

PREFACE

A BRIEF HISTORY OF DOBSON METHODIST CHURCH

Dobson, North Carolina

1858-1966

Nannie G. Riggs

Compiled 1966
By Nannie G. Riggs

PREFACE

The information for this brief history of Dobson Methodist Church was obtained from records in the archives of the Methodist Building at Statesville, North Carolina, from the World Methodist Building Lake Junaluska, North Carolina; from the local church records, and from various individuals.

My appreciation goes to those individuals whom I interviewed and who shared in verifying the above facts.

Last, but not least, my sincere thanks go to the Rev. Donald C. Davis whose idea it was to have this history compiled and who has given valuable assistance in the undertaking.

Nannie G. Riggs

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Dobson Methodist Church began as a Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1858. The first meeting places for the church were the Martin Hotel, owned and operated by Richard Norman, and the Surry County Court House. This remained its meeting place until 1876.

Among those first associated with the church was Rev. Marquis L. Wood of the Surry circuit. He was stationed in Mount Airy as pastor of the Surry Circuit, Salisbury District, in 1858 and 1859, and in 1870-1874 as presiding Elder. He was a missionary to China between these periods. In his diary at Duke University he records the following: "Friday, April 19, 1858, preached at Dobson."*

*Miss Ruth Minick of Mount Airy, who has done extensive research on early Methodism in this section, supplied this information.

The first church building was erected in 1876-77 on a lot northwest of the Surry County Court House. Rev. W. S. Creasy was pastor during this building program.

Miss Ada Snow, formerly of Dobson, now a guest at the Salem Home, Winston-Salem, N. C., related the following which was told to her by her father, Henry Snow.

In 1876, the pastor of the congregation, Walter Creasy, Romulus S. Folger, Henry Snow, and Harden Leak, a Negro, took their axes into the woods, knelt for prayer, and cut trees to build the first Methodist Church in Dobson. When the building was completed, and plans were ready for the opening service in the new church, a lien was placed on the door for a small debt still owed for some material. This delayed the opening of the church until Henry Snow sold the same mules that had been used to haul the logs from the woods to the sawmill. With the money from the sale of the mules, the debt was paid and the door of the new church was opened.

This building was a wooden structure, painted white. The pews were arranged on either side of a center aisle. As the congregation entered the sanctuary the men took their seats on the right side while the women sat on the left side. Some of the Negro people of the community attended this church.

From its beginning until 1876, the date of the first church building, the following ministers served as pastors:

(A complete list of pastors for this period could not be determined. During some of the Civil War years no minutes were received, and in some other years the records show that pastors were to be supplied.)

Marquis L. Wood	Hugh F. Wiley
Isaac Avent	W. B. Maness
James Smoot	F. A. Bishop
William A. Smith	W. F. Needham
R. T. N. Stevenson	W. S. Creasy

The first meeting in the new church building was held in 1877, with Walter S. Creasy as pastor. After the service of worship the people joined together in a picnic dinner on the grounds.

The deed to the first church lot is recorded at the Surry County Court House showing the date of 1877 with R. S. Folger, Henry Snow and Thomas Evans as trustees.

RELOCATION

While C. C. Totherow was pastor 1922-24 the idea of a new church began to grow. From all reports, the entire church membership was most enthusiastic about the undertaking. It was decided in 1923 to relocate the church on South Main Street.

The Woman's Missionary Society labored diligently to raise funds for the building.

The Building Committee was composed of:

Grady Cooper, Chm.	Mrs. R. C. Freeman
W. B. White, Sec., Treas.	Dr. W. M. Stone
W. E. Reid	B. F. Folger

The story of its relocation is told as follows by Grady Cooper and W. B. White.

C. C. Totherow supervised the making of brick, the digging of the basement, and putting in the cement foundation. For lack of funds progress of the building stopped.

In 1926, A. J. Bowling pastor, began soliciting pledges for the building.

In 1928, with Elmer Simpson, pastor, work on the church got under way again. The old church had been dismantled and suitable material was used in the new building. During the time the present church was under construction, the congregation held services in the Dobson Baptist Church on Crutchfield Street, now used for storage by Austin-Blackwelder Co.

The contract for the building was let to Matt Hines of Mount Airy. He was paid, in part, with the brick made in Dobson. This home-made brick was used as the back-up while the outside brick was bought.

The cost of the new church building was \$12,000.

On August 24, 1930, the dedication service was held with Presiding Elder, W. E. Poovey, in charge.

From the first service at the first church building, to, and including relocation, the following ministers served in the respective years.

1876-79 - W. S. Creasy	1899-01 - Seymour Taylor
1879-80 - S. J. McLeod	1901-02 - V. L. Marsh
1880-81 - C. G. Little	1902-05 - J. W. Long
1881-82 - E. L. Stamey	1905-06 - D. W. Lowman
1882-83 - J. F. Craven	1906-10 - T. J. Houck
1883-84 - James Wilson	1910-11 - B. M. Jackson
1884-85 - R. M. Taylor	1911-12 - E. M. Avett
1885-87 - B. A. York	1912-13 - J. M. Price
1887-88 - N. R. Richardson	1913-15 - J. G. W. Holloway
1888-89 - J. M. Price	1915-18 - T. V. Crouse
1889-90 - W. L. Dawson	1918-19 - O. P. Routh
1890-92 - W. H. Perry	1919-21 - T. S. Coble
1892-93 - J. B. Tucker	1921-24 - C. C. Totherow
1893-94 - S. P. Douglas	1924-25 - J. E. Hipp
1894-95 - E. W. Dixon	1925-26 - A. J. Bowling
1895-96 - Nicholas Mallory	1926-27 - M. Q. Tuttle
1896-97 - S. D. Moore	1927-31 - Elmer Simpson
1897-99 - J. P. Rodgers	(W.J.S. Walker filling out Mr. Simpson's last year.)

Mrs. Callie Hassler of Dobson was helpful in recalling some of the above names and dates.

At the time of relocation Dobson Methodist Church was on the Mount Airy circuit, along with Dockery's Chapel, Old Siloam, Pleasant Ridge, Rockford, and Siloam.

In 1939 the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, merged into The Methodist Church. After this unification, Dobson Methodist Church was put on the Dobson Charge with Pleasant Ridge, Rockford, Siloam, and Stony Knoll.

Rev. R. G. McClamrock was the first pastor of the newly composed circuit at the time of unification. Rev. J. W. Parker was the first pastor after unification.

From the time the church was relocated to unification in 1939 the following ministers served as pastors:

1931-33 - M. A. Lewis
1933-35 - J. O. Cox
1935-39 - C. W. Russell

A major improvement in the church sanctuary was made in 1948. Those who led in this project were:

Pastor - Enoch M. Hoyle
Mrs. R. L. Folger
Mrs. Aubrey Moore
Frank Comer

During this improvement, a new ceiling was added, floors were refinished, a choir loft was built, the furniture and the interior were painted, the center aisle and the chancel were carpeted, and two rest rooms were installed. The cost of these improvements amounted to about \$2,500.

In the year 1958 an additional building known as the Educational Building was built. Rev. George Lyndon was pastor, and members of the Building Committee were:

John Norman, Chm.	D. A. McLaurin
Frank Comer, Treas.	E. T. Newell
Glenn Beasley	Horace Adams
Porter Barker	

The additional cost was \$24,000. It included a large fellowship hall, kitchen, and rest rooms on the first floor. On the second floor were a number of classrooms, the pastor's study, and the furnace room.

In the year 1964 plans were laid for a complete renovation of the Church sanctuary and its adjoining church-school classrooms. The pastor was Rev. Don Davis.

Members of the Building Committee were:

John Norman, Chm.
Frank Comer, Treas.
Otis Carter
Jimmy Davis
Mrs. S. I. Poole
Mrs. Aubrey Moore

Rev. Rollin Gibbs, Conference Director of Field Service and Finance, led in a financial crusade in which church people pledged \$27,000 in support over a three year period of time. Mrs. Frank Riggs assumed the duty of financial secretary. In addition to the \$27,000 pledged, \$3,750 was pledged or given toward stained glass memorial windows. The total renovation, including a new Baldwin Organ, came to \$40,000. This included new equipment in most of the classrooms, completion of payment on some additional land purchased next to the Church, and \$2,700 for renovation of the parsonage.

Opening day for the newly renovated church sanctuary and educational rooms and facilities was celebrated on June 27, 1965.

Invitations were sent to former pastors, former members, and friends of the church, to be our guests at the activities of this opening day.

Rev. Donald C. Davis, the pastor, was in charge of the morning worship service. Mrs. Donald C. Davis, choir director, and Smith Freeman, organist, were in charge of the music. The choir rendered the anthem, "Chorale, St. Antoni" by Haydn-Brahms, Tolmage. Mrs. Davis sang, "The Lord is My Light" by Allitsen. Dr. Frank Jordan, District Superintendent, delivered the sermon. At the conclusion of the service a picnic lunch was enjoyed in the Fellowship Hall.

The membership help Open House in the afternoon for friends of the church. This was a day to be remembered with pride in the history of Dobson Methodist Church.

Pastors who served from Unification in 1939 to the present are:

1939-40 - R. G. McClamrock	1953-54 - Earl C. Black
1940-44 - J. W. Parker	1954-57 - G. R. Combs
1944-46 - Wilson Nesbitt	1957-60 - George E. Lyndon, Jr.
1946-48 - E. M. Hoyle	1960-64 - P. T. Dixon
1948-49 - Robert C. Carter	1964-67 - Donald C. Davis
1949-53 - Ivan A. Stephens	

Under the leadership of Rev. I. A. Stephens the Dobson Church was placed as a station appointment in 1952. The total membership August 18, 1952 was 135 as listed in Membership Record Book.

In 1964 it was again put on charge, which included Beulah Methodist Church in the Beulah Community, and listed as Dobson Charge. This charge has made marked progress under the able leadership and untiring efforts of Rev. Don Davis, now in his third year as pastor.

Worship services are held at both churches every Sunday morning. The service is at 9:45 at Beulah and 11:00 at Dobson. There is an active M Y F at both churches, which meets every Sunday evening.

Mrs. Donald C. Davis most ably directs the music in both the Beulah and Dobson Churches.

Presiding Elders; now Superintendents who have served are:

Numa F. Reid	R. M Taylor
William H. Bobbitt	R. M. Hoyle
G. T. Wyche	H. C. Sprinkle
H. J. Hutson	W. F. Womble
William Closs	J. H. West
Marquis L. Wood	E. W. Fox
D. R. Bruton	W. E. Poovey
R. H. Barrett	J. T. Manqum
L. L. Hendren	A. C. Gibbs
R. A. Ellis	W. A. Lambeth
B. R. Hall	J. S. Hiatt
R. M. Hoyle	C. C. Weaver
W. R. Barnett	H. G. Allen
H. M. Blair	C. E. Rozelle
J. J. Renn	Kenneth Goodson
J. A. Cook	Lee F. Tuttle
L. T. Cordell	Frank Jordan
W. M. Bagby	Julian Lindsey

PARSONAGES

It is not definitely determined where ministers of the Dobson Methodist Church lived for the period of 1876-1886, but it is believed that some of them lived in Mount Airy or at other places on the circuit.

However, a deed executed February 2, 1886 by the trustees of the Dobson Methodist Parsonage shows that property was purchased for a parsonage. This property was a short distance south of the first church building. The house was recently razed and a Town Hall is being erected on the site.

In the early nineteen hundreds another parsonage was in use on the lot directly in front of the present church on South Main Street.

In 1907 again property was purchased for a parsonage. This was on the site of the present Dobson Elementary School. The house was bought by Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Bolich in 1942 and moved directly across the street.

In 1942 a new parsonage was built on South Main Street. This continues to be the parsonage home to the present and is owned by the Dobson Methodist Church. Prior to 1952 the above parsonages were owned jointly by the following charges: Dobson, Surry, Rockford, and Dobson-Mountain Park.