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Bethel Andrews History

Bethel United Methodist Church, Andrews

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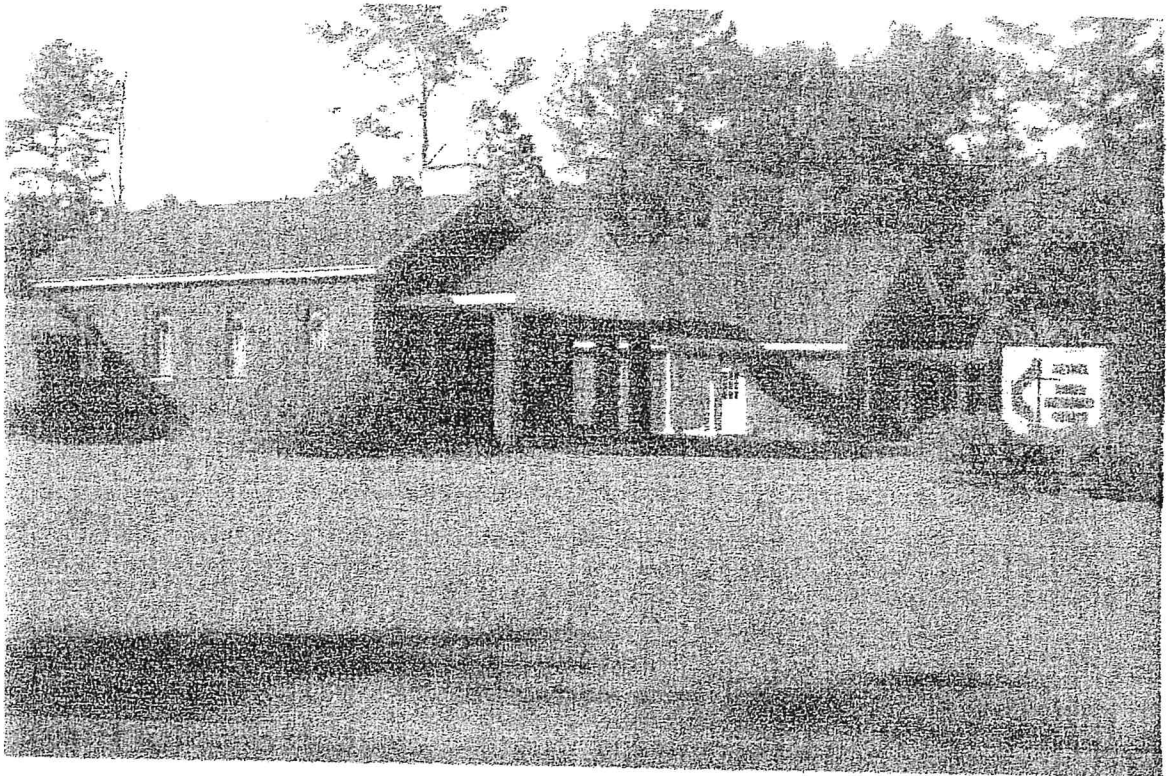
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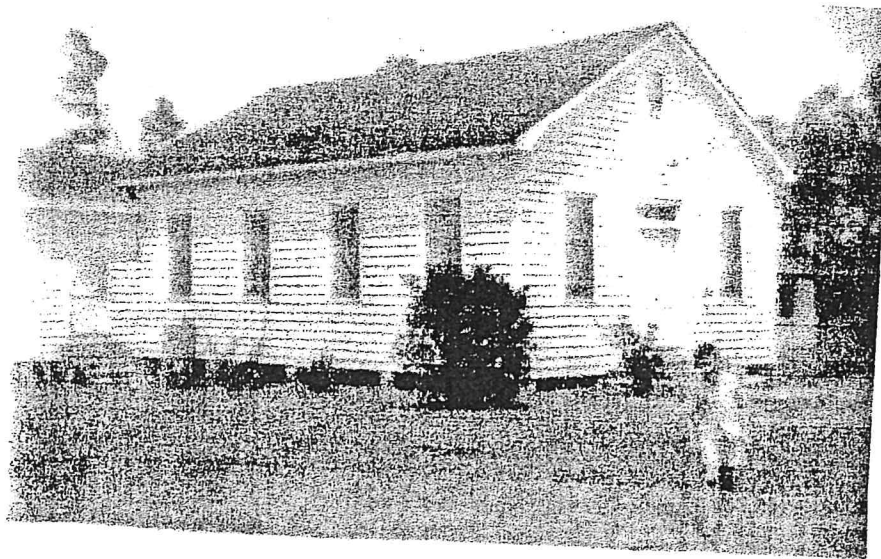
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Bethel United Methodist Church



**5240 Kent Road
Andrews, S.C. 29510**

Bethel United Methodist Church



Four Sunday school rooms were completed in 1953.
A building for the youth of the church was built in 1962.

Methodism---Grace and Freedom 1784---1990

Early Methodism

The evolution of Methodism as a South Carolina religious denomination had to wait fifty years after the first visits of the Wesleys to the province. In 1784 three years after the cessation of hostilities of the American Revolution and in the year that the Treaty of Peace was concluded in Paris, sixty roving preachers convened in conference in Baltimore, Maryland and established a church. The formal unification of the Methodist movement in the United States thus began.

In January of 1785, after the confusion of the Baltimore General Conference meeting, the newly ordained Superintendent, Francis Asbury, in company with the Rev. Woolman Hickson, the Rev. Jesse Lee, and the Rev. Henry Willis traveled on horseback on a missionary journey to the Southern States. The four ministers proceeded by Long Bluff Court House, across Lynches River, Black Mingo Creek and Black River into Georgetown County arriving February 23, 1785.

They stayed in Georgetown with William Wayne whom they converted. He was the first recorded South Carolina Methodist. Rev. Woolman Hickson stayed in Georgetown to establish a congregation there, while Francis Asbury, Jesse Lee, and Henry Willis continued to Charleston. From this time on, Francis Asbury made many trips through the Sampit community on his way to Charleston via Lenudes Ferry, across the Santee or from Charleston to Georgetown by the same route.

On Francis Asbury's second trip through the Sampit community, in the year 1786, he established a Slave Mission on the Thomas Boone Plantation. Thomas Boone was one of the Governors of South Carolina, appointed to that office by the King of England.

The first South Carolinian to be named a bishop in the Methodist Church, William Capers, was born at Cainhoy, near Georgetown, 1790. The Capers' family moved from Georgetown when he was eleven years old, but he still spent his summers on the Waccamaw Neck. While teaching in Georgetown, Capers helped incorporate the Methodist Episcopal Church of Georgetown in 1817.

Acknowledgements:

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Bethel United Methodist Church **A History**

Prior to 1892 Bethel Church began as a small center for community worship on the property owned by Mr. William B. Smith. The center for worship was located in the present Bethel cemetery. Because of his love for the cause of Christ and from an earnest desire to promote his heritage on earth, Mr. William B. Smith gave 2 acres of land to the Methodist Episcopal Church South Conference. Mr. Smith was a blacksmith by trade and the Grandfather of Mrs. Etta Rogerson Porter, a faithful member of Bethel Church. After Mr. W.B. Smith deeded the property to the Conference, Mr. James M. Porter, Mr. William Porter, Mr. Elias F. Mathews, Mr. William B. Smith, Mr. Daniel Richardson and Mr. William D. Rogerson were elected as trustees. The building was designated to be used, kept and maintained as a place of Devine worship, subject to the discipline, usage and ministerial appointments of the church conference. The deed was recorded on November 23, 1893. Bethel Church joined Sampit, Oak Grove, Friendship and Gourdines Chapel as a charge of the Methodist Episcopal Church South Conference. In 1958 the Friendship Church closed leaving Bethel, Sampit, Oak Grove and Gourdines Chapel as the charge. In later years the Conference changed its' name to The United Methodist Conference. All four churches shared in the upkeep of the old original parsonage which was located on property belonging to the Sampit Methodist Church. In the early fifties, the original old parsonage was torn down and a new parsonage was constructed on the same property. The parsonage expenses were shared by the four churches on the charge. One minister was assigned to serve all four churches. This pattern continued until 1970 when the charge was divided and each church became an affiliate of another church. In 1970 Bethel was assigned to Trinity United Methodist in Andrews and was served by their minister until 1981 after which time Rev. William "Bill" Love was assigned to Bethel. Oak Grove was assigned to Wayne Methodist and Sampit to Herbert Memorial. In 1998 Bethel, Oak Grove and Sampit returned to a charge and were served by Rev. Don Swett who was the minister at that time. Gourdines Chapel remained independent.

The original Bethel Church building (community worship center) was located on the same side of the road as the present Bethel cemetery; however, the church was damaged by a storm in 1915 and a new building was erected on the land across from the present cemetery. The new Bethel Church building was completely destroyed on December 02, 1942 by a railroad fire. For three years services were held in the Reeves Baptist Church located on the same side of the road but a little further South. With the help of Rev. J. J. Patrick, then pastor and District Superintendent, A. F. Ragan, damages in the amount of \$1,500.00 were collected from the Railroad Company and the funds were used to build another church building. The timber for the church was given by Mr. Fred Wiggins, sawed by Mr. C.A. Nance and contracted and built by Mr. J. D. Mercer. The church was dedicated in 1945.

The attendance increased such that the congregation decided to add Sunday school rooms to the church. In May 1952 logs on the church property were cut with a crosscut saw by Ralph Porter, Jerry Rogers, and Rev. Enoch Finklea, pastor. The Thompson brothers from Gourdines Chapel hauled the logs to Mr. Dutch Rogers' sawmill located in the town of Andrews. When the lumber was ready, work days were announced and many

responded from neighboring communities until all of the outside work was done. Individual donations were made for the remaining expenses and Mr. Fletcher Mercer did the finishing work. The four Sunday school rooms were completed in December, 1953.

The Women's Society of Christian Service was first organized on September 09, 1952. Daily Vacation Bible School was held for the first time in June 1954. The Youth Fellowship organization began in 1959 with Mr. and Mrs. Felder Miller serving as counselors. The beginning organization had 15 members. Counselors following Mr. and Mrs. Miller were Mrs. Fred McLaughlin, Mrs. Maggie Rogerson, Mrs. Alice Tanner, and Mrs. Barbara Moore. As the youth became older, the organization became the Youth Choir directed by Mrs. Barbara Moore with accompanist Miss Denise Moore. The group performed at several churches and for various functions until most of the young members left for college. Another Youth Fellowship program was started under the ministry of Rev. Scott Johnson. Counselors were Mr. & Mrs. Alan McLaughlin. The organization continued for about 4 years.

In 1962 a youth building was built by the trustees: Mr. Ralph Porter, Mr. Fletcher Mercer, Mr. Felder Miller, Mr. M. M. Rogerson and Mr. J. E. Goodwin. The youth financed many of the expenses and the building was finished in time for their Christmas program in December of 1962. The youth building later became known as the Fellowship Hall.

The membership of Bethel, the small community church, increased to eighty members with the Rev. Walter P. Queen serving as pastor and the Rev. S. M. Atkinson as District Superintendent. The late Mr. W. J. Porter served as Sunday School Superintendent for more than thirty years. Succeeding Mr. Porter as Sunday School Superintendent were the following: Mr. J.D. Mercer, Mr. J.E. Goodwin, Mr. Fletcher Mercer, Mr. Fred Wiggins and Mr. D.C. Wiggins. (Mr. D.C. Wiggins was the last to serve under the title of Sunday School Superintendent, as all offices held in the United Methodist Conference were changed to department chairpersons.) The enrollment at this time was 102. The first adult choir was organized in 1962 by Mrs. S. L. Miller.

The first Junior Choir was organized in 1963. In 1963 the United Methodist Women sponsored the drive to collect funds and donations from various church members toward the purchase of the new hymnals. A church membership directory was published in 1963.

In 1964 the church floor was carpeted for a price \$458. 76. Miss Ruby Glass donated 9/10 acre of land in 1965 to be added to the present cemetery for future burial plots. This increased the total United Methodist Conference (Bethel Church) property to 2.9 acres.

The portico on the front of the church, restrooms and electric pump were installed in 1966. The electric pump was given by Mr. E.B. Moore. The church was underpinned with brick and a brick pump house constructed by J. Hudson under contract for labor.

Also in 1966, new pulpit furniture including the pulpit, the communion table, and 2 pastoral chairs were presented to the church by Mr. Fred Wiggins in memory of his dear wife, Mrs. Odell Peal (e) Wiggins. Mrs. Wiggins had served as Sunday school teacher for many years. During the same year, the Methodist Youth Fellowship presented the cross and Mrs. Ruby R. Moore presented the Candelabras for the communion table in memory of the deceased members of the church. Thirty two new hymnals were purchased in 1966.

A cemetery committee was formed in 1966 and elected to erect a new fence around the cemetery. Donations were collected from interested members from Bethel and Holy

Trinity Pentecostal Holiness Church. Mr. Fred Wiggins donated the brick and materials for the columns for the gates and the corner stones of the cemetery. Mr. McNulty Rogerson paid for the labor on the columns.

New window glass was added to the windows and old windows were repaired and painted in 1967 and a steeple added to the church. The steeple was donated by Mr. J. R. Moore of North Carolina. Mrs. Justine Barnes donated the steeple bell. On December 02, 1967, work on the Sunday school rooms began at the cost of \$13.79 materials and \$35.00 labor. The outside of the church was painted at a cost of \$94.90 materials and \$185.00 labor. Mr. Bennie E. Todd was the contractor.

New loose-leaf hymnals were purchased for the choir at a cost of \$10.00 in 1967 and Mrs. Ethel Williams who served as a rural worker for the charge retired.

On July 12, 1968 the Sunday school awnings were installed over the doors. These were purchased by the church members. The interior of the church was painted in 1968.

In May 1970 a down payment for the church pews was given by Mr. Fred Wiggins. The pews were delivered and installed on October 02, 1970 and the balance due was paid by other church members with payment in full being made on the same day.

A new Baldwin piano was purchased for the church in February 15, 1971 and paid in full by October 05, 1971.

Bethel Church sanctuary and Sunday school rooms were bricked in 1973. The funds and materials for the brick and labor were donated as follows:

Materials:

Bricks-----Mr. Fred Wiggins

Cement-----Mr. E.B. Moore

Sand-----Mr. Donnie E. Moore

Caulk/Paint----Mr. Calvin W. Farrow

Labor:

Brick laying-----Mr. Felix Hudson (under contract by the church members)

Caulking/painting-----Mr. Calvin W. Farrow

In 1974 the parsonage which replaced the original old parsonage was sold and the money was divided between the 4 churches on the charge (Bethel, Oak Grove, Gourdines Chapel and Sampit). The parsonage sold for 1, 272.85.

The money received from the sale of the parsonage helped to purchase and install the heating and cooling system for Bethel church. This project was headed by Mr. Fred McLaughlin and completed on July 08, 1974. The unit was purchased from Kensington Heating and A/C for 1, 375.00. In 1974 a certificate of appreciation was presented to Mrs. Etta Rogerson Porter for 50 years of faithful service to her church (Bethel). Mrs. Porter missed only one Sunday and that was the Sunday that a tornado hit her home. Mrs. Porter continued serving her church until her death on May 17, 1986.

In 1978 one hundred and eighty pieces of shrubbery were planted and the same year a lighted church sign was purchased from and installed by Jimmy's Sign Service out of Kingstree. Alan McLaughlin bricked around the base of the sign and shrubbery was added. The cost of the sign was \$504.00.

On January 19, 1979 new awnings were purchased from Home Exteriors to replace the 1968 awnings at a price of \$204.00. Wiring of the church fellowship hall was

completed in November 1980 by Mr. Earl Duncan for a price of \$280.00. The old shingles on the church roof were removed and replaced with new ones in 1981. Also in July 1981 a Baptismal Font was purchased by private donations of the church members and dedicated in honor of Mrs. Etta Porter who served the church from 1913 until her death on May 17, 1986. This project was carried out by Mrs. Ruth Farrow at a cost of \$390.00 including a plaque. The fellowship hall was painted, linoleum laid and new drapes added in 1981. The materials were purchased by the church members. The following donated their time and labor toward the project: Mrs. Mildred Player, Mrs. Dorothy Rogerson (Dot) and Mrs. Ruth Anderson. At a later time, carpet was installed in the Fellowship Hall by Mr. Art Wolf at a cost of \$613.09. Tables and chairs were purchased from Sears for the Fellowship Hall on April 24, 1981 at a price of \$235.94.

Chancel Rails by Miller's Wood & Iron Works were installed in 1983 at a cost of \$352.09 and in 1984 step rails were installed by Mr. Donald and Mr. F. D (Nick) Mercer. The cost of the material was \$35.00. Labor was donated.

Due to vandalism a new church sign was installed on December 26, 1986. The cost for the replacement was \$504.00. Southern Mutual Ins. Co. paid \$404.00 of the replacement fee. Also on May 26, 1986, the Sunday school rooms were carpeted. The cost of the carpet was \$265.79. Mrs. Ruth Anderson paid for the carpet installation in one room and the church paid the balance of \$67.25.

An intercom system was placed in church and fellowship hall for nursery use on May 04, 1987. The cost of installation was \$39.77 which was paid by the church. On May 28, 1987, the roof of the Sunday school rooms was re-shingled by Billy Casselman and his brother. Labor for the job was \$725.00 and the materials were \$770.72. Total cost covered by the church was \$1,495.72.

By May 1988 remodeling of the church sanctuary began. A dropped ceiling,(and other repairs) a choir loft, (obtained by removing a wall behind the pulpit area and absorbing two Sunday school rooms), floors braced and leveled across front portion of sanctuary, and 2 new front doors were added. The labor was provided by Mr. Alan McLaughlin. Total cost of renovations was \$4,741.00. The pews in the church were stripped and refinished, the inside of the church was painted and repairs made to outside windows and trim at a cost of \$2,053.00. Labor and materials were furnished by Mr. Calvin Farrow. New chandeliers were added to the sanctuary at a cost of \$436.72. A new front entrance door and additional lighting fixtures for the pulpit and choir were purchased at a price of \$547.31. Repairs were made to the heating/cooling system which cost \$861.00. New carpet was installed in the sanctuary at the price of \$2,137.93 and insulation was installed under the floor of the church by Manning Insulators for a cost of \$670.00. Miscellaneous items bore a total of \$30.44. Also purchased were pew cushions costing \$1,413.72. Brick was replaced around the new entrance door by Mr. Felix Hudson for the price of \$150.00. On May 03, 1988, a stained-glass window was purchased and installed behind the choir section of the church sanctuary as a memorial "In Loving Memory of Ruby R. Moore". The church members provided \$415.00 from the Memorial Fund and the balance of \$557.93 was provided by Mr. E. B. Moore, Mrs. Myrtle Moore Wiggins, Mrs. Joyce Moore Blake and Mrs. Teresa Moore Cook. The window was paid in full on May 03, 1988 with check #1637. The window style was #102—Gethsemane Naturalistic by the Laws Stained Glass Co., Route 4, Box 377, Statesville, N.C. 28677. Total cost for the window was \$972.93. At the cost of \$26.46,

a new glass was purchased from Pittsburg Glass Co. and installed over the entrance door of the church on Dec. 07, 1988 with check #1657. The total remodeling cost for the 1988 year was \$12, 927. 27.

New awnings were purchased for the Sunday school room doors in 1989 in order to replace the awnings destroyed by hurricane Hugo. The Sun Awning Co. (Mr. Bill Cline) furnished the awnings and they were installed and paid for by the church for a price of \$328.00. Sixty-eight new hymnals were purchased through the Cokesbury Memorial Account for a sum of \$859.65. The following is a list of memorials given toward the purchase of the new Hymnals:

Herbert Flowers---55.00
Chris Graham --- 10.00
Walter Layton --- 25.00
Ralph Moore --- 50.00
Mrs. Willie Mae Wilder --- 20.00
Mrs. Elizabeth Miller --- 40. 00
Louis Connelly --- 45.00
Olga Elliott --- 330.00
Grier & Valeria A. Johnson --- 20.00
Rogerson, Inc. --- 130.00

The Cokesbury Memorial Fund was enhanced by \$300.00 which was donated by Don and Carolyne Rogerson who repaired 12 nursery chairs and donated the cost to the Memorial Fund. Calvin Farrow painted the nursery chairs and the toy chest at no charge.

A new heating and cooling system was installed by Bruce Brown Heating and A/C, Inc. in September 29, 1990. The cost of \$3,450.00 was paid for by the church members.

In 1991 new choir chairs were purchased from Office Warehouse in North Charleston, S.C. at the price of \$549.70. The church members paid for the choir chairs and Mr. Bill Porter picked up and assembled the chairs at no charge.

The Fellowship Hall was re-modeled in 1992 at a cost of \$11, 425.50. In May 1995 the church purchased a copier at the cost of \$960.00. In September of the same year Debbie Pentecost, (whose husband is The Rev. Tom Pentecost the pastor in 1995), was recommended for ministry studies.

The sanctuary was re-shingled in 1995 by Mr. Bill Porter, Mr. Alan McLaughlin and Mr. Michael Barnes.

**Pastors who served Bethel United Methodist Church
Records supplied by Wofford College**

No dates----Rev. M. H. Major
1890-91----Rev. Sam Jones
1891-92----Rev. Joshia D. Frierson
1893-94----Rev. William Collier Wynn
1894-----Rev. Newton Kenneth Melton
1895-----Rev. John Thomas McFarlane
1896-----Rev. Lucas S. Bellinger
1896-----Rev. Olin Lowry Durant
1897-----Rev. John Benjamin Weldon

Bethel History 1995 to present

1995 Tom Pentecost was appointed as pastor to Bethel/Oak Grove,/Sampit charge.

In 1996 we remodeled the sanctuary. This included painting, lowering the ceilings, carpet and refinished the pews. Sunday school rooms were painted and carpeted. In 1996 Bethel UMC also began and later completed the Disciple Bible Studies. We continued intense studies, under Carolyn Rogerson, for the next ten years.

1998 Don Sweat was appointed pastor of the charge.

Intercessory Prayer group began Sept., 1998. They meet every Sunday evening to pray for the church and the needs of the community.

2001 Scott Johnson was appointed to our charge. We provide meals for Salkehatchie groups in the area and sponsored youth to attend camps during the summer.

2003 Bruce Adams was appointed to our charge. We begin supporting Helping Hands of Georgetown with food and monetary donations.

2004 Bethel purchased stained glass windows for the sanctuary.

Three quarters acres of land was purchased behind the church in 2005.

We began construction of the new fellowship hall in 2006. Construction was completed in 2007. Cabinets were

donated by Don and Carolyn Rogerson

2007 Robert Eubanks was appointed to our charge.

2009 Danny Chamblee was appointed pastor to Bethel and we became part of the charge with Wayne UMC.

2010, we began work on the prayer garden between the fellowship hall and sanctuary. That same year we also began a community outreach with Wonderful Wednesday. We meet once a month for music, fellowship and a meal. Other churches and individuals in the community participate. We started Son Shine Kids for the children in the community. They meet once a week for a bible lesson, craft and games.

We put in a new heat and air system in 2011.

2015 Bethel replaced the floor in the sanctuary, bought new carpet, and extended the choir area. Stained Glass windows were donated by Linda and David Connelly in memory of their parents and daughter, Tracy.

2015 the Men's Fellowship began. They meet once a month for devotion, fellowship and a meal. They do community projects to help those in need.

2018 we purchased a new clavi nova for the sanctuary. We moved the old piano to the fellowship hall.

2019 Bethel purchased digital display screen/monitors for the church service for songs and scripture. We began sharing the service on Facebook live.

2020 In person services stopped for several months as ordered by the bishop, due to covid.

2021 Steve Garner was appointed as pastor for Bethel and we were able to resume in person worship as well as other programs