

## Chapter 1 1771- 1854

On September 4, 1771, John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, sent Francis Asbury, a young English lay person, as a missionary to America. When the Methodists in America established their own Church in 1784, Asbury was ordained as a pastor for the new denomination, serving as our first bishop. Serving the various colonies from New Hampshire to Georgia, he traveled approximately 270,000 miles and delivered 16,000 sermons in his forty-four years of work. He would preach to any group of listeners available, whether before cabin doorways, in barns, in courthouses, in jails, in crude country meetinghouses, or in the larger churches of New York, Baltimore, Richmond, and Atlanta. He came to be known as the "prophet of the long road" by the thousands who benefited from his ministry .

In the course of his travels, it is likely, though no proof exists, that Asbury made a number of visits to Kernersville, which was then but a small crossroads hamlet on the King's Highway that loosely connected the several Atlantic settlements. Lodging would have been available, and Asbury doubtless preached quite a few sermons to persons in the area, sowing the seed of Methodism which would ultimately flower into a strong and permanently organized congregation.

Since the first Methodists in Kernersville in those early colonial days did not possess a church building, they attended services for several years at the Muddy Creek Meetinghouse, built by the Quakers and located about a mile from the outskirts of the hamlet. Today all that is left of that place is its cemetery .

Although worshipping with those of another denomination had certain advantages and satisfactions, the founders of the local Methodist group longed for the day when they could have a church of their own. In the year 1837, thanks to the generosity of John Frederick Kerner, a grant of land provided the site for the initial Kernersville Methodist Episcopal Church, as well as for each subsequent sanctuary. The original structure was built during 1837-1838 by John Ross, whose remains rest in the church cemetery . That devout layman was ably assisted in his labors by several persons, the most helpful of whom, it seems, was Thomas Vass. Rough, hand-hewn timbers, mortised and held together by wooden pegs, formed the framework of that first crude building. The weatherboarding which enclosed it was probably sawed at one of North Carolina's first sawmills. The pews in the finished church were unpainted benches that faced an extremely austere pulpit without a chancel railing.

The Reverend Joshua Bethel was the first pastor of the new church. He served several churches at the time, first known as the Stokes Circuit. It would not be until the next century when the Kernersville church would have enough members to support its own pastor .

In March 1838, Bethel preached the dedicatory sermon for the new structure, using as his text these words: "It is written, my house shall be a house of prayer." The most unusual

circumstance of that dedicatory service was that it was held in a church building which, though just completed, was entirely free of debt.

In the early 1840's the Kernersville Moravians, whose church was located at Friedland, seven muddy-miles away, made arrangements to share the congregational facilities. It was deemed much more sensible for the Moravian pastor to commute to Kernersville than for groups of parishioners to undergo the hardships incident to a fourteen-mile trip to and from Friedland. As a gesture of appreciation for sharing that first Methodist sanctuary, when construction of the Kernersville Moravian Church building was begun in 1867, the list of names placed in the cornerstone included those of A. H. S. Beard, John W. Gentry, Anderson Lewis, and William Asbury Griffith, all prominent Methodists.

The ministry of the Reverend Samuel Farebee (1853-54) was particularly successful, due mainly to a protracted meeting which he held in the Kernersville church—the first revival which the local Methodists had conducted in several years. As a result of the many blessings derived from that evangelistic effort, William A. Griffith, one of the oldest members of the church, together with a close associate, John B. Stockton, agreed to hold Wednesday and Sunday night prayer meetings for one year, even if they themselves would be the only persons to attend. So encouraged were they by the attendance at those meetings, at the end of the year, Griffith, Stockton, and now Henry Young agreed to continue the two weekly prayer services for seven years. They faithfully kept their pledge until the war in 1860 called many of the men of the congregation away from home.

## **Chapter 2 1857- 1922**

The Kernersville Methodists recognized the need for providing formal secular education for the youth of the village. Consequently, around 1857, they built and operated the Kernersville Academy, which flourished as a center of learning until 1905, when the town assumed the responsibility for educating its young people. A few years later the Academy was razed, and in its place was erected a frame house that served as the first Methodist parsonage in Kernersville.

In the 1870's, Kernersville, like so many other southern towns and villages, was beginning to emerge from the depression that followed the Civil War. The railroad had come, and much of the isolation that had characterized the little hamlet on the King's Highway faded into the past. The spirit of progress that was present throughout the postwar South caused the Methodists to take a critical look at their church building. Perhaps with a feeling of regret, they realized that their old frame structure, with its host of hallowed associations, had outlived its usefulness. Accordingly, it was sold to another group in the community, who relocated it and used it as a place for worship.

The second sanctuary of the Kernersville Methodists was of brick construction and was built between 1873 and 1875. In 1877, during a district conference that lasted for four days, the new edifice was dedicated. In order to be on hand for the auspicious event, people flocked into the village from every direction, arriving in buggies, carriages, wagons, and on horseback. Although severely taxed by such an influx of friends and

relatives, the villagers proved equal to the occasion, adequately and hospitably lodging and feeding the numerous visitors.

The first child baptized in the second sanctuary was Rosa Griffith, who eventually was married to George Virgil Fulp. The late Mr. Fulp, who was a few years older than his wife, had been present at her baptism. He liked to tell about that time, remembering that as she was being carried down the aisle, an infant though she was, she turned her head toward the pew and deliberately smiled at him. Completely captivated by that smile, he fell in love with the winsome child, resolving that someday she would be his bride.

As Kernersville grew, it replaced its dirt streets and clay walkways with asphalt pavement and concrete sidewalks. The town installed a traffic light in the center of the town, forcing motorists to stop and note the progress that was taking place in the little community. The membership of the Methodist church also grew rapidly, feeling the pinch of a sanctuary that was becoming distressingly inadequate. Finally, in 1922, under the leadership of the Reverend E. O. Cole, the second sanctuary was replaced. An expert planner, as well as an astute financier, the Reverend Cole was assisted by a freehanded and self-giving membership. The building committee, chaired by William Cornelius Stafford, was enthusiastic and energetic. Yancey B. Albert, a lifelong member of the church, was in charge of the construction of the new building. D. R. McKaughan, another active leader, supervised the excavation of the basement area.

It was about this time also that, in order to have a parsonage nearer the church, the Fulp home adjacent to the church site was exchanged for the pastoral residence which had been maintained at the lot of the former Kernersville Academy.

### **Chapter 3 1923- 1953**

The years that followed the erection of this third church building were characterized by a membership growth that more than justified the financial obligation involved. Throughout those years, there was a succession of able pastors and lay leadership.

One of the highlights during the tenure of the Reverend E. P. Billups was the installation of the pipe organ, initiating a new era in the music of the church. A gift of the late G. B. Bastings of Kernersville and Charlotte, the organ was dedicated in the service on Sunday, July 7, 1935. The Reverend Billups gave the dedicatorial address, appropriately noting "The Ministry of Music." Mr. Bastings personally presented the organ to the church on that occasion, and Phin B. Ragland made the speech of acceptance for the Board of Trustees. Since that day in 1935, the Kernersville Methodists have, indeed, been able to "sing unto the Lord a new song."

In July of 1934, the church had employed Ida Maye Higgins as the first organist for the new organ. She asked for no salary, but the church gave her ten dollars for gasoline each month. What a wonderful addition Ida Maye Higgins (Dillon) became to the church. She was a beautiful Christian kind, caring, and thoughtful. She was always in her place at the

organ for church services, weddings, funerals, and on any other occasion when she was needed.

In June of 1970, Ida Maye became seriously ill, making it difficult for her to continue. Because she had promised to play for an August wedding, she honored this commitment, her last time at the organ. As her physical condition became worse, she expressed her wish to have the choir sing the Mozart "Lacrymosa" for her funeral. In her usual loving, thoughtful way she knew the mutual love that they shared would make this unbearable for them. Therefore, she asked them to make a tape of the music she loved so that it could be played for her funeral. When the sad day arrived, the choir sat together in shared grief with the family, the empty choir loft being a testimony to the sense of loss. Knowing the good news of the gospel, though, the church could celebrate the thirty-six years of service which Ida Maye Higgins Dillon had given in love.

In August 1937, the 100th Anniversary of the church was observed. The centennial celebration was enhanced by the presence of several former pastors, each of whom preached during a week of special services. Mrs. W.C. Stafford, who played a vital part in the activities of the church for several decades, compiled and read a short history of the church. Much of the material in her historical sketch is included in this material. J. Harmon Linville, chairperson of the Centennial Celebration, served again in this capacity for the Sesquicentennial Celebration (1987).

In the 1800's, splits within Methodism had created several denominations. In 1939, three of them were reunited to form The Methodist Church. The Kernersville Methodist Episcopal Church, South became Main Street Methodist Church, the congregation having chosen "Main Street" as part of its new name.

As the nation moved through years of depression and war, the strength derived from Christian fellowship enabled God to comfort, inspire, and sustain.

The autumn of 1947 saw the coming of the Reverend Roy E. Bell, a young, energetic, and multi-gifted pastor, whose dynamic personality and sermon appeal were to leave an indelible impression upon the church and community. During his six-year pastorate, a new parsonage was built. Other developments included: the dedication of the Madye Leak Pinnix Chimes, a gift of the family of J.M. Pinnix, Sr.; and the presentation of pulpit chairs by Marguerite Ring Torrence and Clay V. Ring, Sr. in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Ring.

#### **Chapter 4 1953 -1963**

When the Reverend Bell was transferred in 1953, the Reverend H. F. Kuehn became the eleventh pastor to serve the congregation in the present church building. By that time, it was quite obvious that the congregation needed to expand its facilities. Accordingly, two committees, headed respectively by G.S. Coltrane and Dr. Richard H. Whitaker, were appointed to study the expansion needs of the church and recommend ways of financing them. Almost immediately a decision was reached to launch a fund-raising campaign and proceed with plans to construct an education building behind the sanctuary. The

necessary funds were soon available, partly from pledges by the congregation and partly from a long-term bank loan.

Soon after, the Reverend S. B. Biggers was appointed. He readily accepted the challenge of a building program which had been initiated. Architectural drawings of the education structure were prepared and approved, but spiraling costs of construction had made the original estimate of \$75,000 vastly insufficient. Consequently, a reappraisal of the entire project was made, and it was finally decided that a complete renovation of the sanctuary would be a feasible inclusion in the over-all undertaking. By way of assuring the success of the revised plans, quite a large additional bank loan had to be negotiated.

Just when it appeared that work was ready to begin on the dual-natured project, a period of waiting, indecision, and postponement ensued. As the months slipped away, the building program seemed far from realization. Despite the frustrating delays and overcrowded conditions, the church continued its usual activities. Happenings of interest and import kept alive the spirit of the congregation. During this time, the graceful bronze cross suspended in the chancel loft was presented to the church by Mr. and Mrs. V. V. Vaughn and Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Cardwell.

When the Reverend Biggers moved, the ground for the sorely needed education building still had not been broken. Neither had the remodeling of the sanctuary begun. Once again, an incoming Main Street pastor arrived to be the spiritual mentor for a church that had ambitious plans for property development but was finding it difficult to implement them. The Reverend C. Jack Caudill, in coming to Main Street, helped the laity to fulfill their dreams. Work on the education building and sanctuary was able to begin. Some months later, costing approximately \$250,000, the project was completed. With both sections of the church plant air-conditioned throughout, tastefully appointed, and surrounded by fitly landscaped grounds, Main Street Church was ready to continue its growth and service in the name of Jesus Christ. A few months following the completion of the building and renovation projects, the church cemetery was enclosed by a new wrought-iron fence and provided with a very impressive entrance gateway. Also, during this period, a church newsletter was begun, providing the news and information so important for a growing church.

It is impossible, of course, to enumerate all the memorial gifts which individuals and family groups have contributed. It is proper, however, that mention be made of Mr. and Mrs. Clay V. Ring, Sr. In a labor of love involving scores of interested members and friends of the church, they made possible the presentation of handsome pianos for the sanctuary and fellowship hall. These gifts honored the organist, Mrs. Ida Maye Higgins Dillon, and the choir director, Mrs. Maxine Watson Blackwell.

## **Chapter 5 1964 -1986**

As Kernersville moved into the 60's, pastoral and lay leadership enabled the church to expand its program. The Reverend James S. Gibbs, Jr. was appointed in 1964, serving faithfully for five years.

In 1968, The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren Church merged to form The United Methodist Church. The EUB Church had been a companion denomination since the early days of the Methodist movement, with a primary mission toward Americans of German ancestry. With the merger, the name here officially became Main Street United Methodist Church.

The Reverend L. Donald Ellis was appointed here in June 1969. As the 60's ended, the church would begin an ongoing period of growth in membership and program. The first such sign was the establishment of a new staff position, "student associate." Served by college students on a part-time basis, they assisted in worship and youth ministries: Michael Brown, 1969- 71; Al Ward, 1971-73; Bruce Jones, 1973-76; and Donnie Everhart, 1976-78.

During the pastorate of the Reverend J. C. Grose, Jr., 1973-81, the church continued to expand its ministries. A number of new directions for the church were established: an 8:45 service, choirs for children and youth, expansion of the pre-school program, and adjacent properties were purchased. In 1978, the church established a full-time associate position, and the Reverend Terry Matthews was appointed to serve.

Open to the challenge of making disciples of Jesus Christ, the growth in the Kernersville area population served as an opportunity for evangelism. When the Reverend Tom Bouts was appointed in 1981, Mr. David White became the (lay) associate minister. Before the retirement of Mr. Bouts in 1985, the church had made plans for the building of an addition to the education facilities. This had become an obvious course of action if the church were going to facilitate the fellowship and learning that was necessary for Christian discipleship.

Other developments during those years included: the establishment of a men's choral group, The Singing Kirkmen; the institution of a Wednesday night fellowship; the creation of a Heritage Club, and the beginning of Camp Close Encounter, a summer opportunity for children in the community.

After the appointment of the Reverend Robert Combs in 1985, the expansion of the education facility began to be finalized. After the Reverend Donna Bartgrove served as associate minister for one year, the Reverend Perry Miller became associate pastor in 1986. At the same time, the church expanded its staff to include a Director of Christian Education, Ms. Pat Hinson.

### **Chapter 6 1987 Sesquicentennial Remarks**

Though this brief history has tended to focus on pastors, property, and program, the vitality of any church is represented by the untold faithfulness of generations of members. As Christian disciples, the witness and service of hundreds of people constitute the real history of Main Street Church. Offering themselves to God through prayer, presence gifts, and service, they have made possible a ministry for Christ in Kernersville and

beyond. Along with other Methodists, this congregation has helped to support countless expressions of love and ministry. From the fellowship and sharing experienced here at home, to the world mission of the Church, the heart of our history has come through the various ways in which we have shared and expressed our faith. Through 150 years of worship, fellowship, learning, and outreach, life in this community has been enriched.

The foundation document for this brief history was written by Mr. James Robert Blackwell, Jr. in 1968. Recently, he wrote: And so, on this 150th Anniversary of our church, we at Main Street, the legatees of a rich and proud heritage, look to the future with the certainty that the blessings and the accomplishments of the past, in which such a vast throng of devoted Methodists has played a part, will hallow the exciting years of tomorrow and inspire us to strive to bring forth increasingly bountiful harvests in the vineyards of the Lord.

We give thanks for the life of J.R.Blackwell (1904-1987). Even now, we continue to be enriched by the leadership which Maxine Blackwell brings to our choir, having served as director for over fifty years.

As we celebrate 150 years of ministry in Kernersville, we continue to look forward, remembering the words of Christ:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."  
Matthew 28: 19-20

The Sesquicentennial Events included a Choir Homecoming on March 29, 1987, Bishop L. Bevel Jones leading the Consecration of the New Education Building on June 21, 1987, and a culminating service of celebration and thanksgiving for the last 150 years lead by Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson (Retired).

## **Chapter 7 1987- 1989**

The years that followed the sesquicentennial again found Main Street struggling to determine its needs for the future and how to fulfill them. The leaders found direction in the words of Jesus, "Go and make disciples." Each aspect of the Church programming and facility planning was guided by these questions: Will it win people to Christ? Will it disciple those in Christ? Will it glorify God?

In November of 1986, The Administrative Board formed a Long-Range Planning Committee to study the programming and facility needs of our Church. One year later, the Board approved a long-range plan that consisted of goals for the various ministries of the church. The Board also sanctioned a study of the facility needs so that we could fulfill our mission to the Kernersville community. Lay Leader Chip Cole stated, "Winning more people to Christ is our mission!"

During 1988, the church realized that if it were to continue its growth in ministry in the community that it must look carefully at its mission. The Long Range Planning Committee met and discussed (1) Church and community growth over the next 20 years, (2) the use of present facilities, (3) the need for additional facilities and space, and (4) the development of the "Discover the Vision" sessions to allow for congregational input into future plans.

The Committee determined that before expanding its building, the ministry of the church must focus on the people. The outgrowth was Care Network. Its ministries included Care Outreach, Care Partners, Member Care (Crisis Support, Sickness Support, Care for Inactive Members, Older Adult Programs,) and Prayer Chains. The first Care Network Sunday was celebrated. John and Joan Bingham organized a prayer chain. The vision of Main Street included improving worship; planning for facilities and space directed by Atkinson and Dyer; expanding the ministries for children and the preschool, youth, adults, and seniors; music; recreation/fellowship; and administration.

During the last years of Rev. Robert Combs' ministry, Rev. Perry Miller served as associate minister. Under their leadership and that of Diane Marsden, Minister of Education, a Children's Council was formed to coordinate the growing Church School activities. Mrs. Mary Mullinax retired as director of the preschool, a position she had held for many years. Mrs. Peggy Day became the new director.

Dr. Douglas Fairbanks began his ministry in June 1988. He inspired the church through his dynamic sermons. As the membership grew, the congregation met in Neighborhood Gatherings with the pastor. The primary purpose was "to become better acquainted with one another in order to share our concerns, hopes, and dreams for Main Street." The first annual churchwide family picnic was held in May 1989.

In a report to the congregation in May 1989, it was stated that \$208,215 had been contributed toward the \$288,000 indebtedness for the new education building. Members were encouraged to continue giving to the building fund and applauded for their giving 1.4 million dollars during the previous five years as the base budget grew from \$206,000 in 1985 to \$360,000 in 1989.

In June 1989, Rev. Mark L. Barden became the associate minister. An orientation session was held in August for DISCIPLE: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study. This was the beginning of new spiritual growth as this program grew through the next years. Jack Whitley of Cargill Associates reported his opinions on our carrying out a capital funds campaign to the Administrative Board on October 15. In November, at a called Church Conference, members discussed, debated, and voted on the recommendation of the Long Range Planning Committee and the Administrative Board to hire an architectural firm to develop the schematics of the proposed plan for building a new sanctuary and to retain a professional consulting firm to lead capital funds campaign for the next three years.

On January 29, 1989, the Board approved the Master Site Plan that consisted of a comprehensive guide for future development of a worship facility, education space, and a fellowship/recreation facility .On May 21, 1989, the Administrative Board adopted Phase I of the Master Site Plan and directed that the Church proceed immediately to form a building committee to coordinate the plans for a larger worship facility, pursue any land acquisition opportunities for facilities and parking, and develop plans for a capital stewardship campaign. The Charge Conference elected Larry Vickery, W. J. O'Brien, Anne Coltrane, Bob Oglesby, Linda Turlington, Mike Lewis, and Scott Higgins to the Building Committee.

"God, help us to be all that you want us to be. In Jesus' name. Amen." This was the prayer for the Commitment to Worship Attendance Crusade conducted from January to June of 1990. The goal for combined attendance at both worship services was six hundred, half of the membership. The average for the first twenty Sundays was 550. Easter Sunday with three services was the only Sunday to reach the goal, but great changes were on the horizon.

### **Chapter 8 1990 -1992**

An exciting time began for Main Street in February of 1990. The Capital Funds Campaign, "A Heritage to Build Upon" began with the theme "Not Equal Giving, but Equal Sacrifice." A steering committee of 26 families led the campaign. Ray and Pat Thomas and W. J. and Shirley O'Brien were the campaign directors. Important events during the campaign included a prayer vigil on March 30-31 to pray for God's guidance and our commitment to the campaign, a gift of \$10,200 by the Great Expectations Class to kickoff the campaign, a banquet at the Benton Convention Center on April 29 with 450 attending, and finally in May the announcement that \$1,169,331 had been committed toward the \$1,000,000 goal of the Capital Stewardship Campaign.

In June, bids were taken for the Crawford House and the Scout Hut to make way for the grading and paving of the Tanyard Lane parking lots in October.

The 50th anniversary of the ecumenical observance of World Communion Sunday was held on October 6. The Methodist Church was the first to include a special offering for service ministries during the observance.

In December 1990, Rev. Diane Marsden resigned as Director of Christian Education. Kemp and Marilyn Baker wrote and directed a Christmas play for the Church. Ann Kirkman was honored at a dinner for her commitment and contributions to Care Network on February 7, 1991. Later that month, M. Scott Forrest was hired as Director of Christian Education.

In June 1991, Dr. Franklin Grice became the senior minister to lead the congregation through its building process. Bids for the new sanctuary were opened on June 27. The Building Committee made a report to the congregation on July 21 at a Charge Conference. The total sanctuary construction/furnishings cost was projected to be

\$2,171,942. Additional costs for an organ, replacement of the parsonage, and other project costs brought the grand total for the project to \$2,891,692. Contributions and expenses already paid reduced the projected funding need to \$2,427,551. Of that, \$812,000 was pledged. Thus, the projected funding need after the first pledge campaign was \$1,615,551. W. J. O'Brien, Andy Anderson, and Carolyn McKinney presented the proposal from the Building Committee to pay all existing debt on the educational building and the improvements of the sanctuary, to allocate funds for the down payment on a parsonage, and to plan for the Sanctuary Building Project. The Charge Conference narrowly passed the proposal with a vote of 126 to 117. It was a consensus that the Building Committee would take some time off and let the matter settle down. The parsonage building committee began seeking a new residence for the senior minister.

On September 22, 1991, current and former members celebrated the first Homecoming. Dr. J. C. Grose, Jr., pastor from 1973-1981, was the preacher.

In October, a prayer vigil was held from 6:00 a.m. to midnight to pray for God's guidance in fulfilling the needs of the church.

In November, Alma "Pete" Neugent retired after thirty-four years of service as financial secretary of Main Street. The financial secretary became an office position so that the church's records could be entered in the computer for the first time. Neidra Rogers filled that position.

The United Methodist Women raised \$12,716 at an auction with 75% of the proceeds going to retire the bank loan on the education building and the remaining amount going directly to missions. Indebtedness was reduced to \$81, 115. Contributions for the Building Fund stood at \$657,422.

Ministries of the church continued to grow in 1992. The education ministry to Singles began with the creation of a new class. Six attended the first class that was soon to grow to over 20. Gifts to missions increased. Thirty-one parcels were contributed to UMCOR's relief project to help feed the hungry in Russia. Over 60 additional persons including youth became involved in Care Network. A monthly prayer vigil and service began in April. The United Methodist Men won the 1992 Outstanding Fellowship Award for the Winston-Salem District and the Western North Carolina Conference in recognition of their ministry to the Kernersville community as well as Main Street Church. The Church hosted the Scandinavian Caravan including 6 Methodists from Norway, Finland, Denmark, and Sweden. The tenth anniversary of Camp Close Encounter was celebrated. Six members donated an evening of service to the Samaritan Soup Kitchen. The fellowship of the church was expanded with the addition of an adult coed softball team that played in a league with churches of eight different denominations.

Dr. Richard H. Whitaker was recognized as Lay Person of the Year in February 1992. Carolyn McKinney, lay leader, noted his purposeful, compassionate service in the name of Christ to the Kernersville community and also Main Street Church since 1936. Also recognized for over thirty years of service were W. J. O'Brien and Alma "Pete" Neugent.

Mr. O'Brien was cited for his dedication and resourcefulness to the financial well being of the church from 1959 to 1992 when the membership grew from 400 to 1200 and the annual budget grew from \$20,000 to \$471,000. Mrs. Neugent served as Financial Secretary for 1768 Sundays of counting and recording of contributions to the church. During that time, she missed only seven Sundays following an injury in 1971. She was praised not only for her faithfulness, but also for accuracy and attention to detail. Several personnel changes occurred during 1992. John Fair replaced Eloise Anderson as organist for the 11:00 service. Mrs. Anderson continued to direct the Chancel Chorale and, expand the music for the 8:30 service. Directors for the children's choirs were announced as the music program for youth expanded. Rev. Mark Harden was appointed minister at New London United Methodist Church in July. Charlie Birkner became associate pastor in August.

The planning for the construction of the new sanctuary continued. On May 31, a Recommitment Service was held with the theme: " A Heritage to Build Upon: The Dream is Alive!" The Follow-Up Committee sponsored a covered dish dinner to celebrate the results of the Recommitment process. Richard Hill reported that "membership is at an all-time high, our attendance record has held steady, our budget giving is higher and our deficit lower than at this same time last year, and the Building Fund total of cash received plus the outstanding pledges is at \$1,372,395." Larry Vickery, Building Committee Chairman, outlined steps for proceeding. Terry Weatherford, Chairman of the Finance Building Committee at Guilford College United Methodist Church, shared the successful experiences of that church following construction of a new sanctuary .Curtis Campbell, chairman of the Administrative Board, invited all church members to the informational meeting of the Administrative Board. In August, a renewed search began for a new parsonage. One was found and purchased at 5933 Kenton Drive at a cost of \$195,000. In October, an auction grossed over \$19,000 for the Building Fund. The year concluded with an inspirational presentation by the Chancel Choir under the direction of Maxine Blackwell of "The Christmas Oratorio" by Camille Saint-Saens.

## **Chapter 9 1993 -1994**

In 1993, support for the new sanctuary strengthened. The Grices moved into the new parsonage on January 30. The Second Capital Campaign was a great success. It concluded with a First Fruits Offering of \$58,663 on May 19. Also, on that day the Church Conference voted 226 for, fourteen against, and eleven abstaining to move forward with the Building Committee's recommendations to contract with Fowler-Jones Construction Co. for a total of \$1,784,565. The committee contracted for additional items and fees that resulted in the grand total of \$2,135,150.

As of June 2, two hundred households committed \$730,065 toward the Second Campaign with the additions of \$325,000 for the Pipe organ and \$136,574 for five of the seven stained glass windows. An additional fifteen households pledged without a designated amount.

So with great celebration, a Groundbreaking Service was held on Sunday, June 6, 1993, at the conclusion of the 11:00 worship service. Dr. James Ferree and Dr. Frank Grice conducted the service and proclaimed, "Together, we will build a new sanctuary to the glory of God and continue a strong mission and ministry in the name of Christ." Following a covered dish luncheon, the Grices and the Parsonage Committee hosted an Open House at the new parsonage. It was a grand day to see the visions of so many finally realized!

Mrs. Allie Fulp donated a pipe organ built by the Schantz Organ Co. of Orrville, Ohio, to be placed in the new sanctuary in memory of Mrs. Ida Maye Higgins Dillon. Mrs. Dillon, who was Mrs. Fulp's sister, had served as the first organist at Main Street Church and had continued her dedicated service for thirty-five years. John Fair guided the Organ Committee in the selection of this fine organ.

While the construction of the sanctuary progressed, the missions and ministry of the church did grow indeed. Mrs. Mary Mullinax was recognized for her 29 years of teaching in the preschool that had grown from her one class to 200 children. A new ministry for children on Wednesday nights began with the Logos program. Sunday School classes were encouraged to build prospective member lists and visit prospects' homes on Sunday, Sept. 26. On Victory Day, Oct. 3, 3,367 persons attended Sunday School. Eddie and Cynthia Cobb were recognized as Christian Educators of the Year for their many years of teaching second graders. The J. C. Grose Class celebrated its 20th anniversary. The Work Area on Missions celebrated "Alive in Missions" to inform the congregation of all the mission projects of our local church and the Methodist Church.

On October 17, Laity Sunday, Carolyn McKinney, lay leader, recalled the musical heritage of Main Street Church. She related the history of the 1934 Estey Organ in the sanctuary and honored the women largely responsible for the grand musical heritage of the church: Mrs. Maxine Blackwell, music director for fifty years; Mrs. Ida Maye Dillon, organist for thirty-six years, and Mrs. Allie Fulp who sang in the choir for fifty-seven years and donated the funds for needed repairs on the old organ and the purchase of the new one.

In November, Rev. Debra Paulsen became the associate pastor, replacing Charlie Birkner who resigned in September.

Spiritual growth continued with small groups meeting in homes using the book Called to be a Layman by Gus Gustafson. Others participated in a Weekend of Discovery. This program allowed lay people to discover God's call by using proven spiritual methods. The congregation discovered new perspectives in making vital contributions to God's kingdom in Kernersville.

The Care Network continued its vital ministry to the congregation and offered for sale note cards of the drawings of the seven stained glass windows planned for the new sanctuary.

The year concluded with the Hanging of the Greens, a live nativity coordinated by Tom and Beth Vaught, and "Gloria," by Antonio Vivaldi, directed by Mrs. Blackwell. In 1994, Dr. Frank Grice, Rev. Debra Paulsen, and Scott Forrest continued to lead the congregation. Dr. Grice began a class with emphasis on the United Methodist Church as our membership continued to grow with many adults not having a Methodist background. Home Fellowship Meetings continued. Nametags were distributed to all church members to be worn each Sunday so we would better know the names of each other.

Rev .Debra Paulsen, with the youth counselors, lead many activities and began new programs including YB's, Youth Boosters, folks at Main Street who were actively supportive, caring, and enthusiastic for our UMYF .Fourteen Youth participated in Carolina Cross Connection, a Christian service project for youth to help meet the needs of people in the Southern Piedmont and the Blue Ridge Mountain regions. They continued their support of Camp Close Encounter, in its twelfth year, and the CROP Walk. The joint Pumpkin Patch Project raised \$2,500 for the van fund, the Conference Youth Service Fund, and for our youth ministry.

Main Street Church as a whole as well as individual groups, continued its emphasis on missions. The Great Expectations Class adopted the Forsyth County Prison Ministry. The UMW studied "Build Mission in the 21st Century." Robert Jennings led the first fund-raising effort in support of an International Building Team. Sonny Simpson was recognized as Lay Person of the Year for his many contributions to mission works at many levels. Our local, national, and world mission and outreach support increased a significant 7.1% to \$117,832.

Spiritual growth continued with an Ash Wednesday Passion Mime by the Main Street Players and a Lenten cantata, "The Holy City," directed by Wesley O'Brien. Care Network's Spiritual Formation Committee sponsored the "Experiencing God Through Prayer" workshop led by Conrad Hoover, a national leader in Spiritual Formation Retreats.

The education ministry under the leadership of Scott Forrest coordinated the Sunday School Rally. The peak attendance was four hundred, which should be the average for a church our size. Vacation Bible School attendance was at a record high of 155 children and forty-nine leaders. Wednesday Night Live and the Logos program continued.

The Great Expectations Class worked diligently to complete the Picnic Shelter by installing lights, outlets, and running water.

As the construction of the new building continued, financial support for that project and the general budget grew. The Chancel Choir Dessert Social raised \$3,100 to purchase choir furnishings. Total expenditures including \$234,787 for buildings and improvements were \$642,625. At the end of the 1994 stewardship campaign for the general budget, 234 families pledged \$404,416 for 1995.

The Staff-Parish Relations committee interviewed Edward McKinney in accordance with the historic questions of John Wesley and unanimously approved him as a candidate for the ministry. The United Methodist Women promised their continued financial support to him through its Ida Maye Dillon Scholarship Fund.

Several personnel changes were made during 1994. Debbie Crowder was selected as director of the Preschool Program as Peggy Day moved to Charlotte. Susan Furmage replaced Neidra Rogers as financial secretary. Scott Forrest informed the church that he would seek other career and ministry opportunities.

The year concluded with the Hanging of the Greens Service, two Christmas cantatas and three Christmas Eve services.

### **Chapter 10 1995 -1996**

The new year of 1995 began with great anticipation of new space for worship, music, Sunday School classes, and the administration offices of Main Street Church. On January 5, the church offices moved into their new location in the new sanctuary building. On January 29, a Transition Service led by Dr. Grice and Rev .Debra Paulsen remembered the contributions of the old sanctuary to the life of Main Street and concluded with the movement of the congregation to the new sanctuary. The first worship service was held there on February 5. The Consecration Service of the sanctuary as a place of worship, the pulpit, communion table and the baptismal font was lead by Bishop L. Bevel Jones, III on February 12. A Dedication Service for the new Schantz organ and the stained glass windows that were paid for was held on February 19. An organ Dedicatory Recital followed that same day with Dan Miller, organist. On April 9, an Open House for the Kernersville community was held followed by a Chancel Choir presentation of "The Seven Last Words of Christ." The Cornerstone was laid on June 4. Following a brief service, James Edwards inserted a time capsule holding a collection of materials significant in our church life. Celebrations continued throughout the year with numerous concerts and organ recitals.

While the building itself was exciting, we could not forget the spiritual growth of our church family. French O'Shields led a seminar on Preventing and Overcoming Depression. Dr. James Efird, Prof. of Biblical Interpretation at Duke Divinity School, led a study entitled "The Week that Changed the World," events of Jesus' last week. The Main Street Players presented the Passion Mime. The UMYF attended Spirit US at Fort Caswell Beach with 800 other youth singing, worshipping and praising God. Marion Fitzpatrick led a study class based on Life of the Beloved by Henri Nouwen.

The growth of the music program was accented by the gift of a Kawai Grand Piano to the choir rehearsal room by Kristen and Wesley O'Brien in honor of his aunt, Mrs. Allie Fulp. A highlight of the year was Music Emphasis Sunday on Nov. 4 in which all the choirs and musical groups of the church participated.

Patty Shepard became the interim Director of Christian Education. Under her direction, the children participated in the traditional Walk Through Holy Week and continued to attend Sunday School in record numbers. One hundred fifty children in Vacation Bible School studied children's missions to help them understand its importance. As an outgrowth, the fifth grade class sponsored a Gleaner's Garden project to sell leftover vegetables. The Advent Fair concluded the year with donations of toys, hats, and mittens to the Bethlehem Center.

On June 25, a churchwide picnic was held with an informal Program of Farewell to the Grices." They were honored for their innumerable contributions to Main Street.

Dr. Floyd Berrier was named the new minister. He and his wife, Ann, were formally welcomed on July 9 at a reception. Dr .Berrier quickly had the congregation look to the future with congregational meetings, "Dreaming the Possible Dreams," to share our beliefs about what our church was to be and to do. These dreams became the foundation for the goals of Main Street.

Dr. Michael Brown, a former youth minister at Main Street, was the 1995 Homecoming preacher .Both services included an inspirational sermon and an update of the contributions for capital improvements.

During 1995, our members and friends contributed \$547,388 toward the general budget and \$211,465 to the building debt. It was with humble thanks that this money was received.

The year concluded once again with meaningful Christmas services, outstanding music, beautiful poinsettias in the sanctuary, and many contributions to the Christmas Stocking Fund in honor and memory of our church family.

Dr. Floyd Berrier began 1996 by calling all ninety persons involved with "ministry teams" related to the Council of Ministries together to plan for the implementation of the goals established earlier .Our direction came from the following vision statement:

We are committed to being a church where emphasis includes:

- Strengthening our relationship with God
- Encouraging Christian family growth
- Sharing Christ with others
- Responding to human needs
- Relating to a contemporary world

Because of the planning of the Council on Ministries, the following activities took place: continuation of the Overcoming Depression workshop; a Bible study of Daniel and Revelation by Dr. Mickey Efird; celebration and service of the eleven Care Network Ministries; a parenting series, "Bringing Up Kids Without Tearing Them Down;" "Discovering and Using your Spiritual Gifts" study led by Cynthia Cobb; Healing/Wholeness worship services on Sunday evening; a Men's Retreat entitled "How

to Make It Without Losing It" led by Yogi Yarborough; a UMYF sponsored concert by Salt, a contemporary Christian group; and the addition of Sunday School classes, new ministries including a Wednesday evening service, and other activities that addressed the vision of Main Street Church. A congregational meeting was held in August to converse about the emphasis of our church in the future and to consider the vision statement.

Main Street continued to expand its mission giving and works. In March, we emphasized through special offerings the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) which helps with relief from natural disasters, AIDS, drought, poverty, and hunger and the United Methodist Agency for the Retarded (UMAR), a mission to help developmentally disabled adults lead a normal life. The UMYF raised funds for its mission trip and contributed \$500 to support missions of the Youth Service Fund. The Pumpkin Patch raised over \$6,000 for our youth group and mission projects embraced by the Kernersville community. The UMYF sought churchwide support for two Hispanic Ministries by collecting household items and food to be distributed through the Wesleyan Ministries Mission Project. Finally, the UMYF sponsored a Bone Marrow Testing Drive. They contributed \$1000, and the Red Cross tested 238 persons. Second graders sold "Muffins for Missions" to help a local man in need. The congregation contributed 175 cans of food and \$665 for the Hurricane Fran Relief Project.

Main Street was saddened by the death of Colleen "Granny" Snyder on Jan. 30. For 20 years, she had kept the nursery for our babies. A memorial fund was established in her memory, with the contributions designated for the upgrading of the playgrounds. A dedication service was held on Sept. 22.

While the mission and ministry continued, the Administrative Board studied the future needs of the church. A church conference in February discussed the possible purchase of the property at 223 S. Cherry Street. In March, the Board approved the plan for the third Capital Funds Campaign. The goal of the campaign was \$900,000: \$490,000 for sanctuary building, \$110,000 for Perry property, \$75,000 for a contingency fund, and \$225,000 for mission outreach. The campaign, led by James Berry and David Raiford, was entitled "Disciples in Action." Later in the year, contributions were received to expand and upgrade parking.

On May 19, "All Choirs Sunday," the music inspired us as we sang "Come Christians, Join to Sing." We focused on expanding our dream through "Disciples in Action." The following Sunday, members hosted 27 Home Fellowships to discuss our new financial campaign.

Several personnel changes occurred during 1996. Debbie Crowder resigned as Director of the Preschool. Patty Shepard became the new director. Liza Garner became the Director of Adult Ministries while Patty Shepard focused on Children's Ministries. Carolyn Wemyss resigned as receptionist/coordinator of volunteers after seven years of service. Tina Higgins replaced her. Rev. David Cook replaced Rev. Debra Paulsen as associate pastor.

During the year, thirty-two people were baptized, and 128 became full members. Our membership (not including children 0-12) stood at 1,491. There were 351 baptized members under the age of twelve. We gave \$609,372 through the annual budget and \$192,492 for capital improvements and additional missions. We were truly "Disciples in Action!" Many Sunday School classes, the United Methodist Men, and United Methodist Women did additional outreach.

## **Chapter 11 1997- 1998**

Dr. Floyd Berrier, senior pastor; Rev. David Cook, associate pastor; and Patty Shepard and Liza Garner, Christian Education Coordinators, led Main Street in "Our vision -The Christ Connection." The year 1997 became another year of mission and ministry to the people of Kernersville and the world.

Chip Leonard and Eric Richardson joined other Methodists as part of a WNC Conference Building Team to Puerto Rico. The first and second graders collected \$400 in soup can donations for the Samaritan Soup Kitchen on Soup-er Bowl Sunday. The children began participation in the Heifer Project International that believes that when hungry people are given a way to feed themselves, they will not go without food. The children's Sunday School raised over \$2000, enough to buy four cows. Habitat for Humanity formed a partnership with Kernersville churches to build the first home here. Bob Oglesby led Main Street in this significant project, and the Outreach Ministry Group donated \$15,000 from the Disciples in Action funds. Otis Durham and Caroline Martin lead a Disciple Bible Study at the Stokes Correctional Center. Nine members completed training in the Laubach Method given by the Adult Literacy Initiative of Forsyth County to help adults who wanted to learn to read. Other missions in which our members participated included the Samaritan Ministries, Operation Lunchbox, SOS (Support Our Students) and Kairos to help build strong Christian communities within prison walls. From the Disciples in Action funds, over \$26,000 was given to missions during 1997. In addition, the UMW, mW, and Sunday School classes continued their gifts to special projects, such as donating supplies to area schools and the Hispanic Community.

"Strengthening our relationship with God" was our priority. To achieve this goal, the Council on Ministries planned special programs. Dr. John Killinger, of Birmingham, Alabama, preached during special weeknight services. Dr. Mickey Efird led us in "Tongues of Fire," a journey through Acts. Ed Kilbourne combined contemporary Christian music and spiritual storytelling during both services. We were urged by our ministers and the General Board of Church and Society to stop radio and TV ads for alcohol. Leonard Day, a noted authority on the ministry of God's blessed angels, shared real-life encounters with angels he had discovered in his extensive research. Rev. William Roth of Pastoral Counseling Center led couples in "Dialoguing: Skills for Relationships," an opportunity to learn and practice proactive communication skills. These programs were in addition to our strong children's, youth, and adult Sunday School classes and Vacation Bible School for children and adults.

The United Methodist Women continued their support of Edward McKinney at Duke Divinity School. He preached on Student Recognition Sunday at both services.

While the growth of Main Street continued, it was necessary again to look at its facility needs. Meetings were held in August to inform the congregation of its needs and gather their opinions. Tours of the old sanctuary building were given so that members could consider its condition and options for the space it occupies.

Sarah Gramley, chairman of the cemetery committee, directed much needed repairs in the cemetery. Stones were cleaned, straightened, and repositioned. Damaged cedar and hardwood trees were removed. The fence was repaired and painted. Locations of plots were designated following the map that David Holt replotted and mapped.

Several personnel changes occurred during 1997. Anne Saxon was employed as full-time director of music, and Rev. Ellen Fisher was hired to direct/coordinate all educational ministries. The music and educational programs grew significantly under their outstanding leadership.

In 1998, Dr. Floyd Berrier, senior pastor, continued his spiritual guidance by leading a group to the Holy Land. As he shared his experiences and reflections, the congregation grew in their understanding. Other significant spiritual events included "Visions of Hope" -Isaiah and the Messianic Tradition led by Dr. Mickey Efird, "The Angels of Easter" led by Leonard Day, and Ed Kilbourne leading both services in singing and storytelling, Twenty Disciple graduates were recognized.

Main Street acknowledged its need to expand its evangelism in the community. John Fair designed a web page for the church that has been visited frequently. Rev. Dale Hilton became the Minister of Visitation and Evangelism in order that more newcomers and members could receive pastoral visits. Dr. Richard Horn, a staff counselor of the Winston-Salem Pastoral Counseling Center, opened an office in our church in order to expand our pastoral counseling ministries in the Kernersville area. The Witness Ministry Group operated a pilot program in ten neighborhoods as a means of reaching new families as they come to our community. They planned to expand this to ten more neighborhoods. The Family Life Council surveyed families in order to find the greatest need and interest for the development of new programs.

Rev. Ellen Fisher, Minister of Discipleship, continued to lead us in Christian Education. New adult classes for Bible Study and young couples without children were formed. Twenty-two confirmands and ten volunteers gathered at Lake Junaluska Assembly for the Annual Confirmand Retreat. A new program for third through fifth grades called Kid's Klub was begun in order to provide activities for this age group beyond Sunday School. The Sunday School for children, youth, and adults, as well as the Vacation Bible School, grew through careful planning and meaningful programs.

Main Street Church collectively, as groups and as individuals, showed its concern for missions by generous gifts of time, talent, and money. The Outreach Ministry Group purchased 400 blankets to be distributed by Church World Service for people affected by

disasters; donated \$500 to paint the chapel at Forsyth Prison Ministries supported a church in Mayodan destroyed by a tornado and donated additional funds to Habitat for Humanity, UMAR; and several building teams including ones to Mexico and Puerto Rico. Members donated cookies for Kairos at the Central Prison and spent nights with the homeless at the Samaritan Inn. The New Horizons and fifth grade classes sponsored a car wash for the Heifer Project. The United Methodist Women and other classes participated in Operation Lunchbox, which provided lunches to needy children during the summer. The United Methodist Men sponsored the Golf tournament to support its missions. Our members participated in a Bowl-a-thon that raised \$12,000 for Habitat for Humanity. Bell-South made a matching gift of \$11,500 for this mission. The UMYF continued their support of and participation in Habitat for Humanity, the Ronald McDonald House, the MS Zoo Walk, a mission trip to Hayesville, NC, and Camp Close Encounter. The children supported missions by continuing the Heifer Project (\$5,180) and bringing sixty-three layettes to the manger at the Christmas Eve Service for the UMCOR.

The grand musical tradition of Main Street continued under the leadership of Anne Saxon. The UMYF presented Amahl and the Night Visitors. Music Emphasis Sunday was celebrated on August 23 with the combined choirs singing at each service. The adult choirs held an all-day retreat with David Pegg to prepare for Christmas music. Eighteen children, ages eight to eleven, attended the first Children's Choir Camp at Main Street. The Chancel Choir, Kirkmen, Blackwell Singers, and Handbell Choir presented a Gospel Music Concert. Proceeds were used to purchase the fifth octave of handbells needed to complete the standard set. The Christmas season was celebrated by outstanding presentations of Adoration: In Search of a King by Dennis and Nan Allen by the combined choirs and Back to Bethlehem by the Alpha and Omega Choir. Mrs. Maxine Blackwell, music director for over fifty years, and Mrs. Allie Fulp, choir member for over fifty years and donator of the organ, passed away this year. However, the music program of Main Street is a legacy of their musical and financial contributions.

Rev. David Cook, associate pastor, felt led to converse about a new appointment with the Western North Carolina Conference. He became the pastor at two churches in Lewisville. Clifton Kelly became the new associate. He was a recent graduate of Bible Divinity School at Texas Christian University. Becky Groom was employed as Wednesday evening hostess.

Edward McKinney, who was taught in the Sunday School classes of Main Street and was later supported by the Ida Maye Dillon Scholarship as well as the United Methodist Women, Circles, and the J.C. Grose Class, graduated from Duke Divinity School and was appointed associate pastor of Grose United Methodist Church in Asheville. Edward is believed to be the first youth from this church to enter full-time ministry. About this same time, Otis Durham, an adult member of Main Street for several years, adhered to his call to the ministry and enrolled in Duke Divinity School.

In May, the Administrative Board adopted plans for paying all indebtedness on the Sanctuary Building by May 1, 1999. The Board requested that all members pay their

remaining pledges to "Disciples in Action" and for non-pledging persons to give more generously.

As the Church planned to complete one project, it also looked to the future with the Ministry Study Group. The Group distributed a survey to obtain the opinion, preferences and beliefs about the direction of Main Street for the next five to ten years. Marilyn Weiler presented the results of the survey to a Church Conference in November. The four areas of emphasis were Didache -to instruct individuals in the faith so they can grow spiritually and morally strong Koinonia -to nurture and care for one another-to build up the Body of Christ Diakonia -to serve those in need, simply because they are in need; and Kerygma -to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ-Jesus is Lord!

The strength of Main Street at the close of 1998 was outlined by Dr. Berrier in the following information: sixty-three people were baptized, eight of them adults; forty-eight people became new members by profession and/or reaffirmation of faith 625 was the average Sunday worship attendance; 398 was the average Sunday School attendance; \$170,200 was given for ministries beyond our local church; \$370,700 was paid on building indebtedness; \$1,050,605 was the total giving; and membership increased by sixty-two to 1,572.

## **Chapter 12 1999**

The year 1999 began with new spiritual opportunities including Jubilee Days, a mini-retreat for women in the second half of life; Celebration of Discipline, 13-week study of Richard Foster's classic book of spiritual disciplines; Growing Spiritually Through the Hard times, a seminar led by Dr. Richard Horn, staff counselor; and a Home Bible Study for Women, a monthly Bible study led by Karen Heater. Dr. Mickey Efird led The Problem of Evil.

Dr. Berrier and Rev. Ellen Fisher repeated the Bible Basics Class, an overview of the whole Bible with an emphasis on learning skills to help one study the Bible. Faith Treasures, a plan to help children learn some important scriptures and worship service elements, was begun. Ellen Fisher reported that seventeen Sunday School classes had a combined enrollment of 520. She reported interest in two new classes for Women Only and for Men Only. The ministry for Singles continued to expand.

In an effort to keep in touch with all the members of our growing congregation, the Shepherding Committee sought additional persons to call members who missed three consecutive Sundays.

The United Methodist Women began its seventh circle. It continued its ministry to women and service to others. In January, Lynn Gilbert, treasurer of the WNC United Methodist Women, brought information about the many missions women support. The first call for missions in 1999 was Blanket Sunday. With the contribution of \$2000 from Outreach Ministry and the \$4080 of special offerings, 1,216 blankets were sent to people in need. As the year continued, two teams of volunteers stayed overnight at the

Samaritan Inn for the Homeless in Winston-Salem. Nine persons from Main Street joined nine others from the Conference in a two-week church building experience in Puerto Rico.

As we moved through the Lenten and Easter seasons, several special events prepared us for this time: Lenten music, "The Cross;" the fifteenth annual Walk Through Holy Week by K-5 children; a Foot Washing; the Passion Mime and Lord's Supper; the "Seven Last Words of Jesus" and Tenebrae Service; the Sunrise Service led by the inspiring UMYF; and meaningful Easter Sunday Services.

A Building Committee was elected at a Called Church Conference on March 15, 1999. The following agreed to serve: Curtis Campbell, Henry Connolly, Richard Eskridge, Liza Garner, Steve Gaskey, Michele Graves, Keith Huskins, W. J. Johnson, Susie Routh, Lynn Swaim, Ray Thomas, Tom Vaught, and John Weiler. Included in this committee's responsibilities was the task of reflecting on a "Plan of Ministry" adopted by our church in 1998 and information from congregational meetings in 1997 and presenting to the congregation preliminary plans (if any seem needed) for renovation and/or expansion of our buildings.

On May 16, 1999, Bishop Charlene Kammerer led us in the dedication of the Sanctuary Building. Dr. Floyd L. Berrier, Rev. Ellen Fisher, Rev. Dale Hilton, and Cliff Kelly proudly and spiritually celebrated as the note of debt was burned. Anne Saxon led the choirs in beautiful arrangements of John Rutter's "Gloria" and Randall Thompson's "Alleluia." The vision of the Long-Range Planning Committee appointed in 1986 was a reality. Now we seek God's purpose for Main Street in the coming years.

Our Vision for Our Church is the Christ Connection which will enable us to:

- Strengthen our relationship with God
- Encourage Christian family growth
- Share Christ with others
- Respond to human needs
- Relate with a contemporary world

Our Vision for Kernersville

To be a supportive community of Love as shown in Jesus Christ

## APPENDIX

When this church was established in 1837, it became one of over twenty churches on the Stokes Circuit. The pastor-in-charge of a circuit was often assisted by various "Local Preachers." Often times, because of a shortage of pastors, Local Preachers were in charge of the circuit.

Pastors: Stokes Circuit of the Salisbury District, North Carolina Conference

1837-39 Joshua Bethel  
1839-40 H. H. Tippet  
1840-42 Gaston Brown  
1842-45 John w. Lewis  
1845-46 J. D. Lumsden, G. W. Nicholson  
1846-47 J. D. Lumsden  
1847-48 W. J. Duval, Henry Gray  
1848-49 Alfred Norman  
1849-50 Lemon Shell  
1850-51 Michael C. Doub

In 1849, Stokes County was divided in half, forming Forsyth County. A Methodist church was established near the new courthouse in Winston, which became the present Centenary United Methodist Church. The North Carolina Conference decided to establish a new circuit to accommodate the growth in the area. The Kernersville Methodists became part of the new Forsyth Circuit soon after its organization in 1851.

Pastors: Forsyth Circuit of the Salisbury District, North Carolina Conference

1851-52 Michael C. Doub  
1852-53 Jeremiah Johnson, James Needham  
1853-54 W. I. Harris, Samuel Farebee, William W. Abea  
1854-55 C. M. Anderson, Michael Doub  
1855-57 Solomon H. Helsabeck

One of the most prolific pastors in the area, Solomon Helsabeck was appointed to the circuit for four separate pastorates. He kept accurate records and had an extensive diary. His papers are at the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) Library. In 1857, he reported that our church had a total of 83 members. One of the first actions taken by Helsabeck was to purchase "a proper book and insert the names of all the members of the circuit, baptisms, marriages, etc." Also, he helped to initiate the development of the Kernersville Academy, a Methodist school, by directing that the circuit help establish its library.

1857-59 Zebedee Rush

In 1859, the Forsyth Circuit became part of the Greensboro District, indicative of the growth and development in the area.

1859-61 David W. Doub  
1861-62 Solomon H. Helsabeck, C. M. Anderson  
1862-63 James E. Mann, C. M. Anderson, N. G. Whittington  
1863-64 C. M. Anderson, N. G. Whittington  
1864-65 Charles C. Dodson  
1865-68 J. W. Wheeler  
1868-69 Ira T. Wyche  
1869-70 J. S. Alford  
1870- 72 Solomon H. Helsabeck  
1872- 73 Solomon H. Helsabeck, Zebedee Rush  
1873-74 Zebedee Rush  
1874-74 J. W. Lewis  
1875-77 Solomon H. Helsabeck  
1877-79 Moses J. Hunt

During 1878, our church reported a total of 167 members. Moses Hunt was a proponent of permanent Sunday schools, especially since our church had shown that one could operate throughout the year. Since there were numerous churches on the circuit, pastoral services were infrequent. It was important that each church develop its own program of spiritual growth and discipleship. The Kernersville Methodist Episcopal Church, our predecessor, had made a significant step in that direction.

1879-80 G. P. Douglas  
1880-83 T. H. Pegram

In 1883, the North Carolina Conference split the Forsyth Circuit in half. The churches in the eastern part of the county became organized as the Kernersville Circuit. With J. C. Thomas appointed as pastor, there were six churches on the circuit, with a total membership of 267. In 1887, the number of churches would be reduced to four, with a total of 280 members.

Kernersville Circuit:

1883-86 J. C. Thomas, with Moses Hunt, 1884-85  
1886-87 R. G. Barrett  
1887-91 T. H. Pegram

Reflecting the growth of North Carolina Methodism, the North Carolina Conference was divided in half in 1890. The eastern part of the state retained the name "North Carolina Conference." Kernersville became part of the new Winston District, Western North Carolina Conference.

1891-93 E. J. Poe  
1894-96 W. C. Willson  
1896-98 W. M. Curtis

The four churches on the Kernersville Circuit were: Love's, Kernersville, Bunker Hill, and Bethlehem. Toward the end of 1896, N. D. Sullivan of Love's built a small four-room house for Willson in Walkertown. Willson had lived in Kernersville during both years of his pastorate. Before Willson could occupy the house; however, he was given a new appointment. When W. M. Curtis was sent to the Kernersville Circuit in November 1896, he did not occupy the house. When the appointments were read at Salisbury in 1896, it was read out for Kernersville Circuit. He wrote, "My first problem was where to live. There was no parsonage on the circuit. Mr. N.D. Sullivan at Walkertown had built a small house near the church (Love's) and offered it to me without cost. My wife's mother would be with me, and the house was too small. My predecessor had lived in Kernersville, and I decided to make my home there. I rented a house and was comfortably situated."

When the salary support for the pastor was determined in 1897, Love's was to pay \$300 of the total, Kernersville \$250, Bethlehem \$40, and Bunker Hill \$20. The people at Love's felt that since they were paying the larger amount of the salary, the pastor should live at Walkertown. The church decided to increase their salary, separate from the circuit, and support its own pastor (known as a "station" appointment). After the Annual Conference session in November 1897, the Kernersville Circuit included the Kernersville, Shady Grove, Mt. Pleasant, Bunker Hill, Zion, and Mt. Vernon churches. Several years later only four of these constituted the Kernersville Circuit: Kernersville, Mt. Vernon, Shady Grove, and Bunker Hill. A report of Pastor James Willson in early 1905 reveals the state of the Church on the Kernersville Circuit: The general state of the church is good but hardly as good as it ought to be. Several of the churches are hardly doing as faithful work as they should."

1897-98 S. D. Peeler  
1898-99 B. A. York  
1899-01 D. H. Comann  
1901-03 H. H. Jordan  
1903-04 W. S. Hales  
1904-05 T. H. Sikes  
1905-06 James Willson  
1906-08 W. M. Biles

In a report filed late in December 1906: "There is a noticeable change in the spiritual condition of the people. Not only do they attend church, but also they are becoming more pious. Christmas in Kernersville has been marked by an almost total absence of drinking and carousing. "

1908-12 H. C. Byrum  
1912-15 C. P. Goode  
1915-17 I. M. Price  
1917-20 T. I. Ogburn  
1920-24 E. O. Cole  
1924-25 L. A. Falls

1925-28 W. G. McFarland  
1928-32 T. I. Rogers  
1932-36 E. P. Billups  
1936-38 Thomas R. Wolfe  
1938-40 E. L. Kirk

After many years in sharing pastors with other churches under various alignments, Main Street became a "station" appointment in 1940. At the Annual Conference session, the last remaining partnership (with Shady Grove Church) gave way to Main Street's new status. The growth in the church's membership and financial stability enabled the church to support its own pastor.

1940-43 Arthur Barber  
1943-47 E. M. Avett  
1947-53 Roy E. Bell  
1953-56 H. F. Kuehn  
1956-60 S. B. Biggers  
1960-64 C. Jack Caudill  
1964-69 J. S. Gibbs, Jr. Associate Ministers:  
1969-73 L. Donald Ellis  
1978-81 Terry Matthews  
1973-81 J. C. Grose, Jr.  
1981-85 David White  
1981-85 Thomas Routs  
1985-86 Donna Hartgrove  
1985-88 Robert W. Combs  
1986-89 Perry Miller

Much of the commentary in this appendix was made possible by use of a book which was written for the history of Love's United Methodist Church, Walkertown: A House Not Made with Hands by Larry Tise, 1966. Harmon Linville drew other comments from our own records for the history through 1986.

#### Selected Church Statistics from Recent Years

Year	Membership	Average Worship Attendance
1941	261	N/A
1950	302	N/A
1960	460	N/A
1971	567	247
1980	815	335
1986	1027	410

#### Ministers Since 1988

Senior Ministers:

Dr. Douglas Fairbanks -June 1988- June 1991  
Dr. Franklin R. Grice-June 1991-June 1995  
Dr. Floyd L. Berrier- June 1995 to present

Associate Ministers:

Mark L. Harden -July 1989 -August 1992  
Charles Birkner -September 1992 -September 1993  
Debra D. Paulsen- November 1993- June 1996  
David A. Cook -June 1996 -June 1998  
Ellen F. Fisher (Minister of Discipleship) -October 1997 to present  
Clifton H. Kelly -June 1998 to present;

Membership/Budget Figures Since 1988

	Membership	Budget	Total Giving
1988	1,070	\$322,296	\$318,560
1989	1,103	360,048	454,542
1990	1,156	407,680	567,199
1991	1,206	457,184	500,927
1992	1,215	471,484	491,797
1993	1,231	508,716	1,126,040
1994	1,258	503,828	642,625
1995	1,365	528,840	740,295
1996	1,437	580,959	712,531
1997	1,510	608,467	855,816
1998	1,572	665,567	1,050,605

Full members as of April 16, 1999- 1,591

Budget for 1999 -\$697,386

Building debt as of May 16, 1999 -\$0