

THE METHODISTS OF PILOT MOUNTAIN

1899-1949



THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

PILOT MOUNTAIN, N. C.

May 22, 1949



THE MINISTERS OF THIS CHURCH

Bishop DR. COSTEN J. HARRELL

District Superintendent DR. H. G. ALLEN

Pastor REV. LEE P. BARNETT

Dedication



C. L. ASHBURN



DR. R. A. FRYE



J. A. PELL, SR.



W. R. BADGETT



R. C. BOAZ

Dedicated to the memory of these five of the Men's Bible Class, who have passed on to their reward since the present building program was started.

Sponsored by the young adults of this church.

The First Methodist Church

PILOT MOUNTAIN, N. C.

THE DAY OF DEDICATION

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 1949, 11:00 A.M.

THE PRELUDE Selected
PROCESSIONAL HYMN The Choir
HYMN NO. 381—"The Church's One Foundation" Stone
CALL TO WORSHIP

MINISTER: Serve the Lord with gladness.

PEOPLE: *Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.*

MINISTER: O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

PEOPLE: *He is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Amen.*

INVOCATION—*The Minister*

Let us pray

O God, eternal and ever blessed, who delightest in the assembling of thy people in the sanctuary; receive us graciously as we come into thy house, and grant, we entreat thee, that peace and prosperity may be found within its walls, that the glory of God may be the light thereof, and that we may be satisfied with the goodness of thy house; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

COLLECT FOR DEDICATION DAY—*Here let the people unite with the minister in prayer.*

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM Choir

"Behold, Praise Ye the Lord"—*Prutting*

CANTICLE OF THE CHURCH led by Rev. C. B. Ross

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people.

But the LORD shall rise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

And the nations shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

The abundance of the sea shall be turned unto thee; the wealth of the nations shall come unto thee.

Thy gates shall stand always open; they shall not be shut day nor night,

That men may bring unto thee the wealth of the nations, and their kings led with them.

For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, it shall be utterly wasted.

Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders.

But thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates thou shalt call Praise.

The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee.

But the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself.

For the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

GLORIA PATRI

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—*The minister and the people.*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Dr. H. G. Allen

PRAYER Rev. C. C. Washam

HYMN NO. 379—"I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord" Dwight

THE SERMON Bishop Costen J. Harrell

THE DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *The people standing*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Here let the people be seated.

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

J. A. Pell, Jr., speaking for the Trustees:

We present this building to be dedicated to the glory of God and the service of men.

Then shall the minister say:

By what name shall this church henceforth be known?

To which shall be answered:

It shall be called the First Methodist Church.

Then shall the minister say to all the people:

Beloved in the Lord, we rejoice that God put it into the hearts of his people to build this house to the glory of his name. I now accept this building to be known as First Methodist Church, to dedicate it, and to set it apart for the worship of Almighty God and the service of all men. Let us therefore, as we are assembled, solemnly dedicate this place to its proper and sacred uses.

Then, all standing, the minister shall say, the people responding:

To the glory of God the Father, who has called us by his grace;
To the honor of his Son, who loved us and gave himself for us;
To the praise of the Holy Spirit, who illumines and sanctifies us;

We dedicate this house.

For the worship of God in prayer and praise;
For the preaching of the everlasting gospel;
For the celebration of the holy Sacraments;

We dedicate this house.

For the comfort of all who mourn;
For strength to those who are tempted;
For light to those who seek the way;

We dedicate this house.

For the hallowing of family life;
For teaching and guiding the young;
For the perfecting of the saints;

We dedicate this house.

For the conversion of sinners;
For the promotion of righteousness;
For the extension of the Kingdom of God;

We dedicate this house.

In the unity of the faith;
In the bond of Christian brotherhood;
In charity and good will to all;

We dedicate this house.

In gratitude for the labors of all who love and serve this church;
In loving remembrance of those who have finished their course;
In the hope of a blessed immortality through Jesus Christ our Lord;

We dedicate this house.

Then shall the minister and people together say:

We now, the people of this church and congregation, compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, sensible of the sacrifice of our fathers in the faith, confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, do dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of Almighty God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the minister say

Accept, O God our Father, this service at our hands, and bless it to the end that this congregation of faithful people may make manifest the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of truth, and so may this house be the place where thine honor dwelleth and the whole earth be filled with thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE SANCTUS—*To be sung or said responsively by the minister and the people.*

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee, and saying:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high! Amen.

PRAYER Bishop Costen J. Harrell

HYMN NO. 384—"O Where Are Kings" Coxe

SILENT PRAYER

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL HYMN Choir

POSTLUDE Selected

Continuing Purpose

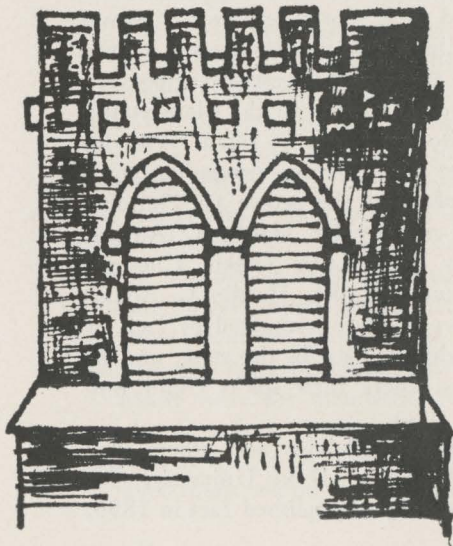
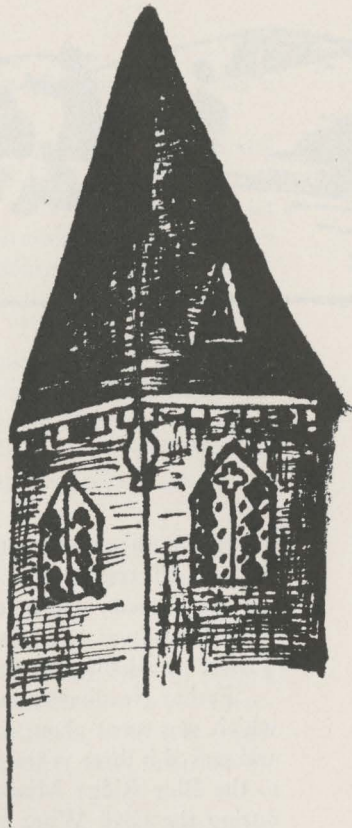
For half a century the old church spire
Pointed a finger heavenward to God.
Moved by the spirit's need and deep desire,
A little band of Christians broke the sod
And raised a house of worship in this place.
Courage it took, and prayer and toil and tears.
But there men found God's presence and His grace,
And sang His praise together through the years.

Now sons and daughters of that early band
Have built a house more worthy of His name.
It, too, bears imprint of the heart and hand
And faith of those to whom a vision came.

It stands in beauty by a thoroughfare
Where busy crowds go daily to and fro,
A dedicated symbol lifted there
Of higher sanctuary men may know.

Lord, may its doors stand welcoming and wide
To all the needy souls that pass this way.
Within may peace and fellowship abide.
And grant that all who come from day to day—
The rich, the poor, the stranger, age and youth—
May worship Thee in spirit and truth.

—*Pearl Council Hiatt*





History

By MELBA YOUNT SIMMONS

Across the pages of the history of Pilot Mountain Methodist Church lie the long shadows of two men. One was born almost one hundred years before this church was established—the beloved patriarch, Father James Needham. The other, Hardin L. Adkins, was the instigator and chief figure of the movement that established Trinity Academy, out of which institution Pilot Mountain Methodist Church grew.

Father Needham served a fruitful ministry of nearly eighty years, a large part of which was spent about and near Pilot Mountain. He organized Blue Ridge Mission and served it three years. He also served Fisher's River Mission, which later was joined to the Blue Ridge Mission. He rode the circuits of Sauratown and Pilot Mountain during the Civil War. His life, spent so sacrificially for others and for his Master, was a benediction to the whole section. There was hardly a man from the Blue Ridge to the middle of the Piedmont Plateau who did not know and revere Father Needham. It might have been said that his spirit was the leaven that grew and spread into the beginning of Methodism in Pilot Mountain.

Sometime in the late 1880's, a tall young man halted his horse at the crest of a hill in Surry County, North Carolina, and looked out over the little hamlet nestled below. There were only one or two stores encircled by a score, perhaps, of homes and a church and a school of sorts. The gently rolling land stretched away to the Sauratown Range in the south and east, and farther away to the west there appeared the misty outlines of the foothills of the Blue Ridge. It seemed to the silent young man on the horse, that here God had left good fallow fields to be tilled. With his mind's eye, he could glimpse the future of the valley as a thriving, prosperous community. But his heart burned within him over the needs of the people for churches and for schools. This young man was the Methodist circuit rider, Hardin L. Adkins, and he was returning from his congregations at New Hope, Little Yadkin, Chestnut Grove, and others. Providentially for the Pilot Mountain Valley, Hardin L. Adkins was also a man of vision. He saw how the young people were hampered by lack of education in helping their community to take its rightful place in the state, and he saw how few and far between were the churches where their spirits could find refreshment.

After further thought and much prayer, Hardin L. Adkins and others who caught the fire of his zeal appealed to Trinity College, now Duke University, for funds to build a school in Pilot Mountain. This became an accomplished fact in 1890,

when Trinity Academy opened its doors to the eager young people who came from a radius of miles in every direction to seek further knowledge.

The Academy, one of the first cultural institutions in the section, drew more and more young people to the town. The homes with facilities for keeping boarders were overflowing with students. Some students were brought by their families, who set up businesses in Pilot Mountain or bought nearby farms. Gradually the population increased, and the opportunity for establishing a Methodist Church came. Since the opening of the school, visiting Methodist ministers had often held services in its building, and around 1897, under the leadership of the Rev. T. H. Pegram, a small Methodist congregation was established. Mrs. R. E. L. Flippin, Mr. and Mrs. John Green, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Wrike, Mrs. Nancy Gordon, Mrs. Martha Green, Mr. Buck Cox, and others were among the charter members. Father Needham preached the last sermon of his earthly life to this congregation on March 12, 1899. He was to have returned on his one hundredth birthday, May 26 of that year, but succumbed to the grippe on April 1, 1899.

The infant congregation worshipped in the Academy until they could finance a building of their own. At one time the Baptist Church on Depot Street opened its doors and allowed the Methodists to hold a great revival meeting there, at which many souls were joined to Christ. In 1899 and 1900 the Methodists completed their first church building, located on Key Street. This small white frame church, with a graceful spire rising among the trees, was the home of the Methodists for some forty-eight years. It was built under the leadership of Pastor J. P. Rogers, who was transferred in autumn, 1900, and A. L. Coburn, who came at that time. Hardin L. Adkins returned to preach the dedicatory sermon.

Meanwhile, the Academy building had been sold to the town of Pilot Mountain around 1901, and the proceeds applied to the new church building. In 1908 the Academy burned to the ground, and the town constructed a new school. Few can estimate how much Trinity Academy meant to Pilot Mountain, nor how far reaching was the cultural influence of the fine men and women who taught there. Those who attended classes there hold a debt of gratitude which can be paid only by their giving to the next generation the opportunities so graciously given to them.

The small fellowship in the little white church, few in numbers but long on spirit, played well its part in the events of nearly half a century. Together they weathered two great world wars, watching a number of their young men go out to defend the ideals of their country on the battlefronts of the world. During the war of 1917-1918, the women of the congregation joined the other ladies of the town in sewing and knitting, collecting sweets for the soldiers, and packing boxes for overseas relief, under the leadership of Mrs. R. E. L. Flippin as head of the local Red Cross Chapter. The congregation joined the churches of all America in a day of fasting and prayer in the dark summer of 1918, at a time when it seemed that the Central Powers must emerge victorious. The parents of the boys overseas, joined by the other members, gathered at the altar in a great prayer for the defenders of democracy, and from that day the tide of war changed.

Many were the members of the church who met weekly in the class meetings held by Mr. John Green. Much spiritual fruit was garnered from these sessions, which were held up to and during the first war.

This thesis would not be complete without some mention of the part played in

the church by the women's organization. In 1901 the Women's Home Missionary Society was organized, after Rev. A. L. Coburn returned from Annual Conference, inspired by the gift by the Home Mission Board of \$300 toward the parsonage. Later this name was changed to the Woman's Missionary Society when the Home and Foreign Mission Boards were fused. In 1940 when the Methodist Episcopal Church joined with the Methodist Protestant and Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to become the largest Protestant denomination in America, the women's organization again underwent a change of nomenclature. This time it became the Woman's Society of Christian Service, with 41 charter members at Pilot Mountain. Mrs. C. W. Patterson was the first president of the new society. The women who have served as president of the Women's organization from its founding are as follows:

Mrs. R. E. L. Flippin
(for the first 25 years)
Mrs. J. A. Pell, Sr.
Mrs. J. A. Howell
Mrs. J. B. Jarrell
Mrs. A. T. Macon
Mrs. Ada Badgett
Mrs. R. A. Frye
Mrs. J. E. Needham
Mrs. C. W. Patterson
Mrs. T. D. Simmons

In 1939 the second world cataclysm came, and in 1941 the United States again entered war, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The little church at Pilot Mountain had sons on nearly all the battlefields of the world. The people at home backed up these lads in every way possible, from bond-buying and Red Cross bandage-rolling to filling unaccustomed jobs left vacant by the fighting men. There were many prayers offered, both publicly and privately, for the preservation of the loved ones and of the world they were trying to save. Again God was merciful, and all of these young men returned safely to their homes.

In spring, 1946, under the leadership of the Rev. Courtney B. Ross, a Young Adult group was organized. This group was made up of the younger married members of the church, and of those of their age bracket. Mrs. O. W. Smith was the first president. This live-wire group sponsored many difficult but worthwhile projects, among which were the furnishing of the club room at the Community Center, the furnishing of the Young Adult classroom in the new church, and the Daily Vacation Bible school. Also, they held many informative meetings with outside speakers and local talent, and spent many pleasant social hours together. Those who have served as president of the Young Adult Fellowship are:

Mrs. O. W. Smith
Mrs. J. A. Pell, Jr.
Dr. I. Frank Stone

In 1947 and 1948, the little white church was worn, dilapidated, and outmoded, after having served for nearly half-a-century as the place of worship. There had been a movement afoot for some four or five years previous to build a modern plant and a temple more worthy of the Father. The Revs. R. Odell Brown and Courtney B. Ross had paved the way by encouraging the minds of the people for this great

step. Due to the war and to the scarcity of material, work could not be started until summer of 1948. However, under Mr. Ross the Building Fund had grown to nearly \$20,000. In the Fall of 1947, Annual Conference sent to the Pilot Mountain Station a man experienced and knowing in the art of building a church, the Rev. Lee P. Barnett. The Building Committee, in a memorable meeting held on the night of December 30, 1947, approved the plans for the new church and agreed to proceed with them. The contract was let to Fowler-Jones Construction Company of Winston-Salem, N. C. On April 5, 1948, a group of dedicated and loyal members assembled for the ground-breaking, with prayer and thanksgiving.

All through the summer and autumn of 1948, work proceeded steadily on the beautiful modified Gothic structure which was to house the Pilot Mountain congregation. Toward the last the members watched anxiously, hoping they would be able to get into the new church by Christmas. At last the carpet was laid, the pews installed, and an humble, grateful group gathered on Wednesday night, December 15, 1948, for Prayer Meeting, the first service held in the new church. On Sunday, December 19, the first preaching service was held. Easter Sunday, April 17, 1949, was the day visitors and friends came to the formal opening. That afternoon the service of the Laying of the Corner-Stone was held, and the cornerstone of the old church was opened and its contents eagerly inspected.

Through herculean efforts on the part of the Building Committee and the congregation and its friends, the building was declared free of debt and ready for dedication. On May 22, 1949, Bishop Costen J. Harrell dedicated the new church to the "greater glory of God" and the greater good of His people on the earth. Another milestone in the history of Pilot Mountain Methodist Church was reached.

Through many vicissitudes and joys, through many labors and pleasures, the people of Pilot Mountain Methodist Church have "toiled along the upward way." All that the little white church of the past has meant to its sons and daughters, they hope the more imposing temple will mean to the future generations. It has been built upon the strong foundation of abiding faith and confidence in the God of our fathers, and long may it stand as a monument to our hope and faith in the future!

BRIEF STATEMENT FROM BUILDING COMMITTEE

We, the members of your building committee, wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to all the members and friends of this church, who without stint have given wholehearted co-operation in the erecting and furnishing of our beautiful church. You have made this service possible. From our hearts we thank you, and assure you that it has been a joy to work with you in this project.

Signed:

A. P. Fulk, Chm.
O. W. Smith, Sec.-Treas.
P. E. Simmons
R. B. Davis
P. G. Wall, Jr.
R. J. Boaz
J. A. Pell, Jr.



INTERIOR OF OUR NEW CHURCH

Former Pastors and District Superintendents

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED PILOT MOUNTAIN CHARGE

W. R. Barnett 1894	H. C. Sprinkle 1915
H. M. Blair 1895	W. F. Womble 1918
J. J. Renn 1898	J. H. West 1921
J. A. Cooke 1903	E. W. Fox 1925
L. T. Cordell 1906	W. E. Poovey 1929
W. M. Bagby 1908	A. C. Gibbs 1933
R. M. Taylor 1910	W. A. Lambeth 1936
R. L. Hoyle 1913	C. C. Weaver 1941
H. G. Allen 1943	

PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED PILOT MOUNTAIN CHARGE

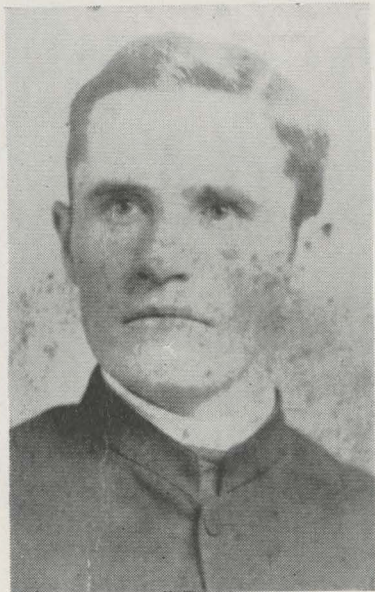
W. Mallory 1894	E. O. Smithdeal 1915
T. H. Pegram 1895	J. W. Combs 1916
J. P. Rodgers 1898	J. H. Capps 1921
A. L. Coburn 1900	J. A. Cook 1923
J. M. Rowland 1903	H. M. Wellman 1924
A. W. Jacobs 1905	J. A. Howell 1927
Jacob W. Strider 1906	W. B. Thompson 1929
J. H. Brendall 1908	A. L. Latham 1933
J. C. Richardson 1910	J. W. Bennett 1934
P. H. Brittain 1911	C. C. Washam 1935
J. W. Vestal 1912	R. O. Brown 1941
R. L. Doggett 1914	C. B. Ross 1943
L. P. Barnett 1947	

CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS OF PILOT MOUNTAIN METHODIST CHURCH

John Green	O. T. Fowler
P. E. Simmons	Dr. R. A. Frye
J. S. Patterson	A. B. Macon
J. A. Pell, Sr.	P. E. Simmons (present incumbent)



METHODISM'S FIRST HOUSE OF WORSHIP IN PILOT MOUNTAIN



HARDIN L. ADKINS
Pioneer of Methodism in Pilot Mountain



MRS. R. E. L. FLIPPIN
The only living charter member



REV. LEE P. BARNETT, PASTOR, 1947-



BREAKING GROUND FOR NEW CHURCH, APRIL 5, 1948



BOARD OF STEWARDS



THE CHOIR



WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE



CHILDREN'S DIVISION OF W. S. C. S.



NURSERY



KINDERGARTEN



PRIMARY NO. 1



PRIMARY NO. 2



JUNIOR GIRLS



JUNIOR BOYS



SENIOR YOUNG PEOPLE



YOUNG ADULTS



LELIA FLIPPIN CLASS



LADIES' BIBLE CLASS



MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

With the compliments of the builders and furnishers who are happy to have had a part in the building and equipping of this church building.

Fowler-Jones Construction Company, Inc., Winston Salem, N. C.
General Contractor

Landingham Heating and Plumbing Contractors, Winston-Salem, N. C.
Heating and Plumbing Contractor

Edmonds Electric Co., Winston-Salem, N. C.
Electrical Contractor

Brewer Paint Company, Greensboro, N. C.
Painting Contractor

Carolina Steel, Greensboro, N. C.
"We furnished all the steel"

Pfaff's Paint and Glass, Winston-Salem, N. C.
Painting Contractor

The Southern Desk Company, Hickory, N. C.
"We furnished all the seating in this church"

The following local firms, business and professional men have also aided financially in the publication of this booklet. It is their hope that you will enjoy it:

The Pilot Theater
The Big Store
Boaz Motor Company
Jarrell's Grocery
Fulk's Hardware
Surry Drug Company
Dr. H. C. Newsome
Dr. I. F. Stone
Atty. J. H. Blalock
The P. E. Simmons Company
Pilot Mountain Motor Company
Blue Star Market
Needham's Funeral Home
Smith's Drug Company
The Service Center
City Barber Shop
The Colonial Cleaners
The Pilot Cleaners
Wall and Davis Pontiac Company
Amos Smith Hosiery Mill
Armtex Mill
Fulk and Needham, General Contractors
Wall and Reid, Real Estate

