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**THESE STORIED WALLS: AN HISTORICAL
SKETCH OF MT. OLIVET UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
1803-2003**

**BY
HORTON**

*These Storied Walls:
An Historical Sketch of
Mount Olivet United Methodist Church, 1803-2003*



Clarence E. Horton Jr.

Bicentennial Sunday
7 September 2003

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The Coming of the Methodists

The close of the eighteenth century was a time of vast change and movement. Scots-Irish and German settlers flocked from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia through the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and down the Great Wagon Road into the Carolina backcountry. Some came from South Carolina and Georgia, following roads through the Pee Dee-Yadkin basin. The Presbyterian and Lutheran Church (as well as the kindred German Reformed Church) were well established in western North Carolina, and the Baptists and Quakers had strong churches in some areas, but the Methodist itinerant preachers joyfully accepted the challenge of bringing the Gospel message to the wilderness settlements.

In 1778, the Roanoke, Tar River, and New Hope Circuits were formed from the original North Carolina Circuit of 1776. When Andrew Yeagan was sent into the valley of the Yadkin in 1780 to establish the work there, Cabarrus County had not yet been set off from Mecklenburg and Stanly County was a part of Montgomery; Davie and Davidson were still a part of Rowan County. The new Yadkin Circuit generally encompassed the entire State of North Carolina west of Guilford County.

By 1783, the Yadkin Circuit in 1780 had increased from 21 to 348 members and another circuit was needed. The Salisbury Circuit was formed with Beverly Allen, James Foster, and James Hinton as pastors. The new Circuit apparently included Rowan County (including those portions that became Iredell, Davie, and Davidson Counties); the part of Surry County which later became Stokes and Forsyth; and portions of Cabarrus, Randolph, and Montgomery lying west of the Uwharrie-Pee Dee River System. In 1789, Daniel Asbury and John McGee began the work of forming the Lincoln Circuit, which included portions of Burke, Rutherford, Lincoln, and Mecklenburg (including future Cabarrus) Counties in North Carolina; and portions of York, Spartanburg, and Union Districts in South Carolina.

The rivers which crossed North Carolina made east-west travel difficult, and settlers in Piedmont North Carolina found it easier to trade with neighbors in South Carolina and Virginia than with those in eastern North Carolina. Thus, from 1785 to 1800, Methodism rapidly spread from Charleston, South Carolina, into North Carolina's southern tier of counties. Territory east of the Pee Dee River was released to the North Carolina Conference in 1850; not until 1870 was the area west of the Pee Dee released by the South Carolina Conference. That territory included Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Stanly, Anson and other counties.

It is difficult today to imagine the obstacles faced by the early frontier ministers. Most lived on fried bacon and corn bread, often eaten cold and in the saddle; they slept on dirt floors or on pine slabs if they were fortunate enough to find a friendly hearth. Many met them with dislike, some with outright abuse. Their numbers included frail, scholarly men who must have shuddered at the thought of the trackless wilderness before them. Yet it could be said of most of them, as Bishop Coke did of Hope Hull: "Mr. Hull is young, but is indeed a flame of fire. He appears always on the stretch for the salvation of souls."

Beginnings

In 1784, Jesse Lee, a powerful and charismatic minister who served as Chaplain to the House of Representatives in Washington from 1809 to 1815, and who introduced Methodism into New England in 1790, was sent to the Salisbury Circuit. His *Journal* records his preaching at Salisbury on June 12, 1784; the following day – Sunday - he preached at "Hern's, to a large company . . ." On Monday, June 14, he preached at "brother Carter's . . . to a weeping congregation," then later in the week at "John Randall's, C. Leadbetter's, and Cole's." The journey Lee described was the route of the wagon road which ran from Salisbury in a southeasterly direction through the edge of Mecklenburg (now Cabarrus) County, then through that portion of Montgomery County lying west of the Pee Dee River (later, Stanly County), crossing the Rocky River at a ferry, and so on into Anson County. That is the earliest mention of a meeting house, or preaching point, in the Cabarrus area.

The route followed by Jesse Lee must have become the established route for the Methodist circuit riders. In 1802, William Ormond was appointed to the Salisbury Circuit. He preached at the "Dutch Church" in Salisbury on Sunday, 28 March 1802; at "Brother Hearne's Meeting House" on the 29th; and at Carter's on the 31st of March, 1802. His *Journal* reveals that he often stayed the night at Hearne's, referring to him as the "Class Leader." In 1803, James Patterson succeeded Ormond on the Salisbury Circuit. Patterson's *Diary* shows that he preached at "Hearne's Meetinghouse in Cabarrus County" on September 13th, 1803, and then at Jacob Carter's in Montgomery County on the next day. Records in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Cabarrus County reveal that the Hearne family owned land in the extreme eastern part of Cabarrus County near the County line, between Big and Little Bear Creeks; Elisha, William, and Jesse Hearne were listed as landowners at that time. Unfortunately, we find no further written record of Hearne's Meeting House.

The Great Revival

In 1802, the flame of Methodism in the Cabarrus County area was fanned by a great religious revival that spread throughout the entire area between the Yadkin and Catawba. The Presbyterians began the camp meeting movement in the area, but the Methodists carried it to its greatest fruition. Men like William Ormond, James Patterson, and John McGee preached at meetings all over the Yadkin Valley. Orators such as Daniel Asbury and James Jenkins attracted entire pioneer families on journeys as long as one hundred miles to share in the experience. Families camped out for four or five days in makeshift tents; only later did permanent shelters begin to be erected by church organizations. James Patterson recorded in his *Diary* descriptions of camp meetings in Montgomery County in April of 1803, in Randolph County in July of 1803, and at the well-known Snow Creek Campground in Iredell County in August of the same year. The meeting places were within traveling distance of Cabarrus County's faithful and we can be sure some attended. Presbyterian minister and historian W. H. Foote records a camp meeting held in the bounds of Cabarrus County in 1802, but was not able to give us the location of the meeting.

Sugar Creek Circuit

Fired with the spirit of revival, new churches were begun and old ones strengthened. When the Sugar Creek Circuit was formed in 1815 from territory in the South Carolina Conference, it included portions of Anson, Mecklenburg, and Cabarrus Counties, McKendree Church in Iredell County, and Thyatira Church in South Rowan County. At the time of the organizational Quarterly Conference on 5 May 1815, Bethel, Mt. Moriah, and Rogers were among the oldest preaching points in Cabarrus County. They were joined by thirteen other

"preaching places": Roses', McCorkles, Mayhews, Christenbury's, Martin's, Charlotte, Chalk Level, Cathcart's, Thyatira, Walases [Wallace's], Harisons, Newhope, and Howels. Minutes of the first meeting reflect an offering of \$16.63 3/4 paid to the Preacher in Charge, William B. Barnett. At that time, the Sugar Creek Circuit was a part of the Catawba District of the South Carolina Conference.

Those early minutes of the Sugar Creek Circuit furnish our first documentary evidence of the church that was to become Mount Olivet. Tradition and early Mt. Olivet histories tell us that services at that location were held under a brush arbor, then in a log building built near the site of the 1937 church parsonage. We have no description of that first log church; however, a description of the early manner of Presbyterian worship gives us valuable insight into those early churches:

The earliest settlers gathered for worship in private homes, or, when the weather permitted, under the shadows of great oaks or perhaps in a booth covered with clapboards or brush. Meetinghouses were soon erected, however, in every Scotch-Irish settlement. The earliest of these meetinghouses were built like the homes of the settlers themselves, out of rough unhewn logs, generally in the shape of squares or parallelograms, if the logs were long enough; if not, cruciform, with twelve sides. Fireplaces were rare. Seats were puncheons hewn smooth or split logs with four legs. Earthen floors remained the custom through the colonial period.

While we are not certain about the description of that early log meeting house, we know that it was located on the lands of one John Rogers. In 1803, John Rogers bought a tract of 100 acres from John Moffett, who had in turn inherited it from his grandfather Charles Moffett. Several acres of this tract were used for the meeting house which became known as Rogers Meeting House, and then as Mt. Olivet Methodist Church. Either there was a house of worship on the land in 1803 when John Rogers purchased it or he built one soon thereafter, for when the Sugar Creek Circuit was organized Rogers Meeting House was an "older" church according to Dr. Elmer Clark, noted Methodist historian. Methodist historians in the Western North Carolina Conference have settled on the 1803 date as the likely beginning point for Mt. Olive United Methodist Church, although there may well have been an even older preaching point on the location.

John Rogers, who became a successful merchant in Concord, is buried in the old cemetery at Mt. Olivet. His tombstone shows his date of birth as August 1776, and date of death as 23 July 1864. On the 1850 Census, John Rogers recorded his place of birth as North Carolina. His sister, Susannah Rogers Glover, who is buried near him, listed her place of birth as Bedford County, Virginia. If her information is correct, then this branch of the large Rogers family in Virginia moved to North Carolina before the birth of her younger brother, John. We may never be certain about the early details of the life of John Rogers, although it is a longstanding tradition at Mt. Olivet that he was the son of George and Martha Rogers, who are also buried in the Rogers section of Mt. Olivet cemetery. The early land records of Cabarrus County do not record any conveyances to George Rogers, but we do find him mentioned in the early minutes of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for Cabarrus County as a witness to land transactions and a jurymen. The presence and location of the first church buildings in the vicinity of the church cemetery is also confirmed by deeds made in 1830 when John Rogers and his neighbor, John Phifer, swapped thirteen acres of land to straighten their common boundary line. One of those lines was described as crossing Three Mile Branch and running South to the "Meeting House."

The early Rogers Church building must have been adequate for conference meetings. Quarterly Conferences

were held at Rogers on 27 July 1816, 14 August 1818, 16 1819, 12 May 1820, 1821, 30 July 1825, and 16 June 1832. The meeting of 27 July 1816 was significant: John Rogers, leading member of the church, was elected to the responsible position of Conference Steward, to serve along with David R. Dunlap. Rogers served in that position until 4 July 1829, when Andrew Moore was appointed Steward in his place.

Sugar Creek Circuit was renamed Charlotte Circuit in 1834. In that year, Rogers Church joined the growing Sunday School movement. At the Quarterly Conference held at Bethel Church on 13 September 1834, "It was Resolved that this Quarterly Conference form itself into a Bible, Tract, & Sunday School Society for the promotion of the Bible, Tract, & Sunday School cause in the bounds of this Circuit." The Circuit experienced such growth that the ministers were not able to adequately serve the large multi-county area. On 18 March 1843, the Charlotte Circuit Minutes contain a Resolution "that the following preaching places be dropped, viz. Mt. Dows, Ormans, Wilefords & Pisga and that the preachers of Center Circuit be solicited to take Rogers and Old Bethpage and that the Charlotte Circuit be reduced to a three weeks circuit."

Center Circuit

Rogers Church joined the Center Circuit in the Cheraw District from 1844 through 1846, when the Concord Circuit of the Lincolnton District was formed. The Center Circuit, one of the most prosperous and influential in the state, was formed in 1833 from part of the Montgomery Circuit, which had absorbed the old Rocky River Circuit in 1820. At first called the Yadkin Circuit, its bounds were described by the Reverend David Derrick, the first assigned minister, as "bounded on the East by the Peedee and Yadkin Rivers and on the west by the Cold Water Creek and on the North by the South line of Rowan County and on the South by Rocky River."

Reverend Derrick described those he found living in his area of work as primarily of the German Lutheran and German Reformed faiths, with "some few Baptists" and a "goodly number of Methodists." His work was richly blessed: he added 161 members to the Church the first year of his ministry. In 1834, Rev. Derrick was returned to the Circuit and added 111 members. In January of 1837, after an absence of two years, Rev. Derrick was returned to the Center Circuit with Rev. Abel Hoyle whom he described as a "fine little man and a good Preacher for his experience." Derrick describes in his *Diary* that he "met with a kind reception" in the Cabarrus-Stanly area: "Near two hundred souls were converted on the circuit this year and 230 admitted on trial. We built and finished six new churches which were all dedicated to God – and one commenced in Concord the county seat of Cabarrus, N. C. – I had hard work to obtain a lot and get the house started but God was on our side and help us to him be all the Glory." The church he founded by preaching in the Courthouse was Central United Methodist Church which opened its doors in 1838 as Concord Methodist Church. Reverend Derrick's hard work again bore fruit when Mount Pleasant Methodist Church was organized in 1848. The formation of Union Methodist Church to serve the Hileman's Mill Community in 1833 was also probably a direct result of Derrick's preaching. Another of the Concord area churches which may trace its beginnings to the revivals in the meeting grounds in Concord is Rocky Ridge Methodist, organized in 1842. The formation of St. Paul's Methodist Church in 1855 on what is now Highway 200 in eastern Cabarrus County completed the antebellum development of Methodism in Cabarrus County.

Severe weather in early 1856 prevented Reverend Jacob L. Shuford from keeping all his appointments on the Concord Circuit of the Charlotte District. He ran a notice in the *Concord Gazette* on 12 February 1856 setting out the churches on the circuit and the times he expected to preach there. Appointments included: Concord, Union, Rogers, Mount Pleasant, Emory, Gold Hill, Mount Moriah, Love's Chapel, Asberry

[Asbury], and Smith's School House.

Thus, by the beginning of the Civil War Era, there were ten Methodist congregations serving the Cabarrus County area. Bethel, Bethpage, Mt. Olivet, Concord [Central], Rocky Ridge, Mt. Pleasant, and St. Paul's, are still active; Union Church merged with St. Matthews in 1888 to form Mt. Carmel Methodist, located on the Old Concord-Salisbury Road. In 1867, Mt. Moriah and Asbury united to form Center Grove Church on Highway 200 near the Stanly County line.

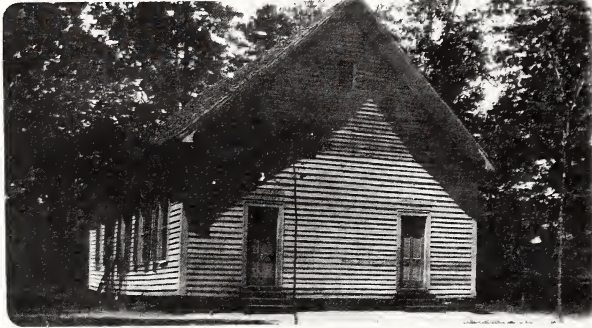
The Concord Circuit

Although the early records are not complete, all indications are that Rogers Church was a part of the Concord Circuit from 1847 to 1852. In 1853, the Charlotte District was formed and the Concord Circuit, including Rogers, transferred to it from the Lincolnton District. By deed dated 27 June 1851, John Rogers transferred a tract of one and one-quarter acres on which the meeting house stood to Daniel Dry, J. L. Bundy, and other Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to "use and occupy the said tract of land as a place of stated preaching," but withholding the power of sale from the Trustees so that the land "shall remain as a place of worship for the Methodist denomination to be used for that purpose and that purpose alone forever." The deed is recorded in Book 20 at pages 61 and 62 in the Cabarrus County Registry. The land granted was the area where the former church parsonage was located, and is the site of the log churches. Before the deed was presented for registration on 7 May 1856, additional trustees had to be elected, the number being insufficient: Roger Daywalt (Dayvault), Levi Fink, Daniel Litaker, and Nicholas Cook, were elected by the congregation to serve as Trustees. By 1858, Samuel Murph had replaced Levi Fink as a Trustee, as evidenced by the second John Rogers Deed dated 4 September 1858, in which he conveyed about three acres to the Trustees, including the original one and one-quarter acre tract. The additional land included part of the present cemetery and sanctuary areas. Again, the Deed stated that the land was not to be sold but was to remain as a "place of public worship for the Methodist community. . . forever." The original deed was recorded in the Cabarrus County Registry in Deed Book 23 at page 154, and is held in the church lockbox.

At the December 1858 Conference, the Charlotte District, including the Concord Circuit, was absorbed by the Wadesboro District. According to District records there were then 604 white members, 230 white probationers, 296 black members, with 104 black probationers. During 1858, \$133.03 was raised on the Circuit for Missions, and \$15.00 for Sunday Schools. There were six Sunday Schools, with 40 officers and teachers, and 278 scholars. The Concord Circuit, with ten churches and one parsonage, was a vital part of the Wadesboro District from 1867 to 1870, when the South Carolina Conference gave up the last of its North Carolina territory. The minutes of the November 1865 Conference reflect a white membership of 760, with 199 white probationers. Black membership was 383, with 107 black probationers. Three local preachers assisted with the work. By the next conference, many of the black members had been lost to their own churches, as there were only 40 black members on the entire Circuit. The ten Sunday Schools boasted 64 teachers and officials, supervising 404 students.

During the tumultuous decade of the 1860s, the log church was replaced by a frame building which served the congregation until it was replaced in 1914 with a modern brick sanctuary. Mrs. Pearl Hopkins recalled that the old church was heated with a pot-bellied stove located near the center of the building. Oil lamps with reflector shades in the back were hung on the walls to provide lighting. The wooden pews were not smooth and finished as modern ones are built. After some years, an outhouse was built near the church.

Mrs. Hopkins also recalled that the first preachers rode to the church on horseback. Since the church was on a circuit, services were not held every Sunday and were sometimes held on Sunday evenings. There was no guarantee that the service would end "on time." That depended on "whether he had something else he wanted to say to us." Children sat with their parents and had to remain quiet or suffer the consequences later. The only special services Pearl Hopkins remembered were those at Easter and Christmas. There were no sunrise services at that time. At Christmas, a church member would bring in a tree. The adults would help the children string popcorn with a needle and thread; paper rings were made by coloring papers, cutting strips and gluing them with flour paste. The same decorations were used on the smaller trees at home. The Christmas treat bag usually held an apple, orange and piece of candy, all of which they were "tickled to get."



MT. OLIVET METHODIST CHURCH
BUILT 1860-1870

The South Carolina Conference surrendered its last territory in North Carolina in 1869. During the formative years thereafter, Mt. Olivet was to find itself in a number of circuits: the church was on the Rowan and Union Circuit of the Salisbury District in 1871 and 1872, on the Mt. Pleasant Circuit of the Charlotte District in 1873 and 1874, returned to the Concord Circuit of the Charlotte District in 1875, the Mt. Pleasant Circuit of the Charlotte District in 1876, and was part of the Concord Circuit of the Charlotte District from 1877 to 1880. We first find the name change to Mt. Olivet documented in Branson's *North Carolina Business Directory* for 1877-1878, under a listing of churches for Cabarrus County. In 1881, the Concord Circuit was finally transferred to the Salisbury District, and Mt. Olivet entered a period of great growth and service. There were five churches on the Concord Circuit when good records began to be kept in 1884: Mt. Olivet, Union, Center, Rocky Ridge, and Bethpage.

Two strong Sunday School classes were already serving the Winecoff community from Mt. Olivet. The first class for which records survive was organized on the first Sunday in April of 1871, with Henry Bonds as Superintendent. After two years, J. A. Fink replaced Mr. Bonds. He was followed by J. R. Means, M. H. Winecoff, and J. H. Earnhardt. Mr. C. J. Goodman was named Superintendent in 1895, serving until 1914 when he began teaching the class. H. A. Scott, the former teacher, succeeded Mr. Goodman as Sunday School Superintendent. The large class was mixed until about 1929, when it became so large that it was necessary to separate the group, and the class became the men's class. Mr. Goodman, a well-known dairy

farmer, was so successful as a teacher that the class numbered 50 members by 1939, with an average attendance between 30 and 35 students. In that year the class was named for him on its 68th anniversary.

The Lillie Scott Bible Class was organized by Mrs. Martin Henderson Winecoff in 1880 to serve the women who brought their children to Sunday School. Mrs. Winecoff was the former Margaret Catherine Elkins, born in Concord on December 4, 1850. Her father was Willis Elkins, a merchant and leader in the Concord Methodist Church; her great-uncle was John Rogers. After the untimely death of her mother, John and Martha Rogers helped rear the child. Mrs. Winecoff taught Class No. 2 until her death on February 5, 1888. The class was later named for Mrs. Lillie Scott, who taught it for forty years.

The surviving Quarterly Conference records for the Concord Circuit of the Salisbury District begin with the meeting of February 16, 1884, at Center Church, located south of Concord. At each Quarterly meeting the preacher assigned to the charge was to submit a written report on the number and state of the Sunday Schools, and also on the "general state of the church." W. S. Black was presiding Elder and Z. P. Rush was serving as preacher on the charge. The secretary and recording steward was J. A. Fink of Mt. Olivet. Reverend Rush made an appeal "in behalf of the parsonage debt." At that time, the parsonage for the Concord Circuit was located in Concord, from which location the minister served the five churches on the circuit. He also noted that at three of the appointments the Sunday Schools were suspended during the winter months, but had been in operation at Mt. Olivet. He indicated that the congregations had been "fair" considering the bad weather, that the spiritual condition was "medium" and the "prospect helpful."

At the third conference held at Mt. Olivet on 31 August 1884, and at the fourth conference at Bethpage Church on October 18, 1884, the Sunday Schools were emphasized. Reverend Rush noted in his report that the "school at Mt. Olivet excels the others . . . as [S]uperintendent J. A. Fink is training the children to become interested in all the enterprises of the church . . ." In 1885, St. Matthews replaced Bethpage Church on the Circuit. The financial report indicates that Rev. Rush was actually paid \$489.00 of his \$530.00 salary.

In 1886, Rev. W. L. Grissom began a fruitful period of service on the Circuit. A child of Mt. Olivet, D. M. [Daniel Milton] Litaker applied to the Quarterly Conference for a license to preach. Litaker was born in Cabarrus County on October 22, 1867, the son of Daniel T. and Elizabeth Andrew Litaker. Converted in Mt. Olivet at age 15, he entered Trinity [now Duke University] College in 1886, and joined the North Carolina Conference in 1888, at age 21. At the October 1, 1887, Quarterly Conference held at Center Church, D. M. Litaker reported that he had preached 22 times, and that he was then at Trinity College "preparing for the great and responsible work to which I feel that I am called." In 1890, Litaker was joined by Thomas E. Winecoff, whom the Mt. Olivet church conference recommended for a license to preach. Today, the Reverend Doctor Thomas E. Winecoff rests in the Mt. Olivet cemetery beside his beloved wife, Allie E. Black Winecoff; his tombstone proudly bears these words: "Anglican Priest and Servant of Man."

On July 14, 1888, the Trustees reported to the Quarterly Conference held at Union Church that "they have met and think it wise [for Union Church and St. Matthews Church] to unite." The Conference authorized the Trustees to dispose of the church buildings in order that they might unite at some place to be decided upon by a building committee.

M. V. Sherrill was appointed to serve the Circuit in 1889 as minister, with J. T. Gibbs as Presiding Elder. He was succeeded by Rev. Thomas W. Smith in 1890, a year in which the Salisbury District become a part of the Western North Carolina Conference. J. J. Renn served as Presiding Elder for the District during that

historic year. At the first Quarterly Conference held at Center Church on March 8, 1890, Reverend Smith reported that there was only one Sunday School in operation. "That is at Mt. Olivet under the superintendency of M. H. Winecoff. The school is doing a good work and is improving with a good prospect. There is in this S. S. a good Missionary Society which is doing much in this community in spreading information and inspiring zeal. The schools at the other churches will probably open soon."

In 1902, Mt. Olivet was joined by Mt. Carmel, Center, Rocky Ridge, and Boger's Chapel on the Concord Circuit. W. W. Bays served as Presiding Elder and Reverend F. W. Bradley ministered to the growing circuit. In 1904, under the leadership of Reverend W. V. Honeycutt, there were five Sunday Schools in operation. The Epworth League at Mt. Olivet was "in very good working order and is we trust doing good." Elected as officers of the Epworth League were Ira Winecoff, M. H. Winecoff, J. A. Fink, M. E. Winecoff, Homer Winecoff, and Ida Winecoff. Ida Winecoff was also appointed to lead the Mt. Olivet ladies in furnishing the parsonage of the Circuit.

By the end of 1905, the Trustees for Mt. Olivet, through Chairman J. A. Fink, reported that the property of the church, being about three and one-half acres, was in good condition, free of debt, and of about \$800.00 value. No insurance was carried on the property at that time. The church was experiencing growing pains and the frame building was becoming outdated and difficult to heat. At the meeting of the Conference on 20 January 1906, at Rocky Ridge Church, a Building Committee was appointed for Mt. Olivet: C. J. Goodman, G. A. Shinn, J. N. Winecoff, W. C. Litaker, and J. N. Dayvault. Reverend Honeycutt reported that there was one Senior Epworth League [at Mt. Olivet] and six Sunday Schools, with 35 officers and teachers, and 290 scholars. By 1907, there was still the one Senior Epworth League at Olivet with 32 members, and 315 members in the Sunday Schools. By the second Conference on 25 May 1907, at Rocky Ridge, there were two Epworth Leagues at Mt. Olivet, a Senior and Junior League. In his final report, Reverend Sherrill complimented the fine work done by the Missionary Society at Mt. Olivet and Center Church.

Reverend Bascom A. York emphasized missions during his ministry, which began in 1908. L. W. Earnhardt was elected as a leader from Mt. Olivet in the Laymen's Missionary Movement later that year, and Reverend York noted the presence of a "live Sunday School Missionary Society in Olivet" During Reverend York's second year of ministry at Mt. Olivet, a staunch worker was gathered home when M. H. Winecoff died on September 27, 1909, and was replaced as Trustee by W. M. Patterson.

In 1909, Dr. York noted that a Woman's Home Missionary Society has been organized at Olivet Church "and it promises to do great good." Statistics submitted to the First Quarterly Conference for 1910 revealed a total membership on the Circuit of 613, with 2 Senior Epworth Leagues in operation. Reverend York had been paid a salary of \$800.00 for 1909 and a salary of \$900.00 was estimated for the new minister, W. P. McGhee, for 1910. Two children of the church, H. L. Scott and Lura Scott, were at Trinity College. The 1911 records reveal that the Reverend H. L. Scott was continuing his education at Yale University, Lura Scott was at Trinity, and Roy Goodman was at A & M College. Earnest Winecoff was attending "Lenox" College, and James F. McGhee was studying at Cornell University.

At the first conference meeting for 1912, the conference agreed to inaugurate a "plan of catechizing the children once or twice a month at each church in connection with the Sunday School." The Epworth League at Mt. Olivet was still flourishing, as it reported at the April meeting that it met twice a month for devotional meetings, and boasted 48 members. In a report signed by Mrs. W. N. Barnhardt, President, the Mt. Olivet Woman's Home Mission Society reported a membership of 19 for 1912. The group had collected \$18.20 in

dues, raised \$40.00 for a scholarship in China, and \$10.00 for a Christmas offering. In 1913, Mrs. C. J. Goodman, Treasurer, reported that \$40.00 was raised for the Olivet Fink Scholarship in China, and that \$17.50 in dues was collected.

1914 was a watershed year for Mt. Olivet's congregation, which had dreamed for years of a modern sanctuary to replace the frame structure in use since the Civil War era. A building committee was appointed at the Circuit Quarterly Conference for 25 April 1914: C. J. Goodman, H. A. Scott, and A. W. Winecoff. Earlier that year, C. J. Goodman was named Church Lay Leader, and H. A. Scott became Sunday School Superintendent at Mt. Olivet, a position he held for some twenty-eight years. Guiding the congregation as Stewards were: J. A. Scott (also Recording Steward), W. M. Patterson, W. N. Barnhardt, J. A. Furr, A. W. Winecoff, and W. A. Fink. Trustees for the Church were: J. A. Scott, W. A. Fink, G. A. Shinn, W. M. Patterson, and C. J. Goodman.

With Mrs. R. D. Goodman as President and Mrs. A. W. Winecoff as Secretary, the Woman's Mission Society of Mt. Olivet had a banner year, reporting a membership of 25 with 7 officers. The Society maintained its \$40.00 scholarship in China, sent a scholarship of \$5.00 to a "mountain girl", received \$20.00 in dues, and subscribed about \$300.00 towards the new church building.

At the final meeting of the year held on October 24, 1914, at Boger's Chapel, the Mt. Olivet trustees reported that the church property was valued at \$4,000.00, and that about \$2,000.00 had been spent during the year. The Quarterly Conference adopted a resolution authorizing the Mt. Olivet Trustees to "borrow money or accept a conditional donation, or both, from the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, not exceeding the sum of (\$4,000.00) Four thousand dollars, for the purpose of aiding in building a new church and to secure the repayment of the same by mortgage upon the property held in trust by them" The work on the new church was apparently complete by the Conference Meeting of 12 June 1915, as the Olivet Trustees were authorized to sell the old church building and apply the proceeds on the new church debt.

On 5 February 1916, the first Quarterly Conference was held in the new Mt. Olivet Church building. Dr. J. C. Rowe returned as Presiding Elder and the new minister, P. L. Terrell, was present. He began his ministry in a vital Circuit with 628 members. Sunday School enrollment was 540, with 45 officers and teachers; the Mt. Olivet Epworth League had 60 members. By the second Quarterly Conference in May, Rev. Terrell reported that he had traveled over 350 miles in the prior quarter, with 107 visits! By year's end, the Mt. Olivet indebtedness of \$2,000.00 was reduced to about \$1,600.00.

In 1916, Mrs. Ada Linn Dayvault moved her church membership to Mt. Olivet. Born in rural Rowan County on 9 October 1894, she married Aldine C. Dayvault on 28 October 1915, and moved to the home where she lived throughout her long life. Mrs. Dayvault recalls that at that time, the older men who led the congregation sat in the "Amen corner"; the women were expected to "stay in their place." There were altar calls at every service. Music was provided by a choir and piano. The church was heated by a pot-bellied stove. Sunday School was held in the sanctuary, which was divided up into rooms by sliding doors. As Mt. Olivet was then on a three church circuit, preaching services were held every third Sunday. On the other Sundays, Sunday School was held. All church business was conducted on Sunday, as there were no meetings during the week. The Epworth League (later known as the Methodist Youth) was the young people's organization at that time.

The much beloved Dr. Rowe returned as Presiding Elder for 1918, the last year for which written records are preserved for the old Concord Circuit. Dr. Rowe was joined by Reverend P. L. Shore, who served the Mt. Olivet congregation during the war years. Rev. Shore came to a healthy Circuit, with three Wesley Bible Classes, and one Epworth League at Mt. Olivet. Reverend Shore began a plan to organize the remaining Sunday Schools into Missionary Societies, Mt. Olivet having been organized in that fashion for some years.

Mt. Olivet members led the community in the new area of Scouting. B. L. Umberger, Sr., organized the first Boy Scout troop in Cabarrus County in 1917, with Herbert Ritchie as Assistant Scoutmaster. All but three of the original Scouts were members of Mt. Olivet. Mrs. Lura Scott Wellborn, who taught at Winecoff School, was leader of the Girl Scouts in 1919, when Mrs. Pearl Hopkins joined the troop.

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STEWARDS
Mt. Olivet M. E. Church, South
1884-1935

W. N. Barnhardt	D. C. Furr	H. A. Scott
R. A. Caldwell	C. J. Goodman	J. A. Scott
W. N. Cline	H. J. Goodman	G. A. Shinn
J. G. Comer	J. A. Goodman	B. L. Umberger
A. C.. Dayvault	J. I. Goodman	A. W. Winecoff
J. W. Dayvault	R. D. Goodman	E. J. Winecoff
L. W. Earnhardt	E. R. Lackey	G. R. Winecoff
H. L. Fink	D. L. Litaker	J. N. Winecoff
J. A. Fink	T. J. Litaker	M. H. Winecoff
W. A. Fink	W. M. Patterson	
J. A. Furr	J. W. Penninger	

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No further written records of the Concord Circuit are available until the Quarterly Conference Meeting on 2 December 1934. By that time, the Circuit had been reduced to three churches: Mt. Olivet, Mt. Carmel, and Rocky Ridge. Rev. J. N. Randall, who served the Circuit and Mt. Olivet Church for an unprecedented six years, was leading the three congregations. During 1935, the Stewards at each church adopted a plan for financing the work of the church. At Olivet, the plan called for weekly offerings to help with the preacher's salary, with collections being taken by the Sunday School classes for benevolences. During that year, the Mt. Olivet Trustees were given permission to swap a small piece of land with the B. L. Umberger Estate to straighten the property lines. Mt. Olivet had added Sunday School rooms and the Circuit was advised that there was a special effort to pay off the debt: "(W)e have the money in sight for all except about a hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) which we are almost sure will be taken care of by the time the note is due. If we raise this amount it will mean that twenty two hundred (\$2200) will have been paid within the two years."

An active Board of Christian Education was in place at Mt. Olivet, composed of C. H. Stewart, Miss Kathleen Stewart, Joe Winecoff, Fred Goodman, Mrs. Sam Cook, and Mrs. H. A. Scott. H. A. Scott was Sunday School Superintendent, assisted by Mrs. Fred Goodman, Mrs. A. C. Dayvault, and Miss Roxie Fink.

Reverend Randall noted that the work of the church had continued in spite of an Infantile Paralysis quarantine during the fall of that year. Mrs. W. S. Wellborn reported to the 20 September 1936 Quarterly Conference held at Mt. Olivet that the Women's Missionary Society of Mt. Olivet had 2 circles and two scholarships: "Olive Fink paid by the circle and the Henderson Winecoff paid by Mrs. C. J. Goodman and Mrs. Ida Winecoff Stamey."

In 1937, the Mt. Olivet congregation felt it could support a minister on a full-time basis. The Conference agreed and a Building Committee for Mt. Olivet Parsonage was elected at the 4 April 1937, meeting: R. A. Caldwell, H. L. Fink, B. F. Waddell, C. W. Murph, and R. D. Goodman. By the 19 September 1937 Quarterly Conference, Reverend Randall was able to report that the "new parsonage at Mt. Olivet is completed and we have been living in it for the past ten days. The one for Mt. Carmel and Rocky Ridge will be started, I think, the first of the week and will be completed by Conference."

The Station Church

At the church conference on 21 November 1937, Reverend Randall reported that Mt. Olivet had its largest membership ever and all the Sunday School rooms were filled, with one class meeting in the hall back of the auditorium and another meeting in the auditorium. Interest in the Young People's meetings was increasing, and a third circle had been organized, which Rev. Randall described as a group of "young girls who are interested and eager."

The church lost two of its mainstays in 1937. Wilborn A. Fink died on 14 October 1937. Reverend Randall wrote of him: "For nearly 64 years he had lived among his friends here, and was loved and respected by all who knew him. He had been a faithful member of Mt. Olivet Methodist Church since young manhood. He was an honored member of the Board of Stewards and of the Board of Trustees in which capacity he served for 30 years He was faithful to the obligations and responsibilities that were given to him by the church, but our faith in God's word and our knowledge of his life leads us to believe that he had joined the church Triumphant." When John A. Scott died on 14 November 1937, at his home, the Board of Stewards and the Pastor wrote that he "was a steward in Mt. Olivet Methodist Church for a long time, and was treasurer of the church for forty two years. The fact that during those years he never allowed his church to come behind with its finances except once and then making that up shows us how faithful he was to his work. He was also Trustee of the church property for many years and was for a long time District Steward. He was always ready to give his best to any task his church called him to perform."

Despite a measles epidemic during the first part of 1938, Reverend Randall reported that 35 new members had been received by the June Conference, 21 by profession of faith and 14 by letter. The Young People's Division continued to grow, "not only carrying on the usual services but having had several extra services such as retreats, outdoor services and a banquet." For the first time, there is a written record of a two-week Daily Vacation Bible School. Four young people were away at college: Dorothy Cline and Miriam Randall were at Brevard College, Leroy Scott was attending Duke University, and Victor Goodman was studying at State College. The Sunday School, with 358 members - including 19 teachers and officers - averaged an attendance of 182 scholars each Sunday. There was an active Epworth League in the Young People's Division. Mrs. A. C. Dayvault, President of the Woman's Missionary Society, reported a membership of 83 with \$185.00 sent to the Conference Treasurer.

Rev. Randall returned for a sixth year in 1938-39. The church budgeted \$1,800.00 for his salary, \$150.00 for

Rev. C. N. Clark, Presiding Elder, and assumed the entire \$600.00 apportioned by the District Stewards for General and Conference Work. The Young People's Division, led by Miss Kathleen Stewart, numbered by that time almost 100 members and continued to grow, meeting at both the morning and evening Sunday services.

The Church United

1939 was a significant year for all of Methodism. C. J. Goodman attended the October 1939 Uniting Conference in Greensboro, along with delegates from the Western North Carolina Conference of the M. E. Church, South, the Blue Ridge-Atlantic Conference of the M. E. Church, and the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. The new Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church had 490 ministers, and more than 200,000 members. Mt. Olivet came in with 350 members, including local preachers. The Church building was valued at \$20,000.00, the parsonage at \$4,700.00, and other property at \$600.00, with no debt at all.

In 1939, Rev. F. W. Kiker replaced Rev. Randall, and served the congregation until 1943. During the war years, much of the history of the church is preserved in the Minutes of the Board of Stewards, which begins at a special meeting held on November 3, 1941, to organize the Board for the coming year. H. L. Fink was elected Chairman, B. F. Waddell as Assistant Chairman, and R. L. Shinn was elected Secretary. The Board agreed to set Reverend Kiker's salary at "a minimum of" \$2,000.00 for the coming year, and to pay him a bonus of \$200.00. At the March 1942 meeting, Reverend Kiker suggested starting a building fund and the suggestion was adopted by the Board on 14 April 1942. The Board of Christian Education was directed to contact all Sunday School classes to see how many would carry shares for one year. In May, the Board decided to buy War Bonds instead of building and loan shares for the building fund. Even though the church was concentrating on its own building program at that time, the Board decided to raise at least \$100.00 to help Flowe-Harris Presbyterian Church in the Winecoff community with its building plans. The church ended 1942 with a surplus of about \$500.00, a considerable accomplishment in that time. The Board voted to give the Young People the old song books for use in the basement, to paint the small room in the basement, and to make screens to divide one of the Sunday School rooms.

During 1944-45, under the leadership of Rev. C. B. Newton, Bible School was held in May, a Youth Caravan was planned during the summer, A Family Day observance scheduled and a Welcome Committee appointed. Mrs. J. B. Hough organized a Junior Choir and robes were donated by Woman's Society No. 1. At the September 1944 meeting, R. D. Goodman, L. W. Earnhardt, and Mrs. A. C. Dayvault, along with Miss Roxie Fink were appointed "to study and have charge of Young People's Recreation at the church." The music program at the church was discussed, and the following month Miss Ailene Dayvault was elected Choir Director, with Mrs. Worth Beaver as Pianist, assisted by Miss K. Lee Scott and Miss Mary Murph. The Stewards decided to pave the walks around the church, to have the drive curbed at the parsonage and the church, and ended the year by buying a "machine to print bulletins," and a stove for the parsonage.

The Methodist Men, some 25 to 30 strong, met on the first Monday night of each month, with refreshments and a speaker. The group raised money to purchase a bicycle for Miss Louise Avet, a missionary who spoke at one of their meetings. The W. S. C. S. reported that their service to the church continued, and was in fact increasing in numbers and interest. The group boasted 71 members in 1946, with \$325.00 raised for foreign mission work, according to the report of Mrs. R. W. Measmer, President.

The need for suitable recreational facilities for the young people of the community continued, and the

church's application for permission to construct a Recreational Building was granted in August 1945. Under the watchful eye of contractor Earl Fink, the church saved almost half the cost of construction. Led by Marvin Cook, volunteers from the congregation did the painting. Bob Measmer and Macy Sherrill organized volunteers to donate labor on the building. By the end of 1946, the building was substantially completed and an insurance policy purchased.

Church and community joined together to furnish the building. Efrid's Department Store donated the light fixtures and the piano was given by the Men's Brotherhood. The Ethel Kiker Circle furnished the linoleum, and joined with the Margie Goodman and Betty Hough Circles in buying dishes for the kitchen. Various members of the congregation furnished chairs, and Miss Kathleen Stewart donated a picture in memory of Reverend J. N. Randall. The new building was dedicated to the honor of the 60 men and women of the Mt. Olivet family who served their country in World War II. A son of the church, Craig Lackey, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Lackey, died during the war, and Rickard Rodgers, a church steward, was held prisoner by the Germans. Fred Barringer received a battlefield commission and was a First Lieutenant by war's end; he continued his military service and returned to his home congregation upon his retirement as a Colonel.

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MT. OLIVET ROLL OF HONOR – WORLD WAR II

Fred A. Barringer; James F. Brawley; Cyrus W. Brooks; Stamey F. Brooks; Burnena D. Burr; David Junior Burr; Marion Caldwell; Marvin E. Carter; Frank M. Cline; J. G. Comer, Jr.; G. Erskine Davis; John W. Davis; E. G. Denny, Jr.; Joe T. Earnhardt; L. W. Earnhardt, Jr.; Donald C. Emerson; J. Thomas Ervin; Robert L. Ervin, Jr.; Joe R. Fisher; E. Edward Goins; Hugh J. Goodman, Jr.; J. B. Hough; Jean G. Goodman; William Dale Goodman; Everette F. Hunsucker; Thomas G. Hunsucker; William P. Hunsucker; Robert E. Jernigan; Hubert H. Keever; Pink M. Keever; H. Craig Lackey (Gold Star); Leon R. Lackey; William D. Lee and William D. Lee, Jr. (father and son); Faye E. Litaker (WAC); G. W. Litaker; Kenneth W. Litaker; Ree V. Litaker; Jesse W. McCall; Calvin R. Milner; Robert J. Munday; William F. Penninger; McConley M. Pruitt; T. Coles Roberts; W. Rickard Rodgers; H. A. Scott, Jr.; Macy E. Sherrill; Vertie E. Shinn (WAVE); Leroy M. Stewart; Brad R. Stroud; Wiley L. Umberger; B. F. Waddell, Jr.; Joe L. Waddell; William H. Webb; E. J. Winecoff, Jr.; Harry K. Winecoff; Hope H. Winecoff; Jackdale Winecoff; Joe W. Winecoff; and K. C. Winecoff.

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Organized activities began in the spring of 1947. Bill Workman, writing for *The Daily Independent*, related that the recreational center had been used practically every night during the summer. With the support of the Men's Brotherhood, Miss Pearl Fink had scheduled activity times for junior boys and girls, intermediates, and the young people. Mrs. Ruth Measmer, intermediate counselor, and Miss Kathleen Stewart, young people's leader, worked closely with Miss Fink. In addition to the play area and kitchen within the structure, the church grounds were lighted for horseshoes, croquet, deck tennis, archery and badminton. Indoors, games like shuffleboard, table tennis, checkers, darts, and miniature billiards were played; the games were donated by the young people and intermediates, who sold Christmas cards to raise money for them.

The enthusiasm generated by the building program spread into all areas of church life. The Board of

Stewards instructed Reverend W. B. Davis to get prices on a "colored window" for the back of the church. In 1947, with the church's physical plant in good order, the young people began a movement toward obtaining an organ. C. W. Murph spearheaded an effort to purchase choir robes, and fundraising was completed by August 1948. There was such general excitement over the newly-robed choir that the Board voted to have H. J. Goodman appoint a committee to canvass church members for the organ fund. C. W. Murph quickly raised \$990.00 for the organ fund. By March 1949, a Hammond Organ and Maas Chimes had been installed and dedication was planned for later in the Spring. Meanwhile, Rev. C. O. Kennerly had succeeded Rev. Davis. He expressed his gratitude for the warmth of his welcome to a newly painted and furnished parsonage. By the time of the First Quarterly Conference on February 27, 1949, he reported that he had visited the homes of all the members of the church and knew most of their names!

The growing church needed more space. At the August 1949 regular meeting of the Board, a Findings Committee consisting Mr. W. L. Harris, Mr. Homer Fink, and the Superintendent of each department, was appointed to look into the needs of the church building. The Committee presented the needs of the church to Mr. Marvin Helms, an architect, who prepared plans for adding the necessary space and remodeling the present sanctuary. A building Committee of C. J. Scott, Earl Fink, Hough J. Goodman, Dr. A. E. Barnhardt, Homer A. Fink, was appointed. On Sunday, 26 August 1951, the plans for the proposed education building and remodeled sanctuary were presented to the congregation by C. J. Scott, as Chairman of the Building Committee. A vote was taken by secret ballot after a full discussion of the plans and their costs; the secretary, Hazel Lackey, recorded that 116 voted for the building plans - with only one vote against the proposal. With winter coming on, plans were made to begin the building program in the spring of 1952. A Finance Committee for the building Program was named at the September meeting: C. W. Murph, Rickard Rodgers, E. R. Lackey, H. A. Scott, and John Penninger. Building and remodeling began in May 1952, and the congregation met in Winecoff School for classes and worship.

By the December 1952 Quarterly Conference the work was complete. Rev. Kennerly reported that in spite of the commitment demanded by the building program, the work of the church had gone forward. The Young People and Adults met separately on Sunday evenings for fellowship and Bible Study, with good attendance. The three circles were supporting nine Mission Specials in Korea, Japan, China, Africa, and India, in addition to their local work. The Methodist Men sponsored the Boy Scouts and Cub packs; the Ada Dayvault Circle sponsored the Brownie Troop. Attendance at Sunday School was slowly increasing, and the two-week Bible School was very successful.

The Modern Church

Emphasis on the youth program continued into 1955. Rev. Hamilton Witter led a Youth Activity Week during the summer, which was followed by a Youth Revival. The Methodist Youth Fellowship continued to hold regular evening meetings. Jerry Crainshaw, President of the M. Y. F., reported that the Youth raised money for the Building Fund, sent a girl to church camp, had a Youth Banquet, and organized a new group for Older Youth. Mid-week services continued under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Paul A. Bruton, who succeeded Rev. M. C. Ellerbe, and membership increased. By the spring of 1956, the congregation began planning dedication services for Homecoming Sunday, 27 May 1956. Rev. Kennerly and Rev. Bruton led the service, at which C. W. Murph, who had served as treasurer of the Building Fund, burned the note, and C. J. Scott, chairman of the building committee, presented the church for dedication. The congregation then moved outside for a picnic dinner on the grounds.

Rev. Bruton reported 42 new members in 1956. By the end of the year, attendance at the Sunday Evening worship services was averaging about 80 persons, and Rev. Bruton was planning a Spring Revival, visitation and training campaigns for the coming year. By April, the Visitation Plan was underway and involved the entire membership. Rev. Bruton reported that he had already made 410 pastoral visits to home and hospital rooms. Average attendance at morning worship services averaged 220 persons, with 77 members at Sunday evening services, and 27 attending the mid-week prayer services. Parsonage renovation had been completed with all debts paid, and repairs were beginning on the Recreation Building. The W. S. C. S. had organized two new circles, one of them serving girls from ten to fourteen years of age. The Spring Revival was planned to begin on Easter Sunday, with Reverend Kenneth D. Crouse of Canton as guest minister.

The Committee on Evangelism, led by Chairman W. R. Rodgers, continued its visitation program, resulting in 24 new adult members. The attendance at quarterly communion services increased so much that Reverend Bruton recorded the necessity to secure "the services of some retired minister each time." Miss Patricia Croy was hired as Director of Christian Education, and began working with the M. Y. F. in retreats and programs. After Miss Croy's marriage, Miss Evelyn Luther became D.C.E. Two ministerial students from Duke assisted in the summer activities of Youth Activities Week; two weekend retreats at Camp Spencer were well attended and Vacation Bible School again reached attendance records.

Rev. Bruton was justly proud of the five Boy Scouts from Mt. Olivet's Troop 34 who were working towards the God and Country Award under his direction. The scouting program had been so successful that the men of the church were considering sponsoring an Explorer Post for the older boys of the community. Thus, Rev. Bruton left a vital, growing program for Rev. Joseph M. Taylor, Jr. For the first time, the budget exceeded \$20,000.00, and there were discussions about an Educational Building to relieve the crowded Church School quarters. A Building Fund for the proposed construction began in 1960, with Rev. Taylor reporting that this was going slowly so as to secure the broad support of the congregation for the project.

At a Special Quarterly Conference on 10 December 1962, The Board recommended adoption of plans submitted by the Building Committee. The Board also submitted plans for financing the construction, to be the most ambitious building program undertaken by the congregation in its history. A Finance Committee was appointed consisting of Ray Allen, H. J. Goodman, Lewis Jenkins, W. L. Harris, Rickard Rodgers, E. R. Lackey, and Rev. Taylor. The proposals were presented in a Church Conference during the regular worship hour on Sunday, 20 January 1963. L. W. Jenkins, representing the Commission on Education, stressed the need for additional classrooms, and W. L. Harris outlined the proposed building, noting that the estimated cost was \$50,000.00 for some 5,000 square feet of space. Richard E. Swaringen detailed the financial plans, asking for authority to begin work on the building when \$15,000.00 was on hand. The congregation voted 89 to 5 to proceed with the construction and enthusiastically supported the project. Rev. Taylor praised the efforts of the "ladies of the Church in securing stain[ed] glass windows for the Sanctuary."

Rev. Albert W. Wellons replaced Rev. Taylor in the fall of 1963. Rev. Wellons worked with the Church Secretary, Miss Helen Crisco, to edit a weekly *Messenger* that was mailed to every family in the Church each Thursday. By the May 1964 Quarterly Conference, \$10,000.00 had been raised for the building fund, making the total on hand \$17,054.00. A plan was developed to raise another \$15,000.00 for the building fund while the construction was underway. A construction contract of \$68,494.00 was awarded on 15 June 1964 at which time the balance in the building fund stood at \$20,000.00.

Ground was broken for the new facility on Sunday, 21 June 1964. By the 26 March 1965 Quarterly

Conference, the building was completed at a cost of \$68,233.42. The addition provided room for eight classes, a study for the pastor and a church office. All groups in the church participated in efforts to retire the building indebtedness. The widow, children, and grandchildren of C. J. Goodman joined together to make an \$8,000.00 gift to the fund in memory of the life and service of Mr. Goodman.

With I. Pressley Rutledge as minister, a decision was made by the Board to air-condition the church, pave the grounds, and install a water system for the church. Mr. C. M. King estimated the total expense at \$30,000.00, the congregation granted its approval, and by the spring of 1969 air conditioning and paving were a reality. Mrs. C. L. Mauldin, choir director for ten years, resigned in May 1969 and Mr. Ed Fink was hired as Director of the Children, Youth and Adult Choirs; Mrs. F. Worth Beaver continued as church organist. In November, Claudia Gray was hired as temporary organist to replace Mrs. Beaver. In 1970, colored bulletins were used on a trial basis and Christmas Cards depicting the Church were printed. Rev. Lewis Gibbs began a six-year ministry in 1973. After a presentation by Rickard Rodgers, Sr., the Board agreed to sponsor a first Sunday broadcast over radio station WGTL during the last quarter of 1973. Church leaders began to sound out the congregation about a new Memorial Hall, with space for meetings, receptions and church suppers. Mr. W. L. Harris, Chairman of the Building Fund, recommended that construction not begin until 25% of the proposed cost of \$50,000.00 was on hand, and an additional 15% of the cost pledged. That substantial goal was met a year later and construction was slated to begin in mid-October 1975.

The new building was completed by the October 1976 Charge Conference, and the old portion of the building became home for the active Scout troop and the Youth. A dedicatory service for Memorial Hall was held 11 March 1979, at 4:30 in the afternoon. Both Bishop L. Scott Allen and D. S. Earle R. Haire participated in the service. Bishop Allen accepted the presentation of the building from Joel E. Johnson, Chairman of the Administrative Board, declaring it set apart to "God's glory and the service of men."

Rev. Gibbs described the Youth Program, under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Davis, and Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Honeycutt, Jr., as "alive and vibrant." An exchange program in July of 1976 allowed the group to spend one week in Belmont, Mississippi, and then a week as hosts to the Belmont youngsters, a period of growth and fellowship. A Youth Choir was also reorganized at that time.

1977 was a landmark year in Mt. Olivet, as the result of the conference-sponsored Third World Exchange. During the summer of 1977, Reverend Gibbs and his family exchanged pulpits with Reverend Misheck Kanake from Miathene Circuit, Meru, Kenya. Accompanied by his wife, Jennifer, and son Jonathan, the Kanake family quickly found a place in the hearts of Mt. Olivet families, and ties were formed which led to a mission effort in Kenya which continues to this day.

Richard B. Jarrett was named to the Mt. Olivet charge at the 1979 Annual Conference and arrived on June 19th of that year to a newly renovated parsonage. He found a strong Boy Scout program already in place and immediately began working with some ten young men in the God and Church program. Troop 34 received the Bishop's Award of Excellence in 1981, honoring the numerous church and community service projects carried out. The music program at Mt. Olivet continued to be exceptional. Beautiful Christmas and Easter Cantatas were presented during 1980 and 1981, with the choir making several guest appearances, including a visit to Groce United Methodist Church in Asheville where former pastor Lewis Gibbs was serving. In April 1980, the new Allen 603 electronic organ was the center of an unforgettable musical evening as its range and beauty was demonstrated for the church and community by the special talents of American Concert Organist Carlo Curley.

In 1983, Rev. Ben F. Wilson was appointed to serve Mt. Olivet. Sanctuary renovation and installation of a sound system was completed during the first quarter of 1984. A Committee on Worship was formed and first met on January 31, 1984. In April 1984, church secretary Helen Crisco retired and Marlene Horton was selected for the position. Her work began during a flurry of activity centered on the Holy Week Services as Reverend Wilson presented moving services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. A highlight of the Easter Service was the transformation of a plain wooden cross, crafted by Jack Goodman, with flowers into a symbol of the resurrection and hope of Easter. As part of the bicentennial emphasis, Clarence Horton spoke on the heritage of Mt. Olivet at a special Homecoming Service in May 1984, and presented a short history of the church, "These Storied Walls," to the congregation. A special display highlighting the history of the church was arranged in Memorial Hall by Mrs. Sarah Hough, with old records and photographs, which fascinated many of the newer members. A tea was given for Mrs. Ada Dayvault in October 1984 in honor of her 90th birthday. Reverend Wilson initiated a Hanging of the Greens service in December, at which the meaning of many of the church symbols of the service were explained. The congregation was saddened by the death of organist Claudia Gray Simpson. Church member John Settlemyer did an outstanding job of providing organ music until Mrs. Kay Bracey was selected as church organist.

The Administrative Board approved a budget for 1985 that exceeded one hundred thousand dollars for the first time in church history. A February 1985 highlight was Mrs. Mayfield Stewart's celebration of her 97th birthday on February 5th, to the best wishes and congratulations of the congregation. The Youth Choir, led by Prebble Henrickson, presented an original and enjoyable evening program on 10 March as the Mount Olivet Christian Supper Club opened for one night only in Memorial Hall. A \$450.00 free will offering taken after the show was donated to World Hunger. The United Methodist Men served breakfast to worshippers at the Community Easter Sunrise Service held in Carolina Memorial Park. During the Lenten Season, Rev. Wilson led communion services in church members' homes. The United Methodist Women invited the congregation to join them in an evening of dining and music at Memorial Hall on 19 May 1985. The "Night of Music", was a resounding success, and a substantial free will offering was designated for CCCM, the Soup Kitchen, UMCOR, and Rev. Misheck Kanake. The Mt. Olivet newsletter, "The Messenger", was selected by the Conference Committee on Communications and Interpretation as Outstanding Newsletter in the Salisbury District in the category of churches from 401 to 1000 members. Reverend Wilson and Secretary Marlene Horton accepted the award during the 1985 Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska.

Beth Crowell, a rising senior at High Point College, was hired to lead a six-week program, planned to appeal to all age groups. Events ranged from traditional Church School classes on Monday evenings to Fun Trips on Friday mornings, and included Community Outreach Program on Tuesday mornings, Craft Evenings on Wednesdays, and Youth Events on Thursday evenings for the older youth. Meanwhile, plans were under way for the second annual Elk Shoals retreat planned for August 1985.

A Cemetery Trust Fund was started in July 1985 with generous gifts from Leon Lackey and his sister, Faye Howard Lackey, in an effort to secure the perpetual upkeep and maintenance of the Mt. Olivet cemetery. In the fall of 1985, a Yamaha grand piano was presented to the church by Mrs. Carolyn Goodman, Mrs. Miriam Litaker, and their families, in memory of H. J. "Jack" Goodman and Ree Velt "Tip" Litaker. Kay Bracey, John Settlemyer, and Danita Rickard treated the congregation to a sacred concert on 3 November 1985. November 1985 was also memorable for the visit of Bishop Lawi Imathiu of Kenya. Because of the close ties between Mt. Olivet Church and the Misheck Kanake family of Kenya, Bishop Imathiu visited Mt. Olivet on 17 November as a part of his month-long trip to the United States.

A highlight of the first half of 1986 was a fund-raising effort by the church that enabled Rev. Wilson and his wife, Mary, to attend the World Methodist Conference in July. As the five-year pastorate of Rev. Wilson came to a close, the church joined the growing number of congregations considering off-site parsonages. At the December 1987 session of Administrative Board, the Chairpersons of Finance, Council on Ministries, Staff-Parish Relations, and Trustees, recommended that a new parsonage be purchased or constructed. A parsonage search committee consisting of Chair Ron Pare, Max Lackey, Carolyn Fink, Glen Julian, Edgar Honeycutt, and Jeter Lee, located an existing home on Daybreak Ridge Road in Kannapolis and recommended its purchase to the church. At a church conference on 5 June 1988, the congregation voted 59-43 to purchase the parsonage and finance it through church bonds.

The Mission Church

In 1988, Rev. Wilson was transferred to Cole Memorial UMC in Charlotte, and a new parsonage family briefly moved into the old church parsonage. Rev. K. Wesley Judy, the son of missionaries, was reared in Korea. Even as the Judy family were unpacking, however, work continued on the new church parsonage. On 30 July, the Judys moved into the "new" parsonage, and an Open House and Blessing of the Parsonage was scheduled for 14 August. Sale of bonds began in earnest. Members pledged a total of \$19,754.00 on 11 September, and bonds were sold that same evening. As part of a novel fund-raising effort to benefit the parsonage fund, "Talent Sunday" was celebrated on 30 April 1989. Members were given \$5 as seed money to be used in some way, then returned with its fruits on June 25, "Celebrating Our Gifts Sunday." Members organized suppers, yard sales, sold baked goods, crafts, flowers, and sponsored musical presentations. By the end of June, the project raised more than \$9,000.00.

During May 1989 Homecoming Services, the congregation honored those who had been members of Mt. Olivet for 60 years or more. They included: Wiley Umberger (75 years); Ada Linn Dayvault and Elsie Cline Freeze (74 years); A. E. Barnhardt and Carrie Litaker Holshouser (72 years); Elizabeth Winecoff Beaver (69 years); Audrey Shinn Bost and Louise Earnhardt Earnhardt (66 years); Hettie Watts Litaker (64 years); Nell Cook Hopkins (63 years); William F. Penninger, Jr. (61 years); and Thelma Denny Eudy, Rena Goodnight Fink, and Helen Hawkins Fink (60 years).

Work on renovation of the old sanctuary continued. The UMW beautified the narthex areas, and protective coverings were placed on the stained-glass windows. A beautiful 14-foot artificial Christmas tree was donated in December 1989 by Earl Goodman, Lillian Goodman, and Delphina Penninger. In 1992, the Trustees recommended that a formal parlor be built at a cost of \$22,000, and a History Room Committee was appointed in March 1993. With the generous support of Hazel Poole and Sarah Hough, the old Sunday School office was transformed into an attractive secure place for church artifacts and records. The completed History Room was dedicated on 5 June 1994. Church Historian Sarah Hough continued to compile annual church scrapbooks and place them in the new history room.

Although Mt. Olivet had always strongly supported worldwide missions, its most important mission emphasis began with a visit by Bishop Misheck Kanake and Jennifer Kanake in October 1989. Rev. Kanake spoke of the progress made in Kenya since he filled the Mt. Olivet pulpit in October 1977, and reported that three demonstration farms were in operation. Storerooms had been built to protect food from wandering elephants and buffaloes, and a gravity pipeline had been built to carry water to villages whose water supplies were as much as 15 miles away. Rev. Judy was moved by Kanake's statement that "None of you have ever

come to see us,” and the Kenyan Mission Project and Building Team was organized. 18 persons volunteered to travel to Kenya, and 40 persons committed to support the project. The Kenya Team set a goal of raising \$10,000.00 to send to Rev. Misheck Kanake for construction materials and other costs, and embarked on a series of fund-raising events including a BBQ chicken dinner in May 1991. At a special “Night of Music” on 21 April 1991, an offering was taken to support the Kenyan mission. With fund-raisers, vaccinations and pre-flight jitters behind them, 16 volunteers participated in the first Kenya mission in July 1991: Roger and Debbie Myers; Rick, Delinda, Trip and Scott Rodgers; Marty Ford; Jami Rodgers; Wes Hathaway; Carolyn Goodman; John Brown; Beth Caldwell; Jennifer Goodman; Jim Stowe; Rev. Wes Judy and Josh Judy.

In addition to the Kenyan ministry, Mt. Olivet began participation in the rewarding ministry of Habitat for Humanity in March 1992. The Mt. Olivet volunteers, under the leadership of Jan Sykes, decided to put vinyl siding on the next Habitat home and to raise \$1,800.00 for the project. They began a series of dinners as part of their fund-raising effort. For the past decade, the church has continued to support the successful Habitat program, making the dream of home ownership continue to come true for area families.

4 November 1990 was W. L. Harris Day at Mt. Olivet, as Mr. Harris prepared to move to Lexington to live with his daughter, Myra, and her family. W. L. and Clariece Harris joined Mt. Olivet in 1938, where he taught Sunday School for 55 years. In addition to holding many offices in the church, Mr. Harris faithfully took a special interest in the care of the greenery and plants around the church, the cemetery, and the church physical plant. He often served on church building and fund-raising committees.

Years of commitment by Sunday School teachers was recognized on Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day in March 1990. During Sunday School, each honoree was given a gardenia to wear, then invited to a covered-dish luncheon after morning worship. Certificates of appreciation were distributed and pins given to those who had served more than 20 years. Teachers included: W. L. Harris (54 years); Rick Rodgers, Sr. (45 years); Earline King (42 years); Cliff Evans (32 years); Richard Swaringen (31 years); Bill Ford (29 years); Mildred Ford (26 years); Glen Julian (24 years); Crystal Julian and Jann Johnson (20 years); Lula Davis, Jeter Lee, Ron Pare, Hazel Poole (17 years); Beth Cook (15 years); Rick Rodgers, Jr. (10 years); Pearle Fink and Clarence Horton (8 years); Padgett Goodman, Linda Hathaway, and Lawrence Vincent (5 years); Becky Eudy, Darlene Goble, Peggy Litaker, and Jane Marlow (4 years); Marcia Carpenter and Debbie Myers (3 years); Lonnie Coggins, Lin Harwood, Sandra Harwood, Jeanie Measmer (2 years); Linda Chewning, Hope Johnson, Margaret Foster, and Wes Judy (1 year); Sunday School Supt. Keith Overcash (3 years). Also honored were Children’s Ministries Coordinators Marcia Carpenter and Gloria Cartrett (2 years), and Supt. Linda Hathaway. Substitutes include Mary Lou Dalton, Delinda Rodgers, Henrietta Allen, Carlene Gregory, and Mark Goodman.

The music program has been a vital part of the Mt. Olivet ministry from the earliest days. In August 1992, Choir Director Ed Fink honored his choir members for their years of faithful service. Included were: Sarah Hough (52 years); Bill Fink (40 years); Glen Julian (35 years); Betty Lee (32 years); Jann Johnson and Bob Lee (30 years); Delaine Parker and Renda Welch (25 years); Joel Johnson (24 years); Sharon Miller (16 years); Prebble Henrickson (12 years); Hope Beam (11 years); Eddie Hathaway (10 years); Randy Childers and Meredith Spry (9 years); Jane Marlow (7 years); Jennifer Trice, Sandra Harwood, Lin Harwood (5 years); Wes Judy and Joe Morris (4 years); Beth Burrell, Doris Barbee, Shawn Gregory, Sandra McBride, Meredith McBride (2 years); and Betty Sethna and Paula Judy (1 year). In 1993, a Youth Choir was formed with four members, in addition to the Junior Choir. The first annual Singing on the Mount service in October 1997 was successful, with 80 persons in attendance, and church members have continued to meet on

the first Sunday after Labor Day, to enjoy great singing and homemade ice cream.

Special Music during the past decade has been provided by the John Wesley Quartet; The Johnson Trio; The 3Ds (Donna Childers, Donna Earnhardt, Donna LeRoy); Randy and Donna Childers; Joe Morris; Ed Fink; The Chancel Choir; Kay Yates on organ, piano, and keyboard, singing, and leading the Bell Choir; and by numerous others. In October 1998, Sandra Harwood resigned as Director of Cherub, Choristers and Youth Choirs, and Donna Childers took the position. The congregation celebrated Ed Fink's thirtieth year as choir director on 1 August 1999 with special services in the morning and that evening at a 6 o'clock concert, and by the presentation of a portrait. During 2000, the Bell Choir raised funds to buy tunics and two octaves of tone chimes. Other special gifts enriched the music program. Ben and Mary Iris Goodman Isenhour donated a spinet piano in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Isenhour and Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Goodman. Earlier, Mr. and Mrs. Isenhour had presented a gift of chimes to the church. Tone chimes donated by Phyllis Rodgers in memory of Rena G. Fink were dedicated on 1 April 2001.

Under Rev. Judy's leadership, new service and worship traditions emerged. Children's worship during the Sunday morning worship service began on 10 January 1993, with Renee Martin and Rev. Paula Judy as the first teachers. The tradition of honoring new church members at a covered dish luncheon began in January 1994. In October 1994, Kelley Watkins joined the staff as Director of Children and Youth and as the new director of the Junior Choir. The annual tradition of placing luminaries outside the church gave way at Christmas 1994 to having members donate lights on a Christmas tree in honor or memory of loved ones. The annual Hanging of the Greens service became a much-anticipated event. During special Lenten services, ashes were imposed at the Ash Wednesday service, and Rev. Judy conducted services from 12 Noon to 3 p. m. on Good Friday, during which worshippers could attend at the most convenient time.

A 10-member Kenya Team began raising funds for a return mission schedule for July 1994. Special offerings were taken, funds were raised through suppers, and the Boy Scouts hosted a pancake breakfast in March 1994. Members of the 1994 Team included: John and Mary Ann Brown; Nick and Jennifer DiFoggio; Rev. Wes Judy; Rick and Delinda Rodgers; Scott Rodgers; Bert Smith; and Jim Stowe. Upon their return, Rev. Judy wrote in his *Journal* that "there is a dorm (on which we worked) and a classroom building and a dining hall on the Farm on the road to the Game Park that will enable Africa Rural Institute to teach their people how to better care for their families, their animals and their land."

Although the Kenya Team returned to Maua, Kenya in 1997 to build a library at the Africa Rural Institute in Kiengu, Rev. Judy was unable to accompany them as he was recovering from injuries he received during a church league softball game. Those who worked on the J.B. and Sarah Hough Library and Chapel included: John and Mary Ann Brown, Laurie Chichester, Andy Rodgers, Bert Smith, Joel Johnson, Rick and Delinda Rodgers, Scott Rodgers, and Jim Stowe.

Scout Troop 34, sponsored by Mt. Olivet, has long been one of the largest and most successful of the area scouting programs. The program has long enjoyed superior leadership with Scout leaders such as Otis Rodgers and Lonnie Coggins, Don McManus, James Riggs, and David Settlemyer. Annual fund-raising events have enabled Scouts to attend events such as the National Camporee and visit Washington, D. C. At local events, Troop 34 patrols routinely are recognized as outstanding "blue ribbon" campers.

The congregation were faithful stewards during Rev. Judy's pastorate. The parsonage debt was paid in full in April 1998, well ahead of schedule. With that debt paid, the church began to look at the extensive

renovations necessary to preserve the beloved old sanctuary and buildings. The Trustees and Finance Committee made recommendations for needed repairs and renovation to the Administrative Board, and the Board scheduled a church conference for 7 June so that the congregation could consider the project. The congregational voted overwhelmingly to pursue extensive renovations for the physical plant, and a nine-person building committee was appointed: Doris Barbee, Bob Cook, Jim Fisher, Bill Ford, Eddie Hathaway, Ben Isenhour, James Riggs, Dorothy Simmons, and Joey Untz. The Committee was charged with both finalizing construction plans and also with developing a financial plan for securing necessary funds. On 12 July 1998, the congregation approved the committee's plans, authorized a construction loan for the project, and set 16 August 1998 as Harvest Sunday, at which time the congregation could offer one-time gifts to begin the project. The initial offering yielded \$47,000.00 for the restoration project. By January 2000, the restoration project was almost completed. About \$200,000.00 had been raised for the project at that time. In 2000, the church budget exceeded \$200,000.00 for the first time.

The Kenya Team 2000, which included two high school students and one college student, raised funds to enable Rev. Kanake to purchase a van and to build a girl's dormitory. Following the return of the team in 2000, Delinda Rodgers announced the need for financial assistance for Kenyan children whose families were unable to afford the costs of their education. Individuals and Sunday School classes in the church responded by gathering and sending funds to Rev. Kanake to subsidize the education of these children for the coming school year. Terrorist alerts in Africa led to the disappointing cancellation of the scheduled 2003 mission to Kenya, but the Kenya Team is in the process of forwarding funds to Misheck Kanake for the purchase of computers and other needs, so that the work in Kenya can proceed.

Into the New Century

The announcement in May 2001 that Rev. Judy would be moved to Pleasant Grove UMC in the Charlotte District came as a surprise to both Rev. Judy and his successor, Rev. James Bowen. Rev. Bowen had not expected to move and was equally surprised to find himself assigned to serve the Mt. Olivet congregation. Rev. Bowen and his talented wife Debbie quickly found their way into the hearts of the congregation, however, as he began to identify and meet needs of both the church and its individual members.

An *ad hoc* committee was appointed to investigate plans for the renovation and expansion of an aging Memorial Hall. Under the chairmanship of Bill Ford, the committee met with architect Dennis Yates to develop plans that could be submitted to the congregation for approval. Due to the unsettled economy, however, including the threatened closure of the Pillowtex plant in Kannapolis, the congregation rejected the \$500,000.00 expansion program by a vote of 45-85 at a congregational meeting on 16 March 2003.

Mt. Olivet begins a third century of service with pride in its accomplishments of the past, and filled with the spirit of service for the future. Plans are underway to continue and strengthen ministries and missions both locally and world-wide. Stirring musical and revival services have invigorated the church, as has the infusion of new leaders in many vital areas. A re-vitalized Youth program has Mt. Olivet's young people involved in annual ski trips, the Crop Walk, Halloween parties, Duke University Youth Day, Swim Parties, Scavenger Hunts, food collections, and a myriad of other activities. Scott and Kristen Rodgers, Matthew and Cheri Hopkins, and Brian and Vicki Ford lead the Youth, while Meredith Spry and Jeanne Zentmeyer co-chair Children's Ministries. The outstanding Scouting program continues with Lonnie Coggins as Scouts Coordinator, Chad Drye as Troop 34 Scoutmaster, and Cubmaster Gina Benson leading the Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos. Lynn Raymond is the Troop Committee Chairperson. In the Girl Scout program,

Kimberly Martin is leader of Brownie Troop 122, Bambi Hart guides Cadet Troop 315, Sherry Fisher is Daisy Troop 1138 leader, and Patty Murray is Junior Troop leader.

The traditional strong emphasis on missions continues. In 2002, Mt. Olivet continued to support CCM, CVAN, the New Hope Community Mission, the Society of St. Andrews, Habitat for Humanity, and many other programs. The reorganized United Methodist Men support the Scouting program and the Children's Home, provide Christmas "treat bags," and welcome the community to Memorial Hall for a post-Easter Sunrise Service breakfast. The United Methodist Women are active in all areas of church life, raising funds for foreign missions and local good works through their annual Fall Bazaar, and sponsoring an annual Mission Study in February. The Circles also engage in fund-raising projects, such as catering meals, in addition to providing interesting programs and opportunities for individual spiritual growth. The XYZ Club has provided "Extra Years of Zest" for its members since 1974.

The church is widely known for its rich music program. With Chancel Choir Director Ed Fink, organist Mary Iris Isenhour, Donna Childers leading the children and providing accompaniments on the keyboard and piano, and Sandra McBride conducting the Handbell Choir, as well as numerous other talented soloists and musicians in the choral program, the new century promises to be filled with an even more "joyous noise." Under the capable leadership of Rev. Bowen, moving worship services and special musical numbers symbolize the spirit-filled congregation that is Mt. Olivet as the old church embarks on an exciting third century of stewardship and service.

It has not been possible to record in these few pages the stories of all those ministers and laypersons who have sacrificed and struggled, prayed and persevered, in order to advance the work of this historic church. Perhaps a quote from former pastor Lewis Gibbs says it best:

But it has been a great host of witnesses and faithful followers of our Lord, inspired by His spirit. Thus Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church stands as a memorial to the cause of Christ in this community and His mission throughout the world because of the blessings and love of God upon Mt. Olivet and because multitudes of his children have given response to His call. May God's blessings continue to rest upon Mt. Olivet and its people, which truly is a great heritage.

Amen.

1884 REGISTRY OF MEMBERS

[The date the member joined Mt. Olivet is shown opposite his or her name]

Levi J. Little	1850	William C. Litaker	1880
June C. Little	1850	Georgia C. Ritchie	1880
Mary M. Litaker	1850	Mary E. Cook	1880
Caleb W. Litaker	1868	John A. Cline	1880
Hattie Cook	1868	John A. Scott	1882
Daniel C. Furr	1868	Alice Cook Basinger	1880
Mary A. Furr	1868	W. F. Goodman	1880
Margaret I. Litaker	1868	Omnia Litaker	1880
Elizabeth C. Fink	1868	Mary E. Litaker Voils	1880
Martha G. Earnhardt	1869	Ella Williford	1880
D. Taylor Litaker	1869	James L. Moore	1880
John A. Fink	1871	E. W. Misenheimer	1880
Franklin S. Goodman	1871	Sarah McDaniel	1880
Martin H. Winecoff	1871	Sarah Murph	1880
Sarah A. Winecoff	1871	Mary F. Goodman	1881
Martha E. Fink	1871	John Little	1881
Hannah Slough	1871	Sarah M. Little	1881
Margaret A. Fink	1871	Sarah M. Litaker	1882
Rufus M. Fink	1871	Joseph N. Winecoff	1882
Margaret L. Seamone	1871	Caleb J. Goodman	1882
Daniel M. Furr	1875	George R. Winecoff	1882
Martha R. Furr	1875	Maggie E. Winecoff	1882
Laura J. Goodman	1875	David Cook	1884
Josephine L. Daywalt	1876	William N. Cline	1884
John W. Daywalt	1876	Mary E. Winecoff	1884
Rachel E. Cook	1879	Thomas E. Winecoff	1884
Sallie E. Little	1879		
Mary A. Earnhardt	1879	TRUSTEES	
Lillie A. Scott	1879		
Elizabeth Seamone	1879	Roger Daywalt	1855
James A. Earnhardt	1879	Levi Fink	1855
		Daniel Litaker	1855
		Nicholas Cook	1855
		Samuel Murph	1858

ROLL OF PASTORS

MOUNT OLIVET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

Catawba District, Sugar Creek Circuit:

William B. Barnett	1815-1816
Reuben Tucker	1817-1818
Hartwell Spain	1819
Zaccheus Dowling	1820
Jacob Hill	1821
Thomas A. Rosamond	1822
Jeremiah Freeman	1823
Daniel Asbury	1824

Cheraw District, Sugar Creek Circuit:

Elisha Askew	1825
Daniel F. Christenbury	1826
Daniel F. Wade	1827

Lincolnton District, Sugar Creek Circuit:

Benjamin Bell	1828-1829	
Absolom Brown	1830-1831	
James J. Richardson	John K. Morse	1832
John Watts	1833	

[In 1834, the name of Sugar Creek Circuit was changed to Charlotte Circuit]

Lincolnton District, Charlotte Circuit:

T. R. Walsh	1834	
Jacob Ozier	1835	
D. G. McDaniel	J. G. Postell	1836
W. R. Smith	J. P. Kerton	1836-1837
William T. Harrison	Mark Russell	1838
Jacky M. Bradley	Martin Eady	1839
P. G. Bowman	C. Smith	1840
Benjamin Hamilton	1841	
Michael Robbins	John A. Porter	1842
J. L. Potter	1843	

[In 1843, Mt. Olivet – then Rogers Church – was moved from Charlotte Circuit to Cheraw District, Center Circuit.]

Cheraw District, Center Circuit:

John McMackin	1844-1845
W. L. Pegues	1846

Lincolnton District, Concord Circuit:

Jacky M. Bradley	1847
W. C. Patterson	1848-1849
W. L. Pegues	1850
J. D. Laney	1851
W. S. Haltom	1852

Charlotte District, Concord Circuit:

W. S. Haltom	1853	
Paul F. Kistler	1854-1855	
Jacob L. Shuford	1856	
John Watts	1857-1858	
Aaron G. Stacy	1859	
W.W. Thompson	P. L. Herman	1860-1861
Sandy Wood	1862	
Sandy Wood	Willis Haltom, Supply	1863
James Stacy	Willis Haltom, Supply	1864
Lewis Scarboro	Willis Haltom, Supply	1865
S. A. Roper	1865	
J. T. Kilgo	Willis Haltom	1866
M. C. Davis	1867	
R. R. Pegues	1868-1869	

Wadesboro District, Concord Circuit:

Samuel Leard	1870
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[In 1870, the Minutes of the South Carolina Conference describe Concord Circuit as being in the Wadesboro District. 1870 was a year of great changes as the Cabarrus County area was transferred to the North Carolina Conference and Concord Methodist (now Central UMC) was made a station church, leaving the Concord Circuit.]

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

Salisbury District, Rowan and Union Circuit:

Thomas L. Triplett	1871-1872
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Charlotte District, Mt. Pleasant Circuit:

J. S. Nelson	1873
J. P. Simpson W. S. Rone	1874

Charlotte District, Concord Circuit:

M. C. Thomas	1875
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Charlotte District, Mt. Pleasant Circuit:

A. D. Betts	1876
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Charlotte District, Concord Circuit:

J. C. Thomas	1877-1878
W. D. Lee	1879
D. L. Earnhardt	1880

Salisbury District, Concord Circuit:

D. L. Earnhardt	1881
H. P. Cole	1882-1883
Zebedee Rush	1884-1885
W. L. Grissom	1886-1888
M. V. Sherrill	1889
Thomas W. Smith	1890-1891*
Louis M. Brower	1892
A. R. Surratt	1893-1894
W. H. L. McLaurin	1895-1896
G. G. Harley	1896-1898
J. S. Nelson	1898-1900
F. W. Bradley	1900-1903
W. V. Honeycutt	1903-1906
Albert Sherrill	1906-1907
B. A. York	1907-1909
W. P. McGhee	1909-1911
W. T. Albright	1911-1915
P. L. Terrell	1915-1917

P. L. Shore	1917-1919
N. C. Williams	1919-1921
W. A. Rollins	1921-1923
Seymour Taylor	1923-1924
A. G. Loftin	1924-1928
E. E. Snow	1928-1930
J. A. Baldwin	1930-1932
Mark Clegg	1932-1933
J. N. Randall	1933-1937

* During the pastorate of Thomas W. Smith in 1890, Mt. Olivet became a part of the Western North Carolina Conference.

Rev. Randall served the Concord Circuit from 1933 to 1937. Mt. Olivet was made a station church and its parsonage built in 1937; he then served Mt. Olivet from 1937 to 1939.

Salisbury District:

J. N. Randall	1937-1939
F. W. Kiker	1939-1943
C. B. Newton	1943-1944
W. B. Davis	1944-1948
C. O. Kennerly	1948-1953
M. C. Ellerbe	1953-1955
Paul Bruton	1955-1959
J. J. Powell	1959-1960
Joseph M. Taylor, Jr.	1960-1963
Albert W. Wellons	1963-1967
I. Pressley Rutledge	1967-1973
Lewis C. Gibbs	1973-1979
Richard B. Jarrett	1979-1983
Benjamin F. Wilson	1983-1988
K. Wesley Judy	1988-2001
James Bowen	2001-

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE FORTH FROM MT. OLIVET TO SERVE AS MINISTERS

Thomas E. Winecoff
Milton Litaker
Clarence Williams
Fred Shinn
LeRoy A. Scott
Cathy Cook Childers

JOYNER



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