

Methodist Church

History Recalled

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church reminds all of the great investment they made in those early years. Joseph Hinton also gave the early church strength and sustenance.

In 1811 the first station preacher was sent to Washington in the person of the Rev. Wm. Wright. The old uncomfortably arranged church was renovated, a pulpit and altar built, and a belfry erected. For all this the record shows that "the Methodists of Washington raised \$620 and thought it no trouble."

In 1831 a new church was built on West Second Street where the present church stands. The site was donated by Mrs. Sarah Katherine Quinn. The spire was placed in 1844-1845. The Conference met here in 1844.

Revivals came and the membership grew. In the years before the Civil War such names came on the rolls as Daniel Wharton, Joseph Farrow, John A. Arthur, Sarah Redding, and Elizabeth Buckman — names which were to linger in the hearts of the church membership and which would bring honor and glory to the church through the years. Mary Carrow, Fannie Dixon, Julia Respass, Joseph Gaskill, N. S. Fulford, Elizabeth Lucas, and Olivia Bragg would add a lustre there in their time too.

Then came Lockwood Hyatt, Warren Mayo, John Small, Ben Tripp, Dianna Harris, Benjamin Cowell, and A. W. Thomas, each in his or her own time to give a new glory.

During the dark days of the Civil War the church was burned, and Mrs. W. B. Cowell saw it go up in flames. Her testimony in later years would bring the church \$4,000 from the government. This sum was used to start the old Sunday School building which now needs renovating.

In 1929 Mrs. C. V. Swan beautifully encased the Silver Communion set which had been preserved. The set is inscribed thusly "Elizabeth L. Gregory, to her beloved church, Washington N.C., 23, December, 1873."

Growing pains came along, and Methodists felt that a new church was needed. They probably were spurred on either by growth within the church or the building without being carried on by the Episcopalians and Presbyterians. Dr. S. T. Nicholson was Chairman of the Board of Stewards. Dr. L. Nash was pastor, and in 1898 a new church was finished. Then E. W. Ayres, J. F. Buckman Sr., and the pastor bought the lot adjoining the church for \$500.

The first wedding to take place in the present church came on July 21, 1897 when Ben Taylor and Effie Wright were united in holy wedlock — even before the new church was completed. Uniquely, the last couple to be married in the old church before it was burned



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down was the mother and father of Effie Wright.

The new church put the congregation in debt some \$6,000, and many members considered that a staggering

sum. But F. W. Ayers and J. F. Buckman Sr. took over and assumed the note so that the church might be dedicated by Bishop Hendrix. And the entire indebtedness was paid off

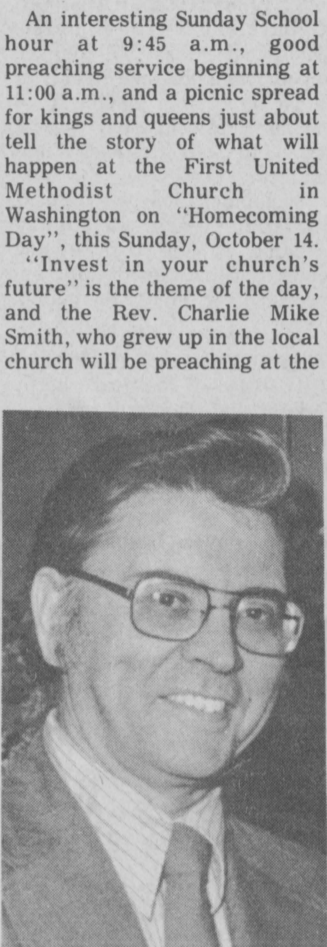
within five years — a remarkable feat, they said.

A parsonage was built on West Second Street in 1909 during the pastorate of Dr. M. T. Plyler.

In 1898 when the church was built the Board of Stewards were: Dr. Sam Nicholson, chairman, James A. Arthur, E. W. Ayers, J. F. Buckman Sr., C. W. Munger, A. W. Thomas, H. B. Mayo, W. E. Jones, F. B. Moore, W. K. Jacobson, Dr. A. S. Wells. The Building Committee members were: Dr. S. T. Nicholson chairman, E. W. Ayres, J. F. Buckman, W. P. Baugham, C. W. Munger, and Capt. Tillman.

Many distinguished ministers have served the local church. Since the present edifice was dedicated under the Pastorate of Dr. Nash, other serving here include R. C. Beamon, L. E. Thompson, A. P. Tyer, M. T. Plyler, R. H. Broom, E. M. Snipes, D. H. Tuttle, J. H. McCracken, L. D. Haymond, W. R. Royal, C. B. Culbreth, H. I. Glass, E. J. Reece, L. B. Jones, D. A. Clarke, C. F. Heath, D. E. Earnhardt, N. W. Grant, C. G. McCarver, T. J. Whitehead, K. J. Wilson, H. S. Garris, and the present pastor, Odell Walker. Along the way each of them made an "investment" in the future — an investment still paying dividends.

This Sunday, October 14, Homecoming Day, is a great day for the Methodists of Washington. Odell Walker says "let us make it a greater day for our Lord and for those who shall follow us in this church."



REV. ODELL WALKER

11:00 a.m. service. The church hopes to raise some \$45,000 with which to purchase the land behind the Educational Building. A big map will be unfolded and there are squares on it which will sell from one dollar to \$1,000.

The First United Methodist Church has a long and distinguished history. Members today look back over the years with tremendous pride as they think of so many outstanding ministers and lay persons who have given of their talents and time and resources to the strengthening of the church.

And the investments of those early years in the future which is now-today-have given to the church a sense of direction and a spirit of togetherness.

It all began — this investment in the future — in 1775 just as the budding nation was being born. Dempsey and Sarah Hinton came from Deep Creek to the Forks of the Tar River because they sought refuge from the Tories of the day. And a few years later the name would become the first town in America to bear the name of "Washington." Here the Hinton found a lack of organized religion, and they set about the task of nurturing a small congregation which met in a private home on Market Street where the Daily News now stands. The "investment" they made almost 200 years ago gave birth to a dream which has blossomed forth into the fruits of the present church now standing on West Second Street.

The small Hinton investment some nine years after it all began was fertilized and cultivated with love when Bishop Frances Asbury came in 1784 and formed what was called a "Methodist Society."

It remained for a great revival of 1791 to set the hands and hearts moving. The name of Ralph Potts, often called the "Father of Methodism" in Washington, caught the spirit and Mr. Potts in 1798, unaided, bought a lot and erected the first Methodist church in town conveying it in its entirety as a gift to the Methodist Episcopal Church. Through the years the Potts name has been a lasting one in Beaufort County, and a special one to Washington Methodism. Closely allied with the Potts family were Sarah Redding and the Rev. James Avent. A window in the present