

'New' Methodist Church Dedicated In 1930

By R.J. BERRIER
Staff Writer

The Sept. 11, 1930 issue of the *North Carolina Christian Advocate* reported on the dedication of the "new Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Dobson." The church, according to J.S. Shafer, the article's author, "now stands as a monument to Methodists, not only in Dobson but also in Surry County, of which Dobson is the county seat."

The account of the dedication of the church came our way via two well-known Dobsonians, Bob Comer and Carolyn Cooper Comer. Carolyn found it among the papers of her father, the late Grady Cooper.

The church was dedicated Sunday, Aug. 24, 1930, at 11 a.m. The Rev. Elmer Simpson was pastor then.

It is interesting to note that the church, described in the article as an attractive brick building with a large auditorium and eight Sunday School rooms, cost more than \$12,000, of which the Duke Commission contributed \$3,000." The Duke Commission, it is surmised, is now more familiarly known as the Duke Endowment.

A name familiar to local Methodists, the Rev. W.E. Poovey, who was the presiding elder of the Mount Airy District at that time, preached the sermon and was in charge of the dedication of the building.

Shafer called the Rev. Mr. Poovey "one of the leading preachers of the Western North Carolina Conference." His topic was "The Church" and Shafer said the sermon "was a strong and eloquent plea for the brotherhood of Christians in the church."

Professor W.B. White, another name familiar in the Dobson area and in educational circles, made the formal presentation of the church. White did so "in the unavoidable absence of the chairman of the Building Committee, Mr. Grady Cooper,"

Walter Creasy was pastor of the newly formed Methodist organization of 89 years ago. Romulus S. Folger, Henry Snow, Thomas Evans and William Marsh comprised the Building Committee.

That early group, accompanied by Hard Leake, an African-American, went with axes in the woods to cut lumber for a Methodist church in Dobson. After the first tree was felled, the pioneer church group knelt and prayed for God's blessing and help with the church.

William Haymore and Ice Snow — more familiar names in the area — gave an acre of land on which the church building was erected. Frank Taylor was the contractor. The bell for the church was donated in 1877 by Major R.E. Reeves of Siloam.

Folger, in his dedicatory address, paid tribute to the "untiring efforts" of the Woman's Missionary Society and the pastor and his wife, the Rev. and Mrs. Simpson. The young people's choir provided music for the occasion.

The Epworth League was responsible for lighting the church.

The article reported, "The members of the Methodist church feel gratefully indebted to the Baptists of Dobson for the use of their church during the time of the construction."

Members of the church Building Committee, in addition to the chairman, Grady Cooper, Professor White and the A.D. Folger, the dedicatory speaker, included Dr. W.M. Stone, B.F. Folger and W.E. Reid.

Incidentally, the church bell, donated by Major Reeves, was used in the church that was dedicated in 1930. The bell is yet in the belfry, although unused now.



The new Methodist Episcopal Church, South at Dobson was dedicated nearly 66 years ago.

the article related.

A.D. Folger, a member of the famed Folger political dynasty who later served in Congress, gave the

informal dedicatory speech.

Folger's address chronicled the history of the Methodist Church in Dobson, dating from 1877. The Rev.