**HISTORY OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH
(In Gibsonville, NC, 1907 through 1924)**

In 1906, the Western North Carolina Conference decided it would be expedient to extend their work farther East in Guilford County. This work was turned over to the Greensboro District which sent Rev. A. S. Raper in the same year to hold a revival meeting in the Methodist Protestant Church in Gibsonville and from then on, he held a service each month in the Masonic Hall in interest of those wishing to become members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It soon became advisable to move from the Hall to the Methodist Protestant Church, where according to agreement this little band of people paid $3.50 per month for the use of this church. The people then realized the necessity of an organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Church was organized in July, 1907, by A. S. Raper who had continued to preach for them during the preceding year. The first Stewards of this new organization were Z. H. Mangum, C. H. Phillips, and J. W. Burke. These were also elected by the quarterly conference of East Greensboro Charge as Trustees.

At the first quarterly conference held in Gibsonville, Reverend S. B. Turrentine, D. D. of Greensboro presided.

There were sixteen charter members when the Church was organized. Mr. C. H. Phillips was the first Sunday School Superintendent. Miss Lillie Phillips, now Mrs. L. A. Wharton, became organist and was found at her place at every service. She and Mrs. Lona  Wade were elected teachers and have continued this work up until the present time.

In August, the Sunday School and Church services were moved from the Methodist Protestant Church to the Bowman Hall, now Liberty Hall. For this a monthly rent of $5.00 was paid.

The latter part of the same year, Mr. J. P. Hornbuckle was appointed superintendent of the Sunday School and was succeeded the following year by Mr. L. T. Barber. Mr. Barber served in the capacity of Janitor, teacher, and superintendent from that time until the fall of 1923, when he resigned. Words cannot express the untiring devotion of Mr. Barber to the Church and Sunday School. He gave liberally of his money and time to every cause and will always be remembered and loved by members of this church.

In 1910, it seemed best to make another move, and this time the Graded School building was rented and served as a place of worship until the present Church was built. Rev. S. T. Barber was serving as pastor at this time. Thirty one members were added to the Church roll during his pastorship.

Handicapped by the lack of a proper place to worship, The members of this small but steadily growing congregation decided to build a Church. It seemed that the building committee could secure no desirable location for the building. But a building site was finally secured from Dr. G. E. Jordan, who came into the church about this time and was a faithful member until his death in 1916. It was through the untiring efforts of the pastor, Rev. S. T. Barber, that we now have the splendid church building. Not only did he secure pledges from others, but he worked without pay, with the force of carpenters. The new church is a square building, constructed of brick with the vestibule and tower in the southeast corner with the Sunday School rooms to the right of the vestibule. The windows are of the Gothic type and made of Cathedral glass.

The Ladies Aid Society was organized in 1911 with eight members. This small organization put forth a wonderful example of cooperation and has accomplished wonderful results. During the following years, this society has furnished the church pulpit furniture, memorial window, seats, carpet set, Bibles , and many other needful things -- besides buying furniture for the parsonage to the amount of $2,000.00.

In 1912, Rev. E. W. Fox was sent to take the place of Rev. Barber and thirteen members were added during the time that he was pastor.

In 1913, Rev. W. S. Hales was sent to this charge. When he came, there was a debt of about $3,000.00 on the church. Mr. Hales immediately went to work and secured some outside subscriptions and the general conference made a donation of $500.00. Mr. O. L. Huff, who came to the church in 1908, was a great deal of help to the church financially and many other ways. His widow gave a large donation after his death, which occurred in 1912.

In 1913, Mr. Hales succeeded in raising the amount of the entire debt. The District Conference was held in the church the same month and the Sunday following the District Conference, the late Bishop Kilgo then living in Durham, dedicated the church. This was a great day for the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Gibsonville, a day long looked forward to.

Mr. Hales served the Church three years and during that time many new members were added. He was followed by Rev. A. C. Gibbs in 1916. Rev. Gibbs stayed only one year, but did much good. When he left, he took with him as his wife, Miss Myrtle Crabtree, who at the time was the efficient organist and had been for five years.

Following him came J. C. Umberger, who stayed one year and was followed by Rev. W. C. Jones. Mr. Jones did a great work for the Church; he was here in the midst of the first Influenza epidemic and was always ready to serve wherever and whenever he was needed. He never spared himself or his means.

He was followed by Rev. A. P. Ratledge, who was a consecrated, conscientious servant of God. During his ministry much good work was done and many new and many new members were added to the church. After Mr. Ratledge, Rev. C. H. Rose was pastor for one year. Although handicapped by ill health, he did a good work. It was largely through the efforts of Mr. Rose that we now have the new and modern Parsonage. He organized the Epworth League which has steadily grown. In May of this year Rev. Jim Green held a successful revival meeting. At this time, Mr. Rose had to give up his work and Clifton Ervin, now Junior Pastor of West Market Street Methodist Church, Greensboro, had charge of the work for six weeks while Mr. Rose was recovering. More new members were added to the church during the ministry of Mr. Rose than any other time in the history of the church.

Rev. G. W. Clay succeeded Mr. Rose in the fall of 1921. While he was here, a new piano was purchased for the church. Also, the new hut, which has since been completed, was begun. This hut was built by the Junior and Senior Philathea and the Junior and Senior Barcca classes. The parsonage was not finished when Mr. Clay came, and he had to move to a house with another family. Although he was uncomfortably situated, he never complained. Later the Parsonage was finished and the Clays were the first to occupy it.

Rev. A. H. Whisner succeeded Mr. Clay in the fall of 1923, and is now the pastor.

The Epworth League, with Miss Mary Allen as President, is growing and is a vital part of the church.

The Sunday School, with Mr. J. M. Waynick as Superintendent, is adding new members each Sunday.

A woman's missionary society has been organized. The Ladies Aid Society is growing and the spiritual life of the church is good.

The Sunday School has six organized classes which are as follows:

Men's Wesley Bible Class with J. L. Robinson as teacher
Women's Wesley Bible Class with Mrs. Whisner as teacher
Senior Wesley Philathea Class, Mrs. J. W. Burke, teacher
Senior Wesley Barca Class, Mrs. L. A. Wharton, teacher
Junior Wesley Philathea Class, Miss Mary Allen, teacher
Junior Wesley Barca Class, Mrs. Wilhamina Wisner, teacher

In addition, there are two other classes, Primary Class with Mrs. Lona Ingle, teacher, and the Beginners Class with Ruth Burke as teacher.

Mr. L. Q. Yow is the efficient secretary and treasurer of the Sunday School. Miss Irene Robinson is pianist with Miss Myrtle as her assistant.

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| BY: | Ruth Burke |
|  | Lake Allen |
|  | Neal Boring |
|  | Reva Collins |

**HISTORY OF THE
Gibsonville Methodist Protestant Church
(1881 through1924)**

During the year 1881, a Sunday School was organized which met in the old Masonic hall, the house next to the home of Mr. C. B. Thomason. Mr. J. W. Fogleman and Mr. Berry Davidson were the two leading members in organizing a Sunday School. Mr. Davidson was elected the first Sunday School Superintendent. Up until this time there had been no form of public worship in the little village of Gibsonville .

Some months after the Sunday School was established, Rev. T. J. Ogburn was asked to conduct preaching services occasionally. And, once in a while, ministerial students from Elon College preached to the small congregation.

Only a year or two had passed when the people voted that they build a Methodist Protestant Church . At that time, there were but two property owners in Gibsonville, one of those, Mr. Berry Davidson, gave the lot and financed the building of the church which still stands on the site of the present location. Mr. Davidson paid all but one hundred and thirteen dollars which the other members subscribed. However, all the subscriptions were not paid but some of the members gave their time to building the Church.

There had been about thirty members in the Sunday School which was transferred to the new place of meeting. Of the thirty, only about fifteen joined the church.

The first revival ever held in Gibsonville was conducted by reverend C. A. Pickens in the year 1893. From this time on services began to be held more regularly. Mr. Berry Davidson practically paid those who held preaching services for the first two years. The Church was supported and governed independent of the Methodist Protestant Conference.

Later the Gibsonville charge was added to the Graham charge, but was afterwards transferred to the charge of St. Paul 's Church and finally transferred to that of Fairview where it remained until it became a station.

There have been eighteen pastors of the Gibsonville Methodist Protestant Church . They are as follows: the Reverend Messrs. Pickens, Bethea, McCullough, Whittacker, Braswell, Ledbetter, Self, Bowman, Lindley, Abernathy, Hutton, and Edwards.

The church was remodeled and to it additions were made at various times; once during Mr. Braswell's pastorship and later when Mr. Bethea was pastor. At present there are being considered the effecting of some much needed improvements.

The church was at first a community church and many of several denominations united with the Methodist Protestant Church . But some years later, when other churches were founded, several members left to join the new congregations.

In the year 1908, there were forty members with four teachers in the Sunday School. The church had sixty members and paid the pastor one hundred and nine dollars.

While Mr. Abernathy was pastor for two years, he received thirty six members into the church. Mr. Lindley, the pastor preceding Mr. Edwards, received twenty eight new members. Mr. Edwards has received forty six new members. There are now one hundred and sixty seven members of the church out of which number, there are thirty four who represent families that own their own homes. Whereas, there were only two property owners for the first ten or twelve years the church was established.

From 1890 to 1924, there has been a gradual growth in both, the church membership and that of the Sunday School. The Sunday School Superintendents are as follows: Messrs. Berry Davidson. J. W. Fogleman, A. D. May, G. W. Bowman, and D. M. Davidson. The latter being Superintendent for the last seventeen years.

Connected with the church is an active Junior Christian Endeavor Society, also, there is a Young People's Christian Endeavor Society being organized and established.

Just a few years before his death, Mr. Berry Davidson turned the property over to the conference. He had also bought an organ for the church.

At present, there are ten officers and teachers, and two hundred and sixty seven members. There has been a gradual increase in the pastor's salary. For the present year, the budget for the church is seventeen hundred dollars. And yet, the church is not entirely self supporting. Because of the growth of the growth of the church and increases of wealth, the church now supports a pastor to preach every Sunday rather than have services occasionally as was done in the beginning.

BY:

Mary Ruth Huffman
Beatrice Forbis
Mildred Forbis
Nellie Ferne Greeson

A New Sanctuary



[This is the foreword of a booklet titled "This Is the Time" for A New Sanctuary. After the foreword, the booklet goes on to describe in some detail the layout of the buildings, cost of construction, financial plan, and Building Committee. The booklet was neither signed nor dated, but it is presumed to have been written by a member of the Building Committee after August 13, 1961 and before the new Sanctuary was completed in 1962.]

FORWARD

The need for more adequate facilities for worship and Christian education was realized and seriously discussed in the year 1943 during the ministry of the Reverend R. A. Hunter.

The first tentative plans for a combined Sanctuary and Education Building were presented in 1945 during the ministry of the Reverend Fred Shinn.

The Building Fund for the Education Building was initiated December 9, 1946.

The Building Committee for the Education Building was set up on December 2, 1948 during the ministry of the Reverend Julian Lindsey. It was decided that the Education Building be built first.

The construction of the Education Building started during the week of September 11, 1949 and completed in the spring of 1950 during the ministry of the Reverend Julian Lindsey.

The Education Building was dedicated May 6, 1956 during the ministry of the Reverend Karl Koestline.

A Building Fund for the New Sanctuary was started in July of the same year.

A working program for building was officially adopted by a Quarterly Conference on February 1, 1959 during the ministry of the Reverend D. B. Alderman.

The Building Committee was busy in the meantime. The Preliminary Sketches and the Estimated Financial Plan were approved by a Church Conference on March 19, 1961 during the ministry of the Reverend J. James Miller.

Final action, approving the complete plans and financial proposal, was taken at a Special Quarterly Conference on July 24, 1961.

The final service was held in the old church on July 30, 1961 and demolition was begun the following day.

Construction of the New Sanctuary began during the week of August 13, 1961 during the ministry of the Reverend J. James Miller. It will be completed in the early summer of 1962.

Many dedicated people have made this great history.

Hurricane Katrina Relief
(A Spontaneous Mission of Caring, Love and Help)

The following notes from Max Litten relate the acts of caring, love, and help by some members of our congregation after Hurricane Katrina. This is truly a story of "neighbors helping neighbors", not only in our own community but around the world. Some missions are planned for months, some just happen, but in either case we should be proud of those at the Gibsonville United Methodist Church who answer these calls and give their time, their resources, and most of all, their love. They did this not because the government directed them, but because of their Christian love for people they didn't know.

Early morning, August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Mississippi. When it made landfall, it was a strong category 4 hurricane with a twenty foot storm surge, the sixth strongest hurricane ever recorded. Over 1,800 people lost their lives.

Mike Duquette felt a strong desire to help. With his wife's blessings he left his family, wife and three small girls, two days after the hurricane hit and went to Mississippi. He took a large generator on a trailer and ended up ten miles south of Poplarville, Mississippi, at Sleepy Hollow Baptist Church. He set up the gas operated generator at the church that became a major distribution center for the rural community. Government helicopters, Salvation Army, and individuals from all over were making deliveries there.

Two days later, Mike called our minister, David Greene, and advised of certain needs of food and building supplies. That same day David, Max Litten and others loaded a Boone Furniture van with needed supplies and headed to Mississippi. Later donations from our church paid for the supplies.

After the twelve to fourteen hour drive to Mississippi, Joel Isley and David Greene started back home. This was still the same day that Mike had called. Max stayed in Mississippi to help Mike, about five more days.

After coming back from the first trip, Max organized two more trips, to the same area, of one week each. There were six to eight in each group, mostly the same people. Most of the money spent was from their pockets. Some donations from the church were available. Max also went back again to do some organizational things with the First Baptist Church of Gibsonville.

This past January (2009), six or seven of us went to the Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans, where water damage was rampant. Through church donations, we supplied materials to construct a nice front porch and two sets of steps on a ladies complex. Again, most of the funds, other than for building materials came out of the pockets of those doing the work.

This account addresses the Katrina disaster but we never know when or where we will be needed next, and there is no doubt the Gibsonville United Methodist Church members will answer the call.