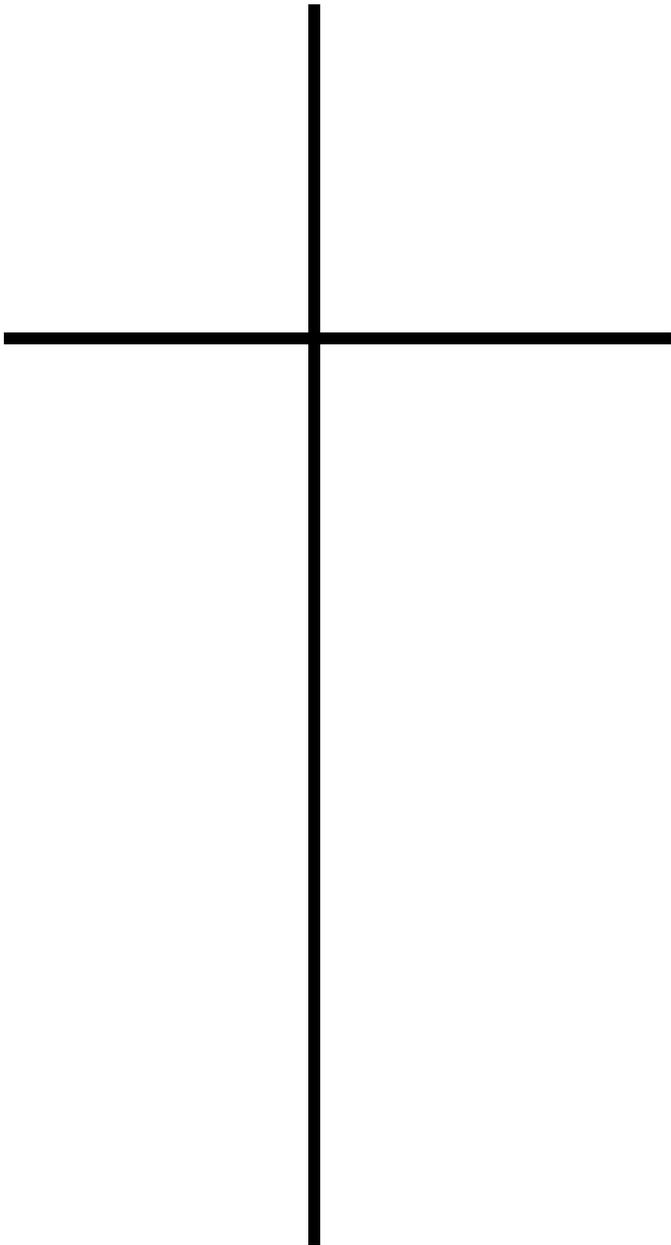


*An  
Interesting  
Heritage*



History  
of  
The  
First  
Methodist  
Church  
of  
Lancaster  
Texas  
1965

“All true civilization is 90% heirloom and memories—an accumulation of small but precious generations that have gone before. Each of us is a trustee of the past.”

“Faith of our fathers, living still,  
We will be true to thee till death.”

To  
MRS. W. L. FERGUSON

a faithful member, whose efforts have made this book possible. Her carefully kept records plus the many hours spent in research have enabled us to present an interesting and accurate history of The First Methodist Church, Lancaster, Texas. We feel greatly indebted and deeply appreciative.

For this—her labor of love,

THIS BOOK  
IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED

## AN INTERESTING HERITAGE

Lancaster Methodists have an interesting heritage about which every member should know. Just as Isaiah, exhorted Israel to recall her history and commanded them to “Look to the rock whence ye are hewn” so members of the First Methodist Church of Lancaster need to do the same.

Before the work of early pioneers in establishing a church can be fully understood and appreciated, the conditions of the country in which they lived must be considered.

Although Texas was admitted into the Union as a state in 1845 much of it was still an unknown, unexplored wilderness where Indians wandered freely. To the people of the East, it was described as a “land of promise”. This caused a western migration.

The first white settlers in the Lancaster community came from Illinois in 1844. It is said of them “they were good people, great Bible readers and regular attendants at preaching services.” These services, of course, were held in the homes at first. Because of the settlers kind treatment of the Indians, there was never any trouble with the Red Man.

In this atmosphere the settlement grew. Soon there were people of several faiths among them. But there was not much denominational fraternity. All went to hear whatever preacher came. A revival was shared by all.

The first group to be organized was the Christian Church in 1846. Next was the Presbyterian in 1856, followed by the Baptist in 1867.

Lancaster by that time was a small community of about five hundred. There were few stores and no bank. While a railroad did not pass through town, a stage coach line, known at first as “Central National Highway of the Republic of Texas” did. Lancaster was an overnight stop for it before going on to Dallas. The roads were rough, black dirt trails. In order to reach Dallas, it was necessary to go down a steep hill at Five Mile Creek and cross the Trinity River on a ferry boat. Even this was often impassable in rainy weather.

In 1865, the Civil War had ended. Practically all the able bodied men of the community had been in the War. They returned home, broken in health and finance, ready to begin life anew. It was a period of Reconstruction and Carpetbagger government. But with courage and determination, these brave families kept the work of God growing.

Unfortunately, the earliest records of this Methodist congregation have been lost and much that the early members could have told has never been recorded. For this reason, just when the first Methodist congregation met together and held services as a separate denomination in Lancaster cannot be accurately determined.

It is said Methodists began their work in the Republic of Texas as early as 1833. At that time a plea was made for five young men to go into that new country as missionaries. This call was not answered until 1835. As early as 1855, itinerate Methodist preachers visited this frontier settlement. They held services and gave spiritual leadership to the pioneer families.

For several years, these services were held in the old Masonic Hall which at that time stood on the lot just west of the present location of the First Presbyterian Church. This hall was built in 1860 for “church, lectures and entertainment as well as school”. In this hall, all religious groups held their services, alternating on their Sunday services.

Just who the preachers were who blazed the way of Methodism in Lancaster is forgotten, but it is remembered that a Rev. Mr. Gatewood held numerous services for the Methodist congregation in the old Masonic Hall. He is remembered as a man of great force of character.

There was evidently no idea of a church organization for some years as the records testify that the church was formally organized on May 28, 1868. This organization was perfected by “Uncle” Andrew Davis, a great man, dearly beloved by all who knew him. From the date of organization in 1868, the Methodist Church has existed as a moral force in this community and has lived through intervening years, growing very slowly in numbers but always growing spiritually.

For four or five years after the church was organized, it continued to hold services in the Masonic Hall, In 1873, Rev. John S. Davis came to Lancaster as pastor for this circuit. The homeless flock caught the sympathy of that good brother. He began to insist that the congregation get a permanent home for worship. In July 1873, a lot 67 1/2 by 180 feet was purchased from J. P. “Boy” Taylor for fifty dollars. This first property is the site of the present sanctuary.

By 1874, the congregation was in a position to begin the erection of a house of worship. Money was raised by pledges and various means common to the raising of church funds. In the building of the church, the pastor, “Uncle” John S. Davis, took a prominent part, not such as is usually taken by the pastor but by the labor of his hands. He even hauled the lumber from Jefferson. How many trips or how long it took to get the necessary amounts over the rough, stump filled roads is not known. The men of the community donated their labor and each noon found the women serving dinner. The result was a building which stood for nearly forty years on the site where it was erected. It is now serving the church for Church School class rooms in the rear of the second sanctuary.

This structure faced east and had two front doors, one for men and boys and the other for women. The men and boys always sat on the south side with the women and girls on the north. Seldom was this custom broken. The pulpit was at the west end with the choir just north of it and on the south side was the “Amen” corner where the old men sat and encouraged the preacher as he spoke, with their loud amens. Just about the front of the church was the belfry. Every Sunday morning the bells of the four churches rang first at nine-thirty and again at nine forty-five. Never has there been sweeter sound than the music of the bells calling the people to worship. And never has there been a sadder sound than the bells tolling slowly as a funeral procession made its way slowly to the cemetery. There were no classrooms for the Sunday School. Classes met and studied within a few benches of each other.

## NOTES FROM CHURCH RECORDS

The Lancaster Methodist Church was in the Northwest Texas conference when it was first organized. This Conference had been organized at Waxahachie by E. M. Marving, Presiding Bishop, in 1866. It included quite a large area as the record shows that Annual Conferences between 1866 and 1881 were held at Waco, Corsicana, Belton, Weatherford, and Fort Worth as well as Waxahachie.

The Lancaster Church was called "Lancaster and Wesley Station" in 1877. The earliest record which has been preserved gives the following officers:

Stewards	Trustees
Andrew Taylor	J. C. S. Baskin
J. L. Schoolfield	J. H. Swindell
J. C. S. Baskin	F. M. White
	J. T. Ellis
Sunday School Superintendent	J. H. Moffett
R. N. Taylor	P. N. Taylor
	Andrew Taylor

## LIST OF THOSE WHO WERE PROBABLY CHARTER MEMBERS

1. Adams, John W.
2. Adams, Sarah J.
3. Baskin, J. W.
4. Baskin, Margaret
5. Brundage, Soloman
6. Brundage, Martha
7. Coolidge, Joel
8. Coolidge, Mary
9. Ellis, John Tom
10. Ellis, Fannie
11. George, Robert
12. George, Sarah
13. George, Mattie
14. Guy, Emily
15. Garrett, Oliver
16. Garrett, Charlotte
17. King, E. T.
18. Lavender, Eva
19. Myers, Mary
20. Newton, John
21. Newton, Sallie
22. Swindell, James H.
23. Swindell, Ellen
24. Schoolfield, J. S.
25. Stewart, Mary
26. Schoolfield, E. M.
27. Taylor, Andrew
28. Taylor, Mary E.
29. Taylor, P. N.
30. Washburn, H. W.
31. Washburn, S. M.

CHURCH ROLL ON 1877  
Earliest Record which has been preserved.

1. Adams, John W.	30. Fisk, Willard	59. Hagler, E. C.	88. Robinson, Mrs Emma
2. Adams, Sarah J.	31. Finley, Ellen	60. Hagler, E. M.	89. Swindell, James H.
3. Allen, John	32. Finley, J. B.	61. Hamilton, Lizzie	90. Swindell, Ellen
4. Allen, N. J.	33. Freeman, J. D.	62. Hodges, Gussie	91. South, Samuell
5. Adair, Mattie	34. Freeman, M. E.	63. Hodges, Bura	92. Schoolfield, E. M.
6. Boyd, James A.	35. Freeman, Anna	64. Hancock, Mrs. M. T.	93. Schoolfield, L.
7. Boyd, Emma	36. Friedrick, Louis	65. Hudson, Mrs. Mary	94. Schoolfield, J. R.
8. Baskin, J. W.	37. George, Robert	66. Johnson, Mrs. N. T.	95. Schoolfield, Martha
9. Baskin, Margaret	38. George, Sarah	67. King, E. T.	96. Stoddard, S. A.
10. Baskin, J. W. C. S.	39. George, Mattie	68. Lott, John	97. Steakfield, Mary
11. Brundage, Soloman	40. George, Alfred	69. Lott, Abbie	98. Sawyer, Susan
12. Brundage, Martha	41. George, John Winsen	70. Love, H. E.	99. Stewart, Mary
13. Brogdon, Mary	42. Green, B. F.	71. Love, Loula	100. Schultz, C. A.
14. Burcher, E. C.	43. Green, M	72. Lavendar, Eva	101. Taylor, Andrew
15. Ballew, G. W.	44. Green, G. R.	73. Lavender, Leila	102. Taylor, Mary E.
16. Ballew, C. S.	45. Garrett, Oliver	74. Loyd, John	103. Taylor, John
17. Ballew, Martha	46. Guy, Emily	75. Loyd, Lizzie	104. Taylor, Sarah
18. Cook, W. W.	47. Groves, Elizabeth	76. Lax, Anthony	105. Taylor, Elisa
19. Clark, R. N.	48. Green, Emma	77. Lax, Eliza	106. Taylor, Bettie
20. Coolidge, Cyrus	49. Givens, Minerva	78. Myers, Mary	107. Taylor, Josephine
21. Coolidge, Mary	50. Garrett, Charlotte	79. McCurdy, Minnie	108. White, F. M.
22. Coolidge, Monroe	51. Holloway, James H.	80. McCurdy, Mary	109. Watson, Marian
23. Cain, James A.	52. Holloway, Louise	81. Mitchell, Maria	110. Wilson, R. M.
24. Cain, Eliza Ann	53. Holloway, J. C.	82. Moffett, Joseph	111. Wilson, Sarah
25. Claycomb, Fannie	54. Holloway, L. L.	83. Newton, John	112. Wood, Anna
26. Ellis, John Tom	55. Haley, Martha	84. Newton, Sallie	113. Washburn, H. W.
27. Ellis, Fannie	56. Haley, J. C.	85. Pain, W. O.	114. Washburn, S. M.
28. Evans, C. H.	57. Haley, W. H.	86. Richardson, J. R.	115. Schoolfield, H. R.
29. Evans, Minnie	58. Harmon, Fisk	87. Rawlins, Georgia	

NAMES ADDED TO CHURCH ROLL 1879-1881

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Butcher, George      | 14. Jacoby, J.         |
| 2. Brazzie, W. B.       | 15. Lewis, N. J.       |
| 3. Coolidge, Joel       | 16. Montgomery, Martha |
| 4. Coolidge, Emma       | 17. McMahan, D. R.     |
| 5. Cook, Nancy          | 18. Nance, W. T.       |
| 6. Evans, J. R.         | 19. McMahan, Martha    |
| 7. Ellis, Earl          | 20. Nance, Julia       |
| 8. Ellis, Ben           | 21. Storm, Mary        |
| 9. Finley, R. A.        | 22. Storm, Byrom       |
| 10. Gorns, Nannie       | 23. Stewart, Benjamin  |
| 11. Hagler,             | 24. White, Louisa      |
| 12. Hamilton, H. A.     | 25. White, Florence    |
| 13. Harrison, Josephine | 26. Watkins, A. A.     |

CHILDREN BAPTIZED 1881  
By Rev. J. W. Walkup

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Baskin, J. H.      | 8. Taylor              |
| 2. Baskin, Lucy Ellen | 9. Lavender, A. W.     |
| 3. Ellis, Earl        | 10. Lavender, Lawrence |
| 4. Ellis, Ben         | 11. Lavender, Susan    |
| 5. Ellis, J. Tom Jr.  | 12. Boyd, Ernest       |
| 6. Ellis, Edna        | 13. Boyd, Frank        |
| 7. Myers, Emma        | 14. Clark, Lillie M.   |

INTERESTING NOTES TAKEN FROM CHURCH RECORDS  
and  
ITEMS TAKEN FROM LANCASTER HERALD

From Lancaster Herald:

On the third Lord's Day Dec. 16, 1876, a revival began in the city of Lancaster which lasted until Jan. 17, 1877. Services were held three times daily. All business houses were closed during the hours of service. The Christmas holidays, cold north wind and snow covered ground did not interfere with attendance. (Old timers refer to this as the "Big Revival")

From Earliest Church Record:

“A church conference was held at the church on Sunday, Feb. 24, 1878 at 12 1/2 o'clock P.M. with J. D. Shaw, P.C., presiding.

Bro. Shaw reported verbally that he had been able to fill all his appointments but owing to the unfavorable weather and the roads being exceedingly muddy, did not have as large congregations as might be expected under normal, more favorable circumstances.

Bro. J. W. Adams, Class Leader, stated class meetings were held but attendance was small. He hoped Bro. Shaw would impress upon the members the importance of sustaining this means of grace.

Bro. Andrew Taylor, Steward, stated the amount assessed against this church was \$400 for the Conference year. Also it would take \$350 to put the parsonage in good repairs.”

J. Willie Baskin, Sec.

September 30, 1878

The names of Church Members being called for the purpose of correcting the Church Roll, the following names were dropped on account of prolonged absence: Thomas Hughes, Allen Walker, David Johnson, M. Jones.

On motion, the names of J. C. Holloway and W. A. Payne were restored and added to the list of church members.

On motion, the Church meeting adjourned after a harmonious conference.

F. M. White, SEC., pro. tem

At the Feb. 13, 1879 meeting with M. D. Fry presiding, the roll was called and while being done, Bro. Fry inquired into the standing and whereabouts.

One member “Acknowledged to having been in a condition unbecoming of a church member”. He asked to be forgiven and was. Two other members were reported as “having been in a state of intoxication”. A committee was appointed to confer with them and report at the next meeting.

At several meetings, committees were asked to confer with members for non-attendance.

Bro. P. N. Taylor, S. S. Supt., usually reported the Sunday School to be in prosperous condition and well provided with books, periodicals and such as was necessary to its success.

Later he made a verbal report of the Sunday School stating that “The old folks are not interested” as he thinks they ought to be in the welfare of the school.

Back in Feb. 13, 1878, J. W. Adams, Class Leader, had reported Class meetings had ceased on account of non-attendance of members.

February 13, 1881

The Stewards made their report and called the roll giving the amount of each member's assessment and the amount paid by each.

The whole amount assessed was \$375.00. The amount collected was \$54.

Bro. Walkup gave a talk on finances after which Sisters E. Lavender, Mc. McCurdy and M. Brundage were appointed assistant Stewards.

From Lancaster Herald, November 1886

"The Northwest Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South concluded its labors Tuesday and adjourned. Among the appointments mentioned was George W. Owens, Lancaster.

Beginning with the Church Conference of Oct. 22, 1889, the records are headed:

"The first Church Conference for Lancaster and Ferris Charge, N. W. Texas Conference".

For Aug. 1891, the following names were given as being on this circuit: Lancaster, Ferris, Trinity, Honey Springs, Hutchins, Bluff Springs. Bear Creek was added in 1892.

Clippings from Lancaster Herald, July, 1890

There will be a picnic at Cottonwood Springs two miles west of Lancaster on July 17 and Mr. Shutt will commence a protracted meeting at the same place the following day.

October 1891

The meeting at the Methodist Church will close Sunday at two p.m. with a sermon to men only. Bro. Jones has been shooting some hot shot straight to the spot. The things he says hurt because they are true, he says what he pleases and then invites the fellow that doesn't like it to meet him around the corner and he will settle it.

December 1891

The Lancaster Circuit was been cut in two pieces, Lancaster, Ferris and Bluff Springs makes one charge and South Oak Cliff, Honey Springs and Hutchins are a different charge called Oak Cliff Mission.

From Church Record, January 17, 1892

C. G. Shutt, P. C.

Brethren, your pastor feels the necessity of making an aggressive move against the enemy of righteousness in our midst. I have been among you long enough to know something of the strong entrenchment of his Satanic majesty. Every day we feel the heavy tread of the hundreds in our midst that are pressing down toward the gates of death.

The devils of intemperance, Sabbath breaking, gambling and profanity are rampant. Something must be done. I SEE IT. I FEEL IT.

We have at present two Sunday Schools, to wit; at Lancaster and Ferris. The others have gone into winter quarters. The one at Honey Springs for want of a house.

From Lancaster Herald, January 29, 1892

The meeting at the Methodist Church has been going on and is still going with increasing interest, large congregations at each service. Many Christians have been quickened and the church membership of different churches of Lancaster greatly revived and sinners seeking the Lord. The preaching is of the old type, repentance and faith and God's Word. It has been a long time since Lancaster has had such a shaking up.

Rev. Mr. Kirkland is preaching with Mr. T. V. Childress leading the soul stirring singing.

Church Record February 1892  
J. P. Childress, P. C.

Dear Brethren, the general state of the church is bad. I find about 200 names on the registers but some of them are gone. I find the tendency has been to stress the joining of the church and overlooking the all important thing, "Ye must be born again".

I have visited 60 families and preached fifty times.

The Sunday School at Lancaster has eight officers and teachers. Scholars enrolled are fifty-two with average attendance of thirty five. The money raised was \$4.80.

An Epworth League was organized with sixteen members.

RESOLUTION \* QUARTERLY CONFERENCE  
October 15, 1892

Resolved that we use our influence to induce our stewards to procure pure, unfermented wine for sacramental purposes. That the chair appoint three good men whose duty it shall be to find some earnest woman who loves the cause of Christ to secure and provide unfermented wine for communion services. Adopted.

From Lancaster Herald, October 1892  
Notice

To the members of the Methodist Church of Lancaster.

There will be preaching at the Methodist Church the first Sabbath in November at 11 a.m. After the sermon, there will be a church conference. All members are expected to be present/or by proxy to answer to their names as they are called if they expect to continue their membership with the church. All names will be stricken from the roll where the parties have not complied with their vows to the church. We can't report members to annual conference who have their names on the roll, who give no heed to the vows they have taken to the church.

J. P. Childress, P. C.

From Lancaster Herald, March 1893

"The Methodist Ladies gave a birthday dinner at Mrs. Munroe's Tuesday for the benefit of the church. The proceeds go toward fixing the seats and leveling the floor of the building. In this and many other ways the women of the church have worked to help to keep the building in good shape. The church registry shows that a Ladies' Aid Society was organized in 1879."

During the years the church continued to increase in numbers. Often the work of the pastor was very hard due to the number of places on the circuit. This was especially true when the weather was bad. The black dirt roads became almost impassible at times. But

in spite of cold, rain and mud, in some way the pastor kept his appointments. Often the congregation was small.

At a quarterly conference on Sept. 23, 1893, a resolution was adopted in opposition to a change in the boundary lines of the Waxahachie district. Evidently the changes were made, for the first quarterly conference for the year 1904-5 gives the heading as "Lancaster Charge, Dallas District, North Texas Conference. In the church year 1905-6, it is Lancaster-Wilmer Charge.

Since Lancaster is on the boundary line between Central Texas Conference and North Texas Conference, this church has made many changes not only as a circuit but also as a District. At one time, it was a Circuit with Wheatland and Hutchins. Later Lancaster had three Sundays and Hutchins had one Sunday. Again it was DeSoto which was given the one Sunday.

Sometimes Lancaster was in Dallas District, then changed to Terrell District and to McKinney District of the North Texas Conference.

An Epworth League was organized in 1891 which "promised to give to the church work". The report of 1894 shows the League had a membership of forty members. A Junior League was organized about this time. The Preachers' report shows both of these groups as being very active in the work of the church.

About 1898, A Young Woman's Missionary Society was reported. These Young women, not only studied missions, but they also "had under their charge a girl in Laredo Seminary, whom they are clothing". This group was later combined with the Epworth League.

In 1906, Lancaster was made a station, with Rev. J. B. Davis as pastor. It was during his ministry, that a great revival was held in a tent in back of the church. In his report, he says "the recent revival resulted in about 160 conversions, the church greatly blessed and all the departments of the church work helped."

"The finances are in very good condition. We have received 54 into full connection and have 15 other names for membership."

"We have a good Senior League that has had a good number of additions from the new converts. The Junior League has been doing very well. The Sunday School is the best in years, with a large number of members meeting in the one room. They have found this very crowded for meetings.

It was at this time a new church was seriously considered. Nothing was done, however, at this time to make the dream come true.

At the quarterly conference, July 15, 1909, the following report was given:

"It is the opinion of the Building Committee that we can and should and will endeavor to build an edifice, not to cost over \$5000.00 and that we appoint a committee

of three to see the members as to what amount they can pay.”

It was during this church year, the Rev. H. H. Vaughn came to Lancaster as the pastor. And it was during his ministry and through his work and encouragement, that the movement assumed definite form and was eventually realized. We have had many pastors in our church since it was organized, yet we have had few who were more esteemed and greater beloved than was Bro. Vaughn. Since it was the Master's desire that his work be finished in Lancaster, it was fitting, indeed, that the last work he was privileged to do stands as his monument, the edifice this church has used since 1911. During the construction the church in 1910, this beloved pastor passed away. As a testimony of the love and affection of the members for Bro. Vaughn, a beautiful memorial was placed in the new church.

In the winter of 1910-11, the contract for the new building was let to J. W. Haley for an approximate cost of \$5400.00. In addition to this amount, \$800 was spent for new pews and other furniture. The money was given by members of the church and by many generous friends. Much of the contribution was in notes and it was necessary to borrow \$3600 from the bank to make the payments on the building contract.

The Woman's Home Missionary Society worked giving dinners, quilting, and having bake sales so as to raise \$500 as their contribution. The Epworth League gave plays so they could give \$500 also. After many difficulties and struggles and disappointments the balance of the indebtedness was paid in 1916 under the pastorate of Rev. E. L. Wright.

The church was dedicated June 17, 1917. The sermon was preached by Rev. Hoyt M. Dobbs, later a bishop.

The first structure was moved and added to the back of the new church for additional Sunday School classes.

In the sanctuary, there are several memorial windows in addition to the one given for Bro. Vaughn. Also on the east side is a window given in memory of F. M. White, who was an official of the church from the early seventies until his death in 1900. On the sides are windows given by the Woman's Missionary Society and the Epworth League. There is also one for Allie Lamb who was church organist for many years.

Shortly after the completion of the building of this church came World War I and then during the late 1920's the Great Depression. This had its effect on the life of the church. Also Lancaster had gained the reputation of changing pastors often. Seldom did a preacher remain more than two years. Often it was only for a period of one year. It became the custom of the Conference to assign pastors to this church who were ready to retire. The fact that the preachers hardly became acquainted with the people of the community and the possibilities and the problems before he was transferred, did not make for the advancement of the work of the Lancaster Church.

However, the Sunday School did grow. It was soon found that the new church building was not large enough for the church school. A two room building was erected

just west of the church. This small building served as classrooms for several years.

By 1944, more room was needed for the church school. Rev. W. G. Barr, with the help of a building committee, began a campaign to raise funds for a new educational building. Since this was during World War II, the plan was for the church school classes and individuals to buy bonds and stamps to be invested in the building fund. Mrs. H. C. Jones was treasurer.

#### CHURCH OFFICIALS

Chas C. Selecman ..... Bishop  
Clark H. Russell ..... District Superintendent  
Sam P. Farler ..... Pastor

#### BOARD OF STEWARDS

J. S. Brock  
W. A. Corley  
E. F. Dumond  
W. M. Hamm  
Ray Filgo  
H. C. Jones  
Frank McDaniel  
Hamilton Moffett  
C. H. McGrew  
J. M Patton  
R. E. Ragsdale  
Orville Smith  
Ray Filgo ..... Sunday School Superintendent  
C. C. Moffett ..... Sect'y Sunday School  
Mrs. W. L. Ferguson ..... President W. M. S.

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

W. A. Corley ..... Chairman  
Mrs. J. S. Brock ..... Secretary  
Mrs. C. C. Moffett ..... Organist  
Mrs. J. M. Patton ..... Choir Director  
Everette McGrew ..... Sponsor Youth Fellowship

In 1949, a building committee and the pastor, Rev. W. W. Pittman, planned an education building with the sanctuary to be erected later. Ground was broken for this structure on March 23, 1949 and the building was used for the first time in November of that year. The Educational building costs \$30,000. Of this amount, \$12,000 was borrowed from the Methodist Board of Missions and Church Extension. Repayment was completed early in 1957 and the building was dedicated with special services on May 26, 1957.

As a memorial to our boys in service who had died in the war of World War II, a Hammond organ was placed in the church in 1945.

About three years later, the chancel, which had been on the east side of the church, was moved to the north end. The pews were changed and a new floor covering was added. A maroon dossol with a gold cross was hung over the north windows in 1954. All these changes brought a more worshipful atmosphere to the sanctuary.

Rev. Neyland Hester had become the pastor in 1953. He was a young man, comparatively new in the ministry, who could see great possibilities in God's work here

in Lancaster. The young people were guided into consecrated meetings. In fact, the whole church seemed to take on new life.

After World War II, Lancaster began to expand very rapidly. By looking to the future, the church realized that additional space would be necessary. In August of 1953, the official board elected a planning committee to investigate the needs and recommend a long range plan for building expansion. The planning committee was S. R. May, Jr. chairman; Carleton Moffett, Herbert Jones, E. J. Bruckner, Harold Filgo, and Rev. Neyland Hester.

This planning committee visited a number of churches, talked with several architects and received professional help from a church planning expert. Finally, when the long range plan was presented and adopted by the Official Board, it called for: 1) a new church sanctuary, 2) a new parsonage, 3) additional educational space, and 4) a financial plan.

During the fall of 1953, a financial campaign was conducted and at a victory dinner on December 10, 1953 about \$56,000 was pledged to the building fund for a new sanctuary. About \$1000 was given monthly to the building fund. Ground for the sanctuary was broken on January 27, 1957.

Bishop William C. Martin preached at the morning worship on Oct. 20, 1957 and formally opened the church for worship. Much credit for the careful planning and construction goes to the pastor, Rev. Neyland Hester, whose intelligent supervision was greatly responsible for the beautiful building.

The sanctuary which cost \$100,000, increased the valuation of all church property to \$200,000. The cost of the new sanctuary was kept down by long hours of work donated by many men of the church.

The parsonage, built in 1911 and standing on the lot where the new sanctuary was to be built, was sold for \$2,500 and moved from the site. A new brick home for the pastor at 201 Melrose was purchased for \$16,250 in 1954. Trustees at this time were: G. R. Pain, Herbert Jones, E. J. Bruckner, Harold Filgo, Frank McDaniel, and Ralph Williams.

Rev. Hester continued as pastor until 1961. It was with deep regret that he was transferred. No pastor had ever endeared himself, not only to the membership of the church, but to the whole community as he had. He was friend and counselor to everyone. During his years as pastor, Bible study was emphasized. Worship services became more spiritual. The new sanctuary has a reverent atmosphere felt by everyone who enters to worship.

By 1962, Lancaster had more than doubled in population. Dallas County was now the center of great business enterprises which has drawn people from all parts of the country. Many of these live in Lancaster and commute to work in Dallas. This has been reflected in the congregation of the church. Of the members on the roll who were living in 1916, only sixteen are left. On the Official Board in 1963, there are only six who have been

members of this church for as long as twelve years. None of the members of the Planning Committee who worked so hard for the new sanctuary in 1953 are still members in 1963. (S. R. May moved back in 1964.)

At the close of the conference year of 1963, there were about five hundred names on the roll.

In June 1962, Rev. Olin Tunnell was assigned to this charge. While the town was growing and new people were putting their letters in this church, still there was not much real activity.

Shortly after he became pastor, Rev. Tunnell appointed, Mrs. W. L. Ferguson to be historian. Mrs. Ferguson (Stella White) is the daughter of F. M. White, one of the earliest officers of the church. The Quarterly Conference authorized her to make a complete history of the Church.

During the two years Rev. Tunnell was here, the Lord's Acre plan was used. This was a financial success and helped to pay off all old indebtedness and meet conference obligations.

The most outstanding activity among the members was the sacrificial work of Edgar Miller, Jack Weir, and Al Alldridge. For weeks and weeks during the hot summer, they, with the help of other men and women, gave every Saturday to re-roofing, repainting and repairing the old church building. Many have donated their time and talents to various projects to keep our Church plant a place of worship.

For several years while Rev. Hester was here and every year since, Christmas has been observed with a live nativity scene on the church lawn. This has drawn people from hundred of miles around. It has really been a true expression of the Christmas message. Annually, a twenty-four hour prayer vigil has been held which has been a spiritual uplift to the many participating in it.

Rev. Luther Hill became pastor in 1963. During his pastorate, the Lord's Acre plan has been discontinued. Instead, each year on the Sunday night before Christmas, The Enchanted Tree program has been a most spiritual service. Each member was given a small plastic bag several weeks earlier. On this night, after a Christmas program, each one in the congregation goes to the altar and hangs his bag filled with a gift for the Lord on a bare tree. The sanctuary is always filled and it is an inspiring site to see everyone, from the child in arms to the oldest member, who must be assisted to walk, gladly making their gifts to the Christ Child.

In the early part of December of 1964, an Every Member Visitation was held. After a lunch and devotional at the church, about fifty members went out and visited every member of the church. This made for a greater fellowship among the members.

Each year, on the four Sunday nights of February, Church-wide Mission Study is conducted. For the year 1965, a splendid study on the Spanish-Americans was held under

the leadership of Sam Hansen.

NATIVITY SCENE  
December 20-25, 1964

“The best yet, wonderful, just great.”

The above quotes do not describe the Nativity Scene which the church offered for one full week. Hundreds of people drove by and feasted upon the real life scene.

Each day from 7 to 9 p.m. five of our people were in their places. Joseph and Mary were in the manger beneath the great star. The Wise Men could be seen making their way toward the star. They knew they would find the Lord’s anointed. As they drew near they knelt in humble adoration to the Christ Child.

The sheep, the donkey and the mother cow and her twins were each in their places as if they knew they were playing a part in the greatest event in history.

THE ENCHANTED TREE 1964

Sunday evening, Dec. 20, was a great day for the Lancaster Methodist Church. The music, the readings and the unsightly tree that suddenly came alive with hundreds of multiple colored bags.

As the men, women, boys and girls marched to the chancel, a sense of expectancy seemed to prevail. When the moment of dedication of gifts arrived every voice gave forth with assurance and pride. We had forgotten self for a moment. God was genuine to each of us as we repeated the prayer of dedication in unison.

The climax of the evening came when hundreds of lighted candles were raised in response to the minister quoting:

“Ye are the light of the world,  
Let your lights so shine before men.”

During the fellowship hour several of the men opened the gifts that had been offered the Christ on His birthday. \$1,791.00 was the amount of the gifts that evening. As of this writing the Enchanted Tree program has given \$1,835 to the mission work of the church.

Some are already talking of a better and bigger program for next year. As our people are inspired they improve in their stewardship.

Have I been a good steward to God’s time and possessions this year?

1963 1964  
Rev. Luther Hill, Pastor  
THE OFFICIAL BOARD  
Chairman: Mr. Earyl Senning  
Secretary: Mrs. Ralph Loefer

W. Alldridge	Ed Lutz
Horace Atkinson	Keith Marks
Walter Bahn	Frank McDaniel
Wm. Basnett	Everette McGrew
Mrs. Carl Board	Mrs. Robert McLarty
Mrs. H. H. Bowman	Edgar Miller
T. H. Bredemeyer	Royce Miller
Thomas Caverly	Mrs. Carl Norman
Burl Couchman	Bill North
Mrs. Burl Couchman	Boyce Periman
W. H. Davis	Bill Pledger
Ben Frank Ellis	G. T. Renfro
Steve Farquhar	A. L. Renta
O. L. Fewell	George Rives
Harold Filgo	Leon Rowe
Roy Lee Filgo	Jack Schenk
Mrs. Taylor Filgo	Mrs. Jack Schenk
James Griffin	Tom Wilson
Martin Hearne	Orville Smith
Keith Hendrix	Robert Stamps
W. W. Henslee	George Wallick
B. G. Hollingsworth	Jack Waugh
Bill Holmes	George Weatherly
Glen Jones	Jack Weir
Charles Keller	Mr. Jim Mitchell
Mr. George R. Pain	

Junior High MYF President, Miss Karen Hugley  
High School MYF President, Miss Irby Fitzhugh

PASTORS OF THE CHURCH

1. 1868	Rev. T. W. Hines	15. 1882	Rev. H. B. Henry
2. 1869	Rev. T. W. Hines	16. 1883	Rev. H. B. Henry
3. 1870	Rev. William Price	17. 1884	Rev. George Owens
4. 1871	Rev. William Price	18. 1885	Rev. George Owens
5. 1872	Rev. A. D. Gaskill	19. 1886	Rev. George Owens
6. 1873	Rev. John S. Davis	20. 1887	Rev. J. W. Weaver
7. 1874	Rev. John S. Davis	21. 1888	Rev. C. H. Ellis
8. 1875	Rev. G. W. Groves	22. 1889	Rev. C. G. Shutt
9. 1876	Rev. Samuel Morris	23. 1890	Rev. C. G. Shutt
10. 1877	Rev. J. D. Shaw	24. 1891	Rev. C. G. Shutt
11. 1878	Rev. M. D. Fly	25. 1892	Rev. J. P. Childress

- |     |      |  |     |      |                       |
|-----|------|--|-----|------|-----------------------|
| 12. | 1879 | Rev. M. D. Fly                               | 26. | 1893 | Rev. F. M. Winburne   |
| 13. | 1880 | Rev. H. S. P. Ashby                          | 27. | 1894 | Rev. F. M. Winburne   |
| 14. | 1881 | Rev. J. A. Walkup                            | 28. | 1895 | Rev. S. Crutchfield   |
| 29. | 1896 | Rev. S. Crutchfield                          | 65. | 1932 | Rev. Earl G. Hamilton |
| 30. | 1897 | Rev. P. A. Edwards                           | 66. | 1933 | Rev. W. J. Fenton     |
| 31. | 1898 | Rev. C. A. Spraggins                         | 67. | 1934 | Rev. W. J. Fenton     |
| 32. | 1899 | Rev. C. A. Spraggins                         | 68. | 1935 | Rev. J. W. Slagle     |
| 33. | 1900 | Rev. John H. Reynolds                        | 69. | 1936 | Rev. J. W. Slagle     |
| 34. | 1901 | Rev. J. F. Archer                            | 70. | 1937 | Rev. L. B. Trone      |
| 35. | 1902 | Rev. J. F. Archer                            | 71. | 1938 | Rev. L. B. Trone      |
| 36. | 1903 | Rev. J. W. Clifton                           | 72. | 1939 | Rev. L. B. Trone      |
| 37. | 1904 | Rev/ J. F. Morelock                          | 73. | 1940 | Rev. L. B. Trone      |
| 38. | 1905 | Rev. C. E. Lamb                              |     | 1940 | Rev. Herbert Minga    |
| 39. | 1906 | Rev. Franklin Moore                          | 74. | 1941 | Rev. G. E. Camster    |
| 40. | 1907 | Rev. J. B. Davis                             | 75. | 1942 | Rev. J. W. Polk       |
| 41. | 1908 | Rev. J. B. Davis                             | 76. | 1943 | Rev. W. G. Barr       |
| 42. | 1909 | Rev. H. H. Vaughn                            | 77. | 1944 | Rev. W. G. Barr       |
| 43. | 1910 | Rev. H. H. Vaughn (died<br>during the year). | 78. | 1945 | Rev. C. L. Bounds     |
|     | 1910 | Rev. Chas. L. Dealey<br>(Finished out year)  | 79. | 1946 | Rev. S. P. Farler     |
| 44. | 1911 | Rev. T. G. Peterson                          | 80. | 1947 | Rev. S. P. Farler     |
| 45. | 1912 | Rev. S. T. Francis                           | 81. | 1948 | Rev. W. W. Pittman    |
| 46. | 1913 | Rev. S. T. Francis                           | 82. | 1949 | Rev. W. W. Pittman    |
| 47. | 1914 | Rev. S. T. Francis                           | 83. | 1950 | Rev. David Spradling  |
| 48. | 1915 | Rev. E. L. Wright                            |     | 1950 | Rev. A. T. Mays       |
| 49. | 1916 | Rev. E. L. Wright                            | 84. | 1951 | Rev. A. T. Mays       |
| 50. | 1917 | Rev. W. C. Howell                            | 85. | 1952 | Rev. A. T. Mays       |
| 51. | 1918 | Rev. S. C. Riddle                            | 86. | 1953 | Rev. Neyland Hester   |
| 52. | 1919 | Rev. S. C. Riddle                            | 87. | 1954 | Rev. Neyland Hester   |
| 53. | 1920 | Rev. S. C. Riddle                            | 88. | 1955 | Rev. Neyland Hester   |
| 54. | 1921 | Rev. F. C. Adams                             | 89. | 1956 | Rev. Neyland Hester   |
| 55. | 1922 | Rev. J. T. Beckham                           | 90. | 1957 | Rev. Neyland Hester   |
| 56. | 1923 | Rev. J. T. Beckham                           | 91. | 1958 | Rev. Neyland Hester   |
| 57. | 1924 | Rev. J. T. Beckham                           | 92. | 1959 | Rev. Neyland Hester   |
| 58. | 1925 | Rev. O. P. Kiker                             | 93. | 1960 | Rev. Neyland Hester   |
| 59. | 1926 | Rev. F. W. Alderson                          | 94. | 1961 | Rev. Olin Tunnell     |
| 60. | 1927 | Rev. Frazier Smith                           | 95. | 1962 | Rev. Olin Tunnell     |
| 61. | 1928 | Rev. B. B. Hall                              | 96. | 1963 | Rev. Luther A. Hill   |
| 62. | 1929 | Rev. B. B. Hall                              | 97. | 1964 | Rev. Luther A. Hill   |
| 63. | 1930 | Rev. Earl Jones                              | 98. | 1965 | Rev. Luther A. Hill   |
| 64. | 1931 | Rev. F. B. Wheeler                           |     |      |                       |

THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AS  
CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

1. P. N. Taylor
2. J. A. Boyd
3. Finis Holloway
4. S. N. Hood
5. J. H. Boger
6. H. F. Hood
7. E. E. Ellis
8. Chas. Newton
9. Ed Thompson
10. Herbert Jones
11. J. M. Buxton
12. Hamilton Moffett
13. Ray Filgo
14. Carleton Moffett
15. Mrs. Bill Basnett
16. Bill G. Holmes
17. G. C. Wallick

THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AS ORGANISTS

1. Hughie Fitzsimmons
2. Allie Collidge
3. Lillie Hood
4. Essie Hood
5. Theresa McDavid
6. Mrs. Clarence Moffett
7. Mrs. C. W. Northcutt
8. Mrs. Glen Facka
9. Gilbert Fennill
10. Mrs. Dan Jamison
11. Mrs. Don Pritchett
12. Miss Agnes Weeks
13. Mrs. L. M. McFarland

MEMORIALS GIVEN TO SECOND CHURCH SANCTUARY

Piano-Mrs. Edna Ellis Johnson

Pulpit Furniture-Mrs. F. M. Mitchell

Bible-Mrs. Gertrude Etter

Hammond Organ-Given by Friends

In memory of boys who died in World War II

A second Hammond Organ given by Cedar Crest Methodist Church when they disbanded.

## FOR MEMORIALS TO THE THIRD SANCTUARY

See Memorial Book in Table  
given by Mrs. Mary Norman  
in memory of her father  
Mr. Charles Newton

## PARSONAGES

Since the organization of the First Methodist Church of Lancaster in 1868, there have been four parsonages.

The first parsonage was erected in 1877 while Rev. J. D. Shaw was pastor and was located on the west side of Hall's Branch on the site of what is now 205 South Ellis. This parsonage was erected by contributions of money and labor by members and friends of the church. The pastor did much of the labor just as Rev. John S. Davis had done in the erection of the church in 1874.

The second parsonage was started while Rev. G. W. Owens was pastor in 1886. The first parsonage was sold, and the money was used to buy property adjacent to the church and erect a new parsonage. This parsonage was located on Cedar Street, facing north, where the educational building now stands.

The third parsonage was built in 1911 on the site of the first church building. During the construction on the new church in 1910-11 it was thought that because of heavy expenditure for the church a new parsonage was impossible. The spirit of progress, however, entered into the membership with such force as the church neared completion that a new parsonage was first considered and then the plan was begun.

The honors of the new parsonage belong to the Woman's Home Missionary Society which pledged \$300 toward its erection. This subscription was the cause of the erection of the parsonage at that time. The Epworth League also pledged \$300 and the old parsonage was sold for \$250. The rest of the money was raised among the members and by many small gifts from other citizens of Lancaster. On February 4, 1911 the contract was formally let to the church contractor, J. W. Haley for the erection of the parsonage. The contract was for \$1650. This was paid in cash.

Since it was necessary to have more room for the new church plant, the planning committee of 1953 recommended and the Official Board voted to sell the parsonage which had been built in 1911 and buy a new parsonage in another location. The site of the third parsonage, 211 South Dallas Avenue will be the site of the new sanctuary. The parsonage was sold for \$2,500 and was moved from the site. A new brick home was bought for \$16,250 at 201 Melrose Lane. The purchase was completed in May 1954. Trustees at this time were: G. R. Pain, Herbert Jones, E. L. Bruckner, Harold Filgo, Frank

McDaniel, and Ralph Williams.

## TRANSFERS OF THE CHURCH REAL ESTATE

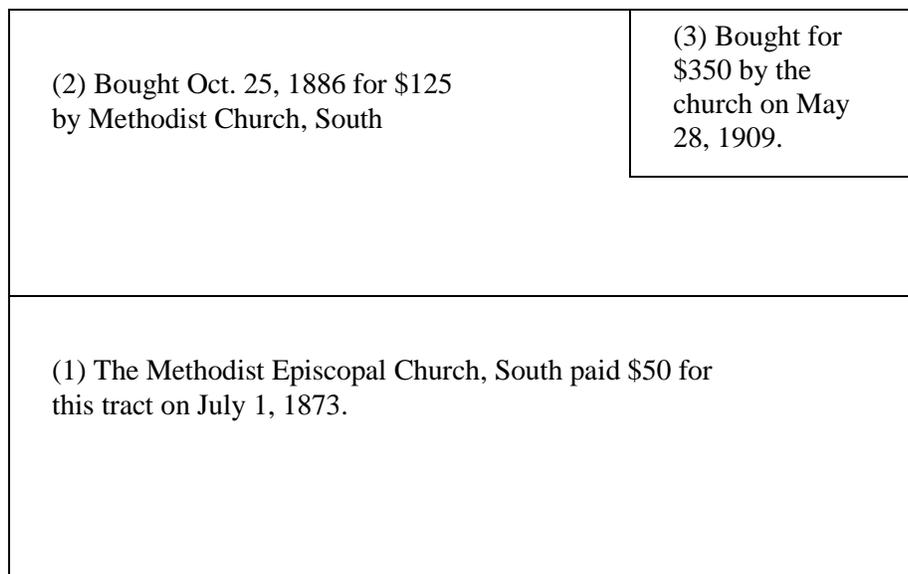
The land on which the First Methodist Church stands was originally part of the Roderick Rawlins Estate. It came into the possession of Capt. R. A. Rawlins after the death of Roderick Rawlins. This tract which now comprised the church property was sold to A Bledsoe by Capt. R. A. Rawlins and his wife. On February 9, 1856, A Bledsoe sold the southeast quarter of the block to A. M. Lavender for \$7.75. On August 18, 1858, A. M. Lavender sold the tract to J. C. Seydell for \$25. On March 10, 1858, A Bledsoe sold the other three-quarters of the block to J. C. Seydell; therefore he came into possession of the entire block. The block remained in possession of J. C. Seydell until February 15, 1871 when it was sold to Mrs. Helen Gillespie.

Other transfers were made after this of portions of the block until it came into the possession of persons who eventually sold it to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South at Lancaster as follows:

**FIRST TRACT**-This tract consisted of a lot 67 1/2 X 180 feet in dimensions off the south end of the block. Upon this site the first church was built in 1874 and was used until 1911. Upon this site the parsonage was built in 1911 and remained until 1954. This lot was purchased on July 1, 1873 from J. P. Taylor by the trustees of the church for \$50.

**SECOND TRACT**-This tract consists of the balance of the block with the exception of the third tract which was known for many years as the A. Deam blacksmith lot. This second tract was purchased from J. T. Ellis Sr. by the trustees on October 25, 1886 for \$125. The trustees at that time were: J. H. Swindell, W. H. Stevens, F. M. White, J. T. Ellis, Sr. and P. N. Taylor.

**THIRD TRACT**-This tract was a lot 45 X 90 feet on the northeast corner of the block, and on this tract the A. Dean blacksmith shop stood for more than 30 years. The lot was purchased on May 28, 1909 from J. T. Ellis, Jr. and his wife for \$350. Trustees at this time were: S. L. Randlett, Willard Fisk, J. F. Holloway, P. H. McDavid, Tom Barne, J. A. Boyd, and E. E. Ellis.



## HISTORY OF WOMEN'S WORK

Written by Mrs. Mattie White  
in 1914

Far back in the 70's, the Methodist women in Lancaster were organized as a Ladies' Aid Society, as a few former members present today, can testify, but like most Aid Societies its life was uncertain. In referring to an old Church Register for 1879 when Bro. A. S. B. Ashley was pastor and Dr. Willard Fisk was church secretary, Sister Green was appointed a committee of one to try to reorganize the Ladies' Aid Society. So through the years they worked and grew discouraged until 1895 when Bro. Sebern Crutchfield was in charge. At a Conference meeting when Bishop Hendricks was with us, we were organized as a Woman's Parsonage and Home Missionary Society and named the Hendricks Society with Sister Crutchfield as president. Of the members who were in that first organization we still have six: Mmes. Georgia Rawlins, Mollie Guinn, Minnie McCurdy, Ida Mitchell, Emma Boyd and Mattie White. We believed that only the pastor's wife could fill the office of president and as the new ones came they were duly installed. Sister P. A. Edwards came next during 1896-97. She was followed by our first bride, Mrs. Charles A. Spraggins, who was too young and too new in the work to be persuaded to fill so responsible a position as president. So we elected Mrs. Emily Guy and well did she serve until 1901 when Sister J. F. Archer took her place but was followed by Mrs. Guy again. Still when a preacher's wife would serve, we certainly elected her to the office until 1906 when Sister Franklin Moore came to us. She explained to us that it was wrong to ask this of our pastor's wife. That we should learn self-reliance and know our work better and choose our president from our local members. So Mrs. P. H. McDavid was elected. Still Mrs. Moore made extra effort for systematic and more useful service. During Mrs. McDavid's term, we became more aroused to the importance of our work and made greater effort to do it well. She selected the verse we dismiss our meetings with, Prov. 3:6. During these years, we were trying to serve as best we could, visiting the sick and strangers, using every conceivable method of raising money to better the conditions of our church and parsonage, sending boxes to the Orphanage and other places.

But a new vision was coming to us. The sufferings and sorrow of the benighted in heathen lands was recognized. At the urgent request of our leaders, we added this to our work. We, then, became the Home and Foreign Missionary Society. But there was no room for idle days, for as our town grew and progressed, our little old church and parsonage began to look very shabby. Our men bought a new lot and in a few years we owned a new church and parsonage. Our share in this work was \$1000, the earning of which, gave us many busy days and much pleasure. Since 1910, the Woman's work in the Methodist Church has been known as The Woman's Missionary Society.

In 1940 when the three Methodists conferences of the three different divisions united, the name of the woman's work was changed to Woman's Society of Christian Service. The emphasis was more on Missions and study classes. The church took over the parsonage work with women of the church serving on the parsonage committee. While the women helped with church projects they did not have money making affairs as they did at first.

However, the pastors have always felt they could count on the Society for help at any time they were needed.

In addition to their mission programs, the Society has each year a special study in Bible and two studies in Missions, one for the Home and the other for countries outside the United States.

#### YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

The church records state that an Epworth League was organized in 1891 while Rev. C. G. Shutt was pastor. The report of 1894 says there were forty members. A Junior League was also organized about this time. The Preachers' reports show both of these leagues as being very active in the work of the church.

At this time, Randolph College in North town was in existence. Many of these students were members of the League. Besides the Sunday afternoon meetings, there were two outstanding activities. One was the monthly literature meeting when Miss Lutie Allen, a splendid teacher, would give a book review. The other activity was the project of the girls in supporting and clothing a Mexican girl at Holding Institute in Laredo. Miss Norwood Wynn was a missionary at the school then and often visited in Lancaster.

A clipping from the Lancaster Herald of May 1895 says:

The Children's Band will give an Ice Cream Supper on the lawn of the Methodist Parsonage Tuesday evening, May 30. Old fellow, bring your best girl and eat ice cream with us at low rates.

Aileen Boyd, Sec'y

During this period, Mrs. Alex Rawlins (Miss Georgie as she was affectionately called) was the sponsor. She gave the children splendid training in Bible and Christian manners. This same group continued through Intermediate and Senior Leagues. When the new church was built in 1910 these young people raised \$300 as their contribution. But as they went off to college or married the League gradually became inactive. Sometimes a new league was organized but because of lack of sponsors it did not continue regularly.

When the three Methodist Churches united in 1940, the name of the young people's work was changed from Epworth League to Methodist Youth Fellowship.

During the last few years, the young people have not been so active as an organization, but as members of the church have contributed much.

In the summers on 1959 and 1960, Rev. Hester conducted a walking tour in the Colorado Mountains for young people. Then in the summer of 1961, Rev. Olin Tunnell sponsored a trip through the Smokey Mountains.

Now in the spring of 1965, there are two groups for youth which are meeting each Sunday. In 1964 and 1965, Rev. Hill took some of our youth to our Church Camp at Bridgeport and has acted as counselor during each of the Camps. For the first time, this

church is offering a Bible Course for which the public school is giving credit.

In 1964, the young people were responsible for the Nativity Scene of the church lawn at Christmas season. They did excellent work.

CHURCH OFFICIALS 1965-66

Kenneth W. Pope ..... Bishop  
 Joseph M. Connally ..... District Superintendent  
 Luther A. Hill ..... Pastor

A. W. Alldridge	Mrs. S. Hansen	Orville Smith
Walter Bahn	Bill Holmes	Mrs. Orville Smith
John W. Bailey, Jr.	Ed Lutz	R. F. Thornton
Don Brashier	M. J. McAvoy	Jack Trammell
Talmadge Bredemeyer	Edgar Miller	Stanley Wagner
Tom Caverly	Hamilton Moffett	Jack Waugh
Miles Davis	Boyce Perriman	Jack Weir
Wm. H. Davis	Donald Puhlman	Jerry White
Mose Hampton	David Smith	

TRUSTEES

Bill Basnett	Charles Keller	Steve Farquhar
Burl Couchman		Keith Marks

HONORARY STEWARDS

W. A. Faulkner	Frank McDaniels	Jim Mitchell
Ed Frauenfelder		George R. Pain

Church Lay Leader .....	W. W. Henslee
Chairman of Official Board .....	Jack Waugh
Secretary of Stewardship .....	John Bishop
Financial Secretary.....	Mrs. M. J. McAvoy
Vice Chairman of Official Board.....	Walter Bahn
Communion Stewards.....	-Mrs. Orville Smith, Mrs. C. R. Kinser
Church School Superintendent .....	George Wallick
Secretary of Official Board.....	Tom Caverly
District Steward .....	Earyl Senning
Church School Secretary.....	James Byrum
Membership Secretary .....	Mrs. W. G. Pledger

Lay Member to Annual Conference .....	Mrs. Roy Filgo
Children's Department Sjperintendent .....	Mrs. S. R. May, Jr.
Recording Secretary .....	Mrs. W. G. Pledger
President WSCS.....	Mrs. Charles Smith
Youth Superintendent .....	Tom Caverly
Head Usher.....	Don Puhlman
President MYF .....	Tresa Keller
Adult Superintendent .....	Stanley Wagner
Hospital and Homes Stewards .....	Harold Edwards
.....	Mrs. Harold Edwards, Al Alldridge
Acolyte Chairman .....	Mrs. Charles Keller
Nursery Home Visitor.....	Mrs. Stanley Wagner
Director of Music.....	Mrs. Charles Freneaux
Chairman, Commission on Missions .....	Svend Hansen
Chrm., Commission on Worship .....	Mrs. Carl Norman
Vice Chrm, Comm. on Education.....	Mrs. Talmadge Bredemeyer
Chrm., Comm. on Christian Social Concerns.....	Garrett Maxwell
Chrm., Comm. on Membership & Evangelism .....	Mrs. Roy Filgo
Chairman, Building Committee .....	M. J. McAvoy
Chairman Property Committee .....	Keith Marks
Chairman, Music Committee .....	Mrs. Stan Bodeker
Chrm., Flower Committee .....	Mrs. Fisher Pain
.....	Mrs. Doyle May
Sec. of Membership & Attendance .....	Talmadge Bredemeyer

#### NEW EDUCATIONAL BUILDING

In the winter of 1965 the Official Board began discussing in earnest the need for more classroom space, since even the entry of the old Sanctuary was being used for a classroom. Once the Board voted to demolish the old building, things moved very fast, in fact many members who were living out of town were amazed at the swiftness. On Monday morning after the vote of July 8 the wreckers were here, and the preceding Sunday, July 11 a service was held in the old building. This service, though brief, was most beautiful and moving tribute made by the Rev. Luther A. Hill. He stated that he realized there was much sentiment attached to the building, but that it had served its purpose and now it was time to make way for our new needs. There were many long time members. Memorial windows will be retained. Most will be used in the new Fellowship Hall and some in a proposed Chapel. The men tearing down the building were very kind and tried to fill all the requests possible: for just one little board, or a few square nails, or a round peg-just something of the old building. Mr. McAvoy kept one of the beams for a Hall tree.

The new Educational Building will be built at an approximate cost of \$60,000, the plans to be approved at a Church Conference on August 18, 1965. The brick and architecture will match the Sanctuary built in 1957, and will house 10 classroom, a Fellowship Hall to seat 225 persons, and a modern kitchen. At the time of this writing, the plans are for the building to be completed in time for a Christmas Dedication Service.