

THE
HISTORY

THE

METHODIST

CHURCH

CADDO PARISH

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Mrs. Pearl Foster

Mr. Walter Clark

FOREWORD

Today the Methodist Church of Caddo Mills, Texas celebrates its 75th anniversary. We are happy to send this copy of the history of the church to its members and friends. The history was written by Mrs. Lorraine Buchanan Jordan, who has been a member of the church since 1912.

Information concerning the early history of the church was secured by an examination of many old documents of Texas Methodism which are recorded in the rare book room Bridwell Library at Southern Methodist University, Dallas. Rev. Neyland Hester made this research in preparation for the church's 72nd birthday celebration.

Additional information was supplied by Mrs. H. F. Royce, mother of Mr. H. A. Royce, general superintendent of the church school. Mrs. Royce is a beloved neighbor of the church and a friend for many years. Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Shuler, Mrs. R. E. Buchanan, Mr. J. L. Boyle, Mrs. A. G. Bailey, Mrs. Pearl Foster, and Mr. Walter Clark were helpful in verifying certain facts and dates.

Mr. Shuler moved his membership to the Caddo Mills church in 1907. Mrs. Shuler, daughter of W. M. Killian, received full membership in this church about 1895. Mrs. Buchanan, niece of Mrs. Hugh L. Hare, wife of a former minister of the church, moved her membership to Caddo Mills in 1903. The parents of Mrs. Foster and Mrs. Bailey were among the earliest members of the church, and Mr. Clark and Mr. Boyle are authorities for information concerning the land on which the first church building was located.

Today as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of our church, we also celebrate the dedication of our beautiful new church building. We rejoice that God put it into the hearts of his people to build this house which we today dedicate to the glory of his name and to the service of men. We are proud to have been a part of its history.

We are grateful to our fathers and mothers in the faith who have given us this heritage. In humble gratitude we remember their labor and their sacrifice.

Today we pray that we also may be faithful stewards as we go out to serve.

Kenneth B. McIntosh
Kenneth B. McIntosh

The Methodist Church
Caddo Mills, Texas
November 20, 1955

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW CHURCH

At last we've built it!
God's house!
We've dreamed about it, and the dream's come true;
And now it stands all beautiful and new,
And we, who've sacrificed and watched it grow,
Are close to tears. We love it so.

We enter softly,
Slowly...
God in the midst of us. Our hearts embrace
The pews, the pulpit; now this holy place,
The candles, cross, windows, beautiful door,
Are part of us. Forevermore.

They must have felt this
Reverence --
Abram beside his simple altar stone,
And countless worshipers the world has known
Who built for Thee a house. With them we cry,
"Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord most high!"

What shall our prayer be?
"Father,
O grant that all who come to worship here
May feel Thee very close and very dear;
Make this the high resolve of every mind,
To walk with Thee. To serve mankind.

"And send Thy Spirit
Falling
Like cleansing fire, filling us with Thy might,
Strengthening our hands, setting our feet aright;
We dedicate our church, dear Lord, and then,
We dedicate anew -- our lives! Amen."

THE HISTORY

THE METHODIST CHURCH

Caddo Mills, Texas

The Methodist Church was organized as a mission station in Caddo Mills in the year 1880. The exact month and day cannot be determined accurately from existing records. Caddo Mills was one of several churches on a large circuit in Hunt County.

According to records which have been preserved in Bridwell Library in Dallas, the first Methodist minister to serve a Methodist congregation in Caddo Mills was Rev. J. A. Stafford. This was in the conference year 1880-81. For fourteen years the congregation met for worship in homes, under brush arbors, and in the school house. Revival services were held in Massey's school in the neighboring community of Clinton.

Here is a part of the report made to annual conference in 1881 by Rev. J. A. Stafford for Caddo Mills:

Membership of 47, including eight received that year; three babies baptized; five teachers in the Sunday school; \$3.60 spent for the Sunday school; \$7.50 given for foreign missions; \$2.50 given for home missions; \$2.00 paid to the bishop; and \$41.00 paid on the pastor's salary which had been set at \$150.00 for the year.

Our church is a member of the Greenville District in the North Texas Conference. At various times in the church's history it has been a part of a circuit with Floyd, Salem, and Salem Kinser. In June, 1951 this church became a full-time station in the third year of the ministry of Rev. Neyland Hester.

At the North Texas annual conference in June, 1952 a certificate of award was given to the Caddo Mills Methodist Church for being the outstanding rural station church, and its minister, Rev. Neyland Hester, was selected as the outstanding rural minister in a station church.

Houses of Worship

In 1894 the young congregation built a small, almost square, one-room church building facing north on the site of the present R. E. Buchanan home at 206 Joshua street, diagonally across the street from the present Hanchey Park. The building lot had been purchased

from J. W. Boyle, father of J. L. Boyle who now lives in Caddo Mills. Rev. E. S. Williams was minister of the church during the building program and the year following.

Mrs. H. F. Royce, who was then Miss Laura Bass, was not a member of the new church, but she frequently served as organist, especially during the revival services, until Miss Nona Hearn, later Mrs. Wade Thomas, was ready to play for worship services. Miss Bertha Jennings, who is now Mrs. Garnet Bowman, served as organist for five years.

Rev. C. W. Glanville, who now lives at Cooper, Texas, was pastor in 1897, three years after the church was built.

In 1908, when the building was only fourteen years old, it was blown away by a tornado. The minister, Rev. C. W. Jacobs, went to work at once to lead the congregation in the construction of a new building. The ground on which the church had stood was sold to Mr. Walter Clark, and the money received started the new building fund. On June 1, 1909 bond of title was made to the church trustees transferring the lot on which our church now stands to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South to be used henceforth as a site for a house of worship.

During the construction of the second church building in 1909, the congregation met in the school house for Sunday school and worship. The first Woman's Missionary Society was organized during the same year.

The second church building was a one-room structure which was enlarged three times in the following forty years to keep pace with the needs of a growing congregation and community and a broadening concept of Christian education.

During the pastorate of Rev. C. B. Williams (1932-35) the choir loft and chancel were rearranged to make a more worshipful sanctuary, and new space was added for the small children's classes. New class space was added to the south side of the church largely through the efforts of the late Mr. J. A. Harper and Mrs. Harper. Folding doors divided the classroom space so that it might become a part of the sanctuary.

In 1937 the east side of the building was enlarged and became a large classroom for the Bluebonnet class. Twelve hundred dollars was spent on the remodeling. Six hundred dollars of this sum was raised by the efforts of the Woman's Missionary Society, and the remaining amount was borrowed from Mr. J. A. Harper. Rev. Fred Adams was minister when the work was begun.

In 1948-49, while Rev. J. Taylor Wall was minister, the interior of the church was redecorated, wall paper was replaced with fiber board, and the church furniture was refinished.

The last addition to the church which had been built in 1909 was begun in September, 1949 while Rev. Neyland Hester was minister. A building was bought from Major's Field in Greenville, and moved to the east side of the church building. The new educational building provided 2600 square feet of space for church school activities, a kitchen, two rest rooms, and a fellowship hall. The church bulletin for November 20, 1949 carried the following:

Our new building will be ready in the next few weeks for use by the church and community. Mr. Bruce Newman and Mr. T. A. Vaughan who are the sub-committee on finance for the building program report that \$1203 has been given by persons interested in the building and that \$643.85 was received in God's dollar plan. The total income to date is \$1846.85.

The new educational building was to have been opened on December 11, 1949. Early on the morning of December 5 the church was destroyed by fire. The old building was completely destroyed, and the new educational building was left a blackened shell. Cause of the fire was never discovered.

Insurance of \$10,000 was the nucleus of a building fund. The shell of the educational building was cut into two parts and sold for approximately \$1200. During the planning and construction of the new building, the congregation again used a school building for worship and study.

A called session of quarterly conference elected H. V. Jordan chairman of the building committee. T. D. Bethea was chairman of the architectural committee; J. D. Coplin was chairman of finance; H. A. Royce was chairman of construction; Mrs. Lewis Simms was chairman of equipment; and W. L. Sanders was chairman of memorials.

Other members of the building committee were: T. A. Vaughan, T. B. Weatherley Jr., Glen Graham, Rennell Royce, Mrs. M. D. Shuler, Harold Payne, Mrs. Odis Nesbitt, Guy Payne, Edgar Farr, Bob Pinegar, W. C. Dillon, Mrs. Coy Jenkins, Mrs. J. O. Cotner, Mrs. W. W. Bost, Paul Milam, Mrs. Manless Bearding, T. W. Griggs, and Bruce Newman. Lewis Simms was chairman of the official board.

James A. Russell of Alexander and Russell, Dallas, was secured as architect for the building. In late April, 1950 the building committee approved plans for the new structure and proceeded with the campaign to raise the necessary funds to finance the work. Among the means used was one that received publicity in the Dallas Morning News for April 23, 1950 and the Christian Advocate of May 18, 1950. This was the picture of Glen M. Graham and his fat calf, the first of several to be dedicated when born to be fed for a year and given to the church to be sold for the building fund.

On July 16, 1950 ground breaking ceremonies were held under a big tent which had been erected on the church building site. Rev. Earl R. Hoggard, Greenville District superintendent, preached the sermon.

The new church building and its equipment are valued at approximately \$51,500. The nave will seat 183 persons and the educational building will care for eight church school classes. The church plant includes a kitchen, two restrooms, seven storage closets, and an activities room for recreation, movies, suppers, and other informal meetings. This large room, called fellowship hall, is open for community meetings.

The new building was formally opened for worship and study on July 29, 1951 when Bishop William C. Martin and Dr. W. B. Slack, Greenville District superintendent, led services in which Rev. Neyland Hester, in his third year as minister of the church, was ordained a deacon in the Methodist ministry.

Recognizing that a spiritually healthy church must be a growing church, we now look forward to the addition of our new classrooms to the educational wing of our building to care for the needs of a steadily enlarging church school.

Memorials and Gifts to the New Church

Much of the beauty and the atmosphere of worship in the sanctuary is due to the loving generosity of former members and friends of the church. As plans for rebuilding moved forward, the hearts of the minister and the congregation were strengthened and made glad by the many encouraging letters enclosing checks that would make possible the addition of some dreamed-of portion of the plans.

The communion table is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Moore, and the beautiful brass cross and candlesticks on it were given by the sons and daughters of the late Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Hearn. The matching brass communion service is a memorial purchased with a fund started by Mrs. A. R. Bass and her mother, Mrs. Beulah Clark, and added to by many small memorial gifts from other friends and members.

The pulpit and lectern are gifts from the children of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Stevenson: Mrs. R. G. Hill, Mrs. Willard England, Mr. C. A. Stevenson, Mr. F. Briscoe Stevenson, and Mr. Homer Stevenson, and nephews, Floyd and Lavelle Harper.

The pulpit Bible and marker were given by the grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Stevenson.

The brass baptismal bowl came from the Woman's Society of Christian Service of Kavanaugh Methodist Church, Greenville, and the maroon velvet kneelers at the chancel rail are a memorial gift made possible by a fund started by Mr. Clyde Clark and supplemented

by gifts from Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Vaughan, Mr. and Mrs. Coy Jenkins, the Bearding family, Rev. and Mrs. K. B. McIntosh, the Payne family, Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Jordan, Mrs. and Mrs. H. A. Royce, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Buchanan, Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Shuler.

Mrs. J. A. Harper, Mrs. T. F. Apperson, and Mr. J. D. Coplin each gave a memorial pew.

The piano was given by the Woman's Society of Christian Service, and twenty-five copies of The Methodist Hymnal were the gift of Wesley Church, Greenville.

The small portable organ in Fellowship Hall is the gift of Miss Frankie Jean Hill, granddaughter of the late Mr. C. F. Stevenson.

A hundred cane chairs used in Fellowship Hall were given by the Kavanaugh Methodist Church, Greenville.

A picture of the Good Shepherd was painted and given to the church by Mrs. Ruth Williams.

The desk in the minister's study is the gift of Rev. and Mrs. Neyland Hester.

The clock in the hall and the pulpit clock came from Mr. G. A. Pfaeffle and his mother, Mrs. Pfaeffle, of Greenville.

The audio-visual equipment was bought by the Methodist Men, organized and charted in 1953.

The General Board of Church Extension gave \$1000, Lee Street Methodist Church, Greenville, gave a generous check, and many other gifts of money from friends in Greenville and other places helped to make today's dedication possible.

To all of these good friends we say, "Thank you, and may God bless you."

The Parsonage

During the early years of the Caddo Mills Methodist Church it was on a circuit with Floyd Methodist Church, and the pastors lived in Floyd because there was no parsonage at Caddo Mills.

As soon as the second church was built the members began a movement to purchase a parsonage, and on December 10, 1910 Dr. W. L. Day sold to the church the house and lot on which the present parsonage stands. For this property the church paid \$850. Rev. L. E. Conkin was the first minister to occupy that parsonage. Several years later the house was badly in need of rebuilding, so the pastors again made their home in Floyd. A Mr. Claytor, who was then school superintendent, tore the old house down and rebuilt

it on the same site. He occupied the house for a time until the coming of Rev. P. G. Hightower in 1929. The Hightower family moved into the parsonage which has continued to be the home of our ministers to the present time. Gradual improvement has been made in the furnishing and beautifying of the parsonage.

The Membership

No record has been found which lists the charter members of the newly organized church. Probably not more than six or eight families were represented in the 39 members whose names were on the first church roll made by Rev. J. A. Stafford.

From its 39 original members in 1880, the church has grown very slowly in numbers but it has lived in the community as a force for good, always growing spiritually.

The following families are known to have become members during the early years of the church's life: E. W. Hearn, Burl Killian, John Killian, W. M. Killian, Jim Jennings, George Street, A. B. Andrews, Ben Morrison, William Fagg, G. L. Vn Cleave, and C. F. Stevenson. Probably the oldest living person who was a member in the early church is Mrs. Sallie Jennings, who lives at 1511 Homan Avenue, Fort Worth.

Mrs. Nona Hearn Thomas is another member who joined prior to 1900. Mrs. M. D. Shuler has had the longest continuous membership, having come into the church about 1895.

Existing church records and rolls were destroyed when the church building burned on December 5, 1949.

The present church membership, as reported at Annual Conference in June, 1955 is 221. Of that number 158 are resident members. Church school membership is 140, and average attendance for the five months of this conference year has been 116.

Pastors of the Church

1. 1880	Rev. J. A. Stafford	39. 1918	Rev. B. B. Hall
2. 1881	(unknown)	40. 1919	Rev. H. G. May
3. 1882	(unknown)	41. 1920	Rev. C. B. Annis
4. 1883	Rev. F. O. Miller	42. 1921	Rev. M. P. Hines
5. 1884	Rev. J. B. Minnis	43. 1922	Rev. C. C. Armstrong
6. 1885	Rev. J. B. Minnis	44. 1923	Rev. E. F. Lancaster
7. 1886	Rev. James McDougald	45. 1924	Rev. E. F. Lancaster
8. 1887	Rev. E. B. Thompson	46. 1925	Rev. W. W. Carlton
9. 1888	Rev. E. B. Thompson	47. 1926	Rev. R. S. Kerr
10. 1889	Rev. E. B. Thompson	48. 1927	Rev. R. S. Kerr
11. 1890	Rev. J. M. Peterson	49. 1928	Rev. R. S. Kerr
12. 1891	Rev. J. M. Peterson	50. 1929	Rev. P. G. Hightower
13. 1892	Rev. I. A. Thomas	51. 1930	Rev. P. G. Hightower
14. 1893	Rev. William Hay	52. 1931	Rev. P. G. Hightower
15. 1894	Rev. E. S. Williams	53. 1932	Rev. C. B. Williams
16. 1895	Rev. E. S. Williams	54. 1933	Rev. C. B. Williams
17. 1896	Rev. R. H. Fields	55. 1934	Rev. C. B. Williams
18. 1897	Rev. C. W. Glanville	56. 1935	Rev. P. G. Hightower
19. 1898	Rev. L. A. Hanson	57. 1936	Rev. Frank Wilkinson
20. 1899	Rev. L. A. Hanson	58. 1937	Rev. Fred Adams
21. 1900	Rev. J. W. Beckham	59. 1938	Rev. Bill Morgan Smith
22. 1901	Rev. J. W. Beckham	60. 1939	Rev. Bill Morgan Smith
23. 1902	Rev. Charles W. Dennis	61. 1940	Rev. Durwood Fleming
24. 1903	Rev. Charles W. Dennis	62. 1941	Rev. Durwood Fleming
25. 1904	Rev. Hugh L. Hare	63. 1942	Rev. Duke Barron
26. 1905	Rev. J. C. Moore	64. 1943	Rev. Darris L. Egger
27. 1906	Rev. J. C. Moore	65. 1944	Rev. Darris L. Egger
28. 1907	Rev. B. H. Bounds	66. 1945	Rev. Clyde Parsons
29. 1908	Rev. Charels W. Jacobs	67. 1946	Rev. Clyde Parsons
30. 1909	Rev. W. A. Clarke	68. 1947	Rev. J. Taylor Wall
31. 1910	Rev. L. E. Conkin	69. 1948	Rev. J. Taylor Wall
32. 1911	Rev. R. N. Huckabee	70. 1949	Rev. Neyland Hester
33. 1912	Rev. R. N. Huchabee	71. 1950	Rev. Neyland Hester
34. 1913	Rev. E. F. Brown	72. 1951	Rev. Neyland Hester
35. 1914	Rev. C. C. Childress	73. 1952	Rev. Neyland Hester
36. 1915	Rev. J. V. Davis	74. 1953	Rev. K. B. McIntosh
37. 1916	Rev. J. V. Davis	75. 1954	Rev. K. B. McIntosh
38. 1917	Rev. B. B. Hall	76. 1955	Rev. K. B. McIntosh

Our present minister, Rev. Kenneth B. McIntosh, is the forty-sixth minister to serve this charge. He came to Caddo Mills from his first charge, Chicota, where in 1953 he received the award for being the outstanding pastor of a circuit for the North Texas Annual Conference.

Former ministers of our church who are still living, so far as is known, are:

Rev. C. W. Glanville - 500 S. E. Seventh, Cooper
Rev. C. C. Childress - Whitewright
Rev. B. B. Hall - 320 West Sixth, Bonham
Rev. H. G. May - Farmersville
Rev. E. F. Lancaster - 117 N. Eleventh, Garland
Rev. R. S. Kerr - 309 W. Ninth, Bonham
Rev. P. G. Hightower - Deport
Rev. C. B. Williams - 1605 Twenty-third, Wichita Falls
Rev. Fred Adams - 3201 S. Beckley, Dallas
Rev. Bill Morgan Smith - 2515 Park Street, Greenville
Rev. Durwood Fleming - Saint Luke's Church, Houston
Rev. Duke Barron - 1631 W. Crawford, Denison
Rev. Darris L. Egger - Hamlin
Rev. Clyde Parsons - Little Rock, Arkansas
Rev. J. Taylor Wall - Merryville, Louisiana
Rev. Neyland Hester - 201 Melrose Lane, Lancaster

Land Transactions

The tract of land on which the Caddo Mills Methodist Church and parsonage stand is part of a section of land granted to Catherine Havins by Governor Sam Houston on November 11, 1857 and transferred by her to J. M. McCamant on November 13, 1857. Mr. McCamant transferred the land to W. A. Mattox on January 3, 1859.

J. A. Boyle bought the property and divided it into smaller tracts. The portion which is now the church property was sold to R. H. Purdue on January 20, 1868. Mr. Purdue's daughter, Isabell, became the wife of J. W. Boyle, and she and her husband purchased from her father's other heirs their share of the estate.

The block of land on which the church is located was sold to Joe R. Bass on October 25, 1883. On March 26, 1891 the sites of the present Hollis Gideon, H. A. Royce, and Mrs. H. F. Royce homes, as well as the church's present property, were bought from Mr. Bass by J. B. Briscoe.

On November 10, 1887, the parsonage lot was sold to Dr. W. C. Welch. Mr. Briscoe gave his lots to the children of his deceased daughter, Minnie Briscoe Stevenson. The church tract was transferred to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South by deed of trust from C. F. Stevenson on June 1, 1909, "for five dollars in hand."

His daughter, Miss Birdie Stevenson, now Mrs. R. G. Hill, and his sons, C. A. Stevenson and F. Briscoe Stevenson, made deed to their interest in the property on January 6, 1914, and January 31, 1916, also for the sum of "five dollars in hand."