be had. Church in the hands of the enemy."

From reading the above, Mr. Power does not seem to be a very likeable person but some entries are different from those cited. Among these are: two members were described as "good girls"; one was a "refugee"; "Is a small boy. Look after him"; and there are several "Aged and infirm. Look after."

In 1866 the trustees of the Tryon Street Methodist Church were: Col. Calvin M. Ray, Chairman; Josiah Asbury, Alexander Berryhill, Dan'l H. Byerly, James G. McCorkle, Jonas Rudisill, T. C. Smith, Charles Wilson, and M. L. Wriston.

In 1867 some members of Tryon Street left to join the Calvary Mission which had been established is 1865. Loss of members to other Methodist churches has always been true of this church. The Methodist church was a "missionary" church and this earliest Methodist church in Charlotte might be considered to be the mother church of all of the older Methodist churches in Charlotte.

The church roll was recopied in this Church Registry by each new preacher in very poor handwriting and with ink that has nearly faded out so that reading is difficult. On these rolls we begin to find names that today's older members will remember. An example is the name of Miss Sallie Bethune which first appears on the 1872 roll.

In 1882 the pastor was J. T. Bagwell (1880–1884) and his list is beautifully done in shaded Spencerian script and the ink is unfaded. In his list there are no remarks indicating that anyone was dismissed from the church. The last list in this book goes through 1888 and the book also contains a record of infant baptisms from 1881–1888.

The Methodist General Conference of 1890 ordered that the following resolution be inserted in the Appendix to the Methodist Discipline:

606. Resolved. That inasmuch as the deliverances of our Bishops, as contained in their quadrennial addresses to the General Conference from time to time, and as quoted at length by the Special Committee of Fifteen, have declared dancing, theater going, card playing and the like worldly indulgences to be contrary to the spirit of Christianity and violative of the General Rules and moral discipline of our Church as also of the vows of our Church members, we, therefore, heartily indorse the aforesaid deliverances as containing the just and correct interpretation of the law in the premises, and as such this General Conference accepts the same as having equal force and authority as if contained in the body of the Discipline.

Much later than the 1890's, dancing was not accepted by Methodists. The following anecdote was related by Mrs. Julia Hagood Cuthbertson and reported to Charles Henderson by W. R. Cuthbertson, Jr., in 1977:

As a young man teaching the youth at Trinity Methodist Church Sunday School in the nineteen twenties. W. Reynolds Cuthbertson (Rennie Cuthbertson, later to become Chairman of the Official Board and Trustee of First Methodist) was asked to resign as a teacher when the church officials learned that he had been seen dancing. They explained that this was not a proper influence for the students. When, however, the boys of the class heard about the action they went on strike and refused to attend Sunday School further without their beloved teacher.

The Trinity officials reconsidered, the class was resumed, and apparently the influence did not harm anyone, least of all the young teacher who continued his devotion to his church and especially his concern for youth. For many years Tryon Street and Calvary were the only Methodist churches in the city. It was in Tryon Street Church on November 30, 1885, that Charles J. Soong, father of the famous Soong sisters of China,* was ordained a Methodist minister.

Probably "town" would be a more accurate description for Charlotte than "city." Railroads had come to Charlotte in 1852, gas lighting in 1858. When the Tryon Street church was built in 1859 the town population was approximately 1,366. Charlotte lived through the days of the Civil War without physical damage; and the first Charlotte City Directory, which was published in 1875, shows that the city had approximately 6,000 people, ** 15 churches, and 20 saloons. Of the 15 white and negro churches, two were white Methodist and three were black Methodist.

The rebuilding of tryon street church in 1891

The *Charlotte Chronicle* for Tuesday, June 23, 1891, gives an account of the laying of the cornerstone of the second Tryon Street Church building:

The Cornerstone of Tryon Street Methodist Church Laid Yesterday ---Imposing Ceremonies The Chronicle the First Deposit Made in the Stone --- "How Firm a Foundation" ---Dr. Pool the Cap Stone

The inscription on the cornerstone of the new part of Tryon Street Methodist Church reads:

> TO THE TRIUNE GOD LAID AUG. 17, 1859 REBUILT JUNE 22, 1891

It was stated in the *Chronicle* Sunday morning that the cornerstone would be laid yesterday at 11 o'clock, and at that hour a large crowd gathered to witness the ceremony.

*One of the Soong sisters became Madame Chiang Kai-shek and another became the wife of Sun Yat Sen.

**Approximation obtained from 4,473 population in 1870 and 7,094 population in 1880.

Presiding Elder Tyer and Rev. Dr. Pool, pastor of the church, presided over the exercises, the programme of which appeared in Sunday's *Chronicle*.

The scripture lesson was read by Dr. Tyer after which the list of articles of deposit was read by Dr. Pool and the deposit was made as follows:

- 1. The *Charlotte Chronicle* containing account of articles found in the old cornerstone, deposited by W. H. Wearn.
- 2. The Bible, by W. H. Gray.
- 3. Methodist Hymnal, by C. W. Tillett.
- 4. Methodist Discipline, by J. A. Jones.
- 5. Minutes of the last session of the Western North Carolina Conference, by J. B. Spencer.
- 6. Names of the Presiding Elder, pastor, and officers, by W. R. Jones.
- 7. List of full membership, numbering 842 of the church, by C. P. Wheeler.
- 8. Financial estimates of current expenses of the church by J. G. Freeland.
- 9. Names of Sunday School officers, teachers, and pupils by M. C. Mayer.
- 10. Names of building committee, by J. W. Wadsworth.
- Names of officers, teachers, and pupils of B Street Chapel, by S. H. Hilton. [Editor's note: Brevard Street was originally named B. Street.]
- 12. Names and report of the "Praying Band" by E. Hooper.
- 13. Papers: RALEIGH CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, STATESVILLE CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, CHARLOTTE DEMOCRAT, THE NEWS, MECKLENBURG TIMES, and other papers, by Jerome Dowd.
- 14. The City Code, by Jo Asbury.
- 15. A paper by A. L. Butt.
- 16. Names of officers of the Woman's Missionary Society, by Mrs. J. W. Wadsworth.
- 17. Names of officers of the Ladies' Aid Society, and names of "Bright Jewels," by Miss Connie White. [Editor's note: "Bright Jewels" was a Young People's (or children's) Missionary Society.]
- 18. Names of society, "Lovers of Jesus", by Miss Sallie Whisnant.
- 19. Women's Missionary Advocate by Walter Mullen.
- 20. Rev. Dr. Pool by J. W. Wadsworth.

Mr. Tyer stated it was the desire of the congregation to keep the Dr. at Tryon Street Church, but according to the itineracy of the church he would have to go at the expiration of another year, so the congregation had determined to get him into the cornerstone. A large photograph of the Dr. was accordingly placed in the stone and was the last deposit. Dr. Pool then requested Messrs. Wadsworth, Wheeler, Mayer, and B. W. Jones, one of the church committees, to step forward and lay their hands on the stone, and with his own resting on it, he dedicated the stone and Church to Almighty God. The exercises closed with the benediction.

This Tryon Street Church cornerstone is in the Records and History room in today's (1983) First United Methodist Church. When the Tryon Street Church building was torn down in 1928 after completion of the new First Methodist Church, both the cornerstone and the lectern from the Tryon Street Church were saved by Mr. Louis Asbury and stored at his farm in Huntersville, North Carolina. This farm was later bought by Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Bradford, and in 1977 the Bradfords donated the lectern and cornerstone to the First United Methodist Church in memory of Wilson Stratton and in honor of his wife, Lura Stratton.

This stone is housed in the Records and History room. It is interesting that when this cornerstone was laid in 1859 the cornerstone of St. Peter's Episcopal Church on the corner of North Tryon and Seventh Streets was also laid at about the same time. A real coincidence is that both Tryon Street Methodist and St. Peter's were remodelled in 1891. (The original St. Peter's church pews are now in the little Church of the Resurrection in Little Switzerland, North Carolina.)

The 1927 First United Methodist Church does not have a cornerstone.

DESCRIPTION OF THE REBUILT TRYON STREET CHURCH

An 1891 newspaper article describes the newly built church as follows:

A NEW HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Tryon Street Methodist Church Today for the first time, the congregation of Tryon Street Methodist

Church will worship in their new house of worship. The old building was torn down in June, and the corner stone of the present building was laid in July.

The front part of the church, which was comparatively new, having been built but seven years ago, was left standing, and only the main part of the church rebuilt. This was done at a cost of \$12,000. The present building is a reproduction in general style of the old church, with modern improvements as to arrangements and furnishings.

The building is 47 x 80 feet in the clear, with seating capacity of 900, one hundred more than the former church. The walls are beautifully frescoed in light tints, blue being the prevailing color. The woodwork is oak, except the chancel railing which is walnut. This railing is the one used in the old church, and for its hallowed association will be preserved as it is in the new church. The windows are stained glass, each of different design, and are very handsome. The gas fixtures are very pretty. The choir platform is immediately back of the pulpit.

The 1891 brick church building cost \$30,000 and by the summer of 1903 the church debt had been paid off.

TRYON STREET METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

MEMBERS

EARLY 1890'S

The first printed list of church members in the archives was published when Dr. W. S. Creasy was pastor in 1892–1896. This list is reproduced here in its entirety because it names most of the Methodists in Charlotte at that time; not all because Calvary had been organized in 1865 and there were also several smaller "mission" churches. Addresses show the residential pattern of Charlotte in the mid-1890's and this list should be of interest to all Methodist churches in Charlotte today. [Editorial note. I have always heard that C Street became Caldwell, B Street became Brevard, and A Street was the railroad tracks.]

Notice that most of the congregation lived within walking distance of the church. At this time there were no automobiles but electric streetcars had been in operation since 1893. The minutes of the Board of Stewards for May, 1894 "appointed a committee to procure a horse and buggy for the pastor to visit the congregation for the next month or so." In February, 1895, Dr. Creasy was presented with a bicycle.

Abernathy, J. W.....515 North Poplar Adams, C. L......603 South Church Adams, Mrs. Harriett 630 South Church Adams, J. A. M.....630 South Church Adams, Mrs. Katie....803 South Tryon Adams, Maggie C....630 South Church

Allen, W. H.....604 East Ninth Allison, Miss Bettie . . . 818 South Tryon Allison, Jno. A. Allison, Mrs. Minnie J.... cor. Cedar and West Trade Allison, Mrs. Sarah J. . . 923 S. Boulevard Allison, Thomas A. 923 South Boulevard Anderson, David H... 508 North Graham Anderson, George R. Statesville, N. C. Anderson, Maurice P... 508 N. Graham Anderson, Mrs. Sallie S. 508 N. Graham Andrews, E. M. 307 North College Andrews, Mrs. Ella S. 307 North College Ardrey, Ida L.....U. S. Assay Office, West Trade Ardrey, Mrs. Mary E. Ardrey, Wm. E.... Arledge, Mrs. Ella W... 503 South Tryon Arledge, Mrs. J. A. . . . 503 South Tryon Arledge, Miss Mamie. . 503 South Tryon Asbury, Mrs. Emma S. 209 South Myers Asbury, Mrs. Louzine.... 506 North E Asbury, Mrs. M. A. . . 302 North College Asbury, Mrs. Mary E. . . . 215 East Fifth Asbury, Olla K. 209 South Myers Asbury, Sam'l J..... 302 North College Asbury, T. H...... 215 East Fifth Babbington, Miss Bessie .. 206 N. Myers Babbington, Mrs. Margaret J... Badgett, C. L. Queen City Hotel Barnes, Miss Ida May 306 South College Barnes, Mrs. M. A.... 306 South College Barnes, Miss M. L. . . 306 South College Barnes, W. R. 306 South College Barnhardt, Wm.414 North Church Bartley, Mrs. Jennie L. ... cor. Walsh and Euclid Av., Dilworth Beattie, Mrs. E. M. 414 East Seventh Beattie, Mrs. M. C.... 515 East Ninth Beattie, Miss M. S.....515 East Ninth Bennett, Mrs. M. I... 615 East Seventh Bennett, Mrs. Mary...615 East Seventh Bennett, Ralph......615 East Seventh Bennett, W. F. 615 East Seventh

Benton, Mrs. Minnie. 305 North Myers Berryhill, Alexander. 507 North Poplar Berryhill, Mrs. Amanda J. Horryhill, E. W.

Berryhill, W. G.... 407 North Church Bethune, Mrs. A..... 801 North Tryon Bethune, Miss Bessie W. . . 801 N. Tryon Bethune, Miss Sallie A. 801 North Tryon Beverly, Miss Annie...403 West Ninth Biggers, E. J. cor. Pine and Seventh Biggers, Mrs. E. J. cor. Pine and Seventh Blakey, Mrs. Mary M... 803 North Pine Boyte, J. C. cor. Ninth and C Boyte, Jno. M. cor. Ninth and C Boyte, L. J. cor. Ninth and C Boyte, Laura B..... cor. Ninth and C Boyte, Lester.....cor. Ninth and C Boyte, W. F. cor. Ninth and C Bradshaw, C. E. cor. Sixth and A Bradshaw, Mrs. Lou W. cor. Sixth and A Bradshaw, W. A. cor. Sixth and A Brantly, C. F. Terminus Clarkson Brantly, Mrs. M. N. C. . . . Ter. Clarkson Brantly, Miss W. N. Terminus Clarkson Bray, Frank T....... 316 South College Brem, Mrs. Hannie C... 801 South Tryon Brem, Miss Mina C.... 801 South Tryon Brem, Walter.....801 South Tryon Brem, Walter, Jr.....801 South Tryon Brown, J. D. 11th bet. Pine and Factory Brown, Mrs. Mary A...806 West Trade Brown, Mrs. Mollie 11th bet. Pine and Factory Brown, Miss Susan E... 806 West Trade Brown, Miss Susie....806 West Trade Buchanan, A. L.....311 West Trade Buchanan, Mrs. J. S. . . . 311 West Trade Butt, Arthur L..... 420 South Church Butt, Mrs. M. E. 420 South Church Byerly, Daniel...... 403 West Ninth

Cobb, Mrs. Blanche V.... Alpha Mills Cochrane, Jessie 205 North Myers Craig, A. G. Boulevard, Dilworth Craig, Mrs. Alice. Boulevard, Dilworth Creasy, E. Elizabeth 227 N. Tryon Creasy, Mrs. E. Sparger ... 227 N. Tryon Creasy, J. Walter 227 N. Tryon Creswell, Miss Annie L... 308 S. Church Creswell, E. F. 308 South Church Creswell, Mrs. M. I.... 308 South Church Creswell, Mrs. Mamie E. . . 308 S. Church Crowell, A. H. 210 East Fifth Cuthbertson, Daisy J.... 407 East Fifth Cuthbertson, Mrs. J. M. . . 407 East Fifth Cuthbertson, J. Walter . . . 407 East Fifth Cuthbertson, Mabel L...407 East Fifth Cuthbertson, Melissa.....Seversville Cuthbertson, Miss Minnie A. 407 E. Fifth

Davis, Miss Eugenia 504 North Graham Davis, Henrietta C.

Davis, Herbert L.... 504 North Graham Davis, J. M. South Tryon, at city limit Davis, Mrs. Julia. S. Tryon, at city limit Davis, Mrs. Lida....601 North Church Davis, Lindsey W...601 North Church Davis, Miss Maggie M... 504 N. Graham Davis, Mrs. Margaret A. 610 S. Church Davis, Miss Sue. . . S. Tryon, at city limit Day, H. M.....Arlington Hotel Deaton, Mrs. Lizzie 304 East Fifth Dowd, Mrs. Lydia J... 701 North Tryon Dowd, Miss Mary E....701 North Tryon Dowd, Miss Mattie ... 701 North Tryon Dowd, Miss Nannie T. 701 North Tryon Duckett, Wm. H.... 308 South Church Duncan, A. Pinkney 615 West Fifth Duncan, Mrs. Emma 310 East Ninth Duncan, Mrs. N. E.... 615 West Fifth Duncan, Robert A..... 310 East Ninth

Eagle, William.....Central Hotel Eames, W. H. V.....211 East Seventh Edwards, Leona....638 South Church Edwards, Mrs. Mary J.....

Farrington, Miss Josephine 609 N. Pine Farrington, Miss Lou T. 801 N. Graham Farrior. Dr. Geo B... 515 North College Farrior, Mrs. Jessie B. 515 North College Fasnacht, Mrs. Maggie 205 West Trade Faysoux, Mrs. Alice...... West Fifth Felder, Miss Mary L...603 South Tryon Fields, A. R. 11 West Vance Fields, R. H. 11 West Vance Frazier, Charles 39 West Fourth Frazier, Mrs. Sarah.... 39 West Fourth Freeland, Mrs. Fannie..... Freeland, Miss Isabelle Country Freeland, J. G. 310 cor. 7th and Graham Freeland, Julian......Country Freeland, Preston T.....Country

- Fuller, Mrs. Agnes E.
- Fuller, Clara
- Fuller, Herman
- Fuller, Irving I.
- Funk, Mrs. Mary D.

.... Church, bet. Sixth and Seventh

Glenn, Mrs. M. E. 421 East Tenth Glenn, Miss Minnie 421 East Tenth Gooding, Mrs. Mary C. . . 404 West Fifth Gordon, Mrs. J. R. 305 East Ninth Gordon, James R..... 305 East Ninth Gossitt, Mrs. Lula. 508 North Graham Gray, Mrs. Julia.....210 North Myers Gray, Miss Lizzie Gray, R. W. McAden's Drug Store Gray, Richard W. 210 North Myers Grier, Mrs. W. W. 801 East Trade Griffin, Mrs. Amanda...... 619 Smith Grimes, Mrs. Georgianna 400 S. Church Grimes, Miss Nerah O... 400 S. Church Gruber, Mrs. Julia A. 416 North Church Gruber, Mrs. Julia E. 416 North Church Gruber, Miss Lillie G. 416 North Church Gruber, Miss M. E... 416 North Church Hagood, Wm. W..... 409 West Tenth Hales, A..... Country Hales, Elizabeth Country Hall, Miss C. Isabelle 311 East Seventh Hall, Eva Maud 311 East Seventh Hall, Miss Lola May. . 311 East Seventh Hall, Mrs. Maggie 311 East Seventh Hannon, Mrs. Lula V. Hannon, Wm. Harding, A. D. West Fifth Harding, Mrs. Francis J.... West Fifth Harding, Wm. F..... 206 South Tryon Harris, Mrs. M. E. Harris, Robt. L. Harvey, Mrs. R. E. Hatch, Mrs. Alice W. . . 14 South Cedar Hatch, J. H. 14 South Cedar Hatch, Robt. D. 14 South Cedar Hatch, Wm. Turner . . . 14 South Cedar Hays, Mrs. A. B. 414 East Seventh Heath, Benj. D.....708 East Trade Heath, D. W.....708 East Trade Heath, Miss Florence E. 708 East Trade Heath, H. B.....708 East Trade Heath, Miss Lena W...708 East Trade Heath, Miss Lola.....708 East Trade Heath, Mrs. Nettie H....708 East Trade Helms, Henry J.....

.....Near E. Hooper's, South Tryon

Helms, Mrs. Susan M..... Near E. Hooper's, South Tryon Henry, M. Elizabeth Herring, H. H. 611 North Brevard Herring, Mrs. H. H. . . 611 North Brevard Hill, Mrs. Eliza J..... 406 East Third Hill, Orilla G.....406 East Third Hilton, Mrs. Julia A. J. 908 S. McDowell Hilton, Mrs. M. A..... South Mint Hilton, S. H.....South Mint Hinson, Carrie E..... 503 N. Church Hollister, George 801 North Graham Holton, Miss Harriett... 321 East Trade Holton, Mrs. Rachel R... 321 East Trade Hood, H. H. East Fifth Hood, Mrs. Sallie East Fifth Hooper, Amelia F.... 1007 South Tryon Hooper, Mrs. C. J. . . . 1007 South Tryon Hooper, Eddie 1007 South Tryon Hooper, Edward 1007 South Tryon Hooper, Miss Katie B. 1007 South Tryon Hooper, Susan A.... 1007 South Tryon Horrah, Mrs. Mary....219 West Trade Humphries, T. L.....119 West Fifth Hunnicutt, A. J.....314 South College Hunnicutt, Joseph ... 314 South College Hunnicutt, Mrs. Sallie E. 314 S. College Hunter, Mrs. Fannie. 812 North Church Hutchinson, J. M. 308 East Seventh Hutchinson, Miss Katie 308 E. Seventh Hutchison, Mrs. Mary G. 308 E. Seventh Hyndman, L. Nora....609 N. Caldwell Hyndman, Mrs. Lucy M. 609 N. Caldwell Hyndman, Mattie B. 609 N. Caldwell Hyndman, W. J.....609 N. Caldwell

Irwin, Mrs. Florence....13 South Mint Irwin, Hamner C., Jr....407 W. Fourth Irwin, Mrs. Margaret L...407 W. Fourth Irwin, Miss Myrtle......407 W. Fourth Isehour, Mrs. Ola......628 South Mint

Laird, Mrs. E. B..... 308 South Church Lawing, E. J..... Seversville, W. Trade Lawing, Mary C. Seversville, W. Trade Lawing, Rachel R. Seversville, W. Trade Laws, H. B...... Winston, N. C. Leak, Jno..... Observer Office Leach, Mrs. Mary J.

Lewis, Harvey

Lewis, Miss Jane......633 South Mint Lewis, Miss Lucy..511 North Church Liles, W. F. Link, Mrs. Elizabeth....409 South Tryon

Marshall, Mrs. H. S. B.

Mason, Mrs. Alice cor. Sixth and Poplar Mason, Blanche...cor. Sixth and Poplar Mason, Johnsie...cor. Sixth and Poplar Mayer, Clinton R.....802 South Tryon Mayer, Miss Mary L. 802 South Tryon Mayer, Robt. A. 802 South Tryon Mayer, Mrs. Sallie J. . 802 South Tryon McCall, Miss Cora. 315 West Seventh ... Near E. Hooper's, South Tryon McCall, Mrs. J. D. 316 West Ninth McCall, Mrs. Jane..... McCall, Jno. A., Jr. McCall, Mrs. Josie ... 301 South Church McCall, Miss Mary Jane Charlotte Cotton Mills McCall, Mrs. Mehala 315 West Seventh McCall, R. M. Charlotte Cotton Mills McCall, W. M. D. 301 South Church McCansland, Mrs. Iola J. 406 N. Poplar McCoy, Cornelius J..... Seversville McCoy, Mrs. R. L. Seversville McCracken, D. C. 306 N. Church McCracken, Eugenia 306 N. Church McCracken, L. J. 306 N. Church McCracken, Miss M. J. . 306 N. Church McCracken, Mrs. Mary A. 306 N. Church McCracken, T. J. 306 N. Church McCullough, Ed. 403 N. Davidson McCullough, Mrs. Mary E..... McDaniel, Miss Mary ... 215 South Myers McDowell, J. H. Park Ave., Dilworth McGinn, Freddie Lee, 18 South Church McKenzie, Birdie 617 North Brevard McKenzie, Carrie. 617 North Brevard McKenzie, Mrs. M. J. 617 North Brevard McKenzie, T. C.....617 North Brevard McLain, Bessie Moore ... 209 E. Seventh McLain, Mrs. Sallie H. . . 209 E. Seventh McLaughlin, Alphonso...Non-Resident McLaughlin, Claude M...Non-Resident McLaughlin, Peter S... 300 South Mint McLaughlin, Mrs. S. A. . . 300 South Mint McLaughlin, Mrs. Sarah A. 807 E. Trade McMakin, Chas W.....409 West Tenth Means, Mrs. Esther E...519 North Pine Mensing, H. C.....West Tenth Messer, Mrs. Elzora. . 301 East Eleventh Messer, Geo. S..... 301 East Eleventh Michael, Mrs. Mary S. Millen, Mrs. Eliza.....406 East Third Millersham, Mrs. Dora. 310 W. Eighth Millershan, Mrs. Dora C. 608 N. Poplar

Millershan, F. R. Millershan, Geo. W.....608 N. Poplar Misenheimer, Miss Annie 805 N. Tryon

Misenheimer, Mrs. Delilah..... Moody, Miss Mary J. 302 North College Moore, Mrs. M. J. . . . 405 North Poplar Moore, Robt. L..... North Poplar Moore, Mrs. W. J..... 28 North Tryon Morrison, Eliza J...... 801 East Trade Morse, Lillian E.....601 North Poplar Morse, Mrs. Mary N. 620 North Church Morse, Richard H....620 South Church Moyle, Miss Ruby ... 805 North Davidson Murray, Mrs. Mamie L. 12th and College Myers, Albert G. 215 N. McDowell Myers, Miss Gertrude 215 N. McDowell Myers, S. S. 321 West Fifth Myers, Stephen H.... 215 N. McDowell Myers, Wilmer...... 215 N. McDowell Myers, Mrs. Wincey F. 215 N. McDowell Neal, Mrs. Annie.....Brevard Newland, Mrs. Mary T...615 N. Church Nixon, L. H. Nixon, Mrs. Lula Nolen, J. W..... 502 North Smith Nolen, L. A...... 502 North Smith Nolen, Miss L. W..... 502 North Smith Noles, Mrs. Katie....608 North Poplar Noles, Miss Lillie....608 North Poplar Noles, Sarah E..... Seversville Noles, Mrs. Sarah H... 608 North Poplar Northey, Mrs. Mary J. 409 South Tryon O'Connell, Mrs. Julia A... 7th and Poplar Orr, Mrs. Susan S.... 310 West Eighth Osborne, Miss Della . . 630 South Church Osborne, Mrs. Dorcas... 403 North Pine Osborne, E. C. 403 North Pine Osborne, L. M. 403 North Pine Osborne, L. W...... 403 North Pine Overcarsh, Bryan J.... 314 West Eighth Overcarsh, Miss Katie 314 West Eighth Overcarsh, Mrs. Sarah Creasy....

Overcarsh, Mrs. Susan 314 West Eighth Overcarsh, W. Harvey...603 S. Tryon Overcarsh, Mrs. W. J. A...603 S. Tryon Owens, Miss Essie...706 North Brevard Owens, Mrs. Hattie...706 North Brevard Owens, Mrs. L. M.....516 East Seventh Owens, Mrs. W. A....706 North Brevard

Painter, Mrs. Carrie Hill...West Trade Palmer, Mrs. Alice......Ninth Palmer, Miss Alice.....Ninth Palmer, Miss Minnie Ninth Parker, Mrs. T. W. S. 638 South Church Parks, Miss Cynthia ... 215 West Fourth Pearce, Mrs. Patty. 511 North Church Pearce, W. A..... 511 North Church Perkinson, Mrs. Julia....North College Perry, Mrs. C. P. Petree, Dr. A. L. North Graham Petree, Mrs. Bettie W. ... North Graham Phifer, J. H.... cor. Sixth and Alexander Phifer, Joseph H..... 411 Eleventh Phifer, W. H. 315 West Seventh Pickard, Eugene 408 East Fifth Pickard, J. A. 408 East Ninth Pickard, Miss Lilly B.... 408 East Ninth Pickard, Sarah F..... 408 East Ninth Pickard, Mrs. Susan W.... 408 E. Fifth Pickens, W. B. 409 West Tenth Platt, Mrs. Emily E. . 1119 S. Caldwell Powell, Pink S.....900 North Graham Presson, Mrs. E. F......213 E. Seventh Presson, Miss Earnestine 213 E. Seventh Presson, Miss Eliza F.... 213 E. Seventh Presson, Miss Jessie 213 E. Seventh Presson, Mrs. Š. J.

Presson, Sam'l J. cor. Brevard and Eighth

Rigler, Mrs. Maggie E....208 East Oak Rigler, T. A.....200 East Oak Ritch, Mrs. M. V....501 North College Rivenbark, Mrs. Margaret N.....

Roberts, Mrs. Florence V. 225 N. Tryon

Robertson, Mrs. Sarah. . 111 West Fifth Robinson, Mrs. Eliza J... 503 N. Church Robinson, Mrs. Lucy L. . . 216 N. Myers Robinson, Mrs. M. C. . . . 216 N. Myers Rodgers, W. B. 213 East Seventh Roland, Mrs. Belle 402 West Fifth Roland, W. T. 402 West Fifth Rucker, Miss Blanche 821 N. Church Rucker, Miss Emma 821 N. Church Rucker, Miss Lola......821 N. Church Rucker, Miss Nancy....821 N. Church Ruddock, Miss Cynthia B. 308 East Sixth Ruddock, T. Banks....308 East Sixth Ruddock, Wm......308 East Sixth Rudisill, J. F. 208 East Ninth Rudisill, Jonas......802 South Tryon Rudisill, Miss M. J.... 508 North College Rudisill, M. L. 508 North College Rudisill, Mrs. M. L. . . 508 North College Rudisill, Mrs. Minnie ... 208 East Ninth Rudisill, Mrs. Sarah . . 508 North College Russell, Miss Kate W. 601 West Eighth

Scars, Miss Mary E.... 213 South Mint Sellers, Addie...cor. 8th and Alexander Sellers, W. J.... cor. 8th and Alexander Severs, Chas. F. Seversville Severs, Mrs. Martha A.... Seversville Severs, W. W. Seversville Shannonhouse, B. J. 209 East Seventh Shannonhouse, Watson .. 209 E. Seventh Shelby, W. H. Terminus Davidson Sifford, Miss Florence 601 North Poplar Smith, Miss Annie.... 210 South Myers Smith, Mrs. Barbara A. 210 South Myers Smith, Chas. E.....511 North College Smith, Frankie 210 South Myers Smith, Jacob..... 210 South Myers Smith, Josephine M. Smith, Katie..... 210 South Myers Smith, Mrs. S. E.....607 North Pine Smith, Thos. T., Jr. . . . 210 South Myers Smith, Mrs. Virginia A... 511 N. College Sowers, Clarence F., Y.M.C.A. Building Sossaman, F. M.....Seversville Sossaman, Mrs. Fannie M.....

.....Oil & Fert. Works Sossaman, H. M.....Seversville Sossaman, John A.... Oil & Fert. Works Sossaman, Mrs. L. V..... Seversville Sossaman, Mrs. Nancy.....Seversville Spencer, Mrs. Henrietta L. 603 E. Trade Spraggins, Mrs. C. C....Non-Resident Sprinkle, Mrs. Jemima 506 North E Sprinkle, Mrs. Laura D.... 512 N. College Sprinkle, May......512 North College Sprinkle, Mrs. Wm.....13 East Seventh Stearne, Mrs. Bessie ... 409 West Tenth Stebbins, W. B. Stevens, J. L. 200 East Second Stevens, Nancy..... 200 East Second Stewart, Mrs. Jennie . . 306 West Seventh Stewart, Mrs. Mattie H. Stewart, W. S. 306 West Seventh Stone, Chas. S. 214 East Fifth Stone, Mrs. Elizabeth Stone, Mrs. Laura E.... 214 East Fifth Stone, Miss Minnie.....214 East Fifth Sturdemyer, Epalm. .618 N. Caldwell Sturdemyer, Frank.....618 N. Caldwell Sturdemyer, Rev. J. L. 618 N. Caldwell Sturdemyer, Miss Jennie Lee Sturdemyer, Miss Minnie Sturdivant, Mrs. Ann. . . 205 N. Brevard Sudduth, Mrs. Martha. 207 E. Seventh Summersett, Mrs. M. M. 815 N. Chnrch Summersett, Tommie...815 N. Church Summersett, Wm. B.....815 N. Church Swindell, Mrs. Jennie L. 206 South Mint Swindell, W. B. 206 South Mint Tanner, Mrs. S. B.... Henrietta, N. C.

Tizer, Mrs. D. A.....313 West Seventh Tizer, Miss Katie....313 West Seventh Tizer, Miss Lottie....313 West Seventh Treloar, Miss Maggie...407 West Fourth

Vanderburg, Arthur D. . . East Boundary Vanderburg, Daisy 209 E. Vance Vanderburg, L. A. East Boundary Vanderburg, Mrs. Lessie . . 8 West Sixth Vanderburg, Mrs. Mattie . . 209 E. Vance Vanderburg, Otis East Boundary Vanderburg, P. F. East Boundary Vanderburg, Robt. 8 West Sixth Vanderburg, Zeb 209 E. Vance Vandiver, Mrs. L. A. . . . 209 W. Eighth Vogler, Miss Lou H. 615 East Eighth Vogler, Mrs. Susan C. 615 East Eighth

Wadsworth, Chas. F.....311 N. College Wadsworth, George....311 N. College Wadsworth, James W....311 N. College Wadsworth, Miss Laura...311 N. College Wadsworth, Madge....311 N. College Wadsworth, Mrs. Maggie C.....

Wallace, J. C.....Queen City Hotel Wallace, M. A. 618 East Ninth Walsh, Mrs. Mattie ... 301 West Seventh Ward, Ino. J. Non-Resident Warlick, Charlie 409 North Church Warlick, Miss Clio . . . 409 North Church Warlick, J. G. 409 North Church Warlick, Miss Maggie 409 North Church Warlick, Mrs. S. R. . . 409 North Church Warren, S. J. 406 North Tryon Watson, Mrs. Flora ... 702 N. Davidson Watson, Miss Jennie C. 702 N. Davidson Watson, John C...... 607 North Pine Watson, Mrs. Mary E... 607 North Pine Watson, Mrs. Mary H. 702 N. Davidson Watson, William.....702 N. Davidson Watts, Miss Josie 403 South Church Watts, Mrs. Martha . . 403 South Church Watts, Miss Mary C. 403 South Church Wearn, Mrs. C. A. 511 West Seventh Wearn, Miss Carrie Etta. 511 W. Seventh Wearn, Charlie 511 West Seventh Wearn, Clarence 511 West Seventh Wearn, Mrs. Louisa S. 613 N. Caldwell Wearn, W. S. 511 West Seventh

Wearn, William H... 613 North Caldwell Weaver, L. F......East Trade, beyond City Limits Weaver, Lindsy M.E. Trade, City Limits Weaver, Mrs. M. J.East Trade, beyond City Limits Webb, Sarah E.....705 West Trade Wheeler, Chas. P..... 324 North Tryon Wheeler, Mrs. Lillie M. 324 North Tryon Wheeler, Mrs. Lucy M. 204 W. Eleventh Wheeler, William M. . . 204 W. Eleventh Whisnant, Miss Sallie E. 409 W. Tenth White, Miss Cornelia.....Sixth bet. College and Tryon White, Mrs. Francis.....Sixth bet. College and Tryon White, Miss Lavinia R. White, Walter A. Whitt, James 213 South Mint Wiley, Miss Bessie J..... 512 North Pine Wiley, Flora Gray 512 North Pine Wiley, Miss Ruby......512 North Pine Wiley, Mrs. H. Virginia 512 North Pine Wilkinson, Mrs. Sallie..... Country Williams, H. C.....East Seventh Williams, H. C. 502 South Church Williams, J. P. 502 South Church Williams, Jno. H. East Seventh Williams, M. M. 502 South Church Williams, Mrs. Maggie G... East Seventh Williams, Wm. A.... East Seventh Williams, Wm. B. East Seventh Winchester, Miss Annie...305 S. Myers Winchester, Dr. Frank M. . . 307 E. Sixth Winchester, J. R. 305 South Myers Winchester, Mrs. Julia 305 South Myers Winchester, Mrs. Willie ... 307 E. Sixth Woolen, Mrs. Della.....207 Vance Woolen, J. W..... 207 Vance Woolen, Mrs. M. C. 207 Vance Woolen, Mrs. M. E. 207 Vance Worley, Mrs. M. J. Non-Resident Wriston, Mrs. Louise M. 511 West Trade

Yates, Miss Annie J.

...W. Seventh bet. Graham and Smith Yates, Miss Hattie.....

. W. Seventh bet. Graham and Smith Yates, Walter C.

... W. Seventh bet. Graham and Smith

CHAPTER SIX

TRINITY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH (1896-1927) AND

TRYON STREET METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH (1896-1927)

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH



Charlotte continued to grow and by 1896 the newly rebuilt Tryon Street Methodist Church was too small. At this time the congregation had decided to divide and Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, South was organized although the cornerstone of the Trinity Church

was not laid until December 9, 1898. This church was at 401 South Tryon Street at the corner of Second Street. Approximately 500 members left Tryon Street to form the Trinity congregation. Most of these lived in the southeast section of the town.

By 1896 there were several small Methodist churches that had begun as neighborhood missions, but the shift of "up-town" residents to the newly developing "suburbs" was eventually to affect all up-town churches. Dilworth in the southeast section was the first of the new residential sections and Dilworth Methodist Church was soon organized.

MEMBERS TRANSFERRING FROM TRYON STREET TO TRINITY IN 1896

Tryon Street Methodist Church lost many of its members to Dilworth and to Trinity. The Quarterly Conference Minutes of Tryon Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South for January 7, 1896, says: "The following members have been transferred to the new Trinity congregation to wit:

Allen D O	Eiclds Mrs D H	Manuala Mar I (11) M
Allen, D. O.	Fields, Mrs. R. H.	Maupin, Mrs. Lillie M.
Allison, Miss Bettie	Garibaldi, Jos.	Mayer, Clinton
Arledge, Mrs. C. W.	Gaston, Miss Clara	Mayer, M. C.
Arledge, Mrs. J. A.	Gaston, Mrs. M. E.	Mayer, Mary L.
Arledge, Miss Mamie	Gooding, Mrs. Mary C.	Mayer, Robt. A.
Babbington, Miss Bessie	Harding, W. F.	Mayer, Mrs. Sallie J.
Barnes, Mrs. W. A.	Hargett, J. S.	McCall, Mrs. Josie
Barnes, W. R.	Hargett, Jno.	McCall, W. M. D.
Bivens, J. A.	Hargett, Mrs. M.	McDowell, J. H.
Bray, F. T.	Hooper, Amelia F.	McDaniels, Mrs. Mary
Brem, Mrs. H. C.	Hooper, Mrs. C. C.	Mullen, Mrs. Annie
Brem, Miss Mina	Hooper, Eddie	Mullen, Jessie
Brem, Walter	Hooper, Edward	Mullen, W. N.
Brem, Walter, Jr.	Hooper, Susan	Mullen, Walter, Jr.
Bridges, C. M.	Hooper, Willie	Northey, Mrs. Mary J.
Butt, A. L.	Hunicutt, A. J.	Overcash, Harvey
Carpenter, Deems	Hunicutt, Jos.	Overcash, Mrs. W. J.
Carpenter, Mrs. Ida A.	Hunicutt, Mrs. Sallie	Parker, Mrs. Mary
Cates, Fred	Irwin, Hamner C., Jr.	Platt, Mrs. Emily E.
Cates, Luckey	Irwin, Mrs. Margaret	Rigler, Mrs. D. H. M.
Craig, A. G.	Irwin, Miss Myrtle	Rigler, D. M.
Craig, Mrs. Alice	Jennigags, Mrs. Margaret	Rigler, E. W.
Creswell, E. F.	Jones, Mrs. Della C.	Rigler, Mrs. Maggie
Creswell, Mrs. Mamie	Jones, Mrs. E.	Seawell, Duke
Cuthbertson, J. W.	Jones, G. P.	Sossaman, Annie M.
Davis, J. M.	Jones, Jas. A.	Sossaman, J. A.
Davis, Mrs. Julia	Jones, M. E.	Thomas, Mrs. Charity
Davis, Miss Sue	Jones, W. R.	Thomas, W. M.
Day, H. M.	Kendrick, E. S.	Vanderburg, Daisy
Dillahay, D. W.	Kendrick, Miss Ella D.	Vanderburg, Mrs. Mag-
Dowd, Mrs. Anna	Kendrick, T. A.	gie
Edwards, Leona	Laird, Mrs. E. B.	Vanderburg, Zed
Edwards, Mrs. Mary	Leach, Mrs. Mary J.	Watts, Mrs. Martha
Jones	Link, Mrs. Elizabeth	Watts, Miss May C.
Edwards, Thos.	Littlejohn, David H.	Watts, T. N.
Edwards, Wm.	Littlejohn, Mrs. M. L.	Wilkinson, R. A.
Felder, Mrs. Mary L.	Littlejohn, R. N.	Wilkinson, Mrs. R. A.
Fields, Lindsay	Littlejohn, R. N., Jr.	······································
Fields, R. H.	Maupin, J. M.	
10100, 10 11	Trancipini, J. The	

This is 113 members."

Jeanne Scranton says, "Mr. Wearn's writing is so curvey and swinging that it is very difficult to make out some of the letters. It is beautiful penmanship, but dim and hard to read in spots. The April 10, 1896, Quarterly Conference reports 41 removed by certificate. It does not state they went to Trinity, but they possibly could have." [Editor's note: Mr. Arthur Wearn was the secretary of many church committees. Here is a sample of his handwriting: "... further business the meeting adjourned.

Asthing

Secretary of the Joint Committees."]

LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE OF TRINITY

The laying of the cornerstone of the Trinity Methodist Church was reported in *The Charlotte Daily Observer*, December 10, 1898 as follows:

Promptly at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon a large crowd gathered on South Tryon Street, corner of Second, to participate in and witness the laying of the corner-stone of the new Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The children and those who were to take part in the exercises were invited to the door of the church, which by the way is now half built. After the hymn, "Christ the Sure Foundation Stone," was sung, led by Prof. McIver and the church choir, the audience was led in prayer by Rev. J. E. Gay, the new pastor of Brevard Street Methodist Church. The hymn, with the responsive reading which followed, being printed in the programs, all took part.

[Here one paragraph has been rearranged in the interest of clarity.] The following items were placed in the cornerstone:

- 1. The Directory of Tryon Street Church by Mrs. J. E. Wheeler.
- 2. Charter members of Trinity by Mrs. Walter Brem.
- 3. Trinity's first Official Directory by M. C. Mayer.
- 4. Present Official Directory by R. H. Fields.
- 5. Names of the Building Committee by D. E. Allen.
- 6. Sunday School Directory by J. H. Little.
- 7. Class Meeting by E. Hooper.
- 8. Epworth League by J. W. Cuthbertson.
- 9. Junior League by Leona Edwards.
- 10. Ladies' Aid by Mrs. M. L. Davis.
- 11. Women's Foreign Mission Society by Mrs. M. C. Mayer.
- 12. Young People's Aid by Miss Eugenia Davis.
- 13. Children with Barrels by Mary Allison.
- 14. Architects, Contractors, and Superintendent by H. F. Johnson.
- 15. Names of Methodist Ministers in Charlotte by the Rev. John F. Butt.
- 16. North Carolina Christian Advocate by Prof. J. A. Bivens.
- 17. Bible by D. M. Rigler.
- 18. Programme of Service by R. N. Littlejohn.

Each of the above quoted a scripture with the deposit, which made it very impressive. Invitations were extended to friends present to deposit.

- 19. Mr. H. C. Eccles deposited a copy of *Sketches of Charlotte*, with the words, "May Charlotte have an hundred thousand inhabitants when this stone is uncovered."
- 20. Mrs. R. N. Littlejohn, in the name of the White Ribboners of America, placed a document which elicited a hearty response.
- 21. J. C. Herring placed a Directory of Brevard Street Church.
- 22. Dr. W. W. Bays placed a copy of Church and State.
- 23. Prof. McIver placed a souvenir of his school.
- 24. Others placed coins, etc. of various character.

The pastor, Rev. Frank Siler, then stated that it was eminently fitting that Trinity's first pastor, and at present her senior pastor, being Presiding Elder of the District, should lay the Corner-stone.

Under the direction of the Superintendent and contractor, the workmen immediately swung the great stone of Georgia granite into place. The Rev. Mr. Turrentine, then placed upon the stone, made steady by a workman, his hand and said: "We lay this corner-stone of a house to be built and set apart from all worldly uses for Divine Worship, in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

A letter from the Rev. A. P. Tyer of Wilmington, expressing his regrets that sickness prevented his presence, as he and the congregation had expected, and extending his congratulations and great satisfaction of the realization of a cherished desire, was read and placed in the cornerstone.

The Rev. S. B. Turrentine then made the address of the afternoon in language most pertinent to the occasion which will be printed.

Addresses were also made by the Rev. W. W. Bayes, Rev. W. A. Wynne of the Graham Street Presbyterian Church, Mr. C. P. Wheeler of Tryon Street Methodist Church (speaking for Dr. Chreitzberg, who had to be out of the city) and Mr. Frank Mahan of the Y.M.C.A. After announcements of Anniversary Services at Trinity, to be held last night and on tomorrow, the Doxology was sung and the benediction pronounced by Rev. J. E. Gay.

At the evening service a telegram from Rev. Mr. Tyer was read and messages from Dr. Brooks were delivered.

The Trinity Church cornerstone is now (1983) inside the hedge at the entrance to the Educational Building of the First United Methodist Church on West Eighth Street.

THE REFURBISHING OF TRYON STREET CHURCH IN 1908

A 1908 copy of *The Charlotte News* carried an article entitled "A Thing of Beauty Is Tryon Street Church As Remodeled." Some excerpts from this very lengthy clipping are reproduced here because they give a good description of the church as it is remembered by the living members of Tryon Street Church.

Tryon Street Church, the mother of all Methodism in Charlotte, has been rehabilitated—made anew, within and partly without, and stands today as pretty, if not the prettiest church interior in the city.

When the matter of doing this work was first taken up, many of the members thought that it was only a matter of a few years till this congregation would have to have a new building, and the money spent on this would be in a manner wasted, but well-informed people said that the interior of the church as to arrangement would be hard to improve upon, and that, with proper decoration could be made beautiful . . . the work was begun and is so near completed as to be in use, and is the talk of those interested in church interiors.

The Fine Stone Arches: To begin with, three stone and brick arches have been placed between the two towers in the front, with an arc light in the apex to light the way, and two new opalescent glass windows adorn the front. The arrangement of closed vestibule has been changed, there being open archways on either side leading to the anterooms opening to the stairways that go to the basement, where now are the kitchen and dining room, formerly the old Sunday School room, and the whole of the front entrance laid in tile, with marble washboards [sic]; the walls being a beautiful rose tint, and the woodwork painted old ivory.

Passing to the inside, in the main auditorium the woodwork has all been painted to match the front, a cool-looking old ivory color, matching the decorations perfectly, and includes all the woodwork down to the pipe organ, except the chancel or altar rail, which is walnut, and the gallery pews, which are grained in oak. The pews proper are birch, and like they were save that they have been cleaned down to the wood and varnished with church pew varnish, guaranteed never to stick to any fabric worn. It is here that the real beauty is found.

In Harmony With the Gothic: The interior structural work being Gothic, the decorations are carried out to conform with the style of architectural features. Ceiling is treated in cream, with Masonic ornaments of blue, with golden traceries of Italian renaissance. Side walls are rose with gold, and darker rose and ornamental Gothic decorations, just under the cornice, with a large arch just over the organ. This arch is so constructed that it appears as though it was real stucco work, with Corinthian columns and capitols. This is in old gold colors.

Just over the rear gallery is a large mural painting, larger than life size, the subject being "Christ and the Samaritan woman at the well," after a painting by Hoffman. This picture is true to life, and is inclosed in a massive frame, shaded and painted so as to represent a real gold frame and stands out like a real moulding indeed. A high dado in the main church auditorium is treated in dark neutral tones with ecclesiastical traceries in a frieze about five feet above the floor. All work is done in fresco, in flat colors; in fact most of the decorative work is in flat colors to correspond with the interior wood finish and structural work.

Mr. Asbury's Splendid Lighting: The lighting, which was formerly gas, has been changed to electricity, which is as much superior to the old way as are the present walls compared with the old ones. The committee told Mr. Ollie F. Asbury to light the church, as it should be, and he has done it to perfection, and is as proud of the job as a well satisfied man can be.

The arch over the organ has a row of lights the whole length, which are shaded and mellowed till they do not glare in the least. High up on the several wooden arches are rows of ordinary electric incandescent lights with an eighty candle power light in the apex of each, so switched as to turn on as many or as few as are desired. Lower down, on the ceiling of the gallery, are large forty-eight candle power lights which reach to the center with their rays and to the walls on either side. In all there are over 200 lights of various candle power which turn night into day within, and bring out colors as never before. Then, too, the decorations inside brighten the colored windows in a way that is surprising, even to the decorators. The light is grand, day or night.

Tar Heel Decorators: The decorative work was done by the Reuben Rink Decorative Co., Kernersville . . . The committee wanted a picture, and the only place large enough to put it was on the plank wall over the gallery, in front of the church, a poor place for show, except from the neighborhood of the pulpit, from which place it shows grandly, and is well worth going there to see. This work was done by Mr. Caesar Milch, whom the Reuben Rink people have had for 20 years and to whom is due much of the reputation they have for the fine work . . . Mr. J. Gilmer Korner (the manager) says he cannot duplicate him in this country (he came from Germany) in a sober man.

Ladies Furnished a \$1000 Carpet: But there was other work needed to make the church complete, and for many years the ladies, through the church improvement society, have been laboring for cleaner pews and a new carpet, and their dream has been realized, for the floor is covered with a beautiful shade of green carpet that retails for \$3 per yard, and cost them near \$1,000, and put in new pulpit and chairs and table, and they are happy, which fact will cause happiness in other quarters.

The carpet cost more than dollars and cents — it cost sweat, if not blood, for much of the money came through the "exchange" the ladies ran so long, which made them money, which money came from hard work at the cook stove in the home kitchens. This would be incomplete if this much was not said of the good women that have been so faithful to get a church home that they would be proud of.

 \breve{A} Complete Structure: Still what has been said does not tell of all that there is to Tryon Street Church, for few are better equipped for work than she, as to building; whatever the critic may say as to the financial ability or the faithfulness of her membership, the building is complete.

Starting at the front . . . you enter an auditorium nice enough for any purpose, with a seating capacity sufficient for all ordinary occasions, and a good pipe organ, which, in the hands of a master like Prof. David T. Huyck, fills the church with melody.

From this room you enter the pastor's study to the left and the Ladies' Parlor to the right and down a flight of stairs to the hall opening on Sixth Street and the Sunday School room, which building, facing on that street cost near \$10,000 four years ago, and is as complete as is possible to have it.

First, is a rostrum facing an auditorium and gallery that will seat about 700 comfortably, and opening off this room and gallery is a classroom for each class in the school, entirely cut off from the noise of any other class.

The primary department under the care of Miss Sallie Bethune is a separate school, in a sense, as the opening and closing for the little ones and the study is for their little minds, and the only time they are with the school is at the close of the evening's work. [Editor's note: At this time Sunday School was in the afternoon.]

Marr's Hall: Dr. T. F. Marr, when pastor, planned and built the Sunday School room (which ought yet to be dedicated Marr's Hall), in order to get out of the basement and do better work than was possible there, saw in that old basement room good use in another line, closely allied and necessary to church work, the social side, and turned it into a kitchen and dining room for the use of the ladies on social occasions; which with the primary room and the Baraca room across the hall, both of which are finely carpeted, make as fine a place for having church socials as one could ask for. ...

The Committee in Charge: The work has been done by a committee of which Mr. D. H. Anderson is chairman, with Messrs. B. D. Heath and W. W. Hagood and Dr. H. F. Ray as assistants with Mr. Louis Asbury as architect, and Mr. W. J. Hyndman in charge of all the changed wood work. The pastor, Rev. H. K. Boyer, also spoiled a good part of his vacation looking after the work, and is due much for the advice and counsel and real hard work of the undertaking....

MEMENTOS OF TRYON STREET AND TRINITY METHODIST CHURCHES

Today (1983) there are few things left from the churches that recombined to form First Methodist Church. The bell in today's First United Methodist Church is the bell that came from the rebuilt (1891) Tryon Street Church steeple. J. Webb Bost remembers that steeple as "tall and graceful and pointing to heaven." As has been mentioned elsewhere, the cornerstones of the two churches are now at First United Methodist Church.

In the Records and History Room there is the pulpit Bible that was given to Tryon Street Church in 1919 by Mr. W. D. Wilkinson in memory of his wife. There is also a flower stand that was part of the Tryon Street pulpit furniture.

The communion table from the Tryon Street chancel and what is thought to be part of the first individual communion service that was purchased in 1895 are also in the Records and History Room. Quoting from the Minutes of the November, 1895 monthly meeting of the Board of Stewards of Tryon Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South:

Dr. W. S. Creasy made a very plain and satisfactory statement in regard to his position in reference to the much talked of and written about individual communion cups. He stated that he did not wish to seem at all arbitrary or to have the people conform to his views in reference to the use of the cups and that he knew he was alone in the use of them, but that he used them for the simple reason that common sense taught him that they were cleanlier [sic], and it was very gratifying indeed to know that the congregation coincided with him on the use of the cups. Many, he believed, were now taking communion who had not been doing so before. He was not at all wedded to their use and if the church did not see fit to purchase them they could be returned to John Farrior, the jeweler of whom they were obtained, on condition that if after making a trial they were not satisfactory they could be returned.

One good sister (Mrs. John W. Wadsworth) gave him a contribution (unsolicited) of \$20.00 on account of same, the balance due being about \$45.00. (According to later Minutes of the Board of Stewards, it took several years to pay this \$45.00.) Dr. Creasy stated also that he did not intend to introduce the individual cups everywhere he went, but if desired he would use them as he could see no objection, either from a scriptural or our church standpoint. Several of the brethren were enthusiastic in their praise of the cups.

On motion of Walter Brem, duly seconded, the Board heartily approved the use of the individual communion cups and assumed liability for balance due on them and furthermore a vote of thanks was tendered Dr. Creasy for inaugurating them in the church.

A complete communion service, with rack inside of the church altar, was donated to the church in 1921 by Mrs. David H. Anderson, Mrs. James A. Bell, and Mrs. A. M. Whisnant in memory of their sister, Mrs. S. B. Tanner. According to the minutes of the Board of Stewards for February 14, 1921, "upon motion of Mr. Walter Clark, Jr., the board authorized the loan of the old set to some one of the Charlotte District Methodist Churches that needs it."

The pipe organ of Tryon Street Church which had been built by J. W. Steere and Sons Organ Company in 1895 was sold to the Boone Methodist Church in Boone, North Carolina in 1926, and in 1975 it had been registered with the Organ Historical Society, Inc. of Washington, Ohio. In June, 1981, the Boone church was destroyed by fire and the organ was ruined by water damage. In the Records and History Room are two of the organ pipes and a "stops board." However, this is not the original stops board but one which had been installed in 1959 in Boone when the organ was electrified.

SOME OLDER CHURCH MEMBERS REMEMBER

It is hard to realize that people who remember Tryon Street and Trinity churches are now sixty years old or older (assuming that they can remember back to the days when they were six years old). Requests for memories from the older members of First United Methodist brought disappointing results but some of these are set down here and others appear elsewhere in this book.

Of course everyone who was born before the mid-nineteentwenties remembers *Miss Sallie Bethune*. Miss Sallie was born in Charlotte in 1851. When she was quite young she started teaching Sunday School in Tryon Street Methodist Church and continued this work for over sixty years. Although she was the youngest member of the newly organized Woman's Missionary Society in Tryon Street Church in the year 1878, she became its first president.

In the 1870's Miss Sallie was teaching school in Charlotte and when the graded school system was introduced in 1882 she became the best known primary teacher in the growing city. The one graded school was on the corner of East Morehead Street and South Boulevard where the YMCA now stands and for many years was known as the "Old Graded School."

When the First Ward School was built in 1900 on East Ninth Street between Brevard and Caldwell Streets, Miss Sallie taught the first grade there. Then in 1908 the Fourth Ward School opened in a little yellow house on the corner of North Graham and West Ninth Streets and Miss Sallie became principal of this school which later (by now a new brick school) was named the Bethune School.

Not only did Miss Sallie teach several generations of children in school and become one of the best-known primary educators in the South, but she was also superintendent of the primary department in the Tryon Street Methodist Sunday School for many years. It has been said that she "taught children, their children, and their children."

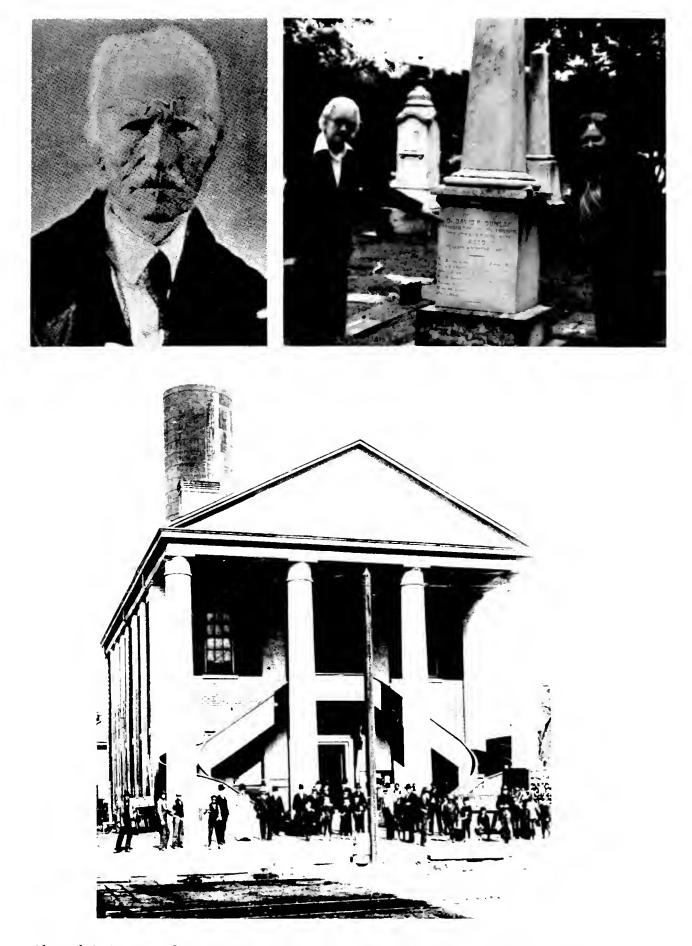
Miss Sallie died in 1928.

* * *

Another Sunday School primary teacher who was superintendent of the primary department at Trinity Methodist Church is remembered. She continued her work in First Methodist as the secretary for the primary department. This was *Mrs. E. B. Laird* who is remembered as sitting outside the door of the primary department every Sunday, greeting each child in a special and personal way. The little children looked on her as a grandmother.

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No one in today's First Methodist Church would remember the Reverend John F. Butt who established the Calvary Mission in 1865 and who built the first little wooden Methodist Church in Dilworth at his own expense, but older members should remember his son Arthur Butt who led the singing in Sunday School at Tryon Street Methodist Church in the early years of this century.



Above left, Dr. David R. Dunlap (1771-1861). He was the father of Methodism in Charlotte. This photograph came from Dr. J. B. Alexander's History of Mecklenburg County from 1740 to 1900. (1902) Above right, Jeanne Scranton and Helen Van Hoy at Dr. Dunlap's grave in the Old Settlers' Cemetery behind Charlotte's First Presbyterian Church. (1983) Below, Mecklenburg County Court House (1845-1896). The first (log) and second (brick) court houses were located on what is now called Independence Square, and this third one was located on the northeast corner of West Trade and North Church Streets where in 1907 the Selwyn Hotel was built and where a new Marriott Hotel is under construction in 1983. The stand-pipe shown behind the court house held city water that was pumped into it from a spring-fed lake reservoir that was where Independence Park is now. (Photo 1875)



Above, South Tryon Street looking north from Fourth Street. (1916) This photograph was made May 20, 1916, on the occasion of President Woodrow Wilson's visit to Charlotte. The Tryon Street Methodist steeple is hidden behind the Independence Building which was in 1909 referred to as "The Skyscraper." Note the City Hall in the center of the picture and three churches (Second Presbyterian, First Baptist, and Saint Mark's Lutheran) on the same side of North Tryon Street.

Below, North Tryon Street looking north from Independence Square. (Circa 1928) Note the plate on the site of the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence on May 20, 1775. The steeple of Tryon Street Methodist Church is near the right of the picture.

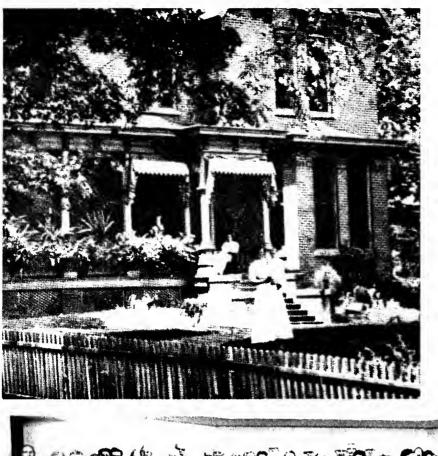




Above, Tryon Street Methodist Church Group. (Circa 1914) Why are pictures with no names and no dates placed in church archives! Dr. E. K. McLarty's name on the bulletin board shows that this picture probably was made between 1913 and 1915. The editor can identify with certainty only a few people: Mr. J. A. Russell is third from the left on the top row; Mr. J. B. Ivey, who left Tryon Street in 1915 as one of the founding fathers of Hawthorne Lane Methodist Church, and Mr. E. A. Cole, who also went to Hawthorne Lane, are in the center of the top row; Mrs. C. C. Kennedy, "Miss Lula," is second from the right on the first row; and Miss Maud McKinnon is sixth from the right on this row. Note watermelons for class identity. Wonder if they ate them!

Below, Trinity Methodist Church Group. (Circa 1926) The Reverend A. D. Wilcox was pastor when this picture was made around 1926–1927. Mr. George F. Stratton is seen top row left, and Mr. E. R. Bucher is top row right. The young lad at center front is Andrew L. Ducker, Jr., whose mother was a member of this group.

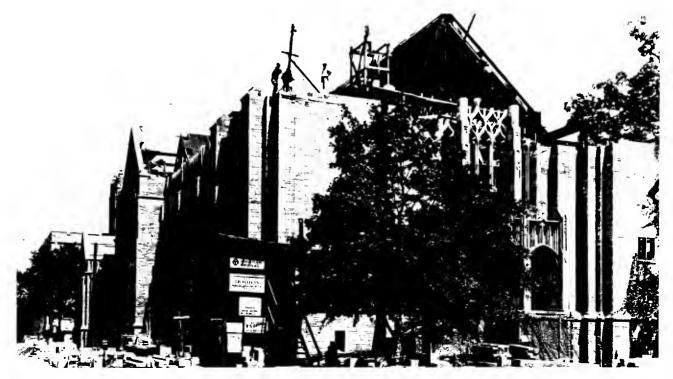




Left, The R. M. Oates Home at the corner of North Tryon and West Eighth Streets. This home was typical of the fine homes that once graced both sides of North and South Tryon Streets. It was in 1927 that First Methodist Church opened its doors on this site.



Above, Charter Members, 1977. This group picture was taken at a charter member luncheon held during the Fiftieth Anniversary celebration of First United Methodist Church. On this occasion, Mrs. D. E. Henderson was given recognition as the oldest living charter member present. She is seated front row, left side, with a robe covering her lap. *Below*, First Methodist Church under construction in 1927.



In 1930 Mrs. Sam Presson wrote an article on Tryon Street Methodist Church. This was published in one of the Charlotte newspapers and I quote: "Who can forget the Sunday School with A. L. Butt leading the singing, and such singing! It could be heard almost to the Square.

Margaret Blair, whose father, R. K. Blair, was a very active member of Tryon Street and First Church, well remembers Mrs. I. W. Pickens' Sunday School class in Tryon Street Church and the "big" Sunday School auditorium with the classrooms surrounding it. Joe Van Hoy and Marie Wilkinson (Mrs. Raymond) Brietz remember that Mrs. Wilson Crowder ("Miss Hassie") was their teacher in the primary department at Tryon Street Church. Ethel (Mrs. John C.) Rhyne remembers when the children of Mr. J. A. Jones occupied an entire pew in Trinity Methodist Church.

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Mary Belle Petrie (Mrs Aubrey L.) Howell who was born in 1913 in the old Presbyterian Hospital on the corner of West Trade and Mint Streets and who lived in the 300 block of West Fifth Street, well remembers when at the age of four or five years she slipped away from her nurse and when picked up by a policeman told him that she was going to find her mama at church. Her parents found her at the police station sitting on a policeman's lap eating his supper. [For new-comers to Charlotte—the police station was on East Fifth Street behind the City Hall which was on the corner of East Fifth and North Tryon Streets.] Mrs. Howell remembers the Sunday School entrance on West Sixth Street, taffy pulls and Sunday School picnics at Lakewood Park. [Editor's note: Belle Howell "hoped someone would remember when the police station was here." I even remember that its telephone number was 88 which gives some idea of the number of telephones in Charlotte at that time.]

The Reverend F. W. Dowd Bangle who grew up in Tryon Street and First Methodist Churches also remembers the trips to Lakewood Park. His earliest recollections about the last days of Tryon Street Church are of Mrs. Arthur Wearn, Mrs. D. E. Henderson, and Mrs. Joseph McLaughlin leading the little children in singing.

Quoting from Dowd's recollections-

Mrs. W. W. Hagood (Miss Sallie) had her class of children for a class meeting at her home on West Tenth Street. . . . I remember that she had us searching through magazines for pictures and letters to illustrate and to spell out the lines of the hymn "From Greenland's Icy Mountains to India's Coral Strand. . . ." She revealed in this endeavor her great zeal for missions in the local church and her leadership of the same in our annual conference, and I can still quote some of that verse instinctively for she had us memorize it. Maybe that experience had some preliminary influence on my later decision to enter the Christian ministry.

Anne Batten, who came from Trinity to First Methodist when the two churches combined, remembers that Dr. Ward Wilcox (who was the last pastor at Trinity) always had junior sermons for children and then the children left the sanctuary. She also remembers some of the Sunday School teachers among whom were: Miss Kate Green who gave gold stars for every achievement, Miss Bessie Connelly, and Mrs. E. B. Laird. Another vivid memory is of Mr. J. A. Jones speaking vehemently against the merger of Tryon Street and Trinity. [He did not come to First Methodist but went to Dilworth Methodist Church.] Anne also remembers the revivals, especially one in which a woman assistant went around to everyone asking, "Are you saved?"

Albert Newton Torrence wrote:

Who remembers the "Big Room" where we had opening exercises and then went to classrooms; the Sunday School papers named The Visitor and *The Young People's Weekly*? Does anyone remember "Living Pictures"?

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And now may the writer become autobiographical. It is odd how so many elderly people will say "I just don't remember" when asked to write down their recollections but will remember when they read what other people remember. I hope my own memories of Tryon Street church will bring back childhood memories to my contemporaries.

I remember *The Visitor* and I remember "Living Pictures" although I hadn't remembered the Sunday School paper until I typed the above memoir. There was a platform on the Sixth Street side of the big Sunday School room and I can shut my eyes and see one living picture—Saint Cecelia with a halo over her head playing a dear little pump organ that normally was stored in a darkish hall upstairs.

I have many other memories of Tryon Street, the earliest being how I hated to have to go to Sunday School in the afternoon right after a big Sunday dinner. My mama (Mrs. W. M. Morse) made me go and all of these years later I am glad that she did. The primary department was on the left as one went in the first Sixth Street door. Here, I particularly remember Miss Sallie Bethune (who was also my teacher in the first grade at school), Miss Sallie (Mrs. W. W., Sr.) Hagood, Miss Lillie (Mrs. Arthur H.) Wearn, and Miss Daisy (Mrs. C. S.) McLaughlin who was Sister Mattie Stewart's sister-in-law and who later went to the ARP Church because Dr. McLaughlin was an ARP. I also remember the kind of candy we got in a little bag when we had a Christmas tree.

When I was in the primary department I didn't go to church very often but usually managed to "mortify" my mama when I did go. Once I made a little diaper of my handkerchief wrapped around two fingers and was walking it up and down the back of the pew in front of me when my mama saw it and quickly ended my amusement.

Actually, one of my most vivid childhood memories of Tryon Street Church is the cross of "pearls" that was suspended over the choir loft. My common sense told me that they were light bulbs but I would sit there trying to see wires that must have suspended the cross but I never could see them.

I also remember that an old man sat in the amen corner on the right hand side of the church and every few minutes he would say "Amen." Since that was what the preacher always said when church was over, my childish brain figured out that the old man was suggesting to the preacher that it was time for him to stop preaching and I didn't think that old man was very polite. When I had become a teenager, Sunday School had changed over to morning hours and when you went to Sunday School you stayed on for church. I remember that I was very fond of Dr. Bain who stayed at our church for only a short time.

There are many memories of the winter of 1917–1918 when 77,000 soldiers were stationed at Camp Greene on the western outskirts of the city. All of the city churches made a special effort to be kind to the soldiers and it was customary for church members to bring soldiers home from church each Sunday. In addition to Sundays, every church had a party for soldiers after the Wednesday night prayer meeting. [At Saint Peter's Episcopal Church they *danced* in the Parish House.]

Tryon Street Methodist Church had a committee to take charge of all entertainment of soldiers and the members of this committee, according to the Minutes of the Board of Stewards of Tryon Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South for Nov. 26, 1917, were "Bros. J. A. Russell, Chm., D. H. Anderson, and Marvin L. Ritch."

Mr. "June" Russell gathered up all of the girls who lived on Poplar Street and brought us to the church on Wednesday night to help entertain the soldiers. Back in those days, it was perfectly safe to walk to church at night and to walk home accompanied by soldiers that you had just met at church.

Until my friend Thelma Albright (whose father was a Methodist minister) reminded me of it, I had completely forgotten that each Sunday School lesson had a "Golden Text" that we had to memorize.

Í could go on and on but space does not permit. Just one moregoing back to days in the primary department at Tryon Street—the first speech that I ever made was when I held up a lighted candle in a brass candlestick and said, "South America still pleads. Hear, Oh Hear, her present needs." I think this program was put on by "The Light Bearers."

* * *

In the church archives there are many different church rolls. In compiling this history the writer has found that two have been most useful: the mid 1890's roll of Tryon Street and the current roll of First United Methodist. These two rolls are included in this history, as is a roll of charter members of First United Methodist.

In looking over the Tryon Street rolls the writer remembers some good Tryon Street members who were not charter members of First Church. Among these were Mr. C. W. Tillett, Sr. who always brought his family to church in one of the town's earliest automobiles (a top-less electric); Dr. E. C. Register whose wife, known as "Sister Register," was quite a well-known character who knew everybody; * also Mr. M. F. Kirby who was a faithful worker in Tryon Street Church; and Mrs. Ila (Mrs. J. N.) McCausland at whose home on Poplar Street the missionary society often had "ice cream suppers." Mr. James A. Bell was not on the 1895 roll because he grew up in the old Harrison Methodist Church.

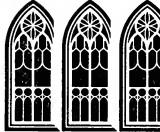
Mr. J. B. Ivey is not on any one of the church rolls referred to and Mr. Ivey was one of the pillars of the Methodist Church. He came to Charlotte at the turn of the century and founded Ivey's department store. (As long as Mr. Ivey lived, curtains on the show windows of the store were closed on Sundays.) The Iveys left Tryon Street as one of the founding families of Hawthorne Lane Methodist Church. Mr. Ivey, his second wife and her daughter, Mary Gilmer Weatherly (Mrs. Oscar Yokely) and his daughter, Ella Ivey (Mrs. Oliver M.) Litaker, later came back to First Church and Mrs. Ivey taught a Sunday School class for many years.

*Mrs. Lillian Boyer (Mrs. W. Reid) Garrison, a daughter of Dr. H. K. Boyer who was pastor of Tryon Street Methodist from 1906–1908, who is now a resident of Sharon Towers in Charlotte, tells the following anecdote: When the lawyer was reading Dr. Register's will and Mrs. Register heard that he had willed \$1500 to erect a monument, she exclaimed, "The old boy thought right well of himself."

CHAPTER SEVEN

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(1927–1939) FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH (1939–1968) FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (1968–1983) FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



By 1920 Charlotte was indeed changing from a town to a city and at this time Dilworth Methodist Church (1896) and Hawthorne Lane Methodist Church (1915) had taken some of the influential members of Tryon Street Church. Other Methodist churches in

Charlotte in 1920 were: Calvary (1865), Wesley Heights (1883), Cole Memorial (1890), Belmont Park (1897), Spencer Memorial (1904), Chadwick (1905), Duncan Memorial (1911), and Central Avenue (1913). Now (1982) there are 58 United Methodist Churches listed in the Charlotte Telephone Directory.

Tryon Street Methodist Church had been involved in the founding of these early Charlotte Methodist churches; in fact it has been said that in 25 years 25 new churches were built. For example, from the minutes of the Tryon Street Board of Stewards Quarterly Conference, May 27, 1912:

... the following committee was elected to look into the advisability of building a chapel somewhere in East Charlotte: E. A. Cole, J. B. Ivey, B. D. Heath, J. B. Boyd, and J. D. McCall.

Then in 1913:

... committee consisting of J. B. Ivey, J. L. Snyder, C. S. Stone, L. L. Caudle, E. A. Cole, F. H. Washburn, B. D. Heath and J. D. McCall to investigate the needs of the section of the city living in the Piedmont Section.

And again in 1914,

Committee recommended acceptance of offer made by Bro. B. D. Heath, lot cor. 8th & Hawthorne Lane value \$5,000.00 provided church will build \$25,000 edifice. Trustees elected: J. B. Ivey, J. P. Lucas, F. H. Washburn, one trustee to be elected by new congregation when organized.

FIRST DISCUSSION OF A LARGE UPTOWN METHODIST CHURCH

In the early 1920's Mr. James B. Duke built a fine home in the newly developed suburb of Charlotte, Myers Park, and he and Mrs. Duke and their small daughter Doris lived there for a few months each year.

In the Duke University Library there is a transcript of an interview with Mr. E. R. Bucher, an influential member of Trinity and, later on, of First Methodist Church. This was tape-recorded in 1963 and consisted of Mr. Bucher's recollections of Mr. Duke's association with Dilworth, Trinity, and Tryon Street Methodist Churches.

Mr. Bucher was associated with Duke Power Company and one day Mr. Duke said to him, "You know, I'm going to spend a great deal of time in Charlotte. I think I ought to do something for Charlotte Methodism."

Dilworth Methodist Church had outgrown its small brick building^{*} by this time and Mr. Duke said if they would build a new church out of stone he would give them \$50,000. It was during this conference with Dilworth Methodists that something was said about a possible re-consolidation of Tryon Street and Trinity Methodist churches and if these two churches went together it would make a large church with 3,500 or 4,000 members. Mr. Duke said that he didn't like churches that were too big for the people to know the preacher.

Later on, Mr. D. E. (Zeke) Henderson, who was superintendent of the Tryon Street Methodist Sunday School at that time, took Mr. Duke over to the Tryon Street Church building to discuss building of a new Sunday School building definitely or alternatively to merge with another church and build one large city church. The upshot of this was that Mr. Duke said, "If you will build a representative downtown stone church, I'll give you \$100,000 toward it."

 $\ensuremath{^{\circ}}$ The first Dilworth Methodist Church building was wood, and this was the second one.

The first official discussion of uniting the churches was at a joint committee meeting on February 14, 1921. After Walter Clark's motion to merge, it was decided to submit a definite merger proposal to the members of both congregations, and within a few weeks committees to work out details of the merger were appointed. Representing Tryon Street were Dr. A. M. Whisnant, Attorney James A. Bell, J. A. Russell (Assistant Clerk of Superior Court), Arthur Wearn (later to become Mayor of Charlotte), and businessmen W. W. Hagood, Sr., and Munsey Smith. Representing Trinity were banker Julian H. Little, E. R. Bucher of Duke Power Company, Attorney Paul C. Whitlock, Dr. J. A. Elliott, and businessmen George W. Patterson and Keely Grice.

TRYON STREET AND TRINITY DECIDE TO MERGE AND BUILD A NEW METHODIST CHURCH

At a joint Quarterly Conference of the two churches November 24, 1926, the members of the two churches voted to form a large uptown church. The two congregations raised several hundred thousand dollars. The Tryon Street Church property was offered for sale for \$300,000 and it was hoped that the Trinity Church property would sell for almost this much. The joint building committee, which was composed of representatives from both churches, thought finances were assured and proceeded with plans for a large stone church. Mr. Julian H. Little was chairman of this joint building committee.

BUILDING OF THE NEW CHURCH IN 1927

The former Oates home on the corner of North Tryon and West Eighth Streets was purchased for \$140,000. The land fronted 110 feet on Tryon Street, 396 feet on Eighth Street, and 108 feet on North Church Street. As the years have passed, adjoining property on North Tryon Street and on North Church Street has been purchased for use as parking lots and a children's play yard.

FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

Tryon Street and Trinity Methodist churches were officially united by Bishop Edwin D. Mouzon at a joint meeting of officials of the two churches in Quarterly Conference on October 28, 1927. This conference took place in the "Adult Sunday School Auditorium," later to be used as a chapel and now (1983) called "Founders' Hall."

At this time the sanctuary was not finished and the first church service was held in this hall on Sunday, October 30, 1927, with Bishop Mouzon conducting the service. The evening service was held in the Carolina Theater because installation of lights had not been completed in the new church building. Bishop Mouzon also conducted this service.

The new sanctuary was first used on March 11, 1928 and Bishop Mouzon preached. (A charter member remembers that the bishop preached for one hour and the service lasted two hours.) There was a week-long celebration and on March 15, 1928 there was an organ concert by Harold Gleason of the Eastman School of Music. At this concert there was standing room only and an audience of more than 2,500 people.

The Board of Stewards for the new church was made up from the boards of the two churches and Dr. A. M. Whisnant was elected chairman. The new Board of Trustees was also selected from the trustees of the parent churches and included Dr. A. M. Whisnant, Julian H. Little, James A. Bell, E. R. Bucher, W. W. Hagood, Jr. (W. W. Hagood, Sr. had died in 1927 and his son replaced him as a trustee and on the building committee), J. A. Russell, Arthur Wearn, Dr. J. A. Elliott and P. C. Whitlock.

At the time the two churches combined Dr. A. L. Stanford was pastor of Tryon Street, and the Reverend A. D. Wilcox was pastor of Trinity. Tryon Street had 1,400 members and Trinity had 1,100 Some of the Trinity members transferred to Dilworth Methodist Church and to Myers Park Methodist Church which had been organized in 1925.

Dr. W. W. Peele was the first minister of First Methodist Church and Mr. T. J. Lillard was the treasurer. However, in 1928 church officials realized that a younger man was needed and Mr. H. B. Simpson became treasurer from that time until 1942.

The church bulletin of First Methodist Episcopal Church, South for December 9, 1928, shows the organization of the new church. It is interesting to note that women are involved only in the Sunday School and missions.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

W. WALTER PEELE, D.D Pastor			
1106 Dilworth Road, Resid	ence Phone, Hemlock 8155; Stu	dy, Jackson 586	
MISS MAUD McKINNON	$\dots \dots Director of$	Religious Education	
Off	fice Phone, Jackson 451	_	
MISS ERLEEN MITCHELI		Church Secretary	
	fice Phone, Jackson 586	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
T. I. LILLARD	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Church Treasurer	
Of	fice Phone. Jackson 586		
H. B. SIMPSON	Treasu	rer Building Fund	
Care	First Methodist Church	ior building r und	
W A WILSON		Missionary Pastor	
	Okayama, Japan	. Missionary 1 astor	
FOWIN D MOUZON DD	TTD	Bishon	
EDWIN D. MOUZON, D.D	., LL.D.		
	Dilworth Station, Charlotte, N. C		
	Presiding Elder,	Charlotte District	
413 Cent	tral Avenue, Charlotte, N. C.		
TRUSTEES_I & Ball Chai	rman; E. R. Bucher, J. A. Russell	I II I ;++la A++hur	
	n, A. M. Whisnant, W. W. Hago		
lock.	n, A. M. Winshant, W. W. Hage	Jou, ji., i. C. wint-	
	ARD OF STEWARDS		
Dr A M Whispant Chairman	I H I ittle Vice Chairman, C	C Challer Soor	
	, J. H. Little, vice-Chanman; G	•	
T. W. Aldred	H. P. Harding	Frank O. Sherrill	
R. G. Auten	A. L. Harmon	H. B. Simpson	
J. A. Bell	Geo. W. Hart	J. K. Slear	
W. M. Bell	D. E. Henderson	A. W. Smith	
Dr. S. B. Bivens	B. F. Houston	J. Wilson Smith	
R. K. Blair	C. E. Hurst	M. D. Smith	
J. C. Booker	H. B. Ingram	Roy S. Smith	
J. H. Bost	R. S. Kirby	Dr.C.B.Squires	
		Plummer Stewart	
C. M. Byers	J. P. Little	W. S. Stewart	
W. F. Casey	G. M. Lupo	George F. Stratton	
W. F. Cochran	P. R. McCain	W. B. Stuart	
E. M. Cole	J. D. McCall	C. R. Swinney	
A. G. Craig	Jos. McLaughlin	W. J. Thomas	
W. R. Cuthbertson	Brevard Merritt	W. F. Tucker	
W. H. Davidson	J. C. Montgomery	M. M. Tuttle	
W. B. Devlin	T. C. Moose	J. M. Van Hoy	
A. L. Ducker	J. C. Newell	W. E. Vest	
Dr. J. A. Elliott	B. J. Overcarsh	A. H. Wearn	
J. R. Felts	Geo. W. Patterson	P. C. Whitlock	
A. W. Ferguson	Dr. Reid Patterson	H. L. Whitmore	
F. A. Fischrupp	J. H. Phifer	John L. Wilkinson	
H. A. Garrison	W. B. Pickens	W. D. Wilkinson	
B. L. Green	Louis G. Ratcliffe	L. W. Wingate	
Fred A. Greene	G. G. Ray	B. L. Wilhelm	
Keely A. Grice	Dr. H. F. Ray		
W. W. Hagood, Jr.	J. A. Russell		

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ENTERTAINMENT-D. E. Henderson, Chairman; Dr. J. A. Elliott, Vice-Chairman.

SICK AND RELIEF*-John L. Wilkinson, Chairman; A. G. Craig, Vice-Chairman. BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION-D. E. Henderson, Chairman; Mrs.

Charles C. Ray, Miss Helen Hoyle, E. R. Bucher, M. D. Smith.

SUPERINTENDENT OF CHURCH SCHOOL-E. R. Bucher.

LAY LEADER-W. R. Cuthbertson.

PRESIDENT OF WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY-Mrs. W. D. Wilkinson. PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY-Miss Elizabeth Capell.

PRESIDENT OF EPWORTH LEAGUE-Mrs. W. L. Harlan.

SUPERVISION OF SCOUTING-J. M. Van Hoy; T. C. Moose, Assistant. ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR-Mrs. W. D. Alexander, Jr.

* The "Sick and Relief Committee" was once an important committee that looked after church members in time of need. Its function has now been largely replaced by today's programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, Unemployment Insurance, Crisis Assistance Ministry, etc.

RECISTER OF CHARTER MEMBERS OF FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Abernethy, Irene	Alexander, M. C.	Allen, Mrs. W. H.
Abernethy, Oscar M.	Alexander, Mrs. M. C.	Allison, Barnwell
Abernethy, Dr.	Alexander, M. C., Jr.	Allison, Bettie
Wallace W.	Alexander, Mabel	Allison, J. A.
Adams, Mrs. C. C.	Alexander, Margaret	Allison, Mrs. J. A.
Adams, C. C., Jr.	Alexander, Nan	Allison, Mrs. Lloyd A.
Addison, H. T.	Alexander, Pattie L.	Allison, Minnie B.
Addison, Mrs. H. T.	Alexander, Terry	Allison, Mrs. Minnie J.
Adkins, Mrs. Emma K.	Alexander, Mrs. Terry	Allison, Sadie
Albea, E. N.	Alexander, Willie (Miss)	Allison, Mrs. Sara J.
Albea, Mrs. E. N.	Allen, David	Allison, Thomas G.
Albea, Julia	Allen, Mrs. H. A.	Allison, W. P.
Albright, Georgia	Allen, John R. C.	Allison, W. S.
Aldred, T. W.	Allen, Louise	Allison, Mrs. W. S.
Aldred, Mrs. T. W.	Allen, Mary Frances	Allred, Marguerite W.
Alexander, B. T.	Allen, Paul H.	Almond, G. A., Jr.
Alexander, Mrs. C. C.	Allen, Mrs. Paul H.	Almond, Mrs. G. A., Jr.
Alexander, C. N.	Allen, Sallie	Altee, Mrs. M. L.
Alexander, Ellen	Allen, W. H.	Anderson, Mrs. D. H.

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Thomason, Mrs. Herbert Tuttle, Mrs. M. M. Thomason, Lalla Mae Thomason, Mrs. P. E. Thomason, W. A. Thomason, Mrs. W. A. Thompkins, J. R. Thompkins, Mrs. J. R. Thompson, Bessie Thompson, Caroline Thompson, Homer A. Thompson, J. B. Thompson, Mrs. J. B. Thomson, Mrs. J. H. Thomson, Sara Thornburg, May Thornton, Frances Thorpe, Mrs. J. H. Ticer, Mrs. D. A. Tillett, Chas. W. Tillman, E. J. Tiner, John G. Tiner, Mrs. John G. Tison, Marion Tison, Mrs. S. M. Tomlin, Geo. F. Torrence, Mrs. L. C. Tredenick, Mrs. T. S. Trelour, Margaret Tromley, Mrs. Laura Thrower, H. T. Thrower, Mrs. H. T. Trull, David C. Trull, Frances P. Trull, James F. Trull, Mrs. James F. Tucker, W. F. Tucker, Mrs. W. F. Tunno, Ida Belle Tunno, Mrs. John Turbeville, J. W. Turbeville, Winston Turner, Charles Turner, Mrs. James A. Turner, James A., Jr. Turner, Mrs. Minnie Turner, W. T. Tutor, Vennie (Miss) Tuttle, Emma Lee Tuttle, Erskine Tuttle, M. M.

Tuttle, Mills M., Jr. Tyson, Mrs. Daisy R. Underwood, B. R. Vance, Mrs. Chas. Vanderburg, Mrs. Lessie Ward, Mrs. M. S. Vanderburg, Lottie Vanderburg, Mary Vanderburg, Melvin Vanderburg, Robert Van Horne, Mrs. Jack Van Hoy, Joe Marshall Van Hoy, Joe Milton Vaughn, Pearl Vaughn, Mrs. S. C. Veal, Mrs. A. H. Veal, Lavinia Veal, Mary Vest, W. E. Wadsworth, E. T. Waggoner, Gretta Mae Waggoner, John P. Waggoner, Mrs. John P. Waggoner, John P., Jr. Waggoner, William Wagner, Mary Lou Walden, Mrs. W. A. Walker, Ethel Walker, L. J. Walker, R. D. Walker, Mrs. R. D. Walker, R. L. Walker, Mrs. R. L. Wall, Ethel (A. L. Stanford) Wall, G. D. Wall, Mrs. G. D. Wallace, Mrs. Georgia P. Wearn, Mrs. A. H. Walpole, A. H. Walpole, Mrs. A. H. Walsh, Anna Belle Walsh, George Walsh, Gertrude Walsh, Permelia Walsh, Sallie May Walsh, Sam, Jr. Walsh, Samuel C. Walsh, Mrs. Samuel C. Walters, Mrs. E. H. Ward, Jeannette

Ward, John A. Ward, Mrs. John A. Ward, John Vernon Ward, Mrs. Loula Ward, M. S. Ward, R. Douglas Wardin, E. G. Wardin, Mrs. Joseph Warlick, Cleo Warlick, Elizabeth Warlick, Margaret Warren, Ethel Warren, Hattie R. Warren, Rebecca Warren, W. D. Warren, Mrs. W. D. Washam, Carl B. Washam, Mrs. Carl B. Watkins, J. Z. Watkins, Jennie Watkins, Mrs. Mary Augustos Watkins, Miriam Watkins, Olive Watkins, Mrs. W. E. Watson, B. F. Watson, Mrs. B. F. Watson, Coburn Watson, Flora Watson, J. C. Watson, Mrs. J. C. Watson, Lucretia Waugh, Mrs. John Way, C. H. Way, Mrs. C. H. Wearn, A. H. Wearn, Adelaide Wearn, Frances S. Wearn, James C. Wearn, Maggie Wearn, W. H. Wearn, W. H., Jr. Weaver, H. D. Webb, Amelia Webb, Harold Webb, L. R. Webb, Mrs. L. R. Webb, Robert M.

Webb, Mrs. Robert M. Webb, Mrs. Sara Webb, W. H. Webb, Mrs. W. H. Webster, Dr. B. H. Wedden, Nellie Weddington, J. Y. Weeks, H. W. Weeks, Mrs. H. W. Weir, T. H. Welch, C. B. Welch, Mrs. C. B. Wellons, Ben F. Wells, R. M. Wentz, Bryan Wentz, Clara Wentz, Flonnie Wentz, Lafayette Wentz, Mrs. Martha Wentz, W. L. Wentz, Mrs. W. L. West, J. B. West, Mrs. J. B. Westbrook, Mrs. Mildred Wiggins, Mrs. J. E., Jr. Westbrook, R. H. Westerfield, E. H. Westmoreland, Mary Wharton, W. W. Wharton, Mrs. W. W. Whatley, R. A. Whatley, Mrs. R. A. Whatley, Vasco Wheeler, Mrs. J. E. Wheeler, Mrs. Lucy M. Wheeler, W. M. Whisnant, Dr. A. M. Whisnant, Mrs. A. M. Whisnant, Albert M., Jr. Whisnant, Henrietta Whisnant, Hope Whisnant, Mrs. I. M. White, Mrs. Alice P. White, C. Baxter White, Mrs. Carl White, Cornelia White, D. M. White, Mrs. D. M. White, Earl C. White, Mrs. Earl C. White, James G.

White, Mrs. John H. White, Lavinia White, M. H. White, R. B. White, Mrs. Robert F. White, S. Clayton White, Winnie Whitehead, Mrs. J. D. Whitehurst, Mrs. W. S. Whitener, L. L. Whitener, Mrs. L. L. Whitlock, Bertie Whitlock, Effie Whitlock, Neil Whitlock, Paul C. Whitlock, Mrs. Paul C. Whitlock, Paul C., Jr. Whitlow, B. W. Whitlow, Mrs. B. W. Whitlow, Ben W., Jr. Whitlow, Thalia Widenhouse, E. A. Wiggins, J. E., Jr. Wiggins, L. S. Wiggins, Mrs. Mary L. Wiggs, Frank B. Wike, Blanche Wilcox, Mrs. A. D. Wilcox, Mark H. Wilcox, Ward Wiley, Carrie Wilhelm, Annave Wilhelm, B. L. Wilhelm, Mrs. B. L. Wilkinson, Blannah (Miss) Wolfe, Ethel Wilkinson, Elizabeth Wilkinson, J. L. Wilkinson, Mrs. J. L. Wilkinson, J. L., Jr. Wilkinson, Marie Wilkinson, W. D. Wilkinson, Mrs. W. D. Wilkinson, W. D., Jr. Willard, Mrs. K. U. Willard, K. U., Jr. Williams, Mrs. Annie Williams, Mrs. A. G. Williams, Dr. H. C. Williams, Mrs. H. C.

Williams, Harold Williams, Ila Williams, Mrs. J. C. Williams, Jane Williams, Jettie Williams, Mrs. L. W. Williams, Lula B. Willis, Sarah Jane Wilson, A. J. Wilson, Mrs. A. J. Wilson, A. J., Jr. Wilson, Mrs. F. S. Wilson, J. L. Wilson, Mrs. J. L. Wilson, James, Jr. Wilson, Řosa Wilson, Mrs. S. R. Winchester, Mrs. F. M. Winchester, J. R. Winchester, Mrs. J. R. Winecoff, Bess Wingate, Evelyn Wingate, J. C. Wingate, Mrs. J. C. Wingate, J. O. Wingate, Mrs. J. O. Wingate, L. W. Wingate, Mrs. L. W. Wingate, Leo Winston, Catherine Winston, W. H. Winston, Mrs. W. H. Wiseheart, Mrs. Estelle Wiseheart, Geo. A. Withers, Mrs. J. B. Wolfe, H. P. Wolfe, Mrs. H. P. Wolfe, Henry Eule Wolfe, Janie Wolfe, John H. Wolfe, Mrs. John H. Wolfe, R. H. Wolfe, Vernelle Womack, C. S. Womack, Mrs. C. S. Woodruff, John M. Woodruff, Mrs. Laura Wooge, Mrs. D. L. Wooters, J. K.

Wooters, Mrs. J. K. Wooters, William Worley, C. E. Worley, Mrs. C. E. Worley, Mrs. S. J. Worsham, M. L. Worth, Elizabeth Worthen, Mrs. Alice Wray, Mrs. L. H. Wrenn, W. E. Wright, Edgar Wright, Mrs. Edgar Wright, Elizabeth Wright, Mrs. Helen Wright, M. A. Wright, Mrs. M. A. Wright, R. Z. Wright, W. Robert Wyatt, Edith Wyke, Mrs. D. P. Yancey, T. B. Yandle, Bliss R. (Miss) Yandle, E. F. Yandle, Elizabeth Yandle, Mrs. W. P. Yands, E. F. Yates, Paul E. Yates, Mrs. Paul E. Young, Clarence B. Young, Eugene Young, Mrs. Eugene Young, Fred Young, H. Claude Young, Mrs. H. Claude Young, Laura Youngblood, Effie Youngblood, Herbert Youngblood, Joe L. Youngblood, Joe L. Youngblood, Mrs. Kate Youngblood, Lewis Youngblood, S. H. Zole, Mrs. Clara

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

Recall that discussion of consolidation of Tryon Street and Trinity churches and the building of a large uptown church had begun in 1921. In the early 1920's it had been thought that financing would be assured by Mr. Duke's expected gift of \$100,000, sale of the Tryon Street and Trinity church properties, and money raised by both congregations.

A series of financial troubles plagued the building of the new church. Mr. Duke died in November of 1925 and when his will was probated it was discovered that he had not yet written the \$100,000 gift into his will. The Tryon Street church property which had been expected to sell for \$300,000 had to be sold for \$250,000 after a previous offer of \$275,000 had been turned down. The Trinity property did not sell for a long time. The church was finally torn down and the land was rented for some years as a parking lot.

On Tuesday, October 29, 1929, came the crash of the stock market and "The Great Depression" began.

It had been estimated that the new First Methodist Church would cost \$710,000 (including the cost of the lot) and the actual total cost came to \$1,048,745.67.

Lot	\$140,000.00
Building Contract	462,201.11
Architect Fees	23,070.71
Plumbing (16 Rest Rooms, 6 Founts)	6,854.76

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Heating (3 Furnaces) Radiators	15,586.78
Electric Wiring	6,645.82
Elec. Chandeliers & Fix.	8,826.49
Painting & Decorating	1,890.02
Shrubbery, Yard Work, and Sidewalks	979.65
Carpets, Rugs, Stage Curtains	6,303.49
Pulpit Furniture & 128 Pews	15,100.00
3500 Chairs & Seats	21,384.10
Tables, Desks, Blackboards, and other	
Church School Equipment	3,000.00
Kitchen Equipment	1,200.00
Office Equipment	2,672.94
Exhaust Fans (9 ft. Diameter) Gift	1,500.00
Chimes (Gift)	13,750.00
Pianos (1 Grand, 12 Uprights)	3,000.00
The Great Organ & Install	24,780.00
Interest on various debts	265,000.00
Total Cost	\$1,023,745.87
In addition to this there has been	
expended for various items for	
Church School & Auditorium Song	
Books, etc., approximately	25,000.00
Grand Total	\$1,048,745.87

In December of 1930 a large mortgage was obtained with the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company. The church members (with their ages at this time) who endorsed this mortgage were:

- James A. Bell (70) E. R. Bucher (51) W. R. Cuthbertson (30) W. H. Davidson (57) J. A. Elliott (54) Keely A. Grice (53) W. W. Hagood, Jr. (30) G. W. Hart (56) J. B. Ivey (70) R. S. Kirby (42) J. H. Little (70)
- G. W. Patterson (57) L. G. Ratcliffe (44) J. A. Russell (75) Frank O. Sherrill (37) W. S. Stewart (49) A. W. Smith (54) M. D. Smith (52) W. J. Thomas () A. H. Wearn (63) A. M. Whisnant (68) P. C. Whitlock (56)

The depression continued and with the closing of the banks on March 5, 1933, many congregational pledges could not be paid; what money the church did have was in the Independence Trust Company which was closed and not allowed to reopen.*

By this time the church was in financial difficulties to an extent that seemed insurmountable and money was being borrowed on personal notes signed by the trustees. Some even mortgaged their homes in order to save the church and many church members carried Building and Loan shares made payable to the church.

Conditions at this time may best be told by quoting from the memoirs of Mr. H. B. Simpson who was the church treasurer at this time.

In February of 1934 economic conditions were so discouraging that it began to appear that we would not have sufficient funds to meet the principal payment due to the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, to say nothing of the interest which would be due on March 1st. Various special board meetings were held and the board members were depressed over the conditions.

I remember at one of these meetings Dr. A. M. Whisnant, the Board Chairman, in trying to keep up the morale, stated that, "you can get me down and stomp on me, but I am going to get back up." At one of these meetings he had a cardboard sign painted with the words, "Work, Faith, and Prayer" which he held up before the board as a motto for the members to be guided by. On one particular occasion one of the notes at a Charlotte bank was coming due and we did not have sufficient funds on hand to pay the interest for renewal of this note. Dr. Whisnant phoned me to come up to his office in the Professional Building just before the note was due and gave me a check for the building fund and said that he had just sold a piece of property a day or two before. This check was for \$1,500.00 and enabled me to pay the interest for the renewal of the note. This was one of numerous sacrifices that Dr. Whisnant made for the church financially, and he was always interested in the progress of the church in every way. He would frequently call me on Monday and say, "H.B., what did we do yesterday?" This was his way of finding out how the finances were coming in. He was Chairman of the Board for the full time of my employment with the church. What a wonderful Christian man he was! Always cheerful and encouraging!

In late February, 1934, the Board of Stewards decided to seek some

* The bank later paid all of its depositors in full so the money belonging to the church was not lost. The Independence Trust Company was in the Independence Building on the northwest corner of Independence Square. This building was demolished on Sunday, September 27, 1981.

financial relief from the mortgager. Accordingly, they appointed a committee of Attorney D. E. Henderson, holder, and the business manager to go to Washington, D.C. and confer with the representative there for this purpose. Mr. Henderson and I left Charlotte on the evening of February 28, 1934, by train for Washington at 8:30. We arrived in Washington, D.C. the next morning and found a 4" snow on the ground. We conferred with the local representative of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company there, but they informed us that they did not have authority to make any adjustments and suggested we go to the home office in Boston, Mass. We proceeded to Boston and put up at the Y.M.C.A. for the night. The next morning we took a taxi out to the home office of said company. As we left Charlotte I took along a blank check with funds in the bank to cover the past due principal which I believe was either \$7,500 or \$12,500. At their office I stayed in the background with the check until Mr. Henderson had secured an agreement with them to cancel the back due interest, give us some sort of moratorium on the principal payments, and a reduction in the interest rate from $5\frac{3}{4}$ % to $3\frac{3}{2}$. * Mr. Henderson came out of the office and we had the check filled out for the amount of the principal due. The night of our departure from Charlotte for this trip was the night of the tremendous freeze around Winston-Salem, High Point, and Greensboro. Winston-Salem was without power for a week. I remember looking out of the train window as we were coming back through the Greensboro-High Point region and seeing many broken-down trees. The church paid our expenses for this trip, but Mr. Henderson made no charge for his services out of his love for the church. He did a good job getting these adjustments made.

After we got back to Charlotte, a special meeting of the Board of Stewards called for us to make a report on the results of our trip. The net result of the adjustment amounted to approximately \$35,000 which was the reduction in interest rate from $5\frac{3}{4}$ to 3% on one mortgage.

I had sent a telegram after we got the results in Boston to inform Mr. Louis Ratcliffe, Chairman of the Finance Committee, to request a called meeting of the board for our report (verification of the results of this trip should be found in the Minutes of the Board of Stewards' Meeting of about the first of March, 1934).

Our report to the special board meeting was very inspiring and it was immediately decided to put on a building fund campaign to raise pledges to apply on the debt in the amount of \$100,000, even though the times were not propitious for raising money.

It was about this time that by contacting Mr. Perkins, chairman of the Duke Endowment in New York City, we asked him to confer with Miss Doris Duke to find out if she would be willing to honor Mr. Duke's

* But for this agreement, it is most likely that the church property would have been lost through foreclosure.

oral pledge to pay \$100,000 to First Methodist Church. Miss Duke responded and we were able to pay off the local bank notes. This gift further added enthusiasm and incentive for raising the matching \$100,000.

To promote the new campaign to raise the \$100,000 to apply on the debt, prominent men in the church were used to make five minute talks to the assembled congregation just before the preaching service on a number of Sunday mornings. I remember Mr. James A. Bell being one of the speakers. Being the reverent man that he was, he did not want to speak from the pulpit for he thought the pulpit should be reserved for ordained ministers and he spoke from the aisle to the right of the communion rail. He made the statement that this large debt was affecting his worship in the church because it was bearing down on his mind, or words to that effect. He urged the membership to respond generously.

The Business Manager made a talk one Sunday and reminded the congregation that this was the seventh year in the life of the church and would be an important year because we find that the number 7 has a symbolic connotation in the Bible in a number of instances.

Other promotional efforts were made, letters were mailed out to the membership, and they were urged to come to church on an important Sunday prepared to make their contribution to the fund by signing the pledge cards which were passed out to members of the congregation. After additional appeals were made for response, the ushers were asked to circulate up and down the aisles and collect the pledges as they were made and bring them to the rostrum where we had an adding machine to keep a running total on the pledges as they were handed to the Business Manager. Response was very encouraging and with additional following work we obtained our objective.

In tabulating the pledges I noticed one pledge which appeared to be too much for a certain family in which the husband and father was out of work. Later I telephoned this home and inquired from the wife if this pledge was correct and she assured me that it was, and that she knew where the money was coming from — and it was paid.

I think J. Wilson Smith, Men's Bible Class teacher, made one of the five minute talks. He could make an inspiring appeal.

In the late nineteen thirties the Federal Reserve Bank, which had headquarters in the First National Bank building, bought the Trinity lot for \$100,000 on which to build offices for the Federal Reserve Bank. It turned out that when the two churches merged a few of the Trinity Church members transferred to the Dilworth Methodist Church, among them being the J. A. Jones family. Being an important member of Trinity, he had influenced the Trinity Church Board of Stewards to give a percentage of the proceeds of the sale of the Trinity Church lot to Dilworth Methodist Church which was a relatively new church with some debt on it. To fulfill this promise, \$35,000 of the proceeds of the lot sale was given to the Dilworth church, and the balance was applied on the First Methodist Church debt. Also given to Dilworth was a percentage of the income during the years that the Trinity lot had been rented for a parking lot.

Mr. Simpson's description of meals served at the church in the 1930's is interesting in comparison with today's (1983) prices:

The church could not afford a regular dietitian for preparing meals, so we had to get ladies who were willing to give their services to help prepare the meals when we had dinner meetings. I kept a list of names that I could call to come in and help when they were needed, both in preparing food and in serving it. This work came under my supervision and my wife was a great help in preparing menus and she and I would buy the food carefully. Most meals were served for 25ϕ each. At one time a missionary conference for the Bishops and ministers was held in our church to last for several days and attended by approximately 100 key people. They asked that the meals be served in the church and they paid 50¢ per meal. We made some money on this conference and with this money we bought some folding tables for the dining room.

I remember when the depression was so severe that Mr. Bucher, Superintendent of the Sunday School, and I felt that the members of the Worker's Council, composed of Sunday School teachers, could not be expected to pay for their meals at 25ϕ each. He asked us to see what we could fix for 10ϕ . My wife with the "helpers" prepared a meal of a good vegetable soup and sandwiches for the sum of 10ϕ . Food was cheap then so we had a good thick soup and good sandwiches and no one complained of not having enough. We, of course, served a drink, perhaps coffee.

It appears that the church hit "rock bottom" in pledges during the depression year of 1933–1934 when the total pledges dwindled to a mere \$19,000. But even during that year our collection percentage of pledges was 91.2%. The budget had been cut to a minimum, but every cent of the Children's Home allotment and the Conference assessments were paid in full. I even collected some post-dated checks and in one instance a 90-day note in payment of a pledge which was put up at one of the banks and renewed several times before being paid out. The budget that year was a minimum of \$24,000.

Dr. Whisnant's "Work, Faith, and Prayer" finally prevailed and dedication of the church, March 9 – 19, 1944, was a time of much celebration. Bishop Walter W. Peele, our first minister, preached the dedicatory sermon on March 19, 1944, at the 11:00 a.m. worship service and climaxed at the evening service when a photostatic copy of the mortgage was burned over a brass bowl belonging to Mrs. W. Reynolds Cuthbertson, Sr. As the smoke rose, Mrs. W. W. Hagood, Sr., said, "This is holy smoke." Many outstanding speakers were invited to participate in this celebration including Bishop Clare Purcell and Dr. Peter Marshall. Dr. G. Ray Jordan was pastor at this time.

This is the place to include several excerpts from a paper on "The Making and Payment of the Church Debt" written for the church archives by Hunter M. Jones. [In the light of today's (1983) prices, the salary of the pastor during the depression is of interest.]

Dr. Peele had come to First Methodist Church in 1927 at a salary of \$7,200.00 per year. In November, 1930 he asked that his salary be reduced to \$6,000.00 to help meet the church budget. The following year, on his own recommendation, his salary was reduced to \$5,000.00 When, in 1933, Dr. Peele again suggested that his salary be reduced — this time to \$4,600.00 — the finance committee did not agree and the pastor's salary remained at \$5,000.00 yearly during the remainder of his pastorate and that of Dr. C. C. Weaver.

Another excerpt:

In addition to cash contributions to the building fund, some of which involved real sacrifice and financial hardship of the members, the financial burden was lessened in significant ways by other material gifts and donations of services. Some of these are recorded in the minutes. Among those so recorded was the gift of the chimes by Frank O. Sherrill. He gave these in honor of his father and mother, the Reverend and Mrs. C. F. Sherrill.* A bookkeeping machine and a ventilating system were given by George and Wilson Stratton. Among the services donated were the preparing of the annual audits by Joe Marshall Van Hoy for many years and by W. A. Richard for one or more years. Substantial legal services were donated by James A. Bell who was Chairman of the Board of Trustees and by P. C. Whitlock and D. E. Henderson.

A paper written by Clara (Mrs. J. Webb) Bost for the church archives is also included here:

The Gold Wedding Ring

Mrs. C. B. Reeves was a small, soft-spoken, gray haired lady, as delicate looking as a fine piece of china. She was a widow, and she and

* For many years the chimes were played every day at 12:00 noon and again at 5:00 p.m. Then this custom ceased, but now (1983), after being repaired by John Rosenblatt, the chimes again are being played daily.

her two maiden daughters, Bertha and Ethel, would always sit on the right side of the church near the "amen" corner. They were always there, and they would always put their offering envelopes in the collection plate each Sunday with their small contributions. They loved their church.

An announcement was made on March 4, 1936 about an anonymous gift of \$100,000 to our church. We desperately needed to reduce the indebtedness on our building and went immediately into a campaign to raise another \$100,000 from our people to match the anonymous gift. It was during the depression and many had lost their jobs, others had mortgaged their homes, and some had used funds they had saved for their children's education for the church. These were sacrifices of love.

When she learned about the campaign, Mrs. Reeves came into the church office and offered to give the only thing that she had—her gold wedding ring. Mr. H. B. Simpson, our Business Manager and Treasurer, accepted her gift in the same spirit that it was given. She wanted to have a part in this, and this was all she had to give.

Mr. Simpson framed the \$8.00 he received from the sale of the ring. On the Sunday the \$100,000 campaign was presented to the congregation, Mr. J. Wilson Smith, teacher of our Men's Bible Class, showed this to our people and gave the story of the gift of the gold wedding ring as an example of the love and sacrifice we would need to raise \$100,000. Needless to say, the campaign was a success and the money was raised.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*

Since no complete description of any one of the forerunners of today's church was left for posterity, there is included here a brief description of the church as it was in 1948. This is quoted from a booklet "The Story of First Methodist Church."

First Methodist Church A Few Facts and Figures

The First Methodist Church of Charlotte, North Carolina, consists of three connecting buildings, occupying a lot fronting 110 feet on North Tryon Street, 396 feet on West Eighth Street, and 108 feet on North Church Street. The buildings are of re-inforced concrete and steel construction faced on all sides with blocks of Indiana limestone. The three buildings are approximately the same height. The main church building occupying two floors and a balcony, the chapel unit, two floors, the educational unit, four main floors with two sub-floors.

* In the church archives there is a very detailed description of First Methodist Church. The paper has no date on it but it was probably in the 1940's. There are two large towers in front of the church building, the tallest tower containing a set of 20 tubular Deagan chimes. We enter the main church building from North Tryon Street, ascend 27 stone steps, and enter any one of the three double doors into a vestibule that extends entirely across the church building through both towers. In each tower is a stairway leading down the stairs. The steps leading up in each tower of the vestibule enter into the balcony, which contains three rows of benches, ten in the center, eight on either side, seating about 250 people.

Returning to the vestibule we enter the auditorium through any one of the five double doors. The floor plan of the auditorium (sanctuary) is cruciform in shape or a modified form of the Latin cross. In the nave are three rows of 30 benches each, and in each transept is another row of six benches each, making 102 benches in the auditorium, 26 in the balcony, total 128, and seating capacity of close to 1,500. There are 12 semi-Gothic columns supporting the ceiling and roof, the ceiling being 46 feet above the floor. These 12 columns are symbolic of the twelve apostles. There are 11 large chandeliers hung from the ceiling containing 36 lights each. Around the wall are 18 brackets containing two lights each and behind the scroll work in the choir loft are concealed 25 lights, and beneath the balcony are five small chandeliers containing six lights each. When all lights are burning at night, there are approximately 500 bulbs lighting the church auditorium.

There are eleven stained glass windows, three sets of windows of five panels each, containing scenes from the life of Christ and symbols, and eight windows of three panels each, containing symbols. There is kneeling space for approximately 50 around the chancel, and on the shelf just within the chancel rail are nearly 1,200 perforations in which to place empty communion cups.

The organ is a four manual and pedal Hook and Hastings, with close to 3,000 wood and metal pipes, all concealed, also a harp and a set of 20 Deagan chimes, orchestral and band instruments, with an echo organ opening just over the balcony. [Editor's note: A new organ was installed in 1967.]

Just outside the auditorium on the right is the pastor's study. The ground floor, or half basement, of this building contains the kitchen, fully equipped for serving approximately 300 people at one time, a dining room, two Boy Scout rooms, a recreation room and the men's Bible classroom, seating something over 300, and a large stage.

The center unit or chapel building, ground floor, has five classrooms, drinking fountain, and two rest rooms for small children. The second floor has a chapel with 528 opera chairs, a large stage, and ten colored glass windows, each window containing a symbol. In the educational unit on the ground floor, are two assembly rooms with 18 individual class-rooms. Connected with each are two large cloak rooms. On the second floor are seven classrooms, six offices: one is the bishop's office, two for the business manager and his assistant, one for the director of young people, one for the assistant pastor, and one for the church secretary; also a large lobby. The third floor is a large assembly room, a large stage, and nine classrooms, and a couple of large cloak rooms. On the fourth floor are two assembly rooms with 24 individual classrooms, and two cloak rooms. On each floor is a drinking fountain. . . .

THE BELL NOW AT THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

[From a 1939 newspaper (*Charlotte Observer*) by Mrs. J. A. Yarbrough] Philadelphia has its Independence bell, Russia the largest bell in the world, the University of Chicago the second largest, and Charlotte has three historic bells, each with an interesting and unique story.

The one with which this generation is perhaps most familiar now hangs in the tower of the educational building of the First Methodist Church and every Sunday morning at 9 o'clock and every Wednesday evening at 7:30, its tone rings out as a summons to Sunday School and to prayer meeting services just as it has intoned the hour for more than 75 years.

This old bell was in the Tryon Street Methodist Church which stood at the corner of North Tryon and Sixth streets; for many years, it joined in the regular Sunday morning chorus of church bells on North Tryon Street, just prior to the 11 o'clock service. But the two churches, Tryon Street and Trinity Methodist, (in 1926) voted to merge and plans were drawn for the First Methodist Church. No provision was made for the old bell which for so long had called the people to worship. Church bells were no longer fashionable. They were relegated to a dim and distant past along with rubber-tired buggies, hand-painted parasols, horsedrawn street cars and ice cream festivals.

The preservation of the old bell was due to a beloved physician, Dr. William A. Graham, who for years was a familiar figure in hundreds of Charlotte homes. When he learned that the bell was to be abandoned, he went to Mrs. W. W. Hagood, who was born the year the cornerstone of Tryon Street Methodist Church was laid, and, coming to live on North Tryon Street in childhood, had grown up with the mellow notes of the bell reverberating in her ears.

"Practically all my life I have heard that bell ring on Sunday morning and Sunday night for church," he said. "I've always lived in this part of town, and, while I am not a Methodist, the ringing of the bell has always been like the voice of a dear friend. Life would not be the same without it. What can be done to save it?"

Mrs. Hagood advised him to consult with the officials of the newly formed church, which he did and secured a promise that the matter would be taken under consideration. The building committee was informed the bell could be placed in the tower at the rear of the building but the most important fact presenting itself was the cost of its moving and installation which would be considerable. The congregation had assumed a gigantic task in the erection of the magnificent church plant and additional expense was out of the question. Unhesitatingly, Dr. Graham replied, "Have the bell installed and I will gladly pay the cost."

For several years before his death, Dr. Graham was an invalid and, lying on his bed of pain within a stone's throw of the church, eagerly listened to the loved resonant chimes that had meant so much in his life. After he passed away, Mrs. Hagood went to Mrs. Graham and told her that with her permission they would like to toll the bell during the funeral service, as it was so indelibly linked with the memory of the man who had loved it perhaps even better than any member of the church. Only this one time has it sounded a requiem since its removal 12 years ago to its present place.

PARSONAGES

The first reference to a parsonage that has been found is in the 1855 record book of the church. The Board of Stewards frequently met at the parsonage but there is no indication of where it was located. Also in this book, dated December 6, 1856, this appears:

It was moved and seconded that Dr. E. H. Andrews purchase for use of the parsonage some thirty-five lbs. of New Feathers and also any other articles necessary for the Comfort of our Pastor.

Tryon Street Methodist Church Parsonages (1859–1927): The earliest pictures of Tryon Street Church are in the church archives. The one from The Charlotte Methodist in 1897 looks a little older than the one from a booklet put out by Tryon Street Church circa 1895. Both pictures show that the parsonage next door to the church was made of wood and had a wooden picket fence. Later (probably when the church was remodeled in 1908), the wooden parsonage was torn down and a brick house with an iron fence replaced it.

In 1920 the parsonage next door to the church was rented to the city for use by the City-County Health Department and a house on North Church Street (where the Frederick Apartment now is) was purchased for a parsonage. In the light of today's real estate values it is interesting to quote the following report that was read to the Quarterly Conference on August 23, 1920:

We, the undersigned committee appointed by Mr. D. H. Anderson, Chairman of the Board of Stewards, to make an investigation and report to this body with regard to the property located at 511 North Church Street and known as the J. M. Jones (Jimmy Jones) property, beg to report as follows, viz, First: This property, as most of you know, is located in one of the best residential sections in the city of Charlotte and is within three and one-half blocks of Tryon Street Church, which in our opinion is a nice distance for a parsonage to be located.

Second: The lot appears to be about 50 feet front and 170 feet in depth, lies level, is well drained, and is located on the west side of North Church Street with the house facing east.

Third: The house located on the above lot is a frame building with a slate roof. It has a hot water heating plant and the first floor has the following rooms: reception hall, parlor, library, dining room, kitchen, pantry, bathroom with lavatory and closet only, latticed porch, also basement. The second floor has four good-sized bedrooms, one small room, a complete bathroom and closets, which makes a ten room house with additional rooms as above mentioned. We find the property both exterior and interior to be in good condition and very few if any repairs will be necessary.

Fourth: In our opinion, a conservative value of the lot would be \$6,000. The house could not be duplicated for less than \$15,000 and we consider the price of \$16,500 to be a very conservative value. We do not feel that the church will make any mistake in securing this home for their parsonage and recommend that this body recommend the proper authorities to purchase this property.

Trinity Church Parsonages: At one time the parsonage was located on Jackson Terrace which was a residential area one block long that ran between South Tryon and South Church Streets parallel with West Morehead Street. When the churches merged the Trinity parsonage was on Dilworth Road.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PARSONAGES

When First Church was built Dr. W. W. Peele became its first pastor and the Trinity parsonage on Dilworth Road became the First Church parsonage. Dr. Kenneth Goodson was the last minister to live in the Dilworth Road parsonage and the first to live in the present parsonage on Colville Road.

In 1970 the church owned parsonages at 901 Colville Road, 714

Scaleybark Road, and 6000 McBride Street.* Now (1983) it has two, one on Colville Road and one on Scaleybark Road. The latter was built on land that was given by the Henderson family. This land was part of the original "Scaleybark" that was the country home of Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Henderson after they moved from North Tryon Street.

Since 1948 there has been acquisition of more property on Tryon Street and on Church Street, and several renovations have taken place. A new three manual organ built by M. P. Möller Company of Hagerstown, Maryland, was contracted for in 1966 and installed in 1967. Ceremonies included an address by Dr. Paul Butler at the morning worship service and a dedicatory concert by Mr. George Markey at the evening service. The original chapel with its stained glass windows was converted to a multipurpose room in 1967 and its seats were given to the Charlotte Rescue Mission. It is now called Founders' Hall.

SOME FOUNDATION STONES OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

This is also a good place to say a few words about some of the people who have been mentioned in this chapter so far, because they were the foundation stones of today's First United Methodist Church. Several of today's active church members were asked to look over the pages of this manuscript up to this point, and list the persons who should be included in this section and the following were mentioned by three or more of those who were asked:

Much has already been said about Dr. A. M. Whisnant (1867– 1953). According to his daughter, Lola Whisnant MacMillan, the four big things in Dr. Whisnant's life were "his wife, his God, his farm, and his children—in that order." He lived his religion and a part of his income went to the church before anything else was considered. He even borrowed to give to the church when it was in desperate need in the early years. Dr. Whisnant was a prominent eye, ear, nose and throat specialist. He began his practice in Charlotte in 1901 and retired in 1944. He was one of the founders of the old Charlotte Sanitorium in 1907. He served for 23 years on

* A parsonage at 414 Webster Place was sold in 1969 when this McBride Street parsonage was purchased.

the Board of Stewards of Tryon Street Methodist Church and an additional 17 years as chairman of the Board of Stewards in First Methodist Church. He was indeed a foundation stone of First United Methodist Church.

Jackson Ezekiel David James Nathaniel Sylvester Willis Edward Demosthenes Henderson, better known as "Zeke," was born in 1879 in Onslow County but came to Charlotte from New Bern, North Carolina. He lived on South Tryon Street close to Trinity Church and logically would have joined this church. However, the District Superintendent asked him to go to Tryon Street Church because that church needed a Sunday School superintendent. He was active in the merger of Tryon Street and Trinity churches and active in First Church until his death in 1968. The Reverend Howard Wilkinson (Associate Pastor of First Church 1942–1947) wrote of him:

"Zeke" was always a stalwart in the educational program of the church, and his legal mind solved many a problem we encountered in the dayto-day affairs of the church. One of the most folksey persons I have ever known, his elevation to the office of United States Attorney and later as Federal Judge changed him not one bit. He still kept the common touch and teased his friends without mercy, making them feel important by remembering their slips-of-tongue for long periods of time. No matter how busy he was, he always had time for his church.

Mrs. D. E. Henderson (Mattie) was also an active church worker. She was president of the Woman's Missionary Society when it became the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

Charles J. (Charlie) Henderson and his wife Nita have followed in the footsteps of his mother and father. At this time (1982) Charlie Henderson is Superintendent of the Church School and is a member of the Administrative Board of First Church. Like his father, Charlie Henderson is a well-known Charlotte attorney.

James Ardrey Bell (1866–1957) was a prominent Charlotte lawyer and a long-time active worker in Tryon Street and First Methodist churches. He was an active participant in the merger of Tryon Street and Trinity churches and was the first chairman of the Board of Trustees of the newly formed First Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Mrs. Jessie Spencer Bell was a sister of Mrs. A. M. Whisnant. For years she was a Sunday School teacher and pianist in the primary department of Tryon Street Church with Miss Sallie Bethune. She was also active in the Woman's Missionary Society. After her mother died, Faith Bell partially financed the chapel at the Wesley Nursing Center in memory of her mother and in honor of her father.

Judge Jesse Spencer Bell, one of J. A. Bell's sons, was also an attorney. He served three terms in the State Senate in which his father had also served. He received many honors including several LLD degrees and the highest award given by the North Carolina Bar Association (the John J. Parker Award for Conspicuous Service to Jurisprudence). He became President of the North Carolina Bar Association and in 1955 was named Charlotte's Man of the Year. Spencer Bell's avocation was music and he served as chairman of the music committee at First Methodist. He was named to the United States Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and died in 1967 while serving in this high judicial office.

One of Faith Bell's earliest memories of the church is when Spencer Bell at the age of twelve made a speech. Faith, who was four at the time, was so proud of her big brother that she stood up on the seat in Tryon Street Church and yelled, "Hi, Jess." When every one laughed she was so embarrassed that she then crawled under the pew to hide.

George \tilde{F} . Stratton (1897-1971) was a business, civic, and church leader. With his brother Wilson L. Stratton (1899-1971) he owned and operated the Armature Winding Company. He served as a member of the Lay Advisory Board of Mercy Hospital for 22 years, was a member of the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army in Charlotte, and was on the first Auditorium-Coliseum Authority. For many years he was treasurer of the First Church Sunday School, was a member of the Board of Stewards, and was a trustee of First Methodist Church. The Reverend Howard Wilkinson said of him:

George Stratton was seldom in the limelight, but First Church was far stronger than it would have been without him. George never cared to be recognized but he had a passion to serve. As I look back across the years, I am impressed with his quiet devotion to causes which have since become popular. For instance, even in the 1940's when most Protestants were somewhat anti-Catholic, George was busily making friends with nuns, priests, and Catholic laymen. That posture is popular now, but even when it was not, George simply did what he thought was right. He cared very deeply for his church.

Dr. Kenneth Goodson said that when the church desperately needed money he would go to George and George would say, "I think I can pay half; let's talk to Wilson." Dr. Goodson would say, "Well, I have come to get both halves." Both halves were always anonymously given.

Wilson L. Stratton, co-owner of the Armature Winding Company, was a charter member of First Methodist Church and served on the Board of Stewards for a number of years. Over a long period he was chairman of the property maintenance committee.

Quoting from the resolution from the Administrative Board at the time of his death:

Wilson Stratton was generous with his gifts as well as his talents. He frequently, and usually anonymously, gave many items and services to the church. . . . He saw what was needed, had it done, and many times paid for it himself. He gave scholarship grants to many deserving students. This fine Christian gentleman, who served his fellow man, his church, and his Lord in an unassuming way, is sorely missed.

Both Mary Stratton (Mrs. George F.) and Lura Stratton (Mrs. Wilson L.) have long been active in First Church and at the present time (1983) are serving on the parsonage committee and on the records and history committee.

The William Ward Hagood family ("Miss Sallie," W. W., Sr. and W. W., Jr.) were long-time pillars of Tryon Street. Miss Sallie Whisnant was teaching Sunday School before she became Mrs. Hagood. She and Mrs. C. C. Kennedy ("Miss Lula") were members of Tryon Street Church and were active in organizing the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Western North Carolina Conference. Miss Sallie was vice-president and held the office of district secretary for many years; in fact, she held an office for 51 years. In addition to her church work, Miss Sallie was active in the work of the Crittenton Home^{*} and the Y.W.C.A. She died in 1963 at the age of 103+.

* An article in the Charlotte Observer, March 20, 1983, states that Episcopal layman Charles Crittenton of New York came to Charlotte in January 1903 and meetings were held in Tryon Street Methodist Church. A group of Protestant churchwomen was organized and through their efforts the Charlotte Crittenton Home (for unwed mothers) was opened in 1905. W. W. Hagood, Sr. was a member of the Board of Trustees of Tryon Street Church and was active in the merger of Tryon Street and Trinity Churches. He died in 1927 and his son William took his father's place in working for the church.

Every Sunday the Hagood family was to be found in the center front of the church and now (1983) William Hagood is still there.

The A. J. Hagoods left Tryon Street Church when Hawthorne Lane Church was built, but their daughter, Julia, went to Trinity Church when she married Reynolds Cuthbertson.

W. Reynolds Cuthbertson had been active in Trinity Church for years and was very much involved in the establishment and organization of First Church. In the 1930's "Rennie" Cuthbertson headed the Young People's Department of First Church. He was chairman of the Board of Stewards, constantly a member of the Pastoral Relations and Finance Committees, and a trustee. He was also active in the Charlotte Y.M.C.A. and in the establishment of the Methodist Home. The Reverend Howard Wilkinson wrote of him:

Rennie Cuthbertson (W. Reynolds, Sr.) would still be working at First Church, were it not for a tragic fire. He was one of the youngest of the prominent leaders in the 1940's, and he was an aggressive leader when he served as Chairman of the Board.

Rennie knew how to make money. He bought a piece of land for \$1,750 and sold it for \$375,000. While many business men do not bring their intelligence with them when they come to church, Rennie applied his creative mind to the affairs of First Church with as much diligence as he applied it to his business.

W. Reynolds Cuthbertson, Jr. (also called Rennie) has continued his father's work and is today (1983) chairman of the Administrative Board of First United Methodist Church.

Mrs. W. S. Stewart, Sr., often called "Miss Mattie" or "Sister Mattie" was a long time leader in the women's work of Tryon Street and First Methodist Churches. Mrs. Stewart, her son Sinclair, and his wife "Jen" always sat in the center section of the church and now (1983) Mrs. Stewart's grandson Watson Stewart and his wife Travis sit in that same place and both are active in First United Methodist Church today.

Mr. Arthur Wearn served on the Board of Stewards of Tryon

Street and First Methodist Churches for 61 years. In 1933–1935 he was mayor of the City of Charlotte.

"Miss Lillie" Wearn taught in the Primary Department of the Sunday School for many years. At every church service the Wearns were in the right-hand "amen corner" of the First Methodist Church. Mrs. Wearn died in 1948 and Mr. Wearn died in 1956 at the age of 84.

Junius Amos Russell, often called "Judge" because of his fiftyyear association with the Mecklenburg County Clerk of Court's Office, was the oldest member of the Board of Stewards of First Church when he died in his ninetieth year.

According to the account of his death in the *Charlotte Observer*, "... the vigor and cheerfulness of his philosophy remained, unimpaired, and the 'Grand Old Man' continued to reflect a youthful outlook." He was active to the end in Tryon Street and First Methodist Churches.

Every Sunday the Russells and Ransons (Mr. Russell, his daughter Lila, and his daughter Alma, her husband Lloyd Ranson and their children Russell and Alma Lloyd) could be found on the right hand side of the church near the front.

Joe McLaughlin was shaking hands with people at the front door of Tryon Street Methodist Church when he was a bachelor before he married Miss Rosamond Lucas. He continued to greet people at the door of First Methodist as long as he lived.

The McLaughlins and their two children could always be found in the center pew near the front of the church on Sunday mornings. Mrs. McLaughlin was active in the work of the Missionary Society and was the first superintendent of the Adult Division on the Board of Education.

Paul Cameron Whitlock (1878–1959), a member of Trinity at the time of the merger, was one of the strong leaders who planned for First Church and sustained it in its early years when it was beset by its depression-born troubles. He was an outstanding lawyer and community leader, and was in demand as a humorous afterdinner speaker.

As president of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce in 1917, he developed it into an organization of concern for the whole community. He was a member of the Board of Stewards and a trustee of the First Methodist Church. For many consecutive years he headed several important working committees of First Church.

Louis G. Ratcliffe (1893–1961) came to Charlotte in 1917 and opened a florist shop. He was a life-long Methodist and was deeply involved in the financial affairs of First Methodist Church during the depression.

Someone has described *Mr. and Mrs. Leland M. Craig*: "they are level, hard working, unselfish members of First Methodist." Willie and Leland loved their church and served it well. For many years Willie was chairman of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee and was president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service. Willie entertained beautifully in her home and when she was guiding social functions at our church. Leland was with Southern Engineering Company for 34 years and was active in the Camellia Club. He was an artist, using pastels, and his best works were portraits of his good friends. When the sanctuary was redecorated, he was in charge of the redecorating using particularly his expertise with color.

There are many other people who should be included as pillars of First Methodist Church but space does not permit. Today (1983) there are many couples devoted to First Methodist with both husband and wife being active participants in the work of the church.

UPTOWN CHURCHES TODAY

Now, fifty-six years after First United Methodist Church was built, the population of Charlotte has increased from approximately 82,000 to approximately 350,000. There are many large and beautiful churches in areas that a half century ago were in the newly developed suburbs or out in the country. Now, only five of the uptown churches have survived and these are the First Presbyterian on West Trade Street, St. Peter's Episcopal and First United Methodist on North Tryon Street, First United Presbyterian on East Seventh Street, and St. Peter's Catholic on South Tryon Street.

First Baptist Church left uptown in 1972 and moved to a new building on South Davidson Street. This Baptist church had begun as Beulah Baptist Church in a wooden building on the northwest corner of Third and South College Streets on a lot for which the church had paid \$10.00. In 1856 the Baptists occupied a small brick church on the corner of East Seventh and North Brevard Streets. Here the congregation consisted of 10 whites and 19 blacks. In 1884 a brick church was built on North Tryon Street between East Sixth and East Seventh Streets and this building was replaced in 1909 by the beautiful church building that is now a part of Spirit Square, a community center for the performing arts.

Instead of the stately houses that lined both sides of North Tryon Street there are now motels, branch banks, other businesses, and the surrounding neighborhood is fast being built up in condominiums after having become almost a slum and then a wasteland of vacant lots. The R. A. Dunn property on North Tryon Street and the J. W. McClung, J. E. Murphy and Wade Harris properties on North Church Street were purchased by the church and the lots are now part of the parking and/or playground facilities of the church.*

The loss of the so-called "inner city" population was hard on the membership of First Church. Of the approximately 2,650 charter members of First Church in 1927, 126 are left today and many of these are well along in years. It is hoped that the Fourth Ward restoration will help to rebuild today's membership which now (1983) stands at approximately 1,500.

The uptown churches cooperate in programs that help in caring for "inner-city problems." Among these cooperative programs are feeding the "street people" and helping the underprivileged and the elderly. The part that First Methodist plays in these philanthropic activities is discussed in Chapter 10.

RENOVATIONS

For a number of years after 1927, all of the facilities-electrical, plumbing, heating, and structural-worked with no failures, and only the expected wear-and-tear maintenance was required.

The first major renovation project came in 1957 when it was apparent that an air conditioned sanctuary was not a luxury but was a necessity expected by the church members. This project expanded into complete air conditioning of all facilities including the educational building and the chapel and dining areas. The re-

^{*} The Dunn property was purchased in 1953 by Frank Sherrill who held it for the church until the church could pay for it. Later on, W. W. Hagood, Jr. and W. Reynolds Cuthbertson, Sr. bought the Wade Harris property and held it until the church could buy it. In 1980 the McClung house was sold and moved up on Tenth Avenue at the corner of Pine Street.

decoration and accoustical treatment of the sanctuary were done at this same time.

Next came a new organ in 1966 when it was discovered that it was impractical to further repair the existing instrument because of its obsolescence and difficulty in finding replacement parts.

To keep roof leaks from worsening, there was a new hard slate replacement of the beautiful but not efficient thick slate roof that had been installed when the church was built and was now crumbling faster than replacement slates could be installed.

Three coal-fired boilers with manual control of heat to a given area had met the needs of the church up until this time. Now, however, the church was changing from a Sunday-only requirement for heat, except for the small office area, to all-week programs in many parts of the building. In order to heat the required areas of use it was necessary to heat the entire church. A new gas-fired boiler was installed. It was automatically controlled and capable of being converted to a zoned hot water heating system which would allow heat in any area without having to heat adjacent spaces. (The zoning and hot water conversion became part of the major renovation in 1976–77.)

In 1973 it was agreed that facilities needed to be up-dated for appearance as well as the required space for church programs which were being revised to meet modern needs. Meetings were held with all groups to ascertain their needs for space and arrangements to accommodate their programs. These meetings went on until early 1975 when the firm of Ferebee, Walters and Associates, Architects/Engineers/Planners was employed to make recommendations for a renovation program.

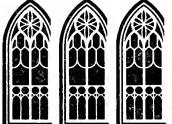
Many meetings were held with all program chairmen and work groups and in July, 1976, it was agreed that Blythe and Isenhour Company of Charlotte would be the general contractor for the work.

At the present time (1983) much of this renovation work has been completed including the elevator and the work on the first and fourth floors of the educational building, the multi-purpose recreation room that was originally the adult Sunday School auditorium, the kitchen, social area, dining room area, and the chapel.

Reynolds Cuthbertson, Jr. and John L. Rosenblatt are co-chairmen of the renovation committee.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH SCHOOL

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Charlotte's first Sunday School goes back to the year 1825 and, according to an article in the *Catawba Journal*, August 5, 1825, its officers were:

President–D. R. Dunlap

Vice-president–John Irwin

Managers: Samuel Henderson William Carson Samuel McComb William Smith Green Kendrick

Secretary and Treasurer–J. H. Norment

From the names Dunlap and Irwin it can be seen that this was a joint effort of Methodists and Presbyterians.

In 1895 officers of the Sunday School of Tryon Street Methodist Church were C. P. Wheeler, superintendent; Arthur H. Wearn, secretary; John F. Rudisill, treasurer; and John C. Watson, librarian.

At this time the Sunday School teachers were: C. W. Tillett, Edward Hooper, J. D. McCall, J. A. Jones, M. C. Mayer, R. N. Littlejohn, Julian H. Little, William F. Harding, J. A. Bivens, D. H. Anderson, E. M. Andrews, W. E. Ardrey, and S. S. Myers. [Editor's comment: In those days note that the men teachers and women teachers are listed separately.]

Mrs. C. C. Kennedy, Mrs. E. C. Register, Mrs. W. J. Black, Mrs. W. S. Creasy, Mrs. Samuel J. Asbury, Mrs. Rachel Garrett, Mrs. H. C. Painter, Mrs. W. S. Stewart, Mrs. Charles A. Rigler, Mrs. R. E. Blakey, Mrs. C. C. Adams, Mrs. C. P. Wheeler, Miss Sallie Bethune, Miss Sallie Whisnant, Miss Cornie White, Miss Sallie Dowd, Miss Mattie Dowd, Miss Mary Felder, Miss Eugenia Davis, Miss Maggie Trealor, Miss Jessie Spencer, Miss Minnie Cuthbertson, Miss Mamie Arledge, Miss Belle Hall, Miss Hattie Eldridge, and Miss Laura Wadsworth. [Editor's note: Older members of First United Methodist Church will know that Miss Sallie Whisnant became Mrs. W. W. Hagood, Sr. and Miss Jessie Spencer became Mrs. J. A. Bell.]

In the First United Methodist Church archives there is a Sunday School Record Book for 1902–1903. Mr. Arthur Wearn seemed to be secretary of most of the Tryon Street Church organizations in those days (probably because of his beautiful Spencerian handwriting). However, the records are difficult to read because of yellowed paper and faded ink and pencil. A typical entry is this one:

January 4, 1903

Religious services conducted by M. F. Kirby, Superintendent.

Opening song Number 6 "Victory Through Grace."

Officers and teachers present --- 30. Absent --- 5.

Scholars present --- 128-158. Absent 200-205. Enrolled --- 363.

Scripture Lesson --- Acts 16: 22-34.

Subject of lesson --- Paul and Silas at Phillipi.

School addressed 10 minutes by Superintendent.

Collection --- \$3.79. Weather threatening. New Scholars o. Visitors 5. Remarks: Rea Hinson and Newcomb Berryhill have both been present every Sunday during 1902 and up to present time in Miss Sallie Bethune's class and she is presenting to each boy a nice book.

Mr. E. Ray Bucher (1885–1969) was superintendent of the Sunday School at Trinity Church from 1917–1927 when he became superintendent of First Methodist Sunday School continuing until 1946. He served on the Board of Stewards of First Methodist Church for many years.

Mr. Bucher came to Charlotte in 1905 to work for the Southern Power Company (which later became Duke Power Company). When he retired from Duke Power in 1955 he was assistant treasurer.

No attempt will be made to cover the Sunday School from 1927 up to the present time but there will be a rather detailed account of the Church School of today (1983). Before doing this, however, there are two people who "mattered" to First Methodist Church for a few years before this time. Both of these people were Sunday School teachers and both were connected with the Charlotte television station, WBTV. Alan Newcomb, Director of Public Affairs for the Jefferson Standard Broadcasting Company, was a well-known TV newscaster and was the teacher of the Wilson Smith Bible Class at the time of his unexpected death in 1966 at the age of forty-five years. Alan Newcomb had been a World War II bomber pilot and had spent eight months as a prisoner of war. During this time in a prison camp he wrote a book entitled Vacation with Pay.

Quoting from a tribute to Alan Newcomb that was aired on the day of his death (these are Alan Newcomb's own words): "I believe that feeding, clothing, housing, and transporting the physical being are incidental to the purpose of life, and far too much attention is paid to outward existence. Whatever human beings we are brought into contact with are our *main* responsibility.... The ultimate, or spiritual significance of existence is to learn a completely voluntary and willing surrender of our will to that of God—not as a theological or ecclesiastical character, but a literal Spiritual Father of superior understanding and knowledge to our own."

Jeanne (Mrs. Alan) Newcomb is still a very active member of First United Methodist Church. Their son Bob and his wife, Linda, are also active in the work of First Church.

Betty (Mrs. Turner) Feezor was a teacher in the Young Adult Fellowship from June 1956 until September 1958 when the Feezors moved their membership to Providence United Methodist Church. "The Betty Feezor Show," a show featuring home-making, was seen on WBTV for 23 years (1954–1977) and Betty was also active in many community organizations and events. Betty said she wanted to live her life so that when she was gone "it would have mattered." She died February 28, 1978, at the age of fiftythree years.

CHURCH SCHOOL 1983

Some years ago the name Sunday School was officially changed to Church School. In reading old Sunday School records in the archives it is very noticeable that while classes once were for men or women, many of them have been replaced by classes that have both men and women.

In the year 1982 Mr. Charles Henderson and Mrs. Kermit Mc-Clure were co-superintendents. Charles Henderson's father, Mr. D. E. (Zeke) Henderson was a long-time superintendent at Tryon Street. Miss Ann Tyler now serves as superintendent.

Some of today's classes have a long history and these detailed histories can be found in the Records and History Room. Here, only a few words can be said about each of these classes.

Now, there are eight classes in the adult department. Older readers of this history will miss some well-known classes of earlier years that have gone out of existence as their members have passed on or have become too infirm to come to Sunday School. One example that comes to mind is the Wardin Wesley Class that was taught for many years by Mrs. Joseph Wardin and was made up of the mothers of many of today's oldest church members.

Some formerly large classes are now very small for the same reason—increasing age of their members. Actually, today's Sunday School and church membership have both declined since 1927. As Charlotte grew and as Fourth Ward changed from a good residential section to an area having "winos" and other unsavory characters in the neighborhood of the church, people became afraid to go into the area alone, especially at night.

Declining membership is not peculiar to First United Methodist Church but is a problem for all of the "inner-city" churches. (Hopefully, the church makes up in quality what it lacks in number.)

ADULT DEPARTMENT

Wilson Smith Bible Class: In October, 1927, the men's classes of Tryon Street and Trinity Churches united to form the Men's Wesley Bible Class of First Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Mr. J. Wilson Smith was the teacher of this class from its organization until his death on October 3, 1952. Peak attendance came in 1930 when one Sunday there were 233 people present. Over a long period of time the average attendance was close to 150. J. Wilson Smith (1884–1952) was "an institution" in Charlotte and in the Carolinas. He was Interstate Secretary of the YMCA. He came to Charlotte in 1920 and taught this Men's Bible Class for 26 years. Charlie Flournoy said, "Wilson Smith provided the stimulus of example..."

After the death of Mr. Smith, the name of the class was changed to the Wilson Smith Bible Class. In the year 1966, another fine teacher, Alan H. Newcomb, died at an early age. Presently, the teacher of the class is Mr. Sam Hinton.

This class has furnished many leaders in First United Methodist Church and has always been charitably disposed toward any project of the church insofar as its manpower and assets would permit, with special emphasis on matters pertaining to youth.

Wesley Fellowship Class: Dr. Joe Milton Van Hoy and J. Webb Bost are the teachers of this class and the president is Miss Sarah Emory. Organized in 1927, this class was composed of young men and women who were either working or attending college. Miss Irene Abernethy was the adult adviser.

Several years later the class merged with a young women's class taught by Mrs. Wilson Crowder and then became known as the Wesley Fellowship Department. Once the class was for ages 24–30 but now it is a group without age limit.

Over the years, this class has had outstanding teachers. For a long period the class was taught by Harry P. Harding (1875–1959). Dr. Harding came to Charlotte in 1904 as principal of one of the two white graded schools and in 1913 became superintendent of the Charlotte school system for the next thirty-six years.

The next teacher of this class was Herbert Irwin McDougle (1901-1961). Mr. McDougle was a lawyer and was the first president of the Methodist Home. He served two terms (1941-1943) in the N. C. Legislature as a member of the House of Representatives and was active as a member of the State Commission for the Blind. He was an active member of First Church and served on the Board of Stewards.

The current teachers, Joe Van Hoy (a prominent surgeon) and Webb Bost (Bost Building Equipment Company) have both grown up in First Methodist Church, are charter members and are active in Sunday School and church.

The Christian Service Bible Class: This once large class of women was taught by Miss Maud McKinnon in Tryon Street Church. "Miss Maud" was Miss Sallie Bethune's niece and they lived together. Miss Maud taught Latin in the Charlotte schools and taught Sunday School at Tryon Street for many years. When First Church was built, Miss Maud became its first Director of Christian Education.

In First Church the class was taught for years by Mrs. J. B. Ivey.

At present it is a small class whose president is Mrs. A. J. Little. The class is now taught by Mrs. Robert White.

The Wesley Brantley Class: This class of young women was organized in 1928 and Mrs. J. E. Brantley was its teacher until her death in the late 1930's. The class was then given her name. Over the years, as the age of the class members has increased, it has become a small class. It is taught (1983) by Mrs. R. M. (Louise) Hauss and its president is Mrs. Bernice Jones.

Adult Fellowship Class: The teachers of this class are Janet Robinson, Jack Gray, Mrs. Charles J. (Nita) Henderson, Mrs. Watson (Travis) Stewart, Ralph Williams, and Curtis Cooper. The presidency is shared by Ruth and T. Z. Sprott.

This group was organized in 1946 and for twenty years it went by the name of the Young Adult Fellowship. It was formed at the suggestion of Mrs. Clovis Chappell, wife of the minister at that time, and at the first meeting of this class Mr. D. E. (Zeke) Henderson, who was then superintendent of the Sunday School, taught the class. Mrs. Chappell then became the first regular teacher of this group of young people (ages 23-35).

By 1955, the original membership of 40 had grown to 293; and following the assembly period, it divided into three classes for the lesson. It was one of these classes, *The Round Table*, that was instrumental in establishing a nursery for children under two years of age so that young couples with small children could attend Sunday school and church.

In 1955, a new class in this group was known as the Adult Fellowship with 31 members. Today its membership is 82.

Covenant Bible Class: In September, 1959, the Wesley Elder (which was first taught by Mrs. Guy Elder and later by Mr. Plummer Stewart) and the Harding Bible class (which had been taught for many years by Dr. H. P. Harding) combined to form the Covenant Bible Class with Mr. G. B. Harris as its first teacher. Mr. Harris taught the class for fifteen years.

This class is made up of women, and the president is Mrs. Mack D. Jordan. Sam Springs is the teacher.

The Phoenix Forum: This class of men and women was formed approximately twenty years ago under the guidance of DeArmon Hunter who was then Minister of Education. It is taught by different members of the class and the presidency is now shared by Mrs. William (Virginia) Woolard and Mrs. David (Elizabeth) Allen. The Upper Room Class: This class is sponsored by young adults but is inter-generational and anyone is welcome. Ages range from 20 to 65.

This class has a new teacher every few months depending on the topic for study. Coordinators for the class at the time this is being written (February, 1982) are Bill and Sally Johnson and the teacher at this time is Nita Henderson.

THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL

There are two groups in the Youth Ministry of the Church School at First United Methodist Church today. These are:

The Youth Church School Class: This class is made up of seventh through twelfth grade students and here the Director of Education, Chuck Barger, appoints teachers to match the units of study. They presently meet in the north side of the fourth floor convenient to the kitchen, where they sometimes prepare spaghetti suppers.

The United Methodist Youth Fellowship: For many years this group for young people was known as the Epworth League. In 1929 the name was changed to Methodist Youth Fellowship and when the United Methodist Church was formed in 1968 the name became the United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF). Adult counselors meet with the UMYF group on Sunday evenings and they supervise trips, retreats, and service projects. In former years they have had youth choirs and bell choirs and have given performances in this country and Europe. The purpose of this group has always been to build character and promote Christian living.

THE ELEMENTARY DEPARTMENT

There are three classes in this department: The class *one* and *two* is made up of children in the first and second grades at school and is taught by Steve and Janice Johnson. They presently meet on the first floor, north side of the education building.

Class three and four corresponds to these school grades and this class is taught by Mrs. Frank K. Haynes assisted by Nancy Gaither.

"Trudy" Haynes has worked with the young children of First

Methodist Church to about the same extent that Miss Sallie Bethune once worked with their grandparents and great grandparents.

Trudy Haynes has gone to Sunday School all of her life. In fact, when she was a child she not only went to Sunday School at Tryon Street Methodist Church, where her mother was a member but also to Sunday School at the First Baptist Church, where her father was a member. Older members of the church remember Trudy Haynes as Gertrude Dickinson.

At the age of seventeen she began teaching at Tryon Street when the primary department still had Miss Sallie Bethune and "Miss Lillie" (Mrs. Arthur H.) Wearn as teachers. She has known many of today's church leaders since their early days in Sunday School. Here is one of her favorite stories:

One Sunday she took a group of children to visit a nursing home. One elderly man said to Tom Cuthbertson, "I know your father. He's in the bank." Tom instantly came back with, "No he's not. Today is Sunday and he is in the First Methodist Church."

Another tale about one of the small Cuthbertsons is told by Trudy Haynes: When asked if anyone knew what a prophet was, a small hand immediately went up. "My daddy knows. He talks a lot about profits."

Class five and six. For a period of twenty-five years this group was taught by Gertrude (Mrs. Gene) Williams. It is now taught by Charles and Vivian Elliott. In 1982 this class began a two-year study of the entire Bible. This is the first time an elementary class has done this.

THE PRE-SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

The pre-school department has four classes, according to age groups. There are:

Kindergarten for ages 3, 4, and 5. This is kept by couples on a rotation basis.

Toddlers and the 2-year olds rooms are kept by parents on a rotating basis.

Infant Room: For a long time, this has been coordinated by Bettie (Mrs. Nic) Batty with the help of volunteers.

Helen (Mrs. Michael) Shermetta is the counseling teacher for the pre-school students and she is assisted by Rachel Brinkhoff.

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Miss Helen Hoyle was superintendent of the primary department when First Church began and was a member of the first Board of Education. She worked with the building committee on plans for the elementary department of the new church.

A person who must be mentioned in connection with children's work in First Methodist Church is Miss Kate Crowell. She had long been active in the church when she became Director of Children's Work (a staff position) in 1949 and remained in that position for seventeen years until she retired in 1968. Before taking this work at First Methodist she had been head teacher at the Charlotte Day Nursery and had had much experience in teaching children. She was well-known as a "teacher of teachers of the very young" and handled district and conference workshops for teachers of young children. Miss Kate became a member of the Methodist Home family in 1969.

Mrs. Shermetta, Mrs. Batty, and Miss Brinkhoff are worthy successors to Miss Kate Crowell.

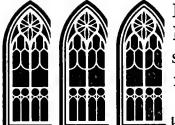
The Children's Ministry at First Methodist Church includes more than church school. There are extended sessions of the church school during the worship hours in which special topics such as world hunger and Biblical exploration are examined. This time is also used for music education.

First United Methodist Church sponsors numerous children's activities such as day camp at Glenmere, special picnic trips, and other events. First Church strives to be a special place for children.

CHAPTER NINE

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN UNITED METHODIST MEN

EARLY INTEREST IN MISSIONS



From its long ago beginnings in England, the Methodist Church has been interested in missions. Recall the Wesleys' visit to Georgia in 1735.

The earliest indication of interest in missions by the Charlotte Methodists is found in the rec-

ords of the First Quarterly Conference Meeting for the Charlotte Circuit at Sandy Ridge Church on March 26, 1842. (This is on microfilm at the Methodist Center in Charlotte):

... We heartily approve of the general plan imposed by the Board of Managers at New York, for the permanent support of Missions ... Each Circuit or Station to constitute a Missionary Society Auxiliary to the Missionary Society of the South Carolina Conference....

... The preacher in charge to appoint a Committee of females, where it is practicable, to procure subscribers of one cent a week for the support of missions....

THE LADIES' AID SOCIETY

Before there was a Methodist missionary society in Charlotte there was a Ladies' Aid Society in the Methodist Church. This was a "Sewing Society" that met once a week to make aprons and other articles to be sold for the purpose of making money for the church. Ladies' Aid Societies were never nationally organized and their functions were finally taken over by the missionary societies.

According to an article in the church archives that was written by Mrs. W. S. Stewart ("Sister Mattie") about 1928:

An enthusiastic member of this group who came to Charlotte in 1848 was Mrs. Louise M. Wriston. She lived to be ninety-three years old and for sixty-nine years she was a loyal member of the Methodist Church. She was the mother of Mrs. C. C. Kennedy (better known as Miss Lula Kennedy)* who was another devoted member of the Methodist Church. Other members of this early Ladies' Aid Society were Mrs. Dr. Dunlap [sic], Mrs. D. H. Byerly, Mrs. Brawley Oates, Mrs. Jonas Rudisill, Mrs. Charles Wilson, Mrs. Caroline McGilvary, and Mrs. Dr. Andrews. Dr. Andrews' servant, Becky Andrews, carried the aprons in a basket and sold them for the poor.

In 1857 when the Reverend E. J. Meynardie was pastor, a framed certificate of Life Membership in the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South was given to Mrs. Wriston.

MISSIONARY SOCIETIES IN TRYON STREET METHODIST CHURCH

In 1878 the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South authorized the organization of the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions. In 1886 it authorized the Woman's Board of Home Missions. These two societies worked separately for twentyfive years but in 1910 they were reorganized as one Woman's Missionary Society.

According to information that came from Miss Sallie Bethune, the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of Tryon Street Methodist Church was organized in 1878 with about ten members. Miss Sallie was its first president and she remembered the following ladies as being members: Mrs. Louise M. Wriston, Mrs. Clem Dowd, Mrs. Pink C. Wilson, Mrs. Dr. Greene,** Mrs. J. W. Wadsworth, Mrs. J. S. Spencer, Mrs. Mary Farrow Asbury, Mrs. D. H. Byerly, and Mrs. Jonas Rudisill.

In 1895 there were several missionary organizations in Tryon Street Methodist Church:

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, Mrs. W. S. Creasy, President, 97 members.

The Parsonage and Home Mission Society, Mrs. G. S. Johnson, President, 35 members.

The Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. C. Dowd, President, 48 members.

* Melle Beard Graham (Mrs. Eugene Berrien Graham, Jr.), who was reared by Mrs. Kennedy, has given a needlepoint picture of Tryon Street Methodist Church to the Archives Room.

** Notice that people of Miss Sallie's generation always referred to a doctor's wife as "Mrs. Dr."

The Young People's Missionary Society, Mrs. W. S. Stewart, President, 65 members.

The Light Bearers, Miss Hattie Eldridge, President, Mrs. C. C. Kennedy,* Lady Manager, 92 members.

Lovers of Jesus, The Reverend W. S. Creasy, Pastor, assisted by Mrs. W. S. Creasy, Mrs. C. P. Wheeler, Miss Sallie Bethune, and Miss Sallie Whisnant. This society met twice a month.

Epworth League, Professor J. A. Bivens, President, 75 members. This met once a week.

The minutes of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society for 1922–1926 tell of Tryon Street happenings during those years. On December 3, 1922, there was a meeting to discuss combining the Woman's Missionary Society, the Young Woman's Missionary Society, and the Business Woman's Missionary Society into one Woman's Missionary Society made up of circles, each circle being a miniature missionary society but having general officers. Mrs. D. E. Henderson was the president of this society. Mrs. Mattie Stewart, Mrs. Paul Allen, and Miss Blanche Morrow, representing the three groups, drafted a constitution which was adopted December 31, 1922.

In November of 1927 there was a joint meeting of the Woman's Missionary Societies of Tryon Street and Trinity Churches with Mrs. H. V. Johnson, president of the Trinity Society, presiding, and in December a second joint meeting was held with Mrs. W. D. Wilkinson, president of the Tryon Street Society, presiding.

THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

The first meeting of this society took place on January 9, 1928, with the president, Mrs. W. D. Wilkinson, presiding. This society had 353 members divided into seventeen circles. The seventeenth circle was the Red Cross Circle which met at the Red Cross head-quarters where the members spent the entire day in service to the Red Cross.

Presidents of the Woman's Missionary Society of First Methodist Church from 1928 to 1940 were:

* Mrs. Kennedy ("Miss Lula") was not only a tireless church and civic affairs worker but she was interested in children. Not having any of their own, she and Mr. Kennedy gave a home to and reared a total of eight children.

Mrs. W. D. Wilkinson	Mrs. J. L. Hoyle
Mrs. Joseph McLaughlin	Mrs. Paul Allen
Mrs. J. P. Waggoner	Mrs. M. B. Rose
Mrs. Andrew Smith	Mrs. D. E. Henderson

THE WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND THE WESLEYAN SERVICE GUILD

Unification of the three branches of the Methodist Church in 1939 brought together the women's missionary organizations of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church. A reorganization of these missionary societies in 1940 produced the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild. This guild was an organization for business and professional women which included in its program all of the work done by the WSCS. It was related to the WSCS in the local churches through the membership of its president and treasurer on the WSCS Executive Committee.

Presidents of the Woman's Society of Christian Service of First Methodist Church were:

Mrs. D. E. Henderson	
Mrs. Munsey Smith	
Mrs. Robert White	
Mrs. Andrew Smith	
Mrs. Wilson Crowder	
Mrs. Allen Kemp	
Mrs. Leslie Barnĥardt	
Mrs. L. H. Everitt	

Mrs. Webb Bost Mrs. Leland Craig Mrs. Charles Eskridge Mrs. Hunter Jones Mrs. Watson Stewart Mrs. H. Eugene Peacock Mrs. W. H. Edmondson Mrs. Joe M. Van Hoy

Presidents of the Wesleyan Service Guild at First Methodist Church were:

- Miss Jessie Peeler Miss Peggy Nance Miss Flo-Roy Osborne Miss Kate Crowell Miss Helen Hoyle (two times) Miss Anniegra Boyette Miss Iva McCarter Miss Julia Hays Miss Mary Bright Miss Mary Wasner
- Mrs. Ethel Fowler Mrs. J. L. Hoyle Miss Verla Sutton Mrs. Florence Cobb Mrs. Elsie Rowe Miss Pearl Putnam Mrs. Vivian Cowan Mrs. Edith Jones Mrs. Jessie Peeler White

MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

In 1927 W. A. Wilson, missionary pastor in Okayama, Japan was partially supported by First Methodist. As long as she lived, Mrs. James A. Bell paid part of the salary of Mary Myers Tabb (Mrs. W. E. Tabb)^{*} who was a missionary to Africa. The Reverend Paul W. Yount, Jr., a missionary to Japan in 1948 was also helped.

A booklet entitled Missions of First Methodist Church (un-dated but obviously in the early 1950's) says that the following members "led the way" in the women's missionary work: Mrs. W. W. Hagood, Sr., Mrs. E. B. Laird, Mrs. G. G. Ray, and Mrs. Mattie H. Stewart.

Under "Your Mission Projects" this booklet lists the Cherokee Methodist Center in Cherokee, N. C., the Habib Yusufjis in Jabalpur, India, and the Schowengerdts in Korea, as receiving help from the church. Miss Evelyn Strader (see following section) was listed as being supported by the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

First Church also aided the Edwin Hackneys in India. In the Records and History Room there is a large brass urn and a pair of brass candlesticks that were given to First Church by the Hackneys who have now returned to the local church ministry.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

On January 1, 1973, the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild became the United Methodist Women.

The official emblem for the United Methodist Church combines the cross and a flame symbolizing the Holy Spirit. The emblem for the United Methodist Women likewise includes the cross and the flame. These ancient symbols date back to the days of Christ. The shape of the emblem is symbolic. It is fluid and free-flowing, suggesting change and mobility. Methodist women have a heritage of being aware of the times and striving to move with them.

Space prohibits listing all of the projects to which the "missionary society" by any of its three consecutive names has given support. At the present time (1983) these would include missionary support

* Now Mrs. Fred H. May.

for Evelyn Strader, pledge to undesignated missions, aid to the Charlotte Bethlehem Center, and help with projects in the church and in the community.

Miss Strader is a missionary who is principal of the Methodist High School in Kanpur, India. First Methodist Church has contributed to her support since 1949 and also helped support Lorena Kelly who was missionary to Zaire, Africa, until her recent retirement.

The Bethlehem Center has been in Charlotte since 1940. This is an organization for helping the underprivileged, and is aided by the women of all of the Charlotte Methodist churches. This aid has included financing camperships, "shopping sprees" twice a year, and a spring picnic for elderly members at the center. There is monthly support for various clubs at the center and First Church members have helped with many of the programs including driving blind people to the center, assisting with the Meals-on-Wheels program, and buying turkeys and baskets of food for the center at Thanksgiving. More about Bethlehem Center will be found on page 134.

Members also do volunteer work at the Wesley Nursing Center, including birthday parties for elderly patients.

In 1980, United Methodist Women of First Church helped with a Vietnamese refugee family that was brought to Charlotte under the sponsorship of First United Methodist Church.

Another project is helping with Rebound which formerly had the name Christian Rehabilitation Center. Many boxes of personal toilet articles have been donated by mission groups.

In 1983 the United Methodist Women of First United Methodist Church in Charlotte had 267 members in its eleven mission groups.

Presidents of United Methodist Women have been:

1973-1974	Mrs. Sam M. Springs, Jr.
1975-1976	Mrs. W. Arnold Wood
1977-1978	Mrs. Bruce T. Cunningham
1979–1980	Mrs. M. H. White
1981-1982	Mrs. James T. Johnson
1983-1984	Mrs. Kermit McClure



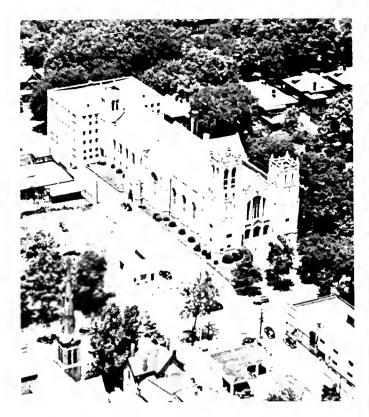
Above, The First Board of Education of First Methodist Church. Reading from *left to right*: Miss Helen Hoyle, Munsey D. Smith, Mrs. Charles C. Ray, John L. Wilkinson, Miss Clara Short (now Mrs. J. Webb Bost), Dr. W. W. Peele, D. E. Henderson (chairman), E. R. Bucher (superintendent of Sunday School), Mrs. W. S. (Mattie) Stewart, J. B. Ivey, Guy O. Bagwell, Dr. Henry P. Harding, and Miss Mary Louise Boate (now Mrs. P. R. McCain, Jr.).



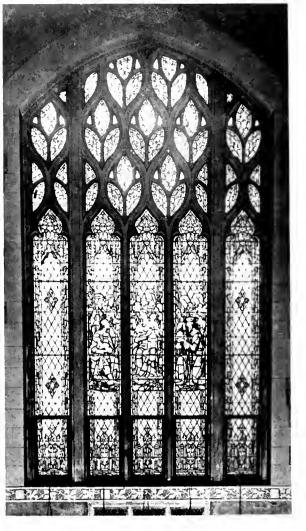
Left, Burning the Mortgage.
First Methodist Church was dedicated March 19, 1944. Mrs.
W. W. Hagood, Sr., burned a photostatic copy of the mortgage at the evening service.
Reading from *left to right*: Julian H. Little, Dr. A. M. Whisnant, Mrs. Hagood, James A. Bell (chairman of the Board of Trustees at this time), and Dr. G. Ray Jordan, pastor.

Below, Wardin Wesley Bible Class. This class was organized about 1916 as the Wesley Bible Class and was formed as a spin-off from the Star Philathea Class which was taught by Miss Maud McKinnon. Mrs. Joseph Wardin was the teacher and when the new church opened in 1927 the name of this class of approximately fifty older women became the Wardin Wesley Bible Class. Mrs. Wardin is third from left on the front row. Mrs. Floyd (Grace) Bangle, who is first on left in second row, was class president for twenty-five years. No longer in existence, this class was pictured in the late 1930's or early 1940's.



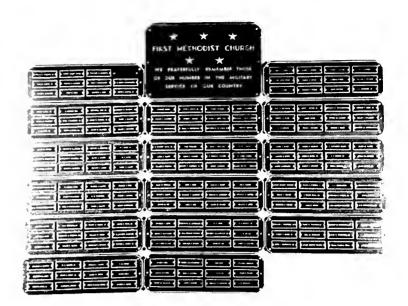


Above, Aerial View of First Methodist Church. (Circa 1940) Beginning in the upper left portion of the picture the following are clearly discernible: the educational building, the chapel building, the sanctuary, and the main tower housing the chimes. The building measures 335 feet in length and its width varies from 70 to 105 feet.



Right, The Nativity Window. This window is positioned in the north transept of the sanctuary.

Below, Interior view of sanctuary showing the pulpit area.



Above, Plaque in the Narthex. First Church prayerfully honors the men and women in its membership who served in World War II.



Above, Wilson Smith Bible Class. This picture is not dated but was possibly made during the late 1940's or early 1950's. J. Wilson Smith, who is seated first row center in the light suit, died October 3, 1952.



Above, Harding Bible Class. This once well-known class no longer exists. Some of its former members are now members of the Covenant Class.

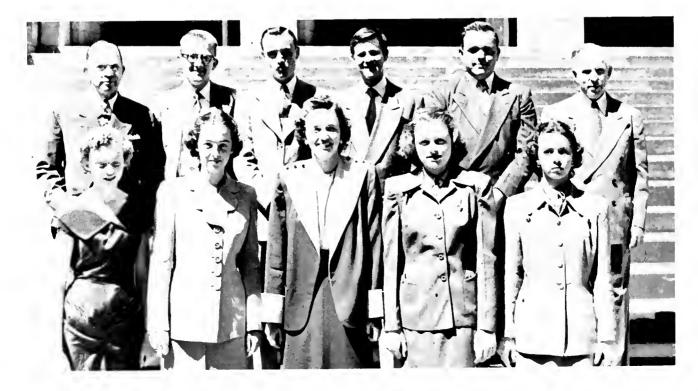


Left, Miss Evelyn Strader, Missionary to India. Miss Strader was supported by the Wesleyan Service Guild and Woman's Society of Christian Service and now by United Methodist Women.

Right, The Reverend and Mrs. Edwin Hackney and family, Missionaries to India. Ed grew up in First Methodist and entered the ministry. After his marriage, he and his wife, Faye, served many years in India where they also raised four boys. *Below*, Group of Young People Active in the Church 1945–1949. Some of this group later went into full-time Christian service. Miss Marjorie Lutz (now Mrs. John Douglas) is seen front row center; Dr. Clovis C. Chappell, senior minister, is second row, right end; and the Reverend C. C. Benton, associate minister,

is second row, left end.







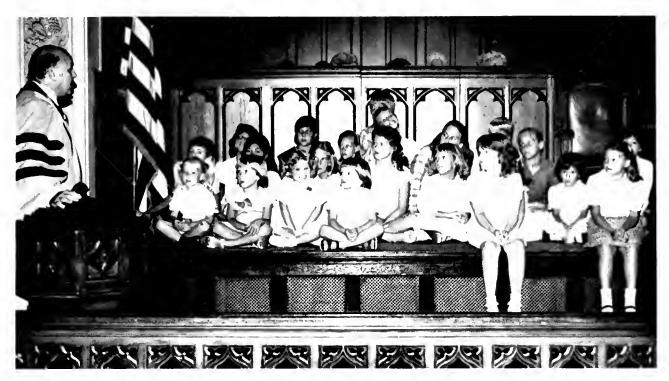
Above, Girl Scout Troop 64 Merit Badge Display for Home Nursing. Curved bar recipients: Alice Scranton, Alice Carol Perry, and Ernestine McClure. Taken May 16, 1952. *Right*, John K. Slear is shown here in uniform of World War I. He and Mrs. Slear (Julia McNinch) were counselors in the Junior High Department before going into government service. The church has been the recipient of a very large legacy due to his generosity. *Below*, Eagle Scouts of Troop 26. Shown are, *left to right*, Bill Lyles, Harvey White, Lloyd Pierce, Jr., and Don Lyles. Taken February 9, 1958.





Above, "Little Mary Sunshine," circa 1970. This musical drama was given by the youth of the church under the direction of J. William Stephenson, music director. Center, Sunday School in Junior Department, circa 1943. Below, Vacation Church School, 1943. Parents' day in vacation church school with the four and five year olds.





Above, Children's Sermon, 1983. Dr. Harold Bales, senior minister, with children at Sunday morning worship service. Center, Vacation Bible School, Primary Department, circa 1950.
 Below, Youth Bell Choir, circa 1968. Left to right, Roy Rogers, Pam Sterling, Maria Guillet, Brenda Thomas, Alvin Wright, Jeff Bost, Clayton Love and David Baker.







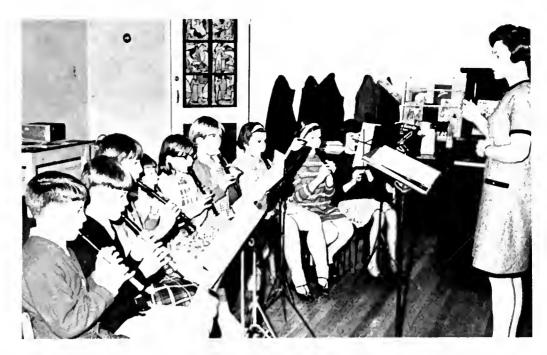
Left, Signing the Marriage License. Shown in the picture are Dr. Lee F. Tuttle, seated, and standing, left to right, Hunter M. Jones, the Reverend Howard C. Wilkinson, and Mack (Hunter M., Jr.) Jones, just prior to signing the license for Mack's wedding to Peggy Coppola.

Right, Fifteenth Wedding Anniversary Celebration, 1983. Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Herbert, Jr., at the celebration of their fiftieth anniversary. Since his retirement from pastorates, Dr. Herbert has served on the ministerial staff of First Methodist.



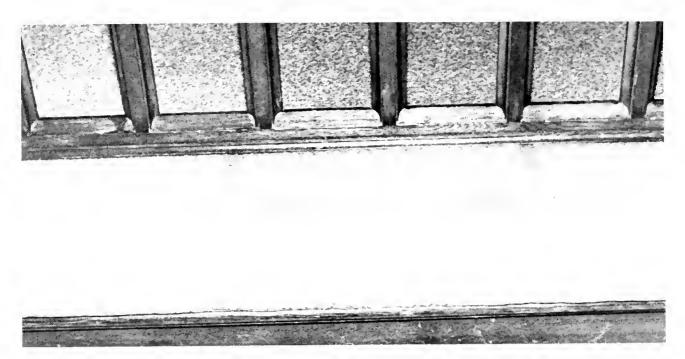
Below, The culmination of a First Methodist Church Romance, 1950. Weddings are an important ministry of the church. Above we see Charles Henderson with his bride, the former Nita Tillman, and his parents, Judge and Mrs. D. E. Henderson. Seated is Charlie's maternal grandmother, Mrs. Jenkins.





The emphasis on music is second only to the ministerial program of the church. Above, Children's recorder class being taught by Mrs. Bruce (Jane) Love. 1970. Center, Ricky Wesson's band in the 1970's. Below, Youth orchestra in 1930's. First row, left to right, Marie Wilkinson, Virginia Rowland, Catherine Armour, Eunice Armour, Dorothy Martin, Elizabeth Wilkinson, Ruth Martin. Second row, left to right, Prentice McCall, Monroe Landreth, Isabel McCall, Jack Berger, Mary McWhirter, Johnny Long (the famous orchestra leader), and Virginia Bost.





Above, Needlepoint Altar Cushions. These cushions were dedicated Sunday, June 3, 1979. Colors and symbols are taken from the stained glass windows.



Above left, Easter Cross. This crude cross, constructed from the trunk of the Chrismon tree, is hung with a purple drape and a crown of thorns for Good Friday. On Easter morning fresh flowers are added by the congregation, transforming the bare cross into a living symbol of the risen Christ. Above right, Chrismon Tree, 1973. The tradition of the Chrismon Tree was begun in First Methodist Church in 1965 by The Woman's Society of Christian Service. Christmas cards with the above picture in color were made available to members in 1973.





Above, Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 1966. Center, Junior Choir Rehearsal, circa 1967. J. William Stephenson, minister of music, is shown teaching the choir. Below, Graded Choirs, circa 1954.
Seen behind the lectern are, left to right, The Reverend Orion Hutchinson, associate minister; William B. Thomas, music director; and Richard Van Sciver, organist.



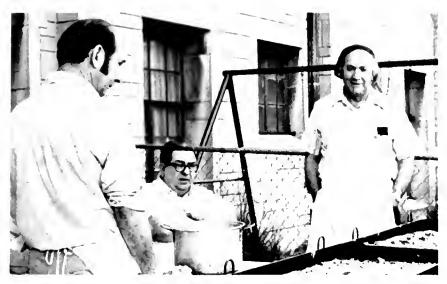


Above, Southeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops meeting in First United Methodist Church in 1981. Our Bishop L. Scott Allen, extreme right. *Below*, First Methodist Church Bell Tower. This shows a new left rear finial which had been damaged by lightning in 1981 and rebuilt in 1983.



Above, First United Methodist congregation on steps of Church, 1980. This photograph was taken for an informational brochure distributed to residents of Fourth Ward.

FOOD AND FELLOW-SHIP AT FIRST METHO-DIST! Left, Preparation of food for dinner theater was moved to the side yard of the church during renovation of the kitchen. Left to right: Harold Harkey, Bruce Love, and Jack Gray.











Above, Shown on the serving line are, left to right: Sue Brown, Jenny Brown, Mrs. Paul (Mary Jane) Burnette, and Mrs. A. H. (Mary) Caze. Above center left, Congregational luncheon. Above center right, Wilson Smith Bible Class and United Methodist Men have Ladies Night. Above left, United Methodist Women unit meeting. Above right, Family Night.



Reception in Records and History Room, Anniversary Sunday, October 30, 1983. Left, Mrs. Raymond (Marie) Brietz serving Bill Dellinger.





Above, Mrs. W. Reynolds Cuthbertson, Sr., (Julia Hagood) with her son, W. Reynolds Cuthbertson, Jr., and his sons, Tom, and William R., III, called Bill.

Above, Dr. and Mrs. Joe (Helen) Van Hoy. Helen is chairman of Records and History committee and Dr. Joe serves on the committee. They also have many other responsibilities in the church. *Right*, Mrs. George F. (Mary) Stratton explains display to Mrs. Henry (Sydney) Cowell.





Dr. William Walter Peele 1927–1936



Dr. G. Ray Jordan 1940–1945



Dr. Lee F. Tuttle 1949–1956



Dr. Charles C. Weaver 1936–1940



Dr. Clovis G. Chappell 1945–1949



Dr. W. Kenneth Goodson 1956–1961



Dr. Philip L. Shore, Jr. 1961–1965



Dr. Jacob B. Golden 1972–1978



Dr. Wallace D. Chappell 1981–1983



Dr. H. Eugene Peacock 1965–1972



Dr. Richard J. Crowder 1978–1981



Dr. Harold K. Bales 1983–

SOME OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Recall the 1928 First Methodist Church bulletin that shows the organization of the new church and note that, with the exception of the Director of Religious Education and the Church Secretary, there are no women mentioned except two women on the Board of Education and women as presidents of the missionary societies. Now look at the 1982 Officials of the Church and note that women today are as active in all departments as are the men. Their field of activity is no longer limited to what was once considered women's work in the church.

Many women are active in today's First Church but here only a few of those who have held high offices in the church will be mentioned.

Thelma Lupo (Mrs. Gordon Lupo 1901–1971) gave many years of service as a teacher of children and adults. She served on the official board and was the first woman to become superintendent of the Sunday School. She was one of the best public speakers in the church.

Mary Eskridge King (Mrs. Carl Howie King 1901–1973) was elected the first lay delegate to the 1972 General Conference by the Western North Carolina Annual Conference which is one of the highest honors that a lay person can receive. Under her leadership the women of the First Methodist Church moved into the main stream of the church.

Lurlene Barnhardt (Mrs. Leslie Barnhardt) is known throughout world Methodism as a leader among Methodist women, and she has been honored for distinguished service at a variety of levels in the United Methodist Church. Mrs. Barnhardt is a Distinguished Alumna of Greensboro College and was given a Doctor of Humanities degree by Rust College in 1971. WBT named her as Church Woman of the Year in 1960 and as Woman of the Year in 1963. She was also listed on Governor Hunt's twenty Outstanding Women of North Carolina (1977).

Juanita (Nita) Tillman Henderson (Mrs. Charles J. Henderson) is active in First Church and in the Western North Carolina Conference organizations. She organized the nursery as a cooperative venture of young mothers about 1956 and also teaches in the church school. She was the first woman to be chairman of the Administrative Board of First United Methodist Church. She has also been president of Bethlehem Center, member of the North Carolina Methodists' Campus Ministries Council, and now (1983) is chairman of the Western North Carolina Conference Council on Ministries whose members include all district superintendents and heads of major boards. She is the first woman to hold this office.

> THE UNITED METHODIST MEN OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In late 1939 or early 1940, the men of the Wilson Smith Bible Class of First Methodist Church organized "The Methodist Men's Club." Mr. W. Paul Pike was the first president. Even though this club was first conceived in the Men's Bible Class, other men of the church were invited to the meetings. Among the early leaders of this club were T. W. Aldred, Fred A. Greene, Lewis Hall, John Hood, Shirley Smith, Joe Van Hoy, Bill Younts and others cited elsewhere.

On December 28, 1965, this organization was incorporated as the Methodist Men of First Methodist Church of Charlotte, N. C., and officially became the organization for all men of the church. Mr. William L. Woolard was the first president of this organization. When at a later date the church became the First United Methodist Church the name was changed and became United Methodist Men of First United Methodist Church.

This organization meets once a month for nine months, September through May. Officers are elected for one year terms. They range from recent high school graduates to senior citizens.

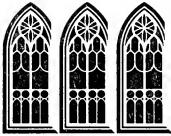
The style of the meeting is informal and begins with a fellowship period followed by a dinner which precedes the program for the evening. Programs cover a variety as large as any civic club: entertainers, musical programs, politics, crafts, economics, medicine, religion, community affairs, and many other types of programs. There are ladies nights in May and in December.

There have been many projects such as purchasing a church bus in 1966, obtaining audio-visual equipment for the church school, and helping with the evangelistic work of the church. This group of Methodist men, who contribute to the full cost of the meals and who give to worthy projects in First United Methodist Church, enjoy good Christian fellowship and keep a welcome hand out to new men who join the church and to youth who grow into manhood.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Former Activities

BOY SCOUTS



Both of the churches that merged to form First Church had active Scout troops. Troop #7 was sponsored by Trinity Church and had existed since 1920; it had a lapse, then was reorganized in 1926. The reorganization roll includes the name of Tom Squires, who was

an assistant scoutmaster and is a charter member of First United Methodist Church. Others listed also became charter members. Troop #26, sponsored by Tryon Street Church, was first chartered in 1920. The roster of that date contains the names of a number of men who later became charter members of First Church.

When the two churches merged in 1928, both troops transferred to the new church and continued separate identities and parallel programs. Scouting has always been largely a neighborhood program. At the time the churches merged, there were many families within walking or bicycling distance who had boys of scout age. The demand for scout membership was such that in the summer of 1928 Troops #7 and #26 were joined by Troop #4 which had originally been organized in 1918—place unrecorded. This designation was assigned to a newly organized troop with Howard Carlisle as scoutmaster. Howard had previously been assistant to Scoutmaster Bryan Wentz of Troop #26. Troop #4's charter renewal in 1931 listed George Scranton as scoutmaster. In that year Troop #7 was merged into #26 and #4 and the number assigned elsewhere.

1931 was the beginning of a slow process of attrition which reflected the changing character of the neighborhood of the church. George Scranton continued to lead Troop #4 until 1948 (seventeen years), when it was disbanded and George was asked to organize Troop #21 at First A.R.P. Church. Those members who did not go to Troop #21 joined Troop #26, which was led by H. Watson Stewart at that time.

Troop #26 had a continuous existence at Tryon Street Church and at First Church from 1920 through 1968, when there were no longer enough boys of scout age in the church membership to meet a minimum quota for an active troop.

From 1970 through the spring of 1974, the church sponsored Troop #261 for young boys living in the neighborhood and men of the church provided leadership for this effort.

From 1948–1970, Cub Pack #4 was active at First Church. It was originated by the initiative of George Scranton and continued to serve the eight-through-eleven-year age group of boys for twenty-two years, most of the time under the direction of Cubmaster L. S. "Skinny" Pierce.

The Boy Scout program of First Church touched upon and positively influenced the lives of innumerable boys, and the names of many of the leading citizens of Charlotte today can be found on the rolls of these troops. They can recall with great joy the weekly meetings, the overnight hikes to the D. E. Hendersons' home in the country, the summer camps, and the inspirational leadership of the many men of First Methodist who devoted much time and effort to the scout movement at Eighth and N. Tryon Streets.

At the present time (1983) there is no scout troop at First Methodist.

> Members of First United Methodist Church Who Have Been Awarded the Silver Beaver

T. W. Bird (deceased) 1945 George N. Scranton (deceased) 1948 L. M. Walker, 1951 L. S. "Skinny" Pierce (deceased) 1957 H. Watson Stewart, 1959 Bishop W. K. Goodson, 1960 W. R. Cuthbertson, Jr., 1965 J. Fred Vantrease (deceased) 1965 W. Sinclair Stewart (deceased) 1969 B. B. Parker, 1974 The Silver Beaver is the highest honor the Boy Scout organization can give an adult. George Scranton was actively involved in Charlotte scouting over a long period of years, particularly with the scout troops of Trinity and then First Methodist. Scouts and their parents loved and respected him. He died in 1969 at the age of 64 years.

Watson Stewart and Low Walker, both of Troop #26, were among the most successful scoutmasters and at one time #26 was the largest troop in the council.

James Fred Vantrease who came to Charlotte in 1945 as Scout Executive of the Mecklenburg County Council, Boy Scouts of America, was another First Church member who was active in scouting in Charlotte. A camp used for junior scout leaders' training bore the name Camp Vantrease in his honor. Fred Vantrease frequently taught the Wilson Smith Bible Class. He died in 1972.

GIRL SCOUTING IN FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Girl Scouting started in the First Methodist Church in the late fall of 1946. The following announcement appeared in the Church Bulletin on January 12, 1947:

Troop #18, a newly organized troop of girls eleven and twelve years of age, meets each Saturday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock. Its sponsoring committee includes: Mrs. Allen Kemp, Mrs. Harry Madden, Mrs. Leslie Barnhardt and Miss May Devlin. Mrs. Cecil Duckworth is the leader. Registration for membership in this troop closes on January 25, 1947. Any girl wishing to join must contact one of the above persons before that date. Girl Scouting in First Methodist Church is sponsored by the Wesley Fellowship Department, Willard Colby, President.

Then on January 26, 1947, this announcement appeared:

Brownie Scout Troop #64, a newly organized troop for girls seven, eight or nine years of age, will meet Saturday mornings at 10:00 o'clock in the Primary Department. The troop leaders are: Mrs. Henry Atkison and Miss Pauline Hood. Registration for membership in this troop closes February 15, 1947. Any girl wishing to join this Brownie Troop may do so through her Sunday School teacher or by calling Miss Kitty Wilson, Director of Religious Education.

Within a month this Brownie Troop had grown so large, it was necessary to divide the girls into two troops; thus Troop #71 was

organized, with Mrs. H. L. Riddle, leader, and Miss Mary Belle Reid, assistant leader.

After three years the Brownie Scouts "flew-up" to become Girl Scout Troop #64 and Mrs. M. V. (Lily) McClure, leader, and Mrs. L. C. (Charlotte) Pierce, chairman of the Troop Committee, followed the girls on through senior scouting. The girls advanced in scouting skills and were awarded numerous badges as a result of their training and work. In 1953, the following girls received the Curved Bar award, the highest rank in Girl Scouting and equivalent to the eagle rank in Boy Scouting: Alice Scranton, Alice Carol Perry, Ernestine McClure, Nancy Hopkins and Marion Pierce. Another exciting event was the day eight girls visited the home of Juliette Low, founder of Girl Scouting, in Savannah, Georgia. They were Nancy Bost, Alice Carol Perry, Peggy Malone, Marion Pierce, Imogene Hill, Ann Palmer, Rebecca Rhyne and Nancy Hopkins. In 1953, Mrs. M. V. McClure was still leader, Mrs. L. S. Pierce was assistant leader and Mrs. George Scranton was chairman of the Troop Committee. Mrs. G. W. McClung, Mrs. J. C. Rhyne and Mrs. C. D. Sain were the committee members. As senior scouts they were presented the Wings Badge by airport officials, because of their interest in the operations of the airport. Excitement mounted when they were given a courtesy ride over the city of Charlotte, the first airplane ride for most of the girls.

Girl Scouting continued to grow and by 1949 there were four troops: 18, 64, 71, and 73. By 1961 most of the long faithful leaders had become full-time employed and Girl Scouting ceased at First Methodist Church, for the present time.

In the meantime, Mrs. Pierce, Mrs. McClure, Mrs Batie (Elsie) Blanton and Mrs. Louis Doggett became active leaders in the Charlotte Girl Scout Council. Mrs. L. S. Pierce was elected president of the council and served four years. In 1956 the Girl Scout Board honored her with a luncheon and awarded her the Thanks Badge for distinguished service to Girl Scouting. This was the fourth such badge awarded in Charlotte in the twenty years of scouting in Charlotte. Mrs. McClure and Mrs. Pierce, gave much of their time and effort in behalf of Girl Scouting, both to the church and to the council.

In 1972 Girl Scouting again came to First Methodist Church. This time three black Girl Scout troops were organized. Junior Troop #588 had 23 girls with Mrs. Joann Glenn, leader; Cadet Troop #589 had 35 girls with Mrs. Beverly Pagan, leader; Senior Troop #590 had 10 girls with Miss Eleanor Davis, leader.

Troop #589 received the Challenge Social Dependability special award. Five girls became program aid girls and received special training to work with younger girls. This troop is still involved in girl scouting but is sponsored by another church.

Troop #590 had six girls to take special leadership training and several are still active in leadership with Girl Scouts.

In 1977, Mrs. Pierce received a thirty-year pin for continuous membership and service to Girl Scouting.

First United Methodist Church has been instrumental in guiding and molding the lives of many dedicated citizens through Girl Scouting by originating and developing many projects through the participation of its members and has provided opportunities for young girls and adults to express themselves in the Girl Scout program. Many of the girls who were Brownie and Girl Scouts at First Methodist have become leaders in scouting with Brownies, Girl Scouts and Cubs as their children became eligible for the scouting program but at the present time (1983) there is no Girl Scout troop at First United Methodist Church.

SCANDINAVIAN CARAVANS

While visiting at Lake Junaluska, Bishop Odd Hagen, Scandinavia, and the Reverend Carl H. King, then Secretary of Religious Education in the Western North Carolina Conference, planned the program of alternating caravans—one year the Western North Carolina Conference Caravan, consisting of college students, would go to Scandinavia and the next year a group of young people from there would come to the Western North Carolina Conference.

Following World War II, several groups had gone from the North Carolina Conference to Austria and elsewhere, but Bishop Hagen and Dr. King felt the exchange would be most meaningful.

In 1955, the Reverend and Mrs. Carl (Mary) King were leaders for the first caravan carrying out plans made by Bishop Hagen and Dr. King. The group, consisting of 14 young people, including Virginia Stratton (Woolard) and Ann McDougle (Beverage) from First Church, traveled by boat spending eight weeks in Norway, Sweden, and Finland and two weeks touring Germany, France, and Austria.

Thor Hall, Youth Director of the Scandinavian Methodist Church, worked out the caravan's itinerary. In Oslo the group helped erect a circus tent where revival services were held. Caravan members preached and witnessed.

The caravan usually divided into four groups, touching as many churches and people as possible, mostly staying in homes. While in Oneburg, Sweden, where there is a Methodist Assembly, the caravans helped build a sea wall.

The following year, as planned, a group from Scandinavia came to the Western North Carolina Conference. They were met in New York and brought to Camp Tekoa which was headquarters during their stay. From Camp Tekoa, they traveled to many churches, usually visiting in homes.

Among those going on the caravans from our church were: Garland Young, Maria Guillet (Little), Brenda Thomas (Wheeler), Sandra Milliken (Biggers), Judy Howell (Swain), Bruce Cunningham, Jr., and David O'Brien.

The caravans to Scandinavia have been very meaningful experiences to all who have participated and having the caravaners from Scandinavia in the church and homes has also meant much to all touched by their stay.

In the beginning the Conference Board of Education sponsored the caravans one year and the Board of Missions the next. The Reverend and Mrs. Walter Miller were leaders of the second caravan. At that time Mrs. Miller was Secretary of the Board of Missions of the Western North Carolina Conference.

The first caravan (1955) while going through a Russian military camp enroute to Finland had the train windows boarded up to prevent their seeing anything.

When Russell Montfort returned (1955) after participating in the caravan, his church sent a car to Thor Hall to use in his work as Director of Religious Education in Scandinavia. Thor later came to the Western North Carolina Conference as a Crusade Scholar and studied at Duke University. He remained in the conference after graduation, becoming a Professor of Education at Duke. Thor was a guest in First church for an "International Weekend" and was moderator of a panel during the week-end. Presently Dr. Hall is at the University of Tennessee.

The Reverend and Mrs. Gilreath Adams were coordinators of a caravan several years ago. They took the message to Graid, Finland, that the Western North Carolina Conference would send the Methodist church there \$40,000 to help with their church building. While in Finland word reached the caravan by phone call that Dr. Carl H. King had died.

Many caravaners have become ministers: Dr. Russell Montfort, Dr. Thomas Stockton, the Reverend Reginald Cook, the Reverend James Armstrong, the Reverend Garland Young and others.

The Reverend and Mrs. Ralph Eanes were coordinators for the 1977 Scandinavian caravan.

MISSION TO MEXICO BRINGS A BONUS

In 1971 a group of 13 young people of First Methodist Church decided to "see and be" the church in action during a 24-day workcamp stint in Monterrey, Mexico. The Reverend Bill Cole, Minister of Religious Education, and Miss Diane Eagle led the youth group which included Karen Gray, Delores Scruggs, Roddy Hoover, Jay Curlee, Joe Lentz, William Gray, Bobby Henderson, Lee Hayes, Eddie Sykes, Winkie Lee, Chip Council, Hank Stewart, and Bill Ashcraft.

After stopping at Methodist churches en route, they arrived at the San Martin Mission, where they constructed a one-room addition to the tiny mission. They assisted with vacation church school and served as camp counselors and leaders at the Methodist youth camp, Sierra Linda. Back at home, First Church members shared in the effort by the purchase of the concrete blocks that had been used in the work on the mission.

During their 16-day stay they were guests of the Reverend and Mrs. Roger Wolcott and there they met Florenzio Guzman, a young Peruvian convert that Wolcott had met at an earlier post. Recognizing his potential, Wolcott had arranged for him to come to the mission and, ultimately, to study at Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky.

In September, en route to Asbury, young Guzman stopped in

Charlotte for a reunion with the First Church group. He stayed at the home of Watson and Travis Stewart and their son Hank whom he had met at the work camp, and ultimately found himself "adopted" as a member of the Stewart family.

The Stewarts and others of First Methodist who contributed to his scholarship fund were rewarded as he overcame the language barrier to make excellent grades and finally to win a full tuition scholarship for the years required for his master's degree in Religious Education which he received in 1977.

Florenzio returned to his native Peru, prepared to teach, preach, establish cooperatives to increase earning power of the poor, and to spread the gospel. Thus the work camp brought a great bonus to many people.

Current Activities

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP

A program begun in January, 1983, and called Wednesday Evening Fellowship consists of supper followed by Bible study. Various committees have their scheduled meetings after the Bible study program.

THURSDAYS-AT-FIRST

In September, 1975, a core group of interested members of First United Methodist Church began planning guidelines for a new program. After studying the needs of the church, visiting a program in Asheville's Central United Methodist Church, and talking with groups in the community, excitement grew about "Thursdays-At-First" which would begin on October 16, 1975. The following statement of purpose was formulated:

To provide an opportunity for persons of all ages to relate to each other in an atmosphere of love and acceptance, sharing in growth experience and being of service to others; and to provide a good, well ballanced meal at an inexpensive price.

After almost seven years of learning, growing, and changing, "Thursdays-At-First" currently includes: crafts and workshops (quilting, woodworking, macrame, small appliance repair, decorative crafts, sewing crafts); service projects (making lap robes, rolling bandages, making stuffed toys, making hospital gowns, yarn crafts, writing cards to shut-ins, and making banners); and "Experiences in Learning." There has been an excellent variety of programs in this area. Bible studies, craft workshops, a series for parents of pre-schoolers, programs on historical landmarks, and a "worry workshop" have all been a part of the "Experiences in Learning."

Meeting each week at the church from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., TAF provides a free pre-school nursery and a hot meal which until recently was fifty cents but is now \$1.00. Two vans pick up persons who need transportation. Many people use their talents to make items which are then sold to help meet the expenses of the program. From 100–150 persons of all denominations join forces each Thursday to make Thursdays-At-First an exciting happening.

A typical program of Thursdays-At-First is given here:

Thursdays-At-First February 4, 1982

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Coffee, Conversation, Crafts, and Service Projects. 10:15-12:15 Drawing Class, Mrs. Libby McWhirter.

10:15-12:15 Sewing Aids (Getting your spring wardrobe in order), Mrs. Evelyn Beiderbecke.

10:15-12:15 "Managing the Family Circus," Ms. Anda Cochran, Early Intervention.

10:15-11:10 Bible Study: "The Book of James," The Rev. E. Wannamaker Hardin, Pastor of Blair Road United Methodist Church.

11:20-12:15 "Michelangelo-Supreme Genius," Dr. Johnston V. "Pete" McCall.

12:15 Lunch \$1.00.

Pre-school Nursery and Activities

SINGLE-SINGLE AGAIN

In the summer of 1978 Barbara (Mrs. R. Pressley) Hoover and Mrs. Edyth Lewis met with Wanda Ogden who at that time was Director of Christian Education at First Church. Barbara and Edyth told Wanda they felt there was a great need for some type of organization for older single people because (1) they quite often feel uncomfortable at church functions which are predominantly family oriented; (2) there are no organizations in the church for this particular category of people; (3) with so many older people living alone suitable activities should be found for them, thereby giving them the opportunity to enjoy themselves as a group. This would help keep them active and help combat loneliness.

Wanda agreed to help by furnishing a list of names of older people in the church. These people were contacted and informed of a dinner meeting to be held at the S & W Cafeteria on Park Road in August, 1978. There was a great response; about 35 people attended (the exact number was not kept). The group was briefed on the purpose of the meeting and was very responsive. It was suggested they have a dinner meeting once a month. They voted to do this on the second Friday in each month. For better than a year activities, meetings, and finances were more or less by trial and error. At one meeting they voted and named themselves "Single and Single Again."

Early in 1980 six members had a "planning session." They discussed membership dues, goals, and future programs. Two things were accomplished at this meeting: (1) Annual dues were set at \$5 and each member would be asked to fill out a membership form. (2) Membership would be divided by months, and members would be responsible for planning the meeting for the month to which they were assigned. In this way, all members would get involved and bring into the organization their ideas and talents.

The nominating committee of First Church for 1980 asked Edyth Lewis to be coordinator for Single and Single Again. When that happened the group really felt it was considered an official work area of the church.

In addition to meeting once a month, the group does many fun things, such as:

Attending: theaters, movies, restaurants, and dinner theaters Having picnics, ice cream parties, and cook-outs

Visiting the Methodist Home and entertaining First

Church members who are living there

Making the December meeting extra special for Christmas Having dutch-treat dinners after Sunday worship services Playing bridge

Having Thanksgiving dinner together (for those who were not with their families)

Taking numerous trips to interesting places such as Old Salem, Charleston, and Williamsburg

The group has lost two beautiful and supportive members through death: Frances Adams in 1980 and Evan Dellinger in 1981. At the present time there are 41 members.

GLENMERE

Glenmere is the church recreation-campsite of First United Methodist Church. In the late 1940's the youth and other divisions of the church school became extremely active in organized camping and other outdoor activities. This led to the conclusion, shared by a large number of church leaders, that ownership and operation of its own facility would strengthen the entire church program. It would need to be near enough to Charlotte for easy access, but isolated enough to provide privacy.

A campsite committee was appointed and a search begun for a site in early 1950. In April of that year the present site was located. It was a 145-acre tract of rolling and wooded land, about 15 miles from Charlotte and could be purchased at a very favorable price. Most of the site is in Cabarrus County, the remainder in Mecklenburg. This farmhouse was the home of John Dwight Morrison. Morrisons had long lived in this area which was in the Rocky River community where the Reverend Alexander Craighead had arrived in 1758 to become the pastor for the Rocky River and Sugar Creek Presbyterian Churches.

No funds were available for this project, so four members of the board, headed by H. I. McDougle, a local attorney, purchased the property on April 29, 1950, and held it until such time as the church could acquire it, if the board so decided.

On December 4, 1950, the official board approved of a plan to develop this recreation-campsite and authorized a special fundraising campaign for this purpose. Following the campaign in early 1951, First Church acquired title to the site on May 30th and immediately set about to make such improvements as were possible with available funds. These improvements made possible day-camping, picnics and other limited uses, but was far short of the total development for full use of the facility as originally envisioned.

In 1955 the Boy Scout hut was constructed to fill the needs of that very active group in camping and woodcraft training.

For a period of time the further development of the site was deferred as the board established priorities as recommended by the planning committee.

In 1968 funds from the estate of Mrs. Ada Lane Beal became available "for the special benefit of children and young people." It was decided to use these funds in conjunction with the further development of this site under the guidance of professional camp planners. Extensive improvements were made in 1971 to reach the present state of development. These were done over a six-month period and included a dam to form a large lake, the log house was rebraced and made structurally sound, a new roof was put on, panelling installed in much of the house, new windows, new front and back porches, and two large bathrooms. The scout hut got a new roof and one hundred new window panes since all of them had been broken. Most of the funds for this work came from the Beal estate and the chairman of the committee was Jack Gilbert, assisted by Ralph ("Red") Williams. The lake was affectionately known as "Gilbert's Gulch." Jeanne (Mrs. George) Scranton had water run from the main house to the scout hut in memory of her husband. Bill (William H.) Thomas, a long-time associate of George Scranton in scouting, assisted in this project. The scout hut was named for Watson Stewart, long-time scoutmaster.

Following a contest by the Commission on Education for an appropriate name, "Glenmere" was selected on June 19, 1973. The winning name submitted by Jonathan Golden, son of the senior minister, is of Gaellic derivation and means "woodsy lake." The entrance is approximately 10.5 miles east of the intersection of Albemarle Road and Independence Boulevard, with a large white sign on the left of the highway, designed by Walter Glenn.

Glenmere is used for junior high and senior high weekend retreats for First United Methodist as well as other local churches. First United Methodist uses the grounds for picnics, vesper services, and retreats by groups such as the Council on Ministries. During the summer months it is used for day camps of various church groups. In recent years repairs and improvements have been made to the lodge and grounds. It was finally decided that the seasonal use of Glenmere did not justify the year-round maintenance and it was sold in January, 1983, to Howell's Child Care, a home for mentally retarded children. First Church can still use the camp.

THE SUNBEAMS

In 1974 First Methodist Church realized that it was not meeting the needs of the mentally retarded and the physically handicapped. It was decided that a special class for mentally retarded children would be organized.

The first step was to call on parents of children who needed this special class and the next step was to train teachers for this special work. Five families responded to the initial letter of invitation, and Dr. Wesley Brogan, professor of special education at Greensboro College, was secured to train the teachers. This teacher-training group included Judith Barlow, Judy and Dick Hargett, Barbara Howard, Doris Huckabee, Tim Jordan, Ken McGee, Joan Miles, Cindy Raby, Nancy Walkup, and Larry White. The active and constant support of Jeanne Newcomb helped the Sunbeams get off to a good start. Other teachers have been Jean Eagle, Karen Quein, and Arnold Walsh.

In the early days of this class there were thirteen students. Today (1983) there are seven students. In the late 1970's Judy and Dick Hargett were the coordinators of this class and today Ann Irwin is the coordinator. Sally Johnson is a teacher, Edith Jones helps with crafts and Lillian Voigt helps with singing. Nancy Walkup is also active with this group.

This class meets on Sundays from 10:00–12:00 o'clock from September through June. Transportation is furnished by the church and Kermit McClure has been active in this phase of the work since its beginning. Other drivers have been Roy Rogers, David Miles, Bob Forest, Ed Quein, and Hoytt Flinchum. Today's drivers are Kermit McClure, Joe Eskridge, and Bill Sparger. In July and August there are special events such as field trips and picnics.

Jeanne Newcomb's work with this group in music over the years has meant a great deal. The group has sung at church services, has appeared with others on WBTV, and received a standing ovation when they appeared at a Western North Carolina Conference at Junaluska.

UPTOWN COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES

The Uptown Cooperative Ministries is an organization of uptown churches uniting to become "a cohesive, enthusiastic, and informed team. UCM's purpose is to act as a catalyst and model for energizing congregations toward specific improvements in the quality of life in the Inner City of Charlotte."

At the present time (1983) UCM membership includes the ministers and at least two lay persons from the following churches: First Presbyterian, First United Presbyterian, Tabernacle ARP, First United Methodist, Grace AME Zion, St. Peter's Episcopal, Little Rock AME Zion, and First Baptist. Chuck (Charles T. III) Barger, Peggy (Mrs. Parker) Duncan, Marj (Mrs. Bruce) Cunningham, and Nancy and Frank Newton are the members from First Church; Mrs. Cunningham is the convener.

The UCM structure includes three task forces: Ministers' Group (which sponsors the annual uptown pulpit exchange), Older Adult Ministries, and Youth Assistance Ministry. Special Interest Ministries include the Soup Kitchen at St. Peter's, the Tutorial Program at First United Presbyterian, and Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) classes at First United Methodist.

First Church helps support the youth programs with money and volunteers. This is mainly ministry at Earle Village, Piedmont Courts, and Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church. It helps financially with St. Peter's Soup Kitchen, and co-operates in the pulpit exchange of ministers.

The Share n' Care Program is in First Methodist Church and has existed since February, 1974. Every Tuesday at noon a hot meal is served to elderly people and there is also a take-out service to shut-ins. Preceding the lunch, is the Share n' Care handbell choir practice and the art class taught by CPCC as part of the Share n' Care program. Johnny Bradburn did a fine job of teaching the art of ringing and his choir has performed in the church. Gil Pirovano, presently organist and choir director at First Methodist, is now working with this choir.

The First Church gymnasium is used by the ECHO program.

This is a ministry to ex-convicts which uses rooms at First Presbyterian Church.

First Methodist Church members have participated in the winter shelter program at the Salvation Army on West Seventh Street. From December through February this provides a hot meal and a bed for the homeless and is carried out with the help of volunteers from many Charlotte churches.

DAY CARE CENTER

In 1969, seeking to implement its inner city ministry in its new directions program, First Church picked up on efforts of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Department of Social Services to establish day care centers as aids to mothers of dependent children.

No longer operating a kindergarten program, the church felt that this would be an ideal way to utilize pre-school department space. A room was converted into an office and kitchen, completing facilities to accommodate fifty children. Children were placed, and staff and additional equipment were provided by the Department of Social Services with First Church providing the building, playground, and utilities. The center was staffed by a director, four qualified teachers, four assistant teachers, and a cook to provide a hot lunch and two snacks.

There is an on-going staff program, parent involvement, and periodic evaluation of each child's progress. The center serves children ages two to six whose mothers qualify for Social Services aid. To do this the mother must be working, continuing her education, or physically unable to care for her children. In some instances children are received for protective service.

A new play-yard with new equipment was established in 1981– 82. In 1981 leaders formed an independent non-profit corporation to take over operations, and there have been many compliments on the good job that is being done. The day camp is licensed and certified.

The independence and positive self-image developed in both parents and children have made the day care program one of the most significant ministries of First United Methodist Church for infants to kindergarten age.

Other Community Interests

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES

Goodwill Industries (in America since 1895) has been a Home Missions project of The Methodist Church. First Methodist Church was instrumental in the creation and expansion of Goodwill Industries in Charlotte. Records show that Dr. E. H. Neese (then District Superintendent), the Reverend Joe Caldwell (then pastor of Duncan Memorial Methodist Church), and Mr. Charles J. Henderson, attorney, were the official incorporators of the Charlotte Goodwill Industries back in late 1948 and early 1949.

A grant from the National Board of Missions was offered but not used after funding through the Charlotte Community Chest was arranged. The first downtown store (now known as the Spirit Square Goodwill) had been recently vacated by Winchester Surgical Supply owned largely by the family of H. Watson Stewart, who were members of First Methodist Church. Early presidents were Edwin L. Jones, Sr., builder and also treasurer of the World Council of Methodism, and Arthur P. Harris, merchant as well as district lay leader.

First Methodist was a supplementary meeting place during the years as Fred Sherman, a Methodist, served as executive director, and the principal office was on East Sixth Street.

CONTACT

First United Methodist Church was the birthplace and headquarters of the Charlotte branch of the nation's largest and busiest counseling service. That is the lifeline, the help line, the comfort line for thousands of lonely people, suffering people, disturbed, and desperate people in Mecklenburg and Union counties, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is staffed by a paid director, Mrs. Irene Milroy, a secretary, and 600 volunteers of all faiths throughout the city, each of whom spends weeks in training before working shifts from two to eight hours in telephone counseling.

CONTACT handles 6,000 calls monthly, more than any other crisis counseling service in the United States. In some cases personal, face-to-face counseling evolves by appointment. Ten telephone lines, two to Union County, include rape crisis service, child abuse and neglect, suicide line, parents anonymous line, and reassurance for the elderly.

CONTACT, Charlotte, was organized by Dr. H. Eugene Peacock, First Methodist's pastor, in 1969, as a part of the new directions and new patterns in ministry policy of the church. A Methodist Bicentennial grant enabled the hiring of Mrs. Milroy in the beginning and the operation was headed by a board of directors named by the administrative board of First Church. Later, with funding by United Community Services, it became a member of that agency with three members of First Church serving on the board. Other financial help comes from private donations and support of several church groups. Now wholly ecumenical, as it was meant to be, CONTACT continues to be based at First United Methodist Church with telephone and personal counseling facilities elsewhere.

CONTACT works closely with the Mental Health Clinic. In addition, professional back-ups include numbers of doctors, lawyers, psychiatrists, psychologists, and ministers volunteering time and services.

The telephone number, widely publicized, is 333-6121 for residents of Mecklenburg County and the numbers for Union County are 289-6121 and 624-2044. Counselors are of all ages, 18 to 92. The work is quiet. It is confidential. It is of enormous, immeasurable benefit to thousands in need.

BETHLEHEM CENTER

Bethlehem Center is a project of the national division of the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Bethlehem Center in Charlotte is an agency that provides human services to low-income residents in the Southside Park area, nearby communities and, in many instances, to the disadvantaged throughout Mecklenburg County. Services include all-day and afterschool day-care, and evening youth programs, week-end meals for shut-ins, programs for senior citizens and handicapped people, alcohol education and counseling, summer residential camping, and the thrift shop. Project Head Start, a section of which is housed at Bethlehem Center, is a pre-school educational program for 400 three-and-four-year olds in Mecklenburg County.

First Methodist Church women have been active in support of Bethlehem Center since 1940 and details of their support were given in the section on United Methodist Women. Nita (Mrs. Charles) Henderson served as president of Bethlehem Center for several years. The Charlotte Bethlehem Center is located at 2705 Baltimore Avenue.

THE METHODIST HOME

From its beginning, First United Methodist Church has played a large part in the life of the Methodist Home for the Aged, Inc.

In the mid 1940's it was a member of First Church, Eugene M. Cole, who gave 180 acres on which the Methodist Home was built. (Forty-five acres more were acquired later.) Mr. Cole, of the Cole Manufacturing Company, also started the Eugene M. Cole Foundation for assisting retired ministers of the Western North Carolina Conference. His brother, the Reverend E. O. Cole, was a member of this conference.

The following members of First Church were on the first Board of Managers of the Methodist Home: J. A. Bell, W. R. Cuthbertson, J. B. Ivey, H. I. McDougle, and Frank O. Sherrill. When an office was needed to carry on the promotional work of the home, J. B. Ivey gave a small space in his store. Later, First Church gave office space that was used for two years. When ground was broken in the spring of 1947, Mrs. Sallie Hagood dug one of the first shovels full of dirt.

In the early 1960's, members of First Church including the Hagoods, the Cuthbertsons and the Van Hoys took real leadership roles in the planning and building of the Wesley Nursing Center.

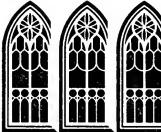
Throughout the years First Church members have been both donors and occupants of some of the cottages at the Methodist Home.

B. B. Parker is currently president of the Board of Directors of the Methodist Retirement Complex.

In addition to the above mentioned activities, First United Methodist Church has a tape ministry and a shut-in visitation program. Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Snyder, Jr., have successfully headed the shut-in program for many years, giving tirelessly of their time and energy.

MISCELLANEOUS

MUSIC AT FIRST METHODIST



Music has always been a tradition in Methodism because of the contributions of John and Charles Wesley in the field of hymnology. The founder of Methodism and his brother wrote many hymns for worship purposes. Charles Wesley is said to have written approximately

5,000 hymns, one of which, "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing My Great Redeemer's Praise," has been the inspiration for Methodists to sing the praises of God.

Music has been important in the tradition of First United Methodist Church. Through the years there have been some fine musicians, gifted and trained, who have played a part in the musical program of the church. Time, of course, brought changes, but it has seemed that when one leader passed from the scene, another has arisen and the church has been able to maintain a high level of musical attainment. Inspiring, worshipful music has always been a part of the order of worship

George W. Patterson was the first music committee chairman. A mixed quartet composed of Earl Rasor, director, Miss Rachel Summerow, Miss Grace Kohn, and Mr. William Neal provided the music when the church opened October 23, 1927. Eugene Craft was the first organist serving the church until 1947 but leaving for several periods while studying abroad and traveling. During his absence the latter part of 1928 Mrs. J. Dudley Withers played, followed by Mrs. W. D. Alexander, Jr.

The installation of the Hooks and Hastings organ was completed in March, 1928. It was a four manual organ consisting of a main organ and echo organ with close to 3,000 wood and metal pipes, all concealed, also a harp and a set of Deagan chimes, orchestral and band instruments. The total cost including the installation was \$21,000. Nearly 2,500 people attended the first organ concert presented by Harold Gleason of the Eastman School of Music at Rochester, N. Y. Every seat was occupied and chairs were placed in the aisles for the audience that came to hear the most upto-date organ between Washington and Atlanta. People stood in the remaining space around the sanctuary. Mr. Gleason praised the ensemble of the organ which he described as "rich and churchly."

In January, 1930, L. R. Sides, director of music in the public schools, began his work with the church as director of the young people's choir and orchestra. The young people's choir of 50 voices sang for the first time Sunday evening, February 16, 1930. Women of the church made vestments for the young people. Mr. Sides attracted young people to the church to participate in the choir and orchestra and the church continued his services as long as it was possible to pay him. At one time when the church was having financial difficulties the quartet was given a vacation without pay and the music was furnished by the young people's choir. Also Mr. Sides asked the board for money to purchase music and was told by Mr. J. B. Ivey to sing hymns.

The Charlotte Festival Community Chorus, a group of Charlotte's leading singers, was organized by Mr. Sides to present oratorios such as Handel's "Messiah" and Haydn's "Creation." These programs were given in the sanctuary of First Methodist Church and were well attended by the public. During the years the facilities of First Methodist have been used by many musical groups from Charlotte and from out of town. The music department of the church has always been involved in these presentations.

Robin S. Kirby, chairman of the music committee in 1934, announced that Mr. J. M. Pannetti had been employed as organist and director of a chorus choir. Mrs. W. D. Alexander, Jr., was the organist he replaced. A volunteer choir was formed but this didn't work as they had hoped and it was necessary to go back to a paid quartet with additional volunteer singers. It was also felt that a full time director was needed but the necessary funds were not available. Eugene Craft returned as organist in March, 1936 and continued until 1947.

A study was made of the choir loft and it was felt that by moving the organ console to the middle, the director, who in this case was serving as organist, could perform more effectively. This was completed February 6, 1939, at a cost of \$151.00. The New Methodist Hymnal, a revision of the old hymnal made by a joint commission of bishops, pastors and laymen from the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and the Methodist Protestant Church, was dedicated in a service March 29, 1936, led by Walter Vassar, professor of voice at Greensboro College. The Greensboro College Glee Club sang at the evening service that Sunday. Victor Templeton served as chairman of the committee to secure money to pay for the new hymn books. He was assisted by Miss Irene Abernethy and the Wesley Fellowship Department.

In 1947 the church was able to employ its first full-time minister of music. Richard Walter Jenkins filled this position with Mrs. Eva Read, organist, and Mrs. Frank M. Little directing the children's choirs. When Mrs. Read resigned Miss Judith Autry became organist.

Mr. William B. Thomas was the next full-time minister of music, assuming his duties in 1949. Prior to this he had been a tenor in the choir while working for Bost Building Equipment Company. Mrs. Ralph Short served as organist for a short time and she was followed by Miss Louise Ankeny. A full choir program involving all ages was started during this time and Mr. Thomas was assisted by Mrs. Jeannette (Fred W.) Greene. When Mr. Thomas resigned in 1952 to continue his study of music at Westminster Choir College, Mrs. Greene became the acting minister of music. Mr. Raymond Brietz assumed this position in 1953 with Mrs. Greene continuing as director of musical education. Miss Louise Ankeny, the organist, became Mrs. Robert Halley during this year. In 1954 Mr. Thomas returned from Westminster Choir College and assumed his duties once more as minister of music. Mr. John Morrison served briefly as organist followed by Mr. Richard Van Sciver during 1955.

Mrs. Anita (John) Bultman became organist in 1955, remaining for ten years. During this time with Mr. Thomas as minister of music the volunteer choir began to grow. Many of the major oratorios were presented with outstanding soloists, organ and orchestral accompaniment. An operetta group for young people was started to stage Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. Later other musicals were presented. One of the major undertakings was "The King and I" which had a cast of 70 and involved twelve families—husbands, wives and children. Mr. Thomas served for fifteen years as director of music, resigning September 15, 1963, to assume the duties of assistant to the Director of Development at Converse College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Dr. Philip L. Shore, Jr. wrote in the church bulletin that "Bill had provided a rare order of leadership for the music program of the church and had been an ambassador to the churches in the district, as well as a prime contributor to the musical and religious life of the entire community." Under his guidance the choirs developed a reputation for excellence that had captured the attention and the admiration of Methodism across the whole church.

The next director of music was Gary Johnston, a young man who had been affiliated with the musical program of the church. He served for a year until the arrival of Mr. Joseph William Stephenson, Jr., and his family. He and his wife, Katie, graduates of Westminister Choir College, were a husband-wife team.

In 1965 an organ committee with J. J. Faulk serving as chairman was created to study the need for a new organ in the church. This group studied the problems of the organ at First Methodist Church, whether it would be feasible to rebuild, and if not, to get specifications for a new organ. Mrs. Bultman, organist at this time, was very helpful because of her knowledge of the different makes of organs and the workings of the organ. In 1966 when Mrs. Stephenson became organist, she also gave valuable assistance to the committee. The Administrative Board accepted the proposal of the Möller Organ Company of Hagerstown, Md., to build a new three manual organ at a cost of \$88,910 plus cost of necessary building changes. It is estimated that replacement cost today would be \$300,000.

The new organ was dedicated on September 10, 1967 and that evening George Markey, director of the Guilmont Organ School, professor of organ at Westminster Choir College, organist and choirmaster at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City, gave the dedicatory concert. The Möller organ has 3500 pipes all hand made. Also there are 30 couplers, 41 combination pistons operated by remote control mechanism. There is an antiphonal division in the balcony which can be played from the main console or from a one-manual console in the balcony.

During the years Bill and Katie Stephenson served the church the youth caravan became an annual event. Each summer the youth choir traveled north or south stopping along the way to sing. The climax of this program was the summer the choir toured Europe where they gave programs in England, Wales, France, Switzerland and Germany. There were money making projects to raise money to help finance these trips. Also the bell choir was started under Bill Stephenson. The chancel choir continued to present major choral works, sometimes joining with other church choirs in the presentations.

After nine years at First Methodist, the Stephensons left in August, 1973, to move to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where they have continued their musical ministry at the First Presbyterian Church. Bill and Katie and their five children had endeared themselves to the congregation and particularly to the children and youth who had learned the joy of music and Christian fellowship under their tutelage.

Until the arrival of a new minister of music, the choir was directed by Mrs. Bruce Love and Raymond Brietz with Miss Susan Howe serving as organist.

First Methodist was fortunate to obtain as minister of music, John Wayne Bradburn. Although a native of North Carolina, he and his family moved to Charlotte from Worcester, Massachusetts, where he was engaged in church music. Johnny not only directed the various choirs but served as organist whenever needed. He arranged music for different groups and did some composing. His wife, Frances, served as an important member of the chancel choir. Together, they were involved in all areas of the church program, working with the drama groups whenever they were performing. The youth caravan continued each summer. In addition to the youth bell choir, one was formed for senior citizens who meet at the church once a week. They have played for morning worship.

First Methodist Church has been the recipient of two sets of handbells. The first set of Dutch handbells was cast especially for the church and the 24 bells were an anonymous gift from a dedicated family as a tribute to the memory of the head of the family. Later, a three octave set of handbells was given as a memorial gift by Mr. Albert M. Sieb of The Methodist Home and a member of First Methodist. This gift has made it possible for more participation in the handbell choirs.

For several years the church enjoyed the services of Roye Lynn

Kulick, organist and pianist, who contributed much to the musical program. Gilbert C. Pirovano followed her as organist.

When Johnny Bradburn accepted a church position in Greensboro in February, 1979, Gil Pirovano, organist, became interim music director, serving until the arrival of Tom Buchanan in June of that year. Tom and his bride moved to Charlotte from Valdosta, Georgia. Gil remained as organist while Tom was music director and when Tom resigned in September, 1980 Gil took over again as interim music director. He was assisted by Barbara Crowder, wife of the senior minister. Barbara directed the bell and children's choirs and the chancel choir at the 11:00 o'clock service. When the Crowders were moved to Gastonia, Gil became director and organist and continues in that position today.

In the fall of 1981 the organ console was moved back to the middle of the choir loft and the seating for the choir was changed to make it more flexible for performing groups.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS IN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The stained glass windows in First United Methodist Church were especially designed for the church in keeping with the Gothic architecture. They were designed by Mr. William Woiceski, artist and stained glass specialist with the George Hardy Payne Studios in Paterson, New Jersey. This company is the third generation of Paynes to be in the stained glass business, having been started in England.

The windows were made by the same process as was used originally in the ninth and tenth centuries. Each piece of hand-blown antique glass is hand-painted and is intermittently stained with pure oxide to assure detail and color. Small wires are fused to the glass and tied to horizontal bars which are placed at intervals on the windows so that the wind pressure will not bend the stained glass.

Except for replacement of a few broken pieces, no major repairs have been made since installation of the windows in 1927–1928. After more than a half century of unprotected exposure to weather, some of the previously mentioned wires attached to the horizontal bars have broken and the glass is bulging. The estimated cost of repairs, cleaning, and covering the windows with lexan for protection both against weather and vandalism is \$41,620. It is interesting that the windows originally cost \$14,500 and their present day replacement cost is estimated to be \$113,000. [Editorial note: The above was condensed from a lengthy article written by Mrs. George (Jeanne) Scranton. Now (1983) the windows have been cleaned and repaired but the lexan has not yet been installed.]

WINDOWS IN THE SANCTUARY

There are eleven windows in the sanctuary, five on each side and one large one at the front of the church. Standing in the pulpit and looking toward the balcony, beginning with the first window on the left or north side of the building and going clockwise to the large window in the balcony, the five windows on the right or south side(Eighth Street side) are similar to those on the north side except for the first ones on each side.

Notice that one design is found in the lower portion of each window. This is the Fleur-de-Lis, a conventionalized form of the flower that Americans call "iris" or "flag." The three petals in the Fleurde-Lis symbolize the Trinity—One God in Three Persons. This is a very old symbol for the Trinity and evidently came into use before the third century A.D. because the Three Persons are not shown to be equal and the doctrine of their equality arose at that time.

First Window on North Side. This is the Nativity Window. The Christ child is in the arms of his mother, Mary. The father, Joseph, holds a lamp. The lowly birth is depicted by the head of a cow, seen above Mary's shoulder. Notice the flowers at Mary's feet. To the right, three Wise Men bring their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. At the left, the shepherds have come to worship the Christ Child.

Near the top of the window are three symbols. On the left are the letters I H S. They are the first letters in the Greek words Ihsius Hominem Salvatore—Jesus, savior of mankind. In the center top there is the Passion Cross. This is recognized by the points on the ends reminding us of Christ's suffering on the cross. On the right are the letters X and P. These are the first letters of the Greek word XPICTOC which also means Christ. X is the Chi and P is the Rho that are frequently seen in the form of a cross.

Second Window on North Side. On the left side, near the top, are

the letters O and W, the Greek letters for Alpha and Omega. Sometimes the Omega is written as an inverted U. We get the meaning of these two words from Revelations 1:8, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and ending, saith the Lord." These letters are shown in each of the windows in the sanctuary.

In the center, at the top, is an open book. This symbolizes God's Word which is accessible to almost everyone in the world because of its many translations. It is also a symbol of Protestantism because this open book represents the Holy Bible.

The lower center motif is the Chalice with Host. This represents the cup from which Christ drank at the Last Supper. The Host, or consecrated bread, may be seen rising from the cup with the letters IHC on it. These represent the Sacrament of Holy Communion according to Matthew 26:26, ". . . take eat; this is my body." When the cup and bread are shown together, they have a special significance and refer to the crucifixion of Christ and the sacrifice he made for all people.

The Third Window on North Side. The third window has a slightly different type of Chalice. It is known as the Open Chalice. In the lower center motif is an open book with the words "Holy Bible." These two symbolize Communion and the Word of God. Also shown is the Alpha and Omega symbol indicating that Christ is eternal.

The Fourth Window on North Side. At the center top of the fourth window there is a Sheaf of Wheat which symbolizes the bread of the Last Supper and also God's providence in giving mankind the harvest of grain. Below the sheaf of wheat is the Alpha and Omega symbol.

In the lower motif of this window there is a fruit tree with a coiled serpent. This symbolizes the temptation and fall of mankind.

The Fifth Window on North Side. At the center top of the fifth window is a Crown. This represents the Kingship of Christ. It is a symbol of Christ's kingly office and the fact that there is eternal life through him. It has been a symbol of authority and royalty for thousands of years. We again see the Alpha and Omega.

In the lower center motif is the Lamp of Knowledge with a flame. This represents wisdom coming from the Word of God. In Psalm 119: 105 we find, "Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." In Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish virgins, Matthew 25:4, "... but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps."

The Large Window Across the Front of the Church. The large window in the balcony has five panels and reaches from the floor to the ceiling. According to Mr. W. W. Hagood, Jr., who was a member of the church building committee, the subject of the window is taken from Matthew 11:28, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." There are those who think it shows Jesus' healing ministry. It could be either. Note the man with the crutch, kneeling at Jesus' feet. On the right, a woman carries a child in her arms and a man with a troubled face is kneeling, while on the left of Jesus a woman brings a young person to him. Notice, also, the flowers at their feet.

At the center top is a descending Dove with extended wings. This is the oldest and most authentic symbol of the Holy Spirit. It comes from the baptism of Jesus in John 1:32. John said "I saw the Spirit descending from Heaven like a dove and it abode upon him." The Dove points down which indicates that God comes down to his children.

Just below, on the left, is a Torch. It, too, is a very old symbol. We associate the Torch with the Garden of Gethsemane. In John 18:3 it says, "Judas, procuring a band of soldiers and some officers from the Chief Priests and Pharisees went with lanterns, torches, and weapons, to betray Christ." Earlier, in Greece, the Torch was carried in relay races and as one runner handed it to another, Christianity was handed from generation to generation, representing Christian witness.

At the right of the Torch is a Scroll. The Jewish people called it the Torah because it contained the laws of God in the first five books of the Bible. The Torah or Scroll is sacred to the Jewish people.

Windows on the South (Eighth Street) Side of the Sanctuary. Still standing in the pulpit, facing the balcony, the first window to the right (Eighth Street side of the church) is different from the Nativity Window that is the first window on the north side. The remaining four windows on the south side are similar to the windows on the north side.

The first window to the right shows a picture of Jesus and the children. In the center panel Jesus is seen holding a child in his arms. A boy on the left and a girl on the right bring flowers to Jesus. Notice also the flowers at their feet. This picture reminds us of Luke 18:16 when Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God." The symbol at the top left is the Crown of Kingship, the center is a Sheaf of Wheat, and on the right is an Open Bible.

Visitors to the sanctuary in the afternoon should look at the windows on the Eighth Street side to view the beauty and magnificence made visible by the sun shining through.

WINDOWS IN FOUNDERS' HALL

These windows are different in design from those in the sanctuary. They are all in an oblong pattern, in various light colored tints. In the center of each is a bordered medallion with one symbol. Some symbols are the same ones that are used in the sanctuary windows and the meaning of these symbols has already been given.

Going into Founders' Hall and facing west (toward the Education Building which faces North Church Street): First Window on the North Side. The symbol in this window is an Open Bible. We are invited to read God's Word and find help in understanding its meaning.

Second Window on the North Side. Here the symbol is the Lily. It is a symbol of Easter. A brown lily bulb, seemingly without life, is planted and from it comes a beautiful white flower. I Corinthians 15: 42 says, "So it is with the resurrection of the dead."

Third Window on the North Side. In this window the symbol is the Harp which represents music, praise, and worship.

Fourth Window on the North Side. The Crown used together with a Latin Cross symbolizes Christ's death and sacrifice on the Cross and speaks of his victory over death and eternal life for his faithful followers.

¹ Fifth Window on the North Side. This window has the Alpha and Omega symbol signifying the timelessness of Christ.

First Window on the South Side. This window displays the Lamp of Knowledge.

Second Window on the South Side. The Tree of Life and the Serpent, when used together represent the temptation and fall of Mankind.

Third Window on the South Side. Here is found the Agnus Dei, with the Book of Seven Seals and the Banner of Victory. When the Lamb is reclining it represents suffering and when it is standing it represents victory. The Book of the Seven Seals represents the Judgment of the Age, the time when God will judge all people according to their works.

Fourth Window on the South Side. The anchor in this window represents Christian Hope. The anchor as a symbol of hope was used by the early Christians.

Fifth Window on the South Side. The fifth window has an ornate Chi Rho which you recall are the first two letters of the Greek word XPICTOC which also means Christ.

Today, these windows have a protective screen over them, since Founders' Hall is a multi-purpose room, including a gym, instead of its original use as an assembly hall.

In 1982 the stained glass windows were cleaned and repaired and, when the money becomes available, they will be covered with the unbreakable, non-yellowing protective material (lexan) that is now being used to reinforce valuable stained glass windows.

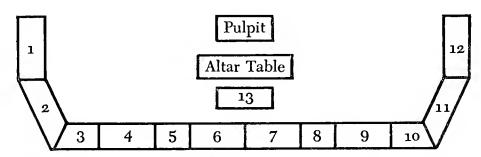
THE NEEDLEPOINT ALTAR CUSHIONS

There is other symbolism in the church in addition to that used in the stained glass windows. Some of these other symbols are used in the needlepoint kneelers around the communion rail and are described in this section. Description of the symbols that have already been discussed in the section on the stained glass windows will not be repeated here.

The committee for the altar cushions, co-chaired by Mrs. Victor B. Templeton and Mrs. Grady G. Thomas, began work February 1, 1977.

The cushions were designed by Mrs. Avis Gallagher of Greensboro, who was at that time the only certified ecclesiastical designer in the South. Before designing the cushions, Mrs. Gallagher brought swatches of many colors of wool, and that used in the cushions matches the colors in the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Mrs. Gallagher died before the kneelers were completed.

The cushions were "worked" by forty-four women of the church. This work was begun February 8, 1978, and the completed cushions were dedicated June 3, 1979. It is estimated that 10,000 workhours were required in completing these cushions.



There are 13 cushions arranged as above. Numbers 1 and 12 have seven crosses and four symbols; numbers 2 and 11 have six crosses and three symbols; numbers 3 through 10 have five crosses and three or two symbols. Number 13 is a wedding cushion having five crosses and five symbols.

All crosses are worked in blue and the background of each cushion is blue with a continuous pattern of small colored diamonds. The diagonal background reflects the pattern and colors of the stained glass windows. On the altar side of each cushion there is worked the name or names the cushion honors and the initials of the women who worked on that cushion.

Cushion Number 1. Cushion number 1 was given in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the First United Methodist Church. Its four symbols are the Crown of Thorns, representing the suffering of Jesus;

the Anemone, a flower of Palestine which was one of the "lilies of the field" referred to by Jesus; the Crown; and the Primrose which represents the coming of the Messiah.

Cushion Number 2. This cushion contains an Open Bible, Lilies, and a Fleur-de-Lis. It was given in memory of Kate Stratton Smith.

Cushion Number 3. The symbols in this cushion are the Christmas Rose and the Shell. Many early pictures show John the Baptist pouring water from a scallop shell on to the head of Jesus when he was being baptized. Thus the shell has become a symbol of baptism throughout the world. This cushion was given in memory of Ernest L. Cashion, Frank H. Mitchell, Victor B. Templeton, and W. Arnold Wood.

Cushion Number 4. This cushion contains Lilies, the Lamp of Knowledge, and a Fleur-de-Lis. It was given in memory of Virginia Osborne Parker.

Cushion Number 5. Cushion number 5 contains the symbols Alpha and Omega, and the Primrose. It was given in memory of the Reverend James Thomas Flournoy, Nettie W. Flournoy, J. Frederick Long, and Sevil M. Long.

Cushion Number 6. This cushion contains the Chalice, Lilies, and Grapes. The grape symbol is not found in the stained glass windows but is on the scroll work around the arches of the choir loft and the grill work around the organ. The grapevine and bunch of grapes represent the Eucharist. This cushion was given in memory of James Calvin Houser, Tempie Elizabeth Houser, Robert Milton Conder, and Sarah Anne Conder.

Cushion Number 7. This cushion contains the Sheaf of Wheat, Lilies, and the Flame, which is the symbol of the Holy Spirit. This cushion was given in honor of Dr. Jacob B. Golden and the Reverend James T. Trollinger.

Cushion Number 8. This contains the Christmas Rose and the Ship. The Ship was used by the early Christian fathers as a symbol of the church. This cushion was given in honor of Sara Kendall Greene and in memory of Fred Adams Greene.

Cushion Number 9. This cushion contains the Primrose, the Descending Dove, and Lilies. It was given in memory of Wilson L. Stratton.

Cushion Number 10. This cushion contains the Anchor and the Anemone. It was given in memory of Joseph L. McEwen and Lillie Davis Morse.

Cushion Number 11. This contains the Lamb, which has become a widely used symbol representing Jesus Christ and his sacrificial death upon the cross, Lilies and Triangles which represent the Trinity. This cushion was given in memory of Margaret Travis Kemp and James Winston Davis.

Cushion Number 12. Symbols in this cushion are: The Christmas Rose which blooms in December and symbolizes the birth of our Lord;

the Fish which is probably one of the oldest of the Christian symbols used by the early Christians as a secret sign of their loyalty to Jesus; the Primrose; and the Tree of Life which represents the genealogy of Jesus. This cushion was given in memory of Alan H. Newcomb.

Cushion Number 13. This wedding cushion has five gold crosses instead of the blue crosses that are in all of the other cushions. It has two gold wedding rings signifying Christian marriage, and three carnations, this flower being the wedding flower. It is one of the flowers of Palestine shown in one of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. This wedding cushion was given in memory of Grady G. Thomas and Karen Elizabeth Beard.

ACOLYTES

First Methodist's acolyte program was begun in the late 1960's under the direction of the minister of music, J. William Stephenson. An acolyte mother had charge of the youngsters, and for several years this responsibility fell to Helen (Mrs. Michael) Shermetta.

Originally, two boys from fourth, fifth, and sixth grades served as acolytes, with their names appearing in the church bulletin. By the mid '70's seventh graders could also serve, and about this same time girls began to participate.

The acolyte duties consist of lighting the altar candles at the beginning of the service and extinguishing them at the close. At special musical or dramatic services, other duties are sometimes added.

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Barbara (Mrs. Pressley) Hoover remembers that William Gray and Roddy Hoover were the first acolytes at First Methodist. This was in 1965 when each was 10 or 11 years old. At that time, it was the custom for the acolytes, choir, and ministers to process down the aisles. One Sunday the staffs to light the candles were locked in a closet and no one had the key. The boys carried candles as substitutes. When the service was over, the boys went up and were attempting to blow out the candles. William was very short at this time and could not extinguish his. Therefore, he wet his fingers and snuffed out the candles. As a result, his fingers were burned. Dr. Eugene Peacock was closing the service with dignity, but watching these boys caused him to lose his usual dignified demeanor.

CHRISMON TREE

The Chrismon tree has been a part of the celebration of the Advent season since 1965. A large 15 to 20 foot balsam or fir from the North Carolina mountains was erected at one side of the chancel and decorated with "Chrismons" and tiny white lights. The word "Chrismon" is coined from "Christ" plus "monogram" and Chrismons are symbols telling the story of the love of God in Christ Jesus. All Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold, referring respectively to the purity and majesty of Christ.

The Chrismons have been made through the years by members of the Woman's Society of Christian Service under the direction of Lois (Mrs. Charles) Eskridge and Helen (Mrs. Joe M.) Van Hoy. They have met many times in workshops and made the ornaments from blends of old jewelry and new beads.

Following Advent, the period including the four Sundays just before Christmas, the tree is stripped of its branches, the trunk cut into two parts and lashed together to form a crude cross for use in the sanctuary during the Lenten season. During this time various symbols of Christ's suffering are added to the cross, one on each Sunday: a purple cloth, crown of thorns, palms, etc.

On Easter Sunday church members are asked to bring living flowers and greenery and place them on the cross preceding the service, transforming the drab cross to a beautiful reminder of our Lord's triumph over death.

In 1981 a local fire department ruling prohibited the use of cut trees in public places, so, instead of one large tree, two smaller living trees, rooted in tubs of soil, were used, one on each side of the sanctuary and decorated with Chrismons and lights.

PLAQUE IN THE CHURCH NARTHEX

There is a plaque in the church narthex that "prayerfully remembers those of our members in the military service of our country." Of the 305 names on this plaque those killed in action were: J. Edwin Ault, James W. Davis, Yates Edgerton, Jr., J. C. Rhyne, Jr., Raleigh Shoemaker, and Robert R. Teeter.

RECORDS AND HISTORY ROOMS

In 1980 the Records and History Committee (whose members are listed on page 183) realized that a display room and a work room were necessary. Two rooms on the third floor were made available and, with the financial support of Mr. A. J. Little, were remodeled for this purpose. Jean (Mrs. John K.) Gilbert is in charge of the display room. Jeanne (Mrs. George N.) Scranton is in charge of files and archival material in the work room.

SOME INTERESTING MEMBERS OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

In 1956, through the joint efforts of Church World Service and the Woman's Society of Christian Service at First Methodist Church, Nicolai Munteanu and his family arrived in Charlotte. Eight years before, he had been in a Rumanian jail accused of anti-Communist activities, but had escaped via Yugoslavia. Both Mr. Munteanu and his German wife are now members of First Methodist.

In 1979 Alphonse and Angelique Luzolo from Zaire in Africa joined First Methodist Church when he was a student at UNCC working on a master's degree in business. When his father died in 1980, his mother, Mrs. Assanath Kande, sent a beautiful brass communion set as a memorial to her husband. This set is used in the chapel and when communion is taken to shut-ins.

In 1980 Ra Van Tran and his son, Hai, came to First Church from Vietnam. They were sponsored by First Methodist Church and Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Burchett deserve credit for their help with this project. The Van Trans are now First Church members.

SOME MEMORIES OF EARLY DAYS OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Since about 1975, members of First United Methodist Church have been repeatedly asked by the Records and History Committee to write down events that they remember about their years in the church. This section is made up of excerpts from the comparatively few responses that were turned in to the committee. All memories in this history came largely from older members of the church and lack of space prevents inclusion in their entirety. None of these memories is documented so it is like one of the histories of Charlotte (J. B. Alexander, M.D.): fun to read but it may or may not be true.

Sam M. Springs, Jr., entered the picture at First United Methodist Church thirty-six years ago and during this time much change has taken place.

Coming to Sunday School each week meant a space by the curb on Eighth Street at the side door where parking was prohibited so cars could pull up to the curb and discharge passengers into the waiting hands of Mr. A. W. Ferguson and Mr. Munsey Smith, who opened the car doors and assisted people out and saw them firmly planted on the sidewalk so they could close the car doors and send the driver on in search of a parking place as another car pulled into the curb to unload... As the people moved toward the building and reached the door, they were met and greeted by the outstretched hand of Mr. Joe McLaughlin who remembered them all and knew the names of most. His greatest delight came from the little ones into whose hands he often thrust a piece of candy when they least expected it. . . . God used these three men in this special way which added a unique dimension to the experience of all who shared it.

Not too many years ago, a goodly number of Sunday School classes had a common assembly, frequently referred to as "opening exercises," where several classes, usually adult, came together to sing, hear scripture and meditation, make announcements, etc. This preceded the class assembly . . . and made people be on time for class.

There was a time when most Sunday School classes were either men or women. Men seemed better satisfied with one large class while the women enjoyed several smaller classes. . . . Another item on yesterday's scene which is about gone is 'fastened-down seats' of the opera-type variety in classrooms—long rows of seats joined side to side and fastened to the floors with screws. They resembled a regiment of troops in formation, all facing the front at the same angle. . . . The changing scene eliminated lots of these and replaced them with chairs.

Alma Lloyd Ranson (Mrs. John A.) Ryan has lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for a number of years but has vivid memories of growing up in First Church. She writes:

When I think of First Methodist on Sunday mornings in the early years, my mind's eye pictures the center pews peopled with the Hagoods, Iveys, McLaughlins, Andrew Smiths, Cuthbertsons, Bells, Hardings, and Whisnants. Surrounding my own Russell and Ranson family on the right side of the church were the Hendersons, Van Hoys, Phifers, Swinneys, Riglers, Strattons, Steeles, Kirbys, Joneses, and Jordans. The faith and spirit of these dear and devoted members have permeated the sanctuary.

Lloyd Ranson, my father, served the church with special dedication on the communion committee for many years and Alma Russell Ranson (my mother) embroidered a beautiful cloth for use on the communion table. She also served as treasurer of the Women's Missionary Society for a long time. I can see her now, counting money and keeping records on our dining room table.

A pet project of my father's was called "The Shoe String Club." In his work as attendance officer for the Charlotte school system, he found that many children were absent because they had no shoes. Periodically, he gathered contributions from the members of the Wilson Smith Bible Class to make needed repairs or buy new shoes to enable the absentees to return to school.

An important part of my religious experience was singing soprano standing in church next to my grandfather's booming bass. To this day, when stirring old hymns are being sung, I feel his presence beside me.

As a teenager, I sensed the fear and insecurity felt by my mother and Aunt Lila when my grandfather (J. A. Russell) was one of the members of the Board of Stewards who mortgaged his home as collateral for necessary loans to meet the new First Church payments.

I thank God for the fine example set by my family in making First Methodist Church our church home and for its influence on my life.

Charles J. Henderson:

I attended Tryon Street from birth in 1920 until the merger in 1927 and I joined First Methodist during its first year. That makes me a charter member of the Sunday School but not of the church. I believe that I was baptized at the same time that I joined the church.

I met my wife in First Methodist, I gave her an engagement ring in the chapel area, and we were married in the sanctuary. All four of our children were raised, baptized, and joined this church.

My father died after a leadership role in the church and he was buried from the church after Dr. Gene Peacock and the Reverend Russ Burson conducted the funeral. My younger brother and sister were each married in First Church. My younger brother's name is John Wesley.

I remember a lot of Sunday School teachers including: Mrs. Arthur Wearn, Mrs. Frank Haynes, Mrs. J. B. Ivey, Mrs. Roy Saunders, Mrs. Clovis Chappell, Mrs. Mae Tuttle, "Miss Sallie" Hagood, Ben Betts, J. Wilson Smith and H. I. McDougle. Each was unique; all were dedicated and capable. "Miss Sallie" Hagood forced (maybe encouraged would be a better word) us to memorize selections of scripture. She had great organization to her teaching. She taught me, both of my brothers, and my sister. About this time I recall thinking that J. B. Ivey was the "best" Christian that I knew. He was gentle, happy, and he always had something to catch our attention—tricks and trinkets.

When my older daughter was in serious condition with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Dr. Ken Goodson came up to me in Charlotte Memorial Hospital and said, 'Let's you and me take a walk' and we went to the Memorial Chapel where he got on his knees and taught me about talking man-to-man with God about our dependence on him.

Dr. Jimmy Huggin was our first associate pastor. I will always remember his special attention to me when I was about ten years old and he and I joined some others on a possum hunt.

I can never forget the scenes when we have met at the altar for communion, for baptisms, for weddings, and funerals. God lives in my heart and in the building at Eighth and Tryon Streets.

Many First Church families have sought the security of the balcony during the years with young children in the family. Squirming children didn't seem so conspicuous up there and, besides, one could see the members of the choir as they squirmed.

Political Opposites: In the early days, two strong leaders were J. Marshall Van Hoy, an accountant with a strong love for scouting, and Louis G. Ratcliffe, a florist and an active member of the Men's Bible Class. These men worked side by side on church financial matters but in their civic life their interest in finance was quite contrasting: Van Hoy was treasurer of Mecklenburg Republicans; Ratcliffe was treasurer of Mecklenburg Democrats.

Charlie Henderson also remembers:

Steve Bost, about six (white robed and solemn) and his father Carlton Bost were participating in the annual Christmas pageant and white gift service at First Church. The tableau consisted of a rough manger with some straw and a hidden light bulb casting radiance about kneeling Mary's face. Various wise men and shepherds such as Carlton were spread out looking towards the Christ Child's bed. The little angels such as Steve were scattered between the adults and the manger.

Those of us near the front of the congregation heard Carlton's whisper, "Steve, go over and look at the Baby Jesus." Steve looked about, unsure of his instructions. Again, "Steve, Steve. Go look at the baby Jesus." Steve's little face brightened, he nodded and quickly moved to the manger side . . . peering down . . . he looked puzzled, looked again and then in a loud whisper directed at his Dad but audible across the entire Sunday evening audience, "THERE AIN'T NO BABY JESUS IN THERE!"

Virginia Hall (Mrs. L. M.) Walker:

I remember when I was in the Junior Department how excited we children became when it was announced by our superintendent that the Sneed Ogburns, missionaries to Japan, would be coming home and Lanier, their son, would be visiting our department. Back then, missionaries came home every seven years and this was to be our first acquaintance with the family in First Church. Great preparation was made for Lanier's visit. On the appointed day of arrival, I recall being surprised that the little boy who had spent all of his life in Japan looked so much like the rest of us.

I remember when Mrs. A. W. Smith came to my mother, Mrs. N. E. Hall, and asked her if she would hand hemstitch a communion cloth for First Church if the Board of Stewards would buy the linen... it was ten yards around that cloth and mother hemmed, and pulled threads, and hemstitched for what seemed an eternity....

I remember when we would expect about thirty people for Sunday night supper and young people's meetings. The older girls took turns fixing supper from the \$3.00 collected the previous Sunday at ten cents a plate. Needless to say, a little help was necessary from mother's pantry. At the evening service, we all filed down the aisle and strung out across an entire bench to hear Dr. Weaver preach. After the service, we usually went to Hoods', Canipes', or Halls' for fun and games and refreshments. Sunday night was the highlight of our week!

I remember when First Church gave a reception for its assistant minister, Howard Wilkinson, and his bride. It was raining so hard that I got soaked to the skin before I could get from the car to the door on Eighth Street and my dress drew up tunic length in the same time span. I went back to the car, donned my husband's black rubber raincoat, and went through the reception line. No one noticed except Dr. E. H. Blackard who was then district superintendent and in the receiving line. He convulsed with laughter when he saw me.

[Virginia is the youngest charter member of First Methodist. She joined the church at the age of five years.]

F. W. Dowd Bangle (whose memories of Tryon Street Church are in chapter 6) remembers First Church:

When the Reverend James G. Huggin, Jr., was assistant pastor to Dr. W. W. Peele at First Church, Mr. John L. Wilkinson, Sr., who was president of the Carolina Transfer and Storage Company, was my church school teacher. We all loved him dearly. I believe I would have done anything Mr. Wilkinson asked me to do.

Jim Huggin, John Wilkinson, and our class of boys on one occasion went possum hunting one night. I forget the location; maybe it was at 'Scaleybark', the farm of Judge D. E. Henderson. It was my first experience on a possum hunt. Someone gave me one of the lanterns to carry ... in the excitement I held the lantern too close to the seat of my trousers and nearly caught them on fire.... I shall never forget that possum hunt.

Johnny Long was my first year room-mate at Duke University. . . . In his childhood the fingers on his right hand had been damaged by the bite of a hog when he was feeding the hogs on his parents' farm one day. He had the dream of becoming a violinist. Nan Gordon Hood taught him to play the violin with his left hand and he became one of the best known left-handed violinists of his day. Johnny Long's orchestra was known all over the country. . . . One of the saddest things I ever had to do was to help Jake Golden conduct the funeral of Johnny.

Dowd continues with a few words about some of his friends in First Church when he was growing up. Men that he mentions are Webb and Carlton Bost, John Hood, Frankland and Sammy Bell, Pete Mullis, G. F. Bost, David Henderson, Joe Van Hoy, T. Ed. and Faison Pickard, Harry Nabors, J. P. Waggoner, Jr., Lewis Hall, Edison Stewart, Albert Guillet, Monroe Landreth and Walter Canipe.

Ethel (Mrs. John C.) Rhyne remembers:

Prayer meetings in the early years of First Methodist Church were held each Wednesday evening at 7:30 or 8 o'clock in the chapel of the church. They were well attended and were planned and conducted by Dr. W. W. Peele, our minister.

The meetings consisted of a song service, prayer, scripture reading and a meditation by Dr. Peele. Occasionally, Dr. Peele would ask individuals to take part too. Sometimes he would have personal testimonials, such as were used in the early church by John Wesley and others. Many participated, especially Mr. Arthur Wearn.

The prayer meetings were very informal, but most inspiring, and never more than forty-five minutes or an hour long.

Howard C. Wilkinson, Associate Minister (January 1942–October 1947):

Judge David E. Henderson—best known to his many friends as "Zeke"—was fond of attending the conference meetings that were held

frequently at First Methodist Church in Charlotte. During his retirement years, he would be at the church to welcome the first attender and would remain until the last, visiting with his ministerial and lay friends from across the conference.

At one such conference meeting held several years before his death, the Judge was spotted by this former associate minister during a morning recess, and he urged him to accept an invitation to lunch. Zeke said he'd be delighted to join me for lunch, but the lunch would be at his expense. I replied that we would see about this matter, but in any case we'd have a meal together as soon as the morning session broke.

Accordingly, we got in my car and drove out to the old Boar's Head eating place on Morehead Street. All the way from the church to the restaurant we debated who was going to pay the bill. I claimed that I had invited him, that he had picked up the tab for the last dozen lunches, and it clearly was my time to pay. He resorted to legal terminology to indicate that Methodist preachers' money wasn't legal tender in Charlotte. So it went, on and on.

Neither of us could persuade the other by argument, so that it came down to being a tactical matter of seeing who could influence the waitress to give him the check. Being the younger of the two, I outmaneuvered the Judge, for once, and actually grasped the luncheon check when the waitress brought it to the table.

Brother Zeke obviously was sorely disappointed, and genuine pain clearly showed beneath his bushy eyebrows. He not only had wanted to treat his former-pastor friend, but he had also tried to out-wit me to accomplish this and had failed --- so it appeared. He strolled to the door a defeated man, while the victor confidently moved to the cash register, check in hand.

Taking my wallet out of my hip pocket, I opened it and at that moment suddenly remembered that my lovely wife had asked me for the only twenty-dollar bill I had in it that very morning, and although I had intended going by the bank on my way out of town, I had forgotten to do so. Thus in one awful moment, there I stood at the cash register, absolutely penniless. Brother Zeke cast a glance toward me just as the realization of all this was finding its way quickly to my countenance. Looking first at my flushed face and next at my empty wallet, the Judge grasped the situation immediately, needing no verbal explanation.

The instantaneous outburst of laughter which followed let me know that I had unwittingly provided my judicial friend with the very best joke, among many, which he would ever get on his preacher in this mortal life. Zeke haw-hawed so hard he could scarcely wiggle his wallet out of his pocket. The startled waitress came over to see if she had made a mistake. The concerned manager asked if something was wrong. Several of the other customers could not contain their curiosity about the cause of the sudden merriment. Poor Zeke! He was laughing so hard that he couldn't tell them what it was all about. It was up to me to confess.

The next several times I saw my old friend, he would break out in laughter at the first sight of me, and asked if he could loan me some money --- which, seriously, he would always have counted it a high privilege to do.

Orion N. Hutchinson, Jr. (former Associate Pastor):

As a young preacher I came to First Church with a profound sense of awe.... My entrance into the life of First Church came fast and heavy. I preached on the Conference Sunday on which I was appointed to the church. The night before, our daughter had been born in Presbyterian Hospital.

We recall an outstanding children's program led by Miss Kate Crowell, to whom we and our children will always be indebted for wisdom and inspiration in early formative years.

I recall pleasant associations with the staff and learning for the first time how a large church operates (for better or worse). My whole future ministry was informed and my administrative and pastoral abilities enhanced by the chance to serve as a part of the administrative pastoral team at First Church. The ministers with whom I worked, Lee Tuttle and Ken Goodson, provided friendship as well as guidance. Each in his own unique way demonstrated types of ministry from which I learned much.

I think of stalwart individuals such as J. B. Ivey, D. E. Henderson, A. M. Whisnant and Arthur H. Wearn, who served well their day and generations to come by preserving both the facilities and the program of the church.

Humourously, I remember Charlie Flournoy telling me once that I 'shook hands like a fish,' and forever changed my handshake. I remember Lee Tuttle's sermon notes falling from the pulpit under the pulpit chair to be fished out by me on my knees. Other memories include watching Christmas parades on the front steps of the church with our children, and hiding in one of the church offices to try to catch a thief who was stealing from our petty cash fund.

When I think of First Church, I think of a strategic witness in a downtown area which forever convinced me of the essential value of a downtown Methodist Church. I went through skeptical moments while serving there as to its value, knowing that you had to do everything twice as well, and twice as hard, to get half the results, yet I know that First Church contributes far more than the records indicate. . . .

There are many people in First Church who remember the cross in Tryon Street Church and many who missed it when First Church was built. According to Barbara Hoover, sometime in the 1940's Mr. and Mrs. Ben F. Houston gave First Church a lighted cross. Charlie Henderson says that one of the moving experiences in the years when the Reverend Philip Shore was pastor was when evening worship was concluded with the darkening of all the lights in the sanctuary except this lighted cross. Then, while words of assurance were given, church members who wished would come to the altar rail as in communion and pray for any special concerns. When Clara and Webb Bost were married in the sanctuary in 1941 they requested that the cross be lighted.

During redecoration of the sanctuary in the pastorate of Dr. Peacock, the cross was broken. It is believed that Mrs. Houston had the lighted cross replaced by the beautiful brass cross that is above the choir loft today in memory of her husband. A smaller brass cross on the chancel table was given by Thomas W. Bird in memory of his wife.

The large brass cross above the choir loft is a Budded Cross and the smaller brass cross is a Calvary Cross. On the Budded Cross the three "buds" represent the Trinity and on the Calvary (often called an Altar Cross) the Trinity is represented by the three steps.

SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRES (1977)

In 1977 questionnaires were sent to all members of First United Methodist Church and to all former members who were charter members. 165 replies were returned with 102 of these being from charter members. Monroe M. Landreth, Jr.,* summarized these and excerpts from his summary are given here:

Many Sunday School teachers were remembered. The most frequently mentioned included the following: J. Wilson Smith, Mrs. Wilson Crowder, Mrs. W. W. Hagood, Sr., John L. Wilkinson, J. B. Ivey, Mrs. J. B. Ivey, Miss Maud McKinnon, Plummer Stewart, H. I. McDougle, Miss Sallie Bethune, Mrs. C. C. Weaver, Miss Kate Crowell, Harry P. Harding, Webb Bost, Mrs. Ralph Rone, Miss Irene Abernethy, Guy O. Bagwell, Dr. Joe Van Hoy, G. B. Harris, Alan Newcomb, Mrs. W. T. Shore, Mrs. L. W. Petrie, Mrs. Mary Wardin, Mrs. J. E. Brantley,

* Monroe Landreth was a faithful member of First Church from childhood until his death in 1982. He was a valuable member of the Records and History committee. W. Reynolds Cuthbertson, Mrs. R. E. Evans, Mrs. Gertrude Haynes, Louis G. Ratcliffe, Mrs. Gordon Lupo, Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Whitmore, Miss Rosabel McIntosh, Mrs. Emily Bell, Mrs. Betty Feezor, Miss Mary Bowers McKorell, and many others.

One person remembered that "Dr. Clovis Chappell, the minister who officiated at my wedding, was thirty minutes late due to his wife being held up in a visit during the rain. She could not get out because it was raining so hard."

Answers to the question asking for the topic of a sermon that was most impressive showed that "How Great Thy Art" by Dr. Kenneth Goodson, assisted by the choir, led the list. Others that were mentioned included: "Tap Roots" by the Reverend Howard Wilkinson; "Hitch Your Wagon to a Star" by Dr. Peele; "How to Win a Race," and "So You Want Your Church to be Great" by Dr. Peacock; and "How God Found Man" by Dr. Shore.

Some answers shared some treasured memories of people and of church activities: Mrs. Floyd Bangle, Mrs. J. H. Bost, and many others. . . . Boy Scouts under the leadership of Bryan Wentz and Watson Stewart.

Some had memories of White Gift Services at Christmas, the choir, the organ, the orchestra, and many other events.

The worship service came first in answers to the question of what particular program in the church meant most to you. It was followed by Sunday School and many other activities were mentioned.

The last question on this questionnaire asked, "What is your dream for the future of our church?" Space does not permit mention of all of these but they will be found in the archives of the church. Actually, one of the answers to this question well expresses all of the others: "That it may continue as a great church 'in the city' providing meaningful Sunday morning worship services as it has done in the past, and that it can continue to provide Christian training for its young people and great Christian fellowship for its members, especially the wonderful ministry it is now providing for the aging."

Throughout most answers to this question was the theme of a great uptown church in the heart of the city with its church work and influence; the church serving all people.

SOME MEMORIES OF FIRST CHURCH SENIOR MINISTERS

Dr. Walter W. Peele (Minister, 1927–1936): The first minister of the new First Methodist Church has been described as a gentleman, an humble man and a true Christian. Under his strong leadership, Tryon Street and Trinity churches became one church. He was articulate and warm and "you had a good feeling just being around him." His sermons were easy to follow. [Editorial comment—Even I could follow them because they were so beautifully organized.]

Anne Batten remembers a story that Dr. Peele told more than once from the pulpit: The story was about the little ermine, whose only safety is in a dirty hollow log and rather than soil its pure white coat will turn and fight a pursuing enemy.

Dr. Peele was at First Church in "the best of times and the worst of times." Best because of everyone's enthusiasm for the beautiful new church and worst because of almost insurmountable financial problems during the depression.

After leaving First Church, Dr. Peele became Bishop Peele in 1938.

Dr. Charles C. Weaver (Minister, 1936–1940): Dr. Weaver had the difficult job of following the beloved Dr. Peele. It is interesting that Dr. Weaver came from a nine year pastorate in Centenary Methodist Church in Winston-Salem just as Dr. Peele had been at First Church for nine years. Dr. Weaver is remembered for his pastoral care to the church members, spending much of his time in visitation. Mrs. Weaver was active in the work of the Women's Missionary Society, the Sunday school, and in the organization of Bethlehem Center in Charlotte.

Dr. G. Ray Jordan (Minister, 1940–1945): Dr. Jordan had been pastor at Dilworth Methodist Church in the late 1920's before coming to First Methodist in 1940. He was a strong believer in a very formal worship hour on Sunday morning and his sermons "will always be remembered by those who heard them." He later became professor of Homiletics at Emory University and published many books.

Mrs. Jordan, Caroline, "a perfect minister's wife," was active in all areas of church life and was responsible for the formation of night circles in the Women's Society of Christian Service.

Dr. Clovis G. Chappell (Minister, 1945–1949): Dorothy Brandes (Mrs. Mack) Powers says, "He was fun to listen to and his sermons

always could bring laughter one minute and deep thought the next." Anne Batten remembers that he always wished everyone a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" at the Easter service because he said he was sure that he wouldn't see some of the congregation in church again before the next Easter Sunday. Fay Springs remembers one of his stories:

Dr. Chappell was asked by a person, seeking to engage in a theological discourse, if it were right or wrong for women to wear make-up. His answer was, "whether it is a barn or a woman, if they need it, a good coat of paint won't hurt either one."

Fay also says, "When he preached, everyone listened—he told the congregation to listen and it did." Charles Henderson remembers that Dr. Chappell ended strong phrases with a pause for emphasis and a snappy "ah—men."

Mrs. Chappell, Cecil, was instrumental in organizing the first young adult group and taught in it as long as the Chappells were at First Methodist.

Dr. Clovis Chappell was not only a good preacher but was a prolific writer. Dr. Wallace D. Chappell (Senior Minister of First Church in 1982 at the time this is being written) has written a biography of his uncle entitled "Clovis Chappell: Preacher of the Word." At the risk of saying too much about Dr. Clovis Chappell in comparison with the short paragraphs on the other former ministers, two excerpts from this biography are included here.

Once he (Dr. Clovis Chappell) and Clarence Darrow were speaking together on the same platform. Darrow's subject was "Why I Am an Agnostic." My uncle's subject was "Why I Am a Christian."

The esteemed lawyer made much of Old Testament literalism. "The idea of Balaam's ass speaking," he sneered—"how ridiculous!"

When my uncle's time came, he said with sugary sarcasm, "I do not see why my learned lawyer friend should think it an amazing occurrence for Balaam's ass to speak. There are a lot of twentieth century asses who do quite a bit of talking."

Another excerpt—

Finally, if counseling is to be a spiritual ministry, it must be offered

with frankness. . . . Once, in his later years, I thought my uncle was too frank.

A lady in his hometown requested that he give her a counseling period. When he arrived at her front door, he felt that she was not properly attired.

"Come in, Dr. Chappell," she entreated.

"No!" was his response. "I will wait here at the door until you put some clothes on."

I said to another minister that I could not have been that frank. "No," was his answer, "but neither are you eighty years old." He definitely had a point.

Dr. Lee F. Tuttle (Minister, 1949–1956): Lee Tuttle was known as "Red" when he starred on Duke University's football team. He was a good man and his quiet reserve was a decided contrast to the former pastor. He gave organized "intelligent sermons" and "his wife had the prettiest hats in the church." It was rumored that he gave her his honorariums to buy her hats. Mrs. Tuttle, Mae, was an excellent teacher of Young Adults.

Lee and Mae Tuttle shared their Lake Junaluska home with young couples getting married. Both Dr. John and Marjorie (Lutz) Douglas and Charles and Nita (Tillman) Henderson were invited and went back to "Tut-Hill" for their 25th wedding anniversaries.

In recent years Mae Tuttle has had the exclusive distributorship of John Wesley Wedgewood china.

Dr. W. Kenneth Goodson (Minister, 1956–1961): Another one of our pastors who became a bishop after leaving First Church was Ken Goodson. He had been brought up in a railroading family in Salisbury and was interested in railroading, sports, masonic organizations, and civic clubs. He had a photographic memory and could tell people where they had sat in church on a given Sunday.

Dr. Goodson was a man of charm and warmth who was interested in everything about the church family. He was a great asset to First Church and was in great demand as a public speaker. His wife, Martha, was always present and was most supportive of his work. She was active in every phase of the women's work.

This letter that outgoing Dr. Goodson wrote to incoming Dr. Shore (Church Bulletin June 18, 1961) should not be buried in the church archives. The Reverend P. L. Shore Jr. Box 307 Lexington, North Carolina My dear Phil:

The Annual Conference has come and gone. As a result of its sessions, both of us are moving. Let me write to welcome you as the minister of First Church, Charlotte. Let me say first of all how pleased I am that you are coming. No Methodist preacher picks his successor, but the bonds of our fraternity are so close that each of us is interested in the one who follows him. Our friendship—yours and mine—has been so close across the years that it is with real personal pleasure that I welcome you to First Church.

You are coming to a great church. It is the union of two downtown churches in Charlotte of a generation ago. Threads of devotion to those two churches are woven with real finesse into the fabric of First Church. The putting together of First Church is a story in churchmanship that is not often duplicated. At the heights of this union came the depression and an almost unparalleled struggle faced this congregation. For fifteen years there was written as fine a story in sacrificial churchmanship as I believe American Methodism has ever known. The greatness of this has flavored the magnitude of this church's dedication.

First Church is a downtown church, and you will be told many things about the problems of a downtown church—but do not believe that all about it is a problem. Let me tell you about the greatness of a downtown church, for it has more greatness than it has problems. The denomination in this city will look to you and your church for leadership. You will have people from everywhere in your congregation, and visitors by the scores from across America will drop in for your Sunday service. The whole city will comprise your parish, and your people will come from across the town. Here, where the crowded ways of life cross in our largest city, you may sound your voice like a messenger from God, as you proclaim the great, good news of the Gospel.

You are coming into the warmest church that I have ever known. In some respects it is the biggest country church I ever saw. You will find dedication and consecration, the like of which you have never seen. You will find a sense of loyalty to the Church that is almost fanatical. You will find some "old-time Methodists" who have been in this Church across the years and who love it dearly. You will find hundreds of new people who have moved in and are moving in to take their place in the community and in the Church. You will find a wonderful Church staff, ready to work with you at every turn. You will find an Official Board to work by your side. You will find the Church organized with capable committees and commissions. Above all, you will find a sense of devotion to Jesus Christ and to the Church. You are in for the making of some personal friends that will enrich your life forever. There will be times of discouragement, for the work here is hard. But there will be many, many hours of real joy, for the work here is compensating and rewarding. This is a great church. It has a great history. It has an unlimited future. I have worked in it and loved it. I have been made physically tired by its demands many times, but I have been spiritually refreshed by the warmth of a congregation that has been without equal in my lifetime. I leave them with real feeling in my heart. But this is the Methodist Church, and as I go, you come. They will receive you gladly and prayerfully as you begin your ministry among them. I am glad that you are coming to share the greatness of this Church and to make it greater. I also am glad that they are going to have the opportunity of knowing and participating in the ministry of so fine a man as I know you to be.

> Your brother in Christ, Kenneth Goodson

Dr. Philip L. Shore, Jr. (Minister, 1961–1965): To follow a man like "Ken Goodson" was hard and Dr. Shore's quiet manner was different from Dr. Goodson's outgoing personality.

Phil Shore was the son of a Methodist minister and had lived in Charlotte during his senior year at Central High School. He was a Phi Beta Kappa product of Duke University and of the Duke University Divinity School. His Doctor of Divinity degree was conferred by High Point College in 1962. His wife, Mary Anna, was a sweet and lovely person, always supportive in every phase of the church including visitation.

After leaving First Church he became a District Superintendent with great success.

Dr. H. Eugene Peacock (Minister, 1965–1972): During his seven years at First Church, Dr. Peacock led the change of direction of the church from being a "cathedral church" to becoming a "service church." He was active in the organization of the telephone counseling service (CONTACT) in Charlotte. Dr. Peacock was a good preacher and his wife, Dorothy, was involved in all areas of the Sunday School and church, including the presidency of the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

This is the place to say something about Willie (Mrs. Brooks) Elixson who was secretary to the ministers at First Church for twenty-one years—Dr. Clovis Chappell, Dr. Lee F. Tuttle, Dr. Kenneth Goodson, Dr. Philip Shore and Dr. H. Eugene Peacock. Willie Elixson not only knew the church membership but she had all of the information about the church at her finger tips. Dr. Clovis Chappell said that in all of his ministry Willie Elixson was the best secretary that he ever had. She died in 1969.

Her outstanding contributions were recognized when she was awarded a Life Membership by the Church Women United.

Dr. Jacob B. Golden (Minister, 1972–1978): Described as a downto-earth and compassionate person who was sensitive to people's needs, "Jake Golden helped people anywhere and everywhere." During his stay, the renovation program, Thursdays-at-First, the Sunbeam Class for retarded children, and the needlepoint kneelers in the sanctuary were all begun.

According to Charlie Henderson, "Jake was a tremendous singer but he pretended to be bashful with his talent." He was a former soloist with the Duke University Glee Club. His sweet daughter Anne was the initial member of the Sunbeam class and both of the Golden sons are now Methodist ministers. His wife, Jane, was witty and clever, a charming hostess in the parsonage and a perfect example of a minister's wife.

Dr. Richard J. Crowder (Minister, 1978–1981): Dick Crowder came from a large family whose father's death left his mother with great responsibility. The very tall Dick excelled as a basketball player and at Duke University he was center on a nationally ranked team.

Mrs. Crowder, Barbara, was active in the church as a Sunday School teacher and as a leader in church music. The older daughter graduated from the Duke Divinity School and the younger daughter is a Morehead Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Crowder was at First Church only three years and this was during a very difficult personal time when his son was seriously injured in a near-fatal automobile accident. Dr. Crowder was a good Christian and was a person who had a real interest in the members of the congregation. His sermons reflected deep thought and sincerity and his book of sermons reflects his anguish over Rick's injury and slow struggle towards rehabilitation.

Dr. Wallace D. Chappell (Minister, 1981–1983): This nephew of Dr. Clovis Chappell is the present (1983) pastor of First Church

and in a few short months has endeared himself to the congregation. He is a warm and caring minister and his sermons are excellent. He is interested in working directly with people and in counseling. In 1983 he is leaving First Church in order to devote his time to evangelistic work. His wife, Mary Frances, was chairman of a mission group and gave excellent programs.

AFTERWORD

FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, First United Methodist Church has published *The First Epistle*, a weekly bulletin. This afterword consists of excerpts from the May 19 and May 24, 1983, issues.

Hellos and Goodbyes

The United Methodist Church is known for its itinerant system, a system in which ministers move into a church situation where their talents and abilities match the church's needs. This system keeps ministers challenged and local churches vital and alive.

First Church is saying "goodbye" to two ministers and "hello" to two more.

Dr. Wallace Chappell will be leaving for Nashville, Tennessee, where he will be Director of Evangelism Ministries on the Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church. The Chappells' address in Nashville will be 4100 Crestridge Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37204.

The Reverend Herbert Blackmon will be retiring from full-time ministry. Herb is looking forward to a retirement of relaxing, gardening, and working with his sons.

The United Methodist itinerant system has worked to perfection in the appointments of Dr. Harold K. Bales and the Reverend William C. Robinson to First Church.

Dr. Bales is a native of Knoxville, Tennessee. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Tennessee Wesleyan College, a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Bales has served several churches in the Holston Conference. In 1969 he joined The Methodist Board of Evangelism as the Associate Editor of *Tidings*, a publication of resources for evangelism. In 1972 he became a staff member of The United Methodist Board of Discipleship where he served as Director of Publishing Services (1972-75) and Director of Evangelism Development (1975-81). In 1981 Dr. Bales was selected to serve as Executive Director of "The Church's Presence at the 1982 World's Fair." This project was a ministry of thirteen Protestant denominations, the Greek Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church. This multisensory exhibit was witnessed by over 800,000 people.

Dr. Bales is a frequent lecturer and speaks on evangelism at schools and conferences all over the nation. He has served as a consultant on evangelism strategies throughout the United States, Australia, Great Britain, Brazil and Central America. He is the author of numerous books and pamphlets.

Dr. Bales comes to us from Kingsport, Tennessee where he was the Minister of Discipleship at First Broad Street United Methodist Church. He is married to Judy Byrd Bales and they have three children: Janice, who was married in the spring; David, a rising sophomore in college; and Philip who is thirteen years old. The Bales will be moving to Charlotte the last of June and will be with us on Sunday, July 3. A reception to meet the family will be held after worship.

Our new parish minister will be the Reverend William C. (Bill) Robinson. He is a native of Clinton, North Carolina, and is a graduate of East Carolina University and Duke Divinity School. He worked for two years with the Department of Corrections as a Rehabilitation Counselor. Bill is a Certified Clinical Chaplain and served a Chaplain Internship at Duke University Medical Center. He recently completed a three-year training program in Pastoral Counseling at the Presbyterian Family Life Center in Charlotte and was certified by the American Association of Pastoral Counselors in October of 1982.

Bill Robinson served two years as the associate minister at First United Methodist Church in Asheboro and five years as pastor at First Street United Methodist Church in Albemarle. His most recent appointment was to Central United Methodist Church in Monroe where he served as an associate for two years.

Bill and his wife, Mary, have two sons, David who is nine, and Brian who is seven.

Dr. Chesley C. Herbert, Jr., retired former minister of Myers Park United Methodist Church and administrative assistant to Bishop Earl G. Hunt, has been associate minister for visitation at First United Methodist since 1973, and is greatly admired and beloved. His wife, Libba, has been active in the United Methodist Women and has generously shared her musical talent. She has been most supportive in the local church as well as throughout the conference. As I BEGIN MY SERVICE as senior minister here at First Church, I plant one foot firmly on the rich tradition of this great church. I believe tradition is to the church what memory is to the individual. If we do not have a sense of history, tradition, and memory, we will not know who we are!

My other foot I plant firmly in the present. First Church is an active, living, growing organism. It is anything but a relic of the past! Day by day the members and staff of this congregation pour their energies and resources into ministry in this community.

Thus, with one foot on the shoulder of the past and one foot on on the shoulder of the present, I am able to see farther into the First Church of the future. This afterword is transformed into a vision of what our church will be afterward! After a glorious past and an achieving present, we look to a challenging future. A distinguishing feature of the church through the ages has been that each time an epilogue has been written, the renewing power of God has transformed that epilogue into a prologue for a new future!

Any afterword about this congregation's past would have to be replete with references to the great leadership the church has enjoyed through the years. Some of the towering clergymen of twentieth century Methodism have served here. Lay leadership has also been extraordinary and continues to be so. For instance, four members of First Church have been chosen by the Western North Carolina Annual Conference to be delegates to the 1984 General and Jurisdictional Conferences—a remarkable development indeed. Therefore, when an afterword about the past is given, one hastens to add that afterward the trend continues!

The single word that dominates my thinking as I reflect on the past, immerse myself in the present, and look to the future is "sanctuary." Of course, the physical facility which has become a Charlotte landmark is the first image that comes to mind. "You have the most beautiful sanctuary," is a comment often heard in remarks about First Church. It is true that the place where we worship is a sanctuary of exceptional beauty and majesty.

There are other ways of thinking of sanctuary, however, that

are deeply rooted in the history of the Christian church. Perhaps you have had the opportunity to visit a great cathedral and notice how people not only enter to pray and worship, but also to find refuge and assistance in times of emergency. This, too, is a function of First Church! We minister daily to the hungry, the homeless, and the desperate here in the center of Charlotte where we stand as a sanctuary for people of every station in life. Rich and poor find refuge here.

When I am asked to describe First Church today and for the future, I often respond: "We are a combination cathedral and urban rescue mission!" I am proud to be a part of such an endeavor. We are indeed a sanctuary in the richest sense of the word and I believe we are in accord with God's will for us in this effort. On Sunday morning when I look into the faces of the First Church folk I thank God for the devotion of these champions for Christ in the center of this great city!

Harold K. Bales

APPENDIX A

CHRONOLOGY

- 1814 Dr. David R. Dunlap comes to Charlotte to live.
- 1818 First Methodist "class" organized.
- 1819- Building of community church that was used by all denomina1823 tions until taken over by the Presbyterians in 1835.
- 1822 Quarterly Conference appointed trustees to build a Methodist church.
- 1825 Charlotte's first Sunday School.
- 1828 or A group left the Methodist Episcopal Church and formed the 1830 Methodist Protestant Church.
- 1832 Generally accepted date for the first Methodist church on the northeast corner of North College and East Seventh Streets.
- 1859 Tryon Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South built on the southwest corner of North Tryon and West Sixth Streets.
- 1865 Formation of Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church, South.
- 1878 Woman's Missionary Society of Tryon Street Methodist organized.
- 1884 New front built on Tryon Street Methodist.
- 1891 Rebuilding of main part of Tryon Street Methodist.
- 1896 Organization of Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, South.
- 1898 Cornerstone of Trinity laid.
- 1908 Refurbishing of Tryon Street Methodist.
- 1921 First discussion of reuniting Tryon Street and Trinity churches.
- 1926 Merging of Tryon Street and Trinity.
- 1927 Building of First Methodist Church on the northwest corner of North Tryon and West Eighth streets.
- 1928 Sanctuary of the new church first used March 11, 1928.
- 1929 With the crash of the stock market on October 29, 1929, the "Great Depression" began.
- 1930 In December of 1930 twenty-two charter members endorsed a large mortgage in order to save First Methodist Church.
- 1933 Many banks closed on March 5.
- 1934 D. E. Henderson persuaded Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company to reduce the mortgage interest rate from $5\frac{34}{5}$ to 3%.

Doris Duke honors her father's oral pledge to give the church \$100,000.

1939 Methodist Episcopal Church, Methodist Protestant Church and Methodist Episcopal Church, South came back together to form The Methodist Church.

APPENDICES

- 1944 The mortgage was burned March 19, 1944.
- 1957 Major renovation of First Methodist Church begins.
- 1966 New organ contracted for.
- 1968 The Methodist Church and Evangelical United Brethren combined to form today's United Methodist Church.
- 1983 The renovation mortgage was burned on November 20, 1983, using the same brass bowl which was used in 1944.

APPENDIX B

LIST OF PASTORS OF TRYON STREET METHODIST CHURCH AND ITS ANTECEDENTS

W. B. Barnett	1815–1816	John Watts and J. J. Allison	1833
Reuben Tucker	1817	Tracy R. Wall and	00
Hartwell Tucker and	·	Daniel J. Allen	1834
Zacheus Dowling	1818–1821	Jacob Ozier and	•••
Jacob Hill	1821	W. J. Jackson	1835
T. A. Roseman	1822	J. G. Postelle and	
Jeremiah Freeman	1823	W. R. Smith	1836
Daniel Asbury	1824	T. M. Smith and J. R. Kisten	1837
Elisha Askew	1825	W. Harrison and	
D. F. Christenbury	1826	Mark Russell	1838
Daniel F. Waid	1827	J. H. Bradley and	-
Benjamin Bell	1828-1829	Martin Eddy	1840
Absolom Brown	1830–1831	P. G. Bowman and	•
John J. Richardson	1832	Campbell Smith	1840

In 1840 Charlotte was made a station. Hitherto, it had been included in a circuit but since 1833 the junior preacher of the circuit had been stationed in Charlotte.

A. B. McGilvary	1840–1841	James Stacy	1864–1865
Colin Murchison	1841–1842	W. C. Power and	1 0
C. M. Pritchard	1842-1843	C. E. Long	1865–1866
W. P. Mangum	1843–1845	W. C. North	1866–1867
Wm. Barringer	1845–1847	E. J. Meynardie	1867-1869
P. A. Williams	1847–1849	E. W. Thompson	1869-1870
J. J. Fleming	1849–1851	A. V. Mangum	1870-1871
A. G. Stacy	1851–1853	L. S. Burkhead	1871-1873
J. W. Miller	1853–1854	P. J. Garroway	1873-1876
John N. Pickett	1854–1856	A. A. Boshamer	1876–1880
James Stacy	1856–1857	J. T. Bagwell	1880–1884
E. J. Meynardie	1857–1859	F. D. Swindell	1886-1887
This was when	Tryon Street	Solomon Pool	1888-1892
Church was built.		W. S. Creasy	1892-1896
J. F. Miller	1859–1860	W. W. Bays	1896-1898
F. M. Kennedy	1860-1862	H. F. Chrietzberg	1898-1901
Dennis J. Simmons	1862–1863	T. F. Marr	1901-1905
J. H. Pritchard	1863–1864	H. K. Boyer	1906-1908

G. H. Detwiler	1909	L. E. Barnhardt	1917–1920
G. T. Rowe	1910-1912	H. G. Hardin	1921-1924
E. K. McLarty	1913–1915	J. H. Barnhardt	1925
E. L. Bain	1916	A. L. Stanford	1926–1927

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

 S. B. Turrentine Frank Siler G. H. Detwiler P. T. Durham E. L. Bain A. W. Plyler 	1896–1897	T. F. Marr	1912–1915
	1898–1901	J. W. Moore	1916–1919
	1902–1903	W. A. Jenkins	1920–1921
	1904–1905	J. E. Abernethy	1922–1925
	1908–1909	A. D. Wilcox	1926–1927
A. W. Plyler	1910–1911		

SENIOR MINISTERS OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

G. Ray Jordan 1940–1945 Clovis G. Chappell 1945–1949 Lee F. Tuttle 1949–1956 W. Kenneth Goodson 1956–1961 Philip L. Shore, Jr. 1961–1965 H. Eugene Peacock 1965–1972 Jacob B. Golden 1972–1978 Richard J. Crowder 1978–1981	W. W. Peele C. C. Weaver	1927–1936 1936–1940
Lee F. Tuttle 1949–1956 W. Kenneth Goodson 1956–1961 Philip L. Shore, Jr. 1961–1965 H. Eugene Peacock 1965–1972 Jacob B. Golden 1972–1978 Richard J. Crowder 1978–1981	G. Ray Jordan	1940–1945
Philip L. Shore, Jr. 1961–1965 H. Eugene Peacock 1965–1972 Jacob B. Golden 1972–1978 Richard J. Crowder 1978–1981	Lee F. Tuttle	1949–1956
Jacob B. Golden 1972–1978 Richard J. Crowder 1978–1981	Philip L. Shore, Jr.	1961–1965
	Jacob B . Golden	1972-1978
Wallace D. Chappell1981–1983Harold K. Bales1983–	Wallace D. Chappell	1981–1983

APPENDIX C

BISHOPS IN THE LIFE OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In addition to senior ministers of First Church who have since become bishops (Dr. Peele and Dr. Goodson), the following played vital roles in the planning, development and life of First United Methodist Church:

Planning Period: Bishop U. V. Darlington, 1918–1921, presiding at the Nov. 20, 1918 Western North Carolina Conference held at Tryon Street; Bishop Collins Denny, 1922–25.

Achievement and Crisis Period: Bishop Edwin D. Mouzon, 1926-33, years in which the merger was completed, First Church was built and, with world-wide depression, faced its most desperate days. Bishop Mouzon presided over the 1933 annual conference held at First Church.

Days of Struggle: Bishop Paul B. Kern, 1934–37 and Bishop Clare Purcell, 1938–48. The struggle for survival, escape from deep debt and problems of World War II culminated with Bishop Purcell's presiding at the March 19, 1944, mortgage burning and church dedication and the war's end in 1945. Annual Conferences were held in 1938 and 1942 at First Church.

New Growth: Bishop Costen J. Harrell, 1948–55, presided at the 1952 annual conference at First Church. Bishop Nolan B. Harmon served from 1956 through 1964.

Role Change From Cathedral Church to Service Church: Bishop Earl G. Hunt, Jr., established an independent office for the bishop first at the Cole Building and in 1976 at the new Methodist Center adjacent to The Methodist Home. Since September, 1976, Bishop L. Scott Allen has served our conference with dedication, integrity, and ingenuity.

APPENDIX D

ASSOCIATE MINISTERS OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

James G. Huggin (deceased)	1929–1930*
W. L. Sherrill (deceased)	1930–1933
Lester S. Furr (deceased)	1938–1939
J. Claude Evans	1939–1940
Howard C. Wilkinson	1942–1947
C. C. Benton (deceased)	1947–1949
J. Bernard Hurley	1949-1951
Paul W. Yount, Jr.	1951-1952
Glenn R. McCully (deceased)	1952-1954
Orion N. Hutchinson	1954-1957
Loy D. Thompson (deceased)	1954-1961
H. Glenn Lanier (deceased)	1957–1960
Russell N. Burson	1960-1963
William T. Ratchford (deceased)	1963-1966
Daniel T. Earnhardt	1966–1968
John James Miller	1968-1972
Michael R. Howard	1972-1975
Chesley C. Herbert, Jr.	1973-
James T. Trollinger	1975-1979
Herbert E. Blackmon	1979–1983
William C. Robinson	1983-
	· U · U

* In 1928 Dr. W. W. Peele, who was First Methodist's pastor at that time, hired James G. Huggin (a young minister just out of Duke University) as his associate and personally paid him \$100 a month out of his (Dr. Peele's) \$7,500 annual salary. The Peeles also shared the parsonage with him. Later on, because of the frail health of Mrs. Peele, the Peeles lived at the Selwyn Hotel on the corner of Trade and Church Streets.

APPENDIX E

DIRECTORS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Miss Maud McKinnon (deceased)	
Miss Helen Gage	1941–1942
Miss Lilla Mills	1942–1945
Miss Kitty Wilson	1946–1947
Miss Marjorie Lutz	1947–1952
Miss Mary Ellen Harrell	1952–1955
The Reverend Wilson Walker	1956–1959
The Reverend Kenneth A. Horn	1959–1961
The Reverend P. DeArmon Hunter	1961–1965
The Reverend G. Roland Mullinix	1965–1966
The Reverend Melvin D. McIntosh	1966–1968
The Reverend William H. Cole	1968–1972
The Reverend Thomas E. Raper (Redmond)	1972–1973
Mrs. Joan (David) Miles	1973–1976
Miss Wanda Ogden	1976–1979
Charles Thomas (Chuck) Barger, III	1979-

APPENDIX F

FIRST CHURCH MEMBERS GIVING FULL- OR PART-TIME CHRISTIAN SERVICE

The Reverend and Mrs. N. Sneed Ogburn The Reverend Dwight B. Mullis The Reverend F. W. Dowd Bangle The Reverend Douglas Corriber The Reverend James G. White, Jr. The Reverend H. Claude Young, Jr. The Reverend C. Garland Young The Reverend and Mrs. Edwin A. Hackney The Reverend John E. Hawkins The Reverend L. H. Lawing, Jr. The Reverend John F. Spillman, Jr. Mr. Fred M. Armstrong Miss Gene Tomlinson Miss Ann Lynne Wofford Miss Barbara Cox Miss Jewel Lineberger Miss Carol Clodfelter Miss Gloria Coltharp The Reverend Linda Holder The Reverend Perry Miller The Reverend Jacob B. Golden, Jr. The Reverend Harold Eugene Peacock, Jr. The Reverend Jonathan Lohr Golden Miss Sybil Hurley

APPENDIX G

CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS, NOW CALLED THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Dr. A. M. Whisnant	1927–1945
J. Wilson Smith	1945–1947
W. R. Cuthbertson, Sr.	1947–1951
Gordon M. Lupo	1951–1953
Hunter M. Jones	1953–1955
W. P. Pike	1955–1957
W. E. Jordan	1957–1959
E. Raymond Brietz	1959–1961
Thomas W. Bird	1961–1963
E. M. Beaver	1963-1965
Charles J. Henderson	1965–1966
Grady G. Thomas	1966–1968
Frank M. Little	1968–1969
James H. Luther	1969–1970
B. B. Parker	1970-1972
J. Webb Bost	1972-1974
Charles W. Eskridge	1975-1976
John K. Gilbert, Jr.	1977-1978
Mrs. Charles (Nita) Henderson	1978–1980
Fred E. Smith	1981-1982
W. Reynolds Cuthbertson, Jr.	1982-
	-

OFFICIALS OF THE CHURCH, 1983

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Officers

Chairperson V W. R. Cuthbertson, Jr.

Vice-Chairperson B. B. Parker Secretary Jenny Brown

Membership-Administrative Board

Associate Pastor(s) Lay Leader Lay Members (Annual Conference) Chairperson-Trustees Chairperson-Finance Chairperson-Staff-Parish Secretary-Nominations Financial Secretary/ Treasurer Christian Educator Director of Music Chairperson-Council on Ministries Work Area Chairpersons

Members-at-Large

CLASS OF 1984

Age-Level Coordinators Family Life Coordinators Superintendent--Church School Coordinator--Communications President---UM Women President---UM Men

CLASS OF 1983

Mrs. W. R. (Margaret) Adkins Jenny L. Brown Mattie Sue Brown Mrs. Leslie (Lurlene) Barnhardt Julius W. Cooley Bill Dellinger **Eccles** Elliott Charles W. Eskridge Charles Henderson Mrs. J. Sam (Elizabeth) Hinton Hunter M. Jones Mrs. Alan (Jeanne) Newcomb Mrs. Hazel Pope Emerson Sharpe Shirley Smith Wayland Stuart R. Larry Vessell Mrs. Crystal Walton Martha F. (Marty) Washam Phillip Wright Howard E. Whitehead

George E. Barber, Jr. Robert M. Barker Charlotte M. Cheney George Elliott Mrs. Charles (Nita) Henderson Tony Hodge T. Steve Johnson Harvey Larson James Mahaffee Dale Merrell Eric Protz John Rudisill Mrs. John (Bufi) Rudisill T. Z. Sprott, Jr. H. Watson Stewart, Jr. Mrs. Joe M. (Helen) Van Hoy David A. Voigt Harry Welch, Jr. Mrs. W. A. (Carmen) Wil- Jim Wesson liams

CLASS OF 1985

Joe Beiderbecke Mrs. Joe (Evelyn) Beiderbecke Webb Bost Al Caze Mrs. Eccles (Bea) Elliott Mrs. Charles (Lois) Eskridge Mrs. Jack (Jean) Gilbert Fred Glisson Al Guillet John Kibler Earl King Joe Lentz, Sr. Jas. C. McLauchlin Mrs. Jas. (Fran) Mc-Lauchlin John Rosenblatt Mrs. Frances W. Sullivan Dr. Joe M. Van Hoy Jim Wilkerson **Ralph Williams**

APPENDICES

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES AND LAY OFFICERS

Staff-Parish

1984 1983 Jack T. Gray, Chairperson Bruce Cunningham Mrs. Laney (Lois) Fun-Mrs. Charles (Nita) Henderson derburk Mrs. R. P. (Barbara) Hoover Sam Springs, Jr. B. B. Parker

Nominations

1983 Dr. Wallace Chappell/ Dr. Harold K. Bales, Chairpersons Raymond Brietz Brett Flinchum Jack Gilbert

1984 Mrs. R. S. (Frankie) Darlington Eccles Elliott Mrs. Fred (Canses) Smith

1985 Mrs. Leslie (Lurlene) Barnhardt Mrs. Charles (Nita) Henderson Sam Springs, Jr.

1985

Raymond Brietz

Jack Gilbert

Trustees

1984

1983 Charles Elliott Watson Stewart Mrs. W. L. (Ginny) Woolard

1983

Mrs. Sylvia Eagle Charles Henderson Ezra V. Moss, Jr. Sam Springs, Jr.

1986 John Rudisill Dr. Joe M. Van Hoy Howard Whitehead

Ray Parker, Chairperson

Lay Leader B. B. Parker

> Financial Secretary and Treasurer: Mrs. Heywood (Betty) Weeks

Secretaries: Mrs. Lou Dickson, Mrs. Don (Kathryn) Winecoff

Kitchen Manager: Mrs. Lurella Clinton Custodians: Monroe McGriff, Julius Maxwell

Fred Smith, Chairperson John Rosenblatt Mrs. Arnold (Nancy) Walsh Tom Tillman Finance

1984 Prescott (Buck) Little John Sofley/Mrs. Jack (Betty Jeanne) Gray T. Z. Sprott, Jr. Fred Stallings

1985 Robert M. Barker Bill Johnson H. Watson Stewart, Jr. (Hank) Mrs. Grady (Georgelyn) Thomas

Lay Members of	
Annual Conference	Certified Lay Speakers
Sam Hinton	Mrs. L. E. (Lurlene)
B. B. Parker	Barnhardt
Fred Smith	E. Raymond Brietz
Alternates:	Parker Duncan
Mrs. Parker (Peggy) Duncan	Charles Henderson
Mrs. Pressley (Barbara)	Sam Springs, Jr.
Hoover	Mrs. Watson (Travis)
Raymond Parker	Stewart

STAFF

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Ministers: Dr. Wallace D. Chappell/ Dr. Harold K. Bales, Rev. Herbert E. Blackmon/The Rev. Wm. C. Robinson/Dr. C. C. Herbert, Jr.

- Director of Music and Organist: Gil Piro-
- Christian Educator: Charles T. Barger, III (Chuck)

1985 Steve Johnson Emerson Sharpe Ralph Williams

COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

- Chairperson: Sam Hinton
- Vice-Chairperson: Sam Springs, Ir.
- Secretary: Mrs. Kermit (Ginger) Mc-Clure
- Assistant Secretary: Mrs. David (Catherine) Mitchell
- Conference Chairperson (Ex officio):
- Mrs. Charles (Nita) Henderson
- Work Area Chairpersons

- Education: Mrs. Ann Irwin Worship: Mrs. J. W. (Alice Ann) Curlee Membership and Evangelism: Mr. and Mrs. Sam (Fay) Springs, Jr. Communication: Mark Zahnd
- Ecumenical Affairs: Mr. and Mrs. Frank (Nancy) Newton, Jr. Global Ministries: Mrs. F. H. (Helen)
- Mitchell; Mrs. V. B. (Stelle) Templeton

Social Concerns-Refugees: Mr. and Mrs. Carlton (Lois) Burchett

- Social Concerns-Crisis Assistance and Show Biz: Mr. and Mrs. Alan (Sherry) Strickland; Mr. and Mrs. E. W. (Rae) Johnson
- Stewardship: Mr. and Mrs. Frank (Sarah) Little
- *Coordinators*
- Preschool Children: Mrs. Tom (Jackie) Tillman
- Elementary Children: Mr. and Mrs. T. Steve (Janice) Johnson
- Youth: Parker Duncan
- Young Adults: Mr. and Mrs. Kevin (Sharon) King; Mr. and Mrs. David (Catherine) Mitchell
- Adults: Mr. and Mrs. Ernest (Virginia) Wade
- Church School Superintendent: Ann Tyler
- Wednesday Evening Fellowship: Mrs. Leslie (Lurlene) Barnhardt
- United Methodist Bicentennial Committee: Mrs. Jack (Jean) Gilbert; Mrs. Alan (Jeanne) Newcomb; Mrs. Robert (Linda) Newcomb, Ex-Officio
- Family Life: Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell (Linda) Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Jean) Eagle
- Thursdays-at-First: Mrs. Robert (Linda) Newcomb

Special Ministries: Mrs. Bill (Sally) Johnson, Ms. Fran Sullivan

Drama: Jim Thurman and Bruce Cunningham

Single/Single Again: Mrs. Edyth Lewis Lay Leader: B. B. Parker

- Chairman, Administrative Board: W. R. Cuthbertson, Jr.
- President, United Methodist Women: Mrs. Kermit (Ginger) McClure
- President, United Methodist Men: Bill Sparger

Work Areas

- 1. Education
 - a. Mrs. Ann Irwin, Chairperson b. Members-at-large:
 - Mr. and Mrs. David (Pan) Allen Mrs. Richard (Frankie) Darlington Mr. and Mrs. Bob (Jean) Eagle Joe Eskridge Mr. and Mrs. Hoytt (Laura) Flinch-
 - Mrs. John (Lib) Noles
- 2. Worship
 - a. Mrs. J. W. (Alice Ann) Curlee Chairperson
 - b. Members-at-large: Ms. Carol Bransford Mrs. Bruce (Jane) Love Mrs. Sam (Virginia) Mauney Mrs. Alan (Jeanne) Newcomb Mr. and Mrs. Victor (Wanda) Stack Mr. and Mrs. Phillip (Linda) Wright
 - c. Altar Guild: Mrs. Ernest (Margaret) Cashion Mrs. B. D. (Lucretia) Thurman Mrs. Arnold (Nancy) Walsh
 - d. Greeters: Mrs. Charles (Lois) Eskridge; Mrs. Arnold (Nancy) Walsh
 - e. Ushers: Virgil Hurley Larry Vessell
 - f. Communion Stewards: Mr. and Mrs. Earl (Frances) King
 - g. Acolytes: Mrs. Crystal Walton h. Chrismon Tree: Mrs. Charles (Lois) Eskridge Mrs. Jack (Jean) Gilbert Monroe McGriff Mrs. Joe M. (Helen) Van Hoy

3. Membership and Evangelism a. Mr. and Mrs. Sam (Fay) Springs,

Jr., Chairpersons b. Members-at-large: **Rick Darlington** Mr. and Mrs. Eccles (Bea) Elliott Mr. and Mrs. Bud (Rae) Johnson

Mrs. Frank (Helen) Mitchell Mr. and Mrs. Ed (Sue) Myrick Mrs. Fred (Canses) Smith c. Special Visitation Program (Ex-Officio): Mr. and Mrs. R. L. (Jessie) Snyder, Ir.

Dr. Wallace Chappell/

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can, Chairperson

son becke Mitchell Davis Charles Eskridge Mrs. Robert (Linda) Newcomb Mrs. Euel (Dora) Sutton Alexander Parsonage

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> Mrs. George N. (Jeanne) Scranton, Archivist Mrs. George F. (Mary) Stratton Mrs. Wilson L. (Lura) Stratton Dr. Joe M. Van Hoy Mrs. L. M. (Virginia) Walker Special Visitation Program

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Mr. and Mrs. Bob (Jessie) Snyder

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- Sluder, James M.
- Smallwood, Mrs. Connie B.

Smallwood, Roland D. Smathers, Mr./Mrs. John C. Smith, Mr./Mrs. Ed (Karen) Smith, Mr./Mrs. Fred E., Jr. (Canses) Smith, Mr./Mrs. Guy C. (Anne) Smith, Lauren Smith, Michael Smith, Mr./Mrs. Shirley (Nita) Snipes, Sheila Snyder, Mrs. Louis F. (Dorothy) Snyder, Mr./Mrs. Robert L., Jr. (Jessie) Sparger, William A., Jr. Spearman, Rosa Spillman, Mrs. J. P. (Willie) Spinks, Mr./Mrs. Al (Inez) Sprehe, Mr./Mrs. Dean (Vivian) Springs, Mr./Mrs. Sam M., Jr. (Fay) Sprinkle, Mrs. Mary Sprott, Mr./Mrs. T. Z., Jr. (Ruth) Squires, Mike Squires, Thomas C. Stack, Mr./Mrs. Victor G. (Wanda) Stackhouse, E. M. Stallings, Andrew L. Stallings, Mr./Mrs. Fred D. (Anna Clark) Stalvey, Mr./Mrs. Ralph W. (Charlotte) Stalvey, Scott Stamey, Mrs. William L. (Mary) Steele, Linda Steele, Mr./Mrs. Richard (Lorraine) Steele, Robin Stephens, Mr./Mrs. John (Viola) Sterling, Mr./Mrs. Richard (Bert) Stewart, Mr./Mrs. H. Watson, Jr. (Candace) Stewart, Mr./Mrs. H. Watson, Sr. (Travis) Stewart, Mrs. Mae Fallin Stewart, Melissa Stewart, Witt Stewart, Mrs. W. Sinclair (Jennie) Stiles, Mrs. James (Beth B.) Stone, Hortense Stough, Betty Stratton, Mrs. George F. (Mary) Stratton, Mrs. Wilson L. (Lura) Strawn, Mr./Mrs. J. Ray (Ethel) Strickland, Mr./Mrs. Alan (Sherry) Strickland, Mrs. Ella Strickland, Madeline Stuart, Mr./Mrs. C. Wayland (Martha) Stuart, Susan Sullivan, David Sullivan, Mrs. Fran W. Sullivan, Robert D.

Suttle, Mrs. George W. (Helen) Sutton, Mr./Mrs. Eugene H. (Gwyn) Sutton, Jerry L. Sutton, Mrs. H. N. (Odessa) Sutton, Mrs. J. A. Swanner, Ann Sweezy, William E. Tadros, Mr./Mrs. Alfred (Nargis) Tallman, Mr./Mrs. Ranford P., Jr. (Ethel) Teal, Lola B. Teeter, James Madison Templeton, Mrs. Victor B. (Estelle) Thach, Mr./Mrs. Ny (Van Yaung) Thach, Neary Phal Thach, Pysith Thach, Pysey Thach, Sopheap Thomas Mrs. Addia B Thomas, Mrs. Addie B. Thomas, Caroline Thomas, Mrs. Grady G. (Georgelyn) Thomas, Walter Thomas, Mrs. William H. (Frances) Thomason, Lalla May Thompson, Mr./Mrs. Bruce D. (Jo) Thompson, Mrs. Clarence P. (Mabel) Thompson, Mr./Mrs. Claude H. (Marion) Thompson, Mr./Mrs. Davis L. (Elsie) Thompson, Davy Thompson, Donald K. Thompson, Frances Ann Thompson, Robert B. Thompson, Mr./Mrs. William C. Thompson, Mr./Mrs. William L. (Inos) Thornton, Mrs. A. W. (Louise) Thornton, Mr./Mrs. W. D. (Lillian) Thrower, Mary Ann Thurman, Mrs. B. D. (Lucretia) Thurman, Mr./Mrs. James B. (Cynthia) Tillman, Mr./Mrs. Thomas A. (Jackie) Tipton, Mr./Mrs. W. R. (Betty) Tomlinson, Lela Mae Torrence, Albert N. Torrence, Mrs. R. F. Torrence, Rupert F., Jr. Tran, Hai Van Tran, Ra Van Truslow, Mr./Mrs. W. M (Irene) Tucker, Mr./Mrs. G. Alvin (Bertha) Tucker, Barbara Jean Tucker, Mrs. Opal Kimel Turner, Mrs. Mabel C. Tyler, Ann Vance, Betty J. Van Hoy, Dr./Mrs. Joe M. (Helen)

Vessell, Mrs. L. H. (Mildred) Vessell, R. Larry Vogel, Mr./Mrs. Harry (Ruth) Voigt, Cindy Voigt, Mr./Mrs. David (Lillian) Wade, Mr./Mrs. E. E., Jr. (Virginia) Wafford, Mrs. W. L. (Helen) Wafford, Mr./Mrs. Wm. L., Jr. (Maxine) Waggoner, Sara Walker, Mr./Mrs. C. M. (Bessie) Walker, Mr./Mrs. Hugh G., Jr. Walker, Mr./Mrs. Lorenzo M. (Virginia) Walkup, Mr./Mrs. Charles (Nancy) Wallace, Mrs. Belle Wallace, Mr./Mrs. Dan T. (Ann) Wallace, Kitty Walsh, Mrs. Arnold (Nancy) Walton, Mrs. Crystal Ward, Mrs. James S. (Vera) Ware, Gertie Ware, May Warren, Jerome Washam, Mr./Mrs. Carl B. (Stella) Washam, Martha Frances (Marty) Waters, Mrs. Richard (DeAnne) Watson, Mrs. Myra Watts, Mr./Mrs. Troy F. (Rachel) Waugh, Dr. Ed Webb, Mrs. C. R. (Fannie) Weeks, Mrs. R. Heywood (Betty) Welch, Ann Welch, Mr./Mrs. Harry L., Sr. (Evelyn) Wesson, Mr./Mrs. James O., Sr. (Frances) Whisnant, Mr./Mrs. I. M. (Sara) White, Mrs. E. C. (Hannah) White, Mr./Mrs. Gordon N. (Katherine) White, Mrs. James G. (Frances) White, M. H. White, Mrs. Mack W. (Polly) White, Mrs. Robert F. (Frances) Whitehead, Mr./Mrs. Howard (Barbara) Whitehead, Kent Whitehead, Sue Ellen Whitehead, Thomas Scott Whitley, Mrs. Charles D., Jr. (Delores) Whitlow, Mrs. Annette Owens Whitmore, Mrs. Harry L. (Mary) Wiggins, Mrs. Leonard S. (Mary) Wilkerson, Mr./Mrs. James P. (Jeannette) Wilkinson, Mr./Mrs. Bruce C. (Christine) Wilkinson, Mark Williams, Mr./Mrs. B. F. (Dorothy)

Williams, Mrs. Gene (Gertrude)

Williams, Hilary Williams, Kenneth Williams, Larry Williams, Mrs. Ollie Williams, Mr./Mrs. Ralph B. (Marion) Williams, Ricky Williams, Mr./Mrs. W. A. (Carmen) Williamson, Mr./Mrs. Julius L. (Sara) Williamson, Mrs. T. D. Williamson, Mr./Mrs. Wilburn (Sadie) Wilson, Mr./Mrs. Arnold (June) Wilson, Azalee Wilson, Mrs. Bill (Adrian G.) Wilson, Mrs. F. J. Wing, Maylar Wing, Dr. Richard L. Wing, Steve Wingate, Mrs. O. K. (Grace) Wood, Mrs. Fred P. (Mary) Woodruff, David A. Woolard, Margaret Anne

Woolard, William L., Jr. Woolard, Mr./Mrs. William L., Sr. (Ginny) Worth, Mrs. Thomas J. (Leslie S.) Wright, Alvin Wright, Mrs. Douglas B. (Anna Luree) Wright, Mrs. Ed (LauRea) Wright, Mr./Mrs. Edgar A. (Sybil) Wright, Mr./Mrs. Phillip H. (Linda) Yarbrough, Bonnie Yarbrough, Mr./Mrs. L. G. (Dell) Yates, E. P. Yelton, Mr./Mrs. Robert (Ann) Young, Dorothy Young, Mrs. E. Tyler (Ann) Young, Francis B. Young, Mr./Mrs. H. Claude (Maxine) Young, Stephen Tyler Younts, Mr./Mrs. R. William, Jr. (Georgia Ann) Zahnd, Mr./Mrs. Mark R. (Gail)

1983 members not in the central charlotte mailing area:

Abernethy, Bradley C. Aderholt, Mrs. Gary Adkins, Fred Marion Alvarez, Mrs. Walter Armour, Walter Arrington, Charles Mason Baker, Mr./Mrs. Harold E. Baker, Mrs. Herbert Baldwin, Mrs. Chas. Frank Barrington, Hugh Beiderbecke, Tommy Bell, Mr./Mrs. Charles M. (Barbara J.) Bell, Faith Bennick, Mrs. E. R. (Margaret) Benos, Mrs. D. J. (Debbie L.) Beyfiegel, Mrs. Charles (Katie) Blackmon, Mrs. Marla R. Blackmon, Rachael Lynn Blalock, Mr./Mrs. Robert S. Blanton, Jerry Hill Bradsher, Patricia Ann Bransford, Mr./Mrs. Stephen (Carol) Bridgman, Mr./Mrs. Robert L. Bridgman, Robert L., II Bridgman, Randall Elliott Brooks, Charles Vernon Brooks, Mitzi Broome, William Albert Burchett, Alain H.

Burris, Mr./Mrs. Vallon L. (Phyllis) Burris, Vallon L., Jr. Burris, Mark Burris, Marianne Caldwell, J. D. Caldwell, Mr./Mrs. Larry Canipe, John Franklin, Jr. Capel, William Robert Carter, Mrs. Michael (Faye) Causey, Mrs. J. W. Chappell, Mrs. Wallace D. Cheshire, Brenda Kay Cheshire, William Cobb, R. Frank, Sr. Coltrane, Mrs. Joseph M., Jr. Cooley, Thomas Melton Couch, Mrs. W. O. Cowell, Henry S., III Croom, Mrs. Wm. C. (Rebecca) Cuff, Brian Cunningham, Bruce Tracy, Jr. Davis, Mr./Mrs. Cliff, Jr. (Beth) Davis, Connie Elizabeth Davis, Miss Edith Diestler, Mrs. Richard A. (Isabella) Dillard, A. Frank Doran, Mrs. Alwina B. Dougherty, Mrs. Patrick T. (Patty) DuMonteer, Mrs. David J. (Sue)

Early, John Eason, Mr./Mrs. LaWayne Elixson, J. B. Engstrom, Mrs. David (Mindy) Entrekin, Jimmy Evans, Mrs. J. D. (Cheryl) Faison, John Howard, IV Fant, Mrs. G. A. Fields, Mrs. Alberta Ford, Laurie Loraine Forrest, Robert L. Fowler, John Henry, Jr. Franklin, Mr./Mrs. Tim K. (Cathy) Geist, Mrs. John (Bonnie H.) Ginader, Stephen Jonathan Godfrey, Frances Erlene Goudey, Ronald Grad, Mrs. H. C. Green, Francis Marion Grentner, Mrs. C. E. Grundman, Calvin Ray Hall, Mrs. J. K. (Nell) Hall, Mrs. James R. (Mary Ann) Hanner, Mrs. George K. (Clara) Hargrove, Lynn Hargrove, Mr./Mrs. Richard S. Hart, William Howard Hayes, Elizabeth Anne Haynes, Leigh Haynes, Lynn Henderson, Robert G. Hendrix, Mr./Mrs. J. F. (Ruth) Hewitt, Mrs. Melvin R. (Nancy) Holbrook, Adney B. Holmes, Hugh Thomas Hopper, Edward Howard, Elizabeth Howard, Gayle R. Howard, Sylvia Diane Hoyle, Hughes B., III Hurt, Mr./Mrs. Arnold W. James, Mr./Mrs. R. David (Bevlia) Johnson, Johnny Wayne Johnson, Mrs. Johnny (Imogene) Johnson, Mrs. Nels G. (Judy) Johnson, Mrs. Michael J. (Hilary) Keasler, Mrs. W. D. Kerr, Robert E., Jr. King, Mrs. Harry B. (Annie K.) Klugh, Mrs. William (Christine) Lawrence, Mrs. Jim (Genie) Lechner, Paula Ann Leonard, Mr./Mrs. James D. Leath, Reid Ledford, Mrs. R. H. Lee, Mr./Mrs. Mike (Doris) Lindsay, Mrs. Robert (Donna)

Love, Mrs. Nonus Freedland (Mary) Lowman, Deborah Luzolo, Alphonse Lyle, Cynthia Lynch, Mrs. Peggy McCormick, Mrs. Wm. J., Jr. McCulley, Mrs. Ima McMillan, Harriett Mahaffey, Pauline Mankinen, Mr./Mrs. Rich (Peggy) Manson, Dorothy Louise Martin, Wm. W., Jr. Mauney, Mr./Mrs. Harry B. Mauney, Laura Mealy, Glenn E. Meyer, Mr./Mrs. Thomas L. (Thelma) Meyer, Katherine Midyette, Mr./Mrs. Hugh T. Miles, Mrs. Gary (Alice B.) Miller, Mrs. Charles P. (Alice) Miller, Charles P., Jr. Miller, Richard Scott Millner, Paul Pratt Mills, Chester Mills, James Arthur Mincy, Mrs. Russell (Madeline B.) Montgomery, Mr./Mrs. Jack B. Morgan, Mr./Mrs. Craig R. (Karen G.) Morgan, James A. Mullis, Mrs. Randy E. (Robin G.) Nabors, Harry M., Jr. Nance, James Henry Neibur, Mrs. Cathy D. Noland, Dr. W. E. Nycum, Richard Michael Oates, Mrs. William R. O'Brien, David Outlaw, Annis Outlaw, Mr./Mrs. Stanley C. (Kathleen) Overcarsh, Mrs. B. J., Jr. (Mildred) Overcash, Mr./Mrs. Lloyd W. Overcash, Barbara Overcash, Richard Pendleton, Frances Person, Mrs David (Judy F.) Peterson, Mrs. John T. (Nancy N.) Petrie, James Lewis Pickard, Ruth Ann Pickard, William D. Place-Beary, Mrs. Elizabeth Place, J. Wayne Pollock, Mrs. Miles Steven (Elizabeth) Poole, Mrs. James L. (Barbara Y.) Ramdin, Mrs. Clement S. (Donna B.) Rankin, Mrs. Samuel, III (Candace C.) Rawleigh, Mrs. Michael (Dianna D.) Ray, Lois Neal

Ray, Max Henry Reddeck, Alec Reid, Mrs. B. H. Reid, J. R. Ritterskamp, Mrs. Eleanor Roach, Mrs. Donald (Betty) Roberts, Margaret Robbins, Lilla Beatrice Robinson, Robert G., Jr. Rachett, Mrs. G. W. Rosenblatt, Edith Ashley Rosford, Lyndon W. Salmon, Mrs. Marion L. (Cathy) Sanders, Mike Scaro, Robert Sells, Mrs. Edward (Glynn) Sharpe, Emerson E., Jr. Sharpe, Sarah Diane Shaw, Sue Jacqueline Simpson, Mrs. J. Richard Sing, Mr./Mrs. William P. (Linda) Skakal, Peggy Wanda Ann Lohr Sloop, Mrs. Walter Stephen (Carol Ann) Smith, Mrs. Billie (Geniveve) Smith, Mrs. Billy H. (Jacqueline) Smith, Mr./Mrs. C. Ralph (Margie) Smith, Mrs. Joanne Smith, Loretha Smith, Mr./Mrs. Willard H., Jr. Southerland, Mrs. C. P. Snead, Ann Sprinkle, Mrs. Mary Stackhouse, Mrs. J. P., Sr.

Stackhouse, J. Philip Stacy, William R. Stone, Mrs. Bruce Stoneburner, Mrs. Richard Suther, Elizabeth Suther, Fred L., Jr. Swenney, Mrs. Betty Hendrix Taylor, Mr./Mrs. Larry C. Taylor, Ronnie Carlyle, Jr. Thompson, Nancy Carol Thornton, Franklin Delano Thornton, Donald Tompkins, Mrs. E. F. (Judith H.) Torrence, Lloyd Clifford, Jr. Trachy, Mrs. Paul (Catherine) Tunstall, Mrs. Reid (Pier P.) Velasquez, Mr./Mrs. Ross (Georgia) Vessell, Lanny H. Wacaster, Mrs. Katherine B. Warren, Mrs. Norman D. (Joann S.) Weber, Mr./Mrs. Don R. Webb, Mrs. Robert M. Welch, Michael Wesson, Richard Glenn Wheeler, Mrs. James E. (Brenda T.) White, Mr./Mrs. J. P. (Mary L.) White, James Philip, Jr. White, Lawrence H. Williams, Mrs. Ann W. Williams, Jerry, Jr. Williams, Ronald Lee Wright, Elizabeth L. Wright, Mrs. W. J. B.

APPENDIX J

LEGACIES

Over the years bequests have been received from the estates of the following members and friends:

- 1940 Marie Badger Gobel (Mrs. Peter Gobel)
- 1948 Miss Bessie Rigler
- 1958 Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Davidson
- 1961 Charles E. Bradshaw Ouida Moore Saunders (Mrs. Roy E. Saunders) Mrs. L. W. Petrie
- 1964 E. Percy Garner Margaret Wilkinson Cochrane (Mrs. W. F. Cochrane)
- 1965 Thomas W. Bird
- 1968 Ada Mae Lane Beal (Mrs. Joe Beal)
- 1969 Beulah McFadden Ross (Mrs. W. G. Ross) Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Bucher R. Warner Jones
- 1970 Louise S. Jones (Mrs. R. Warner Jones) D. E. Henderson
- 1971 Miss Alice Leak Little Miss Sadie Bundy
- 1972 Miss Lila Little
- 1972 Clemmie Mills McKee (Mrs. Earl McKee) William E. Lineberger Ada Heath Montgomery (Mrs. J. C. Montgomery)
- 1973 Minnie White McMillan (Mrs. John A. McMillan)
- 1974 Miss Willye Summerow Gertrude Barbee Simpson (Mrs. W. H. Simpson)
- 1975 Mrs. B. F. Houston Robert H. Petrie Annie Webb Bost (Mrs. James H. Bost)
- 1976 Miss Pearl Vaughn Flora L. Swinney (Mrs. C. R. Swinney)
- 1977 Miss Mattie McNinch
- 1979 Mattie Jenkins Henderson (Mrs. D. E. Henderson)
- 1980 Maudine Lancaster Pike (Mrs. W. P. Pike)
- 1981 Lorena M. Bivens (Mrs. S. B. Bivens)

At time of publication the estate of John K. Slear of Charlotte had just been settled and that of Calvin M. Little of Mount Gilead, North Carolina (never a member of this church) was being settled. It is anticipated that over \$400,000 will be received as a result of their generous bequests.

APPENDIX K

DEED FOR 7TH AND COLLEGE LOT RECORDED IN BOOK 25A, PAGE 196 NEW SERIES BOOK 23, PAGE 200 MECKLENBURG REGISTER OF DEEDS RECORDS

This Indentur made the 5 day of Jan. A D 1833 between W W Long, Henry Own, Jno M Slaughter, B Oates, & Patrick Harty, Commissions of the town of Charlott of the County of McKlenburg & State of N Carolin of the one part & Samuel Taylor dec (?) David R. Dunlap David Kenther B Oates & Jams T Asbury Trustees of the Meth (?) of the Episcopel Church in Charlott County & State aforsd of the other part Witness that the Sd W W Long Henry Owns John M Slaugher B Oates & Patrick Harty Commissioners as afore Sd for & in consideration of the sum of 10 Dollars to them in hand paid by th Sd Samuel Talor D R Dunlap D (?) B Oates J T Asbury Trustees as afore Sd the recept whereof th Sd W W Long Henry Owns Jams M Slaughter B Oates & Patrick Harty Comisions as afore Sd Do hereby acknowledg hath given granted bargained Sold aliened & confirmed & by thes presents doth give grant bargain Sell alien & confirm unto th Sd Samuel Talor & others Trustees of M E Church & their succesors forever all that tract piece or parcel of land situat lying & being in the County afore Sd & town of Charlott & known on the Plan of Sd town by lotts No 358 & 360 being one front (?) and one back lott Beginning at a Stake the West corner of th 53 square & on Collage & 7 Streets & runs on Sd 7 Streat 6 po to a stak now Miles Hills corner then parllel with the Coleage Street 24 po to 8th Street then with Sd 8 Streat 6 po to a stak on Coleage Streat then 24 po to th beginning containing 144 square Poles & also all the woods ways waters & courses & all & every the apertenance thereto belonging or in any wise apertaining & the reversions & remainders rents issues & profits of the afore Sd & premises & ever part thereof & all the estate right titel intrest clames property & demand whatsoever of the Sd W W Long & the other Commisoners as afore Sd of in & to the land & premeses granted to hav & to hole the aforesd land & premeses with the appertenance unto the Sd Samuel Tator & other Trusters of Methidist Episcaple Church & ther successors & assigns to the proper use & behoof of th Sd Treasure & ther sucessors & the use of the Methisodist Episcaple Church in Charlott forevre & the Sd W W Long & others Comisioners as afore Sd for themselves & for ther sucsesors the afore Sd lands & premises & every part thereof against them & their heirs & against th clames of all & every other person whatsoever to the Sd Samuel Talor

& other Trustees & the sucssesors & asigns shall & will forever defend by these presants as far as authorised as Comissioners of Sd town

In Testimony whereof th Sd W W Long Henry Owns John M Slaughter B Oates & Patrick Harty as Comisioners hav hear unto set ther hands & affix the seals the day & year first above written

test Stephen Fox

WWLong (Seal)

Henry E Ownes (Seal)

Patrick Harty (Seal)

Barly Oates (Seal)

John M Slaughter (Seal)

Mecklinburg County Feb term 1834 I certify that of the within deed is duly proved in open Court by Stephen Fox a subscribing witness & recorded lett it be regesterd April 2 1834

B Oates Clk

DESCRIPTION OF ORIGINAL LOT FOR MERGED CHURCHES RECORDED IN BOOK 591, PAGE 71 OFFICE OF MECKLENBURG REGISTRY OF DEEDS

THIS DEED, made this the 15th day of June, 1925, by W. H. Twitty, Commissioner, under a judgment of the Superior Court of Mecklenburg County, June Term, 1925, in the civil action entitled "Mrs. Lalla O. Bethell, and others, vs. Vera Webb Oates, party of the first part, and A. M. Whisnant, W. D. Wilkinson, J. A. Russell, J. A. Bell, J. J. Akers, J. D. McCall, R. T. Ferguson, A. H. Wear and W. W. Hagood, Trustees of Tryon Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of Charlotte, N. C., of the Western North Carolina Conference, parties of the second part, WITNESSETH:-

THAT WHEREAS, said W. H. Twitty, Commissioner, appointed by an order of said Court, to sell the lands hereinafter described, did report to said Court, at the June term, 1925, that the Board of Stewards of Tryon Street Church, Methodist Episcopal Church, South. of Charlotte, N. C., in behalf of the Trustees of said Church, under date of May 28th, 1925, had made an offer, in writing, to purchase the lands hereinafter described, at private sale, at the price of One Hundred Forty Thousand (\$140,000.00) Dollars, Forty Thousand (\$40,000.00) Dollars thereof to be paid in cash, and the remainder to be paid on April 20th, 1926, deferred payments to bear interest at the rate of six (6%) per cent. per annum, and to be secured by a deed of trust on said lands; paving assessments accuring after said date, and taxes for the year 1925 to be assumed by the purchaser, which said offer made by said Stewards was duly ratified and approved by the Quarterly Conference of said Church and said Trustees authorized to purchase said lot.

AND WHEREAS, upon the report of said Commissioner being heard, it was ordered by the Court that the lands described in the complaint in said cause, and hereinafter described, be sold to the parties of the second part herein, at the price and on the terms hereinbefore set forth; and the said W. H. Twitty, Commissioner as aforesaid, was ordered by the judgment of said Court, upon payment to him by the parties of the second part herein, of the sum of Forty Thousand (\$40,000.00) Dollars, and the execution and delivery to him by said parties of the second part herein, of a note or bond in the sum of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars, due and payable on the 20th day of April, 1926, bearing interest at the rate of six (6%) per cent. per annum, and the execution and delivery of a deed of trust on the lands hereinafter described, securing the payment of said note or bond, to execute and deliver to said parties of the second part a deed conveying to them, in fee simple, the lands described in said complaint, and hereinafter described:

AND WHEREAS, said parties of the second part have paid to said W. H. Twitty, Commissioner as aforesaid, the sum of Forty Thousand (\$40,000.00) Dollars, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and have executed and delivered to him, their note or bond in the sum of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars, due and payable on the 20th day of April, 1926, bearing interest at the rate of six (6%) per cent. per annum, and have executed and delivered to H. N. Pharr, Trustee, a deed of trust on the lands hereinafter described, securing the payment of said note on bond:

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the payment of said sum of Forty Thousand (\$40,000.00) Dollars, and the execution and delivery of the note or bond, and the deed of trust above referred to, said W. H. Twitty, Commissioner as aforesaid, has granted, bargained, sold and conveyed and does hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey unto said parties of the second part, their successors and assigns, all that certain lot or parcel of land situated, lying and being in the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows:

Situated in Square No. 49 of said City of Charlotte, as shown on Beers' and Butler's maps of said City, and bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the north corner made by the intersection of North Tryon Street, and West Eighth Street, and runs thence in a northeasterly direction with North Tryon Street, 110 feet to the corner of the lot of R. A. Dunn; thence running in a northwesterly direction, almost, but not quite, parallel with West Eighth Street, running first with the line of the lot of R. A. Dunn, and then with the line of the lot of J. W. McClung about 396 feet to North Church Street; thence with North Church Street in a southwesterly direction, 108 feet to the east corner made by the intersection of West Eighth Street and North Church Street; thence with West Eighth Street, about 396 feet to the beginning corner.

APPENDICES

Being the same lot of land conveyed to Mrs. Ella B. Oates, now deceased, by John J. Blackwood and wife, by deed registered in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Mecklenburg County, in Book 19, page 260, to which deed reference is hereby made.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said lot of land, with all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to them, said parties of the second part, their successors and assigns forever, in as full and ample manner as said W. H. Twitty, Commissioner as aforesaid, is authorized and empowered to convey the same. The parties of the second part to pay all taxes for years 1925, and all street assessments not yet due.

IN WITNESS WHEROF, said W. H. Twitty, Commissioner of aforesaid, has hereunto set his hand and seal, this the 15" day of June, 1925.

WITNESS: N. H. Pharr Neal Y. Pharr

W. H. Twitty, Commissioner (Seal)

NORTH CAROLINA MECKLENBURG COUNTY

The execution of the foregoing instrument was this day duly proved before me by the oath and examination of the subscribing witness thereto. Let the same with this certificate be registered. This 19 day of June, 1925.

Mary S. Poythress, Deputy Clerk Superior Court

FILED JUNE 19, 1925 at 11:15 o'clock A. M. RECORDED JUNE 20, 1925 at 7:45 o'clock A. M.

Amount U. S. Internal Revenue War Tax Paid \$140.00.

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WE WISH IT WERE POSSIBLE to thank in print all who contributed to this book. We do remember a few to whom our thanks should, indeed must, be expressed here.

Martha F. (Marty) Washam has exceeded all expectations in producing the art work and graphics for this book. She has been imbued with the same dedication for First Methodist Church which her charter-member parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Washam, have exhibited through the years. For her creativity, her style, her expertise and her zeal, we are most grateful.

To Mrs. Joe Van Hoy (Helen), our general chairman, we express appreciation for all the planning, the prodding, and the early and late phone calls. Without her perseverance and dedication to the cause, this book would not be a realization.

To book sub-committee chairman, Charles J. Henderson, we express gratitude for his valuable time, direction, and interest throughout the entire project, for his handling of the contract agreement with the printer, and for his unique ability to "shore us up" and lend specific aid when needed. He missed charter member status by only a few months, but has always surpassed many charter members in his love for his church and his interest in preservation of its history.

And last, but certainly not least, we are eternally grateful to William E. Loftin of Heritage Printers, Inc., and his staff for their infinite patience and assistance as they have guided an ignorant and inexperienced committee in all phases of book publishing.

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The writing has stopped. The presses have started. There is no "last page" or "last word" because First United Methodist Church is the body of the LIVING CHRIST and will eternally live. Christ will not fail and in His hands our church will continue to win victories. AMEN.

MILDRED MORSE MCEWEN was the daughter of professional photographer, W. M. Morse, and his wife, Lillie Davis Morse, and was born in 1901 when the family resided at 605 North Poplar Street in the heart of Fourth Ward. Like others of that era and community, it was their custom to walk everywhere—to school, to work, to visit relatives and friends, and also to church. It was natural, therefore, that young Mildred and her family walked to their nearby church, Tryon Street Methodist. With the merger of Tryon Street and Trinity, she and her parents became charter members of First Methodist Church and her membership has been continuous since that time.

Dr. McEwen graduated from Queens College and obtained her M.A. degree in chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 1929 she married a fellow chemist, Joseph L. McEwen, who died in 1941. Being the true scholar that she was, and still is, Dr. McEwen took a leave of absence from teaching at Queens college and spent three years in Chapel Hill earning her Ph.D. from the University and doing research in chemistry. She returned to a professorship at Queens and retired in 1971, having spent forty-seven years teaching several generations of students who remember her affectionately as "Dr. Mac." She was honored by Queens College with: the Distinguished Teaching Award, 1959–60; the Outstanding Alumna Award in 1980; and the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award in 1981.

Dr. McEwen had just completed writing Queens College Yesterday and Today when our committee approached her with the request that she take over our stalled project. After her serious reservations had been dispelled by the committee, she consented to donate her broad knowledge and talents to achieve the goal. She has written with the vigor and alertness of a person half her age and has brought a wealth of warmth and readability to the book. Seeing her and her two dog companions in their four-wheel-drive Jeep causes one to marvel at her pep.

Her keen interest and great love of Charlotte, of Fourth Ward, and of her Methodist church are evidenced in her writing. Charlotte Methodists, and most especially the Records and History committee of First United Methodist Church, are indebted to her for this account of their history.

Today, she continues her contribution to community heritage by writing "Growing Up in Fourth Ward," which she hopes to publish soon.



Mildred Morse McEwen 1983

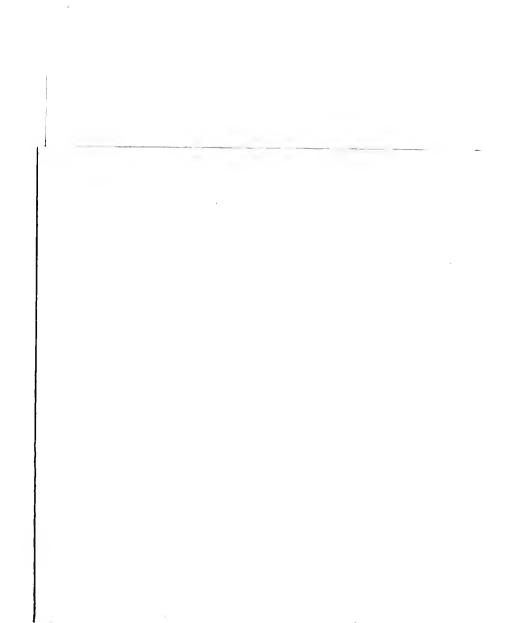


Mildred Morse *circa* 1906

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SOUTH MINT STREET

SOUTH POPLAR STREET

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COURT HOUSE

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Preaching was held in the Court House until the Community Church was built. We know there was one "in building" in 1819. Ĺ

COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Community Church was on West Trade Street between North Church and North Poplar Streets. Because of financial difficulties, John Irwin purchased the property and building for the Presbyterians. Other denominations returned to the Court House for preaching until they built their own churches. U.

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SOUTH TRYON STREET

TRINITY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, South was organized and built 1895-1896, at the Southeast corner of East Second and South **Tryon Streets.** AST 4TH STRE SUU H COLLEGE STRELT < SOUTH BREVARD STREET

EAST 3RD STRFF

SOUTH CALDWELL STREET

THE DUNLAP HOME

Dr. David R. Dunlap "lived in the densest part of town." Maps and deeds indicate it was on the northerly side of East Trade Street about 600 feet eastwardly of the railroad tracks.

1814 - 1983

Charlotte,

NORTH PINE STREET

NORTH POPLAR STREET



NORTH CHURCH STREET

TRYON STREET METHODIST EPIS-COPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

Tryon Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South was built in 1859, rebuilt in 1891, at the Southwest corner of North Tryon and West Sixth Streets.

NORTH TRYON STREET

NORTH COLLEGE STREET

EAST 6TH STREE

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PLACES OF WORSHIP

John Wesley organized Methodist Societies, larger groups, Methodist Classes, smaller groups. These Societies became Churches after the Christmas Conference in December 1784. The first Methodist Class was organized in Charlotte, N.C. in 1818 with seven present, 2 men and 5 women, Dr. Dunlap was elected Class Leader.



THE METHODIST CHURCH

The first Methodist Episcopal Church was built at the Northeast Corner of East Seventh and North College Streets. Deed dated 1833. It was built several years prior to the deed date. Became Methodist Episcopal Church, South in 1844 because of the Slavery issue. 1859 this church and property were given to the Black members, who "expressed a desire to worship separately."

REEL

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,

The First United Methodist Church was built

at the northeast corner of West Eighth and North Tryon Streets in 1926-27. Bishop Edwin

D. Mouzon officially united Tryon Street and

Trinity Methodist Episcopal Churches, South, to become The First Methodist Episcopal

Church, South of Charlotte, North Carolina, on October 28, 1927. He preached the first

sermon at 11:00 A.M. on October 30, 1927. In 1939 the name was changed to The Methodist Church and in 1969 it became The

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

United Methodist Church.

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to

NORTH CALDWELL STREET

EAST 8TH ST

North Carolina

