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Carlisle Methodist Church

Carlisle, South Carolina 29031

History of Carlisle Methodist Church

May 9, 2023

Carlisle Methodist Traces Its Roots To Fishdam Meeting House

By JEANNETTE CHRISTOPHER

The first Methodist church in the southeast section of Union County was Fishdam Meeting House, which was located on a high hill near Fish Dam Ford on Broad River. The church was organized by a group of Virginians who moved to South Carolina about the time of the Revolution.

Nathan Glenn and his son, Spilsby, newly arrived from Cumberland County, Virginia, built the first church near their home, and the church was sometime referred to as Glenn's Chapel in old church records.

Fishdam Meeting House was one of the original churches on Broad River Circuit, which stretched from Richland County up Broad River to Spartanburg County and included churches in all the counties on both sides of the river.

Broad River Circuit was organized in 1785 — the first circuit in South Carolina, according to Methodist histories. In his famous "Journal," Bishop Francis Asbury mentions preaching at Fishdam and staying with families who lived nearby.

In 1805, Enoree Circuit was formed, and Fishdam, along with most of the Methodist churches in Union County, was included in the new circuit. Enoree Circuit existed until at least 1843. The original minute book of quarterly conferences, covering 1805-1843, is still in existence in the Methodist Archives in Wofford College Library in Spartanburg. From 1843 until the late 1800's Fishdam was on a charge with Gilliam's Chapel and other churches in the area.

The membership of old Fishdam Meeting House included the Glenn, Jeter, Hill, Sartor, Bowker, Thomas, Bates, Coleman, Sims, Kelly, Lyles, Carlisle, Gilliam, Gee, Hamilton, Ellis and Rice families, and descendants of some of these same families are present-day members of Carlisle Methodist Church.

In 1898, shortly after the town of Carlisle came into existence, the Fishdam congregation decided to build a new church within the town limits, and old Fishdam Church was torn down. No sign of it remains today except the rock foundations pillars in the old cemetery.

When the new church was built in the town of Carlisle, the name was changed to Carlisle Methodist. The congregation purchased a lot at the corner of Sartor and Cambridge Streets from Mr. T. Jones, who lived in Santuc. The building was completed in 1899 at a cost of \$1,500. The plans were drawn up by a Mr. Bishop from Whitmire, and the contractor was a Mr. Timmie from Chester. The lumber was purchased from a lumber company in Augusta, Ga. The church benches were donated by Epps Tucker, and the plastering paid for, personally by Dr. T.B. Bates. The building committee was

composed of Rowland G. Hill, Billy K. Thomas, James G. Rice, E.C. Howze, M.C. Deaver and W.F. Bates.

Built Oct 10 - 1976
The congregation of the new Carlisle Methodist Church had the usual problems in financing the churches everywhere encounter. They built the church and had to wait awhile to add the steeple. To help raise money for the steeple, the ladies of the church served ice-cream socials, a popular form of entertainment of the time. Shortly after the steeple was completed, it caught on fire. When someone ran to tell one of the ladies of the church about the fire she threw up her hands and exclaimed, "It can't burn, its made out of ice cream!" She was right — the fire was put out before any serious harm was done.

By 1914, the church was on the Carlisle Charge along with Gilliam's Chapel, Kelly's Chapel, and Santuc (called Antioch in some of the quarterly conference minutes.) R.O. Lawton was the pastor and in his fourth quarterly report he stated that attendance at every church service "is very encouraging." There was "a live and enthusiastic choir" and the young people took active interest in church affairs. In 1915 the Sunday School was reorganized, and effort were being made to build a parsonage to replace one that had been destroyed by fire. By 1916, the new parsonage had been built, and in 1920 the church was repaired and repainted for \$350.

The last quarterly conference minutes of 1923 show that Kelly's Chapel was considered closing and apparently Gilliam's Chapel closed about the same time. In 1924 the Carlisle Church was included in Union Circuit with Sardis and Unity Churches. The arrangement continued until 1955 when Gilliam's Chapel was reopened and the present Carlisle-Gilliam's Chapel Charge was formed.

Around 1963, the Carlisle Methodist Church membership decided to build a new church. There was no money with which to build a church, but Mr and Mrs. C.A. Jeter gave the church a new lot on which to build, and with this encouragement, an all-out effort was made to raise the needed funds. It involved a great deal of work, but, with the help of many people in Union County and elsewhere, the goal was achieved, and the first service in the new church was held in October 1976.

In 1980, through the generosity of the C.A. Jeter and J.H. Smith family, a steeple was added, and the ladies of the church have had cushions tailored for the pews — the same church benches that were donated by Epps Tucker in 1898. Other improvements will be made as money is raised.

Ministers who have served the Carlisle and Gilliam's Chapel Charge since 1914 are:

CARLISLE METHODIST CHURCH

733

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New Circuit

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the cost of \$1500. The plans were drawn up by a Mr. Bishop from Whitmire, and the contractor was a Mr. Timmie from Chester. The lumber was purchased from a lumber company in Augusta, Ga. The church benches were donated by Mr. Epps Tucker, and the plastering paid for, personally, by Dr. T.B. Bates. The building committee was composed of Rowland G. Hill, Billy K. Thomas, James G. Rice, E.C. Howze, M.C. Deaver, and W.F. Bates.



Carlisle Methodist Church.

Church Finances

The congregation of the new Carlisle Methodist Church had the usual problems in financing that churches everywhere encounter. They built the church and had to wait awhile to add the steeple. To help raise money for the steeple, the ladies of the church served ice-cream socials, a popular form of entertainment of the time. Shortly after the steeple was completed, it caught on fire. When someone ran to tell one of the ladies of the church that the steeple was on fire, she threw up her hands and exclaimed, "It can't burn, it's made out of ice cream!" She was right — the fire was put out before any serious harm was done.

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Sardis and Unity Churches. This arrangement continued until 1955 when Gilliam's Chapel was reopened and the present Carlisle-Gilliam's Chapel Charge was formed.

Funds for New Church

Around 1963 the Carlisle Methodist Church membership decided to build a new church. There was no money with which to build a church, but Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Jeter gave the church a new lot on which to build, and with this encouragement, an all-out effort was made to raise the needed funds. It involved a great deal of work, but, with the help of many people in Union County and elsewhere, we finally achieved our goal and held our first service in our new church in October, 1976.

In 1981 the church has a membership of thirty-six, and services are held every Sunday morning. Every fourth Sunday night the congregations of Carlisle and Gilliam's Chapel together have a church supper which always includes an interesting program. We continue to add improvements to the new church building; in 1980, through the generosity of the C.A. Jeter family and the J.H. Smith family, a steeple was added, and the ladies of the church recently had cushions tailored for the pews — the same "church benches" that were donated by Mr. Epps Tucker in 1898. Other improvements will be made as the money is raised. That group of Virginians who organized Fishdam Meeting House during the turbulent aftermath of the American Revolution would heartily approve of the present-day enthusiasm of the congregation of Carlisle Methodist Church.

Ministers

Ministers who have served the Carlisle and Gilliam's Chapel Charge since 1914 are:

R.O. Lawton — 1914; W.B. Duncan, Jr. — 1915; R.C. Boulware — 1916; R.L. Doggett — 1917; W.Y. Cooley — 1918 through 1920; J.L. Jett — 1921; L.A. Carter — 1922; T.F. Gibson — 1923; N.M. Phillips — 1924-1926; O.H. Hatchett — 1927-1928; R.M. Dubose — 1929-1930; Foster Speer — 1931-1933; J.B. Kilgore — 1934-1935; J.E. Goodwin — 1936; A.J. Bowling — 1937-1943.

C.A. Brooks — 1944-1947; E.L. Johnson — 1948-1952; R.L. McCraw — 1953-1954; R.J. Howell — 1955; C.N. Harris — 1956-1959; G.W. Stewart — 1960; Wade Jones — 1961; James Mishoe — 1963-1964; Jerry D. Warren — 1966; James W. Crowe — 1967; Phil Pace — 1968; T. Lee Bryant — 1969-1970; Arthur T. Sprouse — 1971; T.B. Wilkes, Sr. — 1972; James W. Crowe — 1973-1974; Clyde W. Allen — 1974 to present.

From 1924 through 1954, the ministers listed above served the Union Circuit which included Carlisle, Unity, and Sardis. Since 1955, the ministers served the Carlisle-Gilliam's Chapel Charge.

— Jeannette M. Christopher



Carlisle ministers
Stone, R. Phillip

to:

anne.dehart

05/18/2011 03:22 PM

Hide Details

From: "Stone, R. Phillip" <StoneRP@Wofford.Edu>

To: <anne.dehart@milliken.com>

Here are the ministers as promised – sorry for the delay.
Carlisle Church ministers

Santuc Circuit

- 1898 A. Frank Berry
- 1899 Connor Black Burns
- 1902 Edward Madison Merritt
- 1904 Thomas B. Owen, supply
- 1907 Robert A. Brock, supply
- 1908 Wyatt Lester Gault
- 1909 J. H. Manly
- 1910 E. L. McCoy

Carlisle Circuit

- 1911 E. L. McCoy
- 1912 Oliver N. Rountree
- 1914 Robert O. Lawton
- 1915 Watson B. Duncan
- 1916 Robert Chesley Boulware
- 1917 Robert L. Doggett
- 1918 Walter Y. Cooley
- 1921 John L. Jett
- 1922 L. A. Carter
- 1923 Thomas Franklin Gibson

Union Circuit

- 1924 John A. Chandler
- 1925 Numa M. Phillips
- 1928 Oliver H. Hatchett

1930 Robert M. DuBose
1932 Foster Speer
1935 John B. Kilgore
1937 John E. Goodwin
1938 Archie J. Bowling
1945 Clyde A. Brooks
1949 E. L. Johnson
1954 R. L. McGraw
Carlisle-Gilliam Chapel
1955 B. J. Howell
1956 Carl N. Harris
1960 G. W. Stewart
1961 Wade Jones
1962 TBS
1963 James Mishoe
1965 TBS
1966 Jerry D. Warren
Carlisle-St. John
1967 James W. Crow
1968 Phil Pace
1969 T. Lee Bryant (supply)
Carlisle
1971 Arthur Taylor Sprouse
1972 T. B. Wilkes
1973 James W. Crow
Carlisle-Gilliam Chapel
1974 Clyde W. Allen
1982 James W. Ivey
Becomes part of Carlisle-Whitmire Circuit
1986 Harold Goewey
1990 Robert Cannon and Carol Cannon
1995 Boyce F. Brooks
2001 Rebecca A. McPherson
2005 Kelly G. Gilmer

R. Phillip Stone, Ph.D.
Archivist, Wofford College
864-597-4313
http://blogs.wofford.edu/from_the_archives/
<http://woffordlibrary.blogspot.com/>

HISTORY OF CARLISLE METHODIST CHURCH

The first Methodist church in this area was Fishdam Meeting House which was located on a high hill near Fish Dam Ford on Broad River. The church was organized by a group of Virginians who moved to South Carolina about the time of the Revolution. It was one of the original churches on the old Broad River Circuit organized in 1785--the first circuit in South Carolina, according to Methodist histories. Bishop Asbury mentions in his famous diary preaching at Fishdam and staying with families who lived nearby.

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Around 1898 when the town of Carlisle came into existence, the Fishdam congregation decided to build a new church in the town limits, and old Fishdam was torn down. No sign of it remains today except the rock foundation pillars in the old cemetery.

The congregation of the old Carlisle Methodist Church had the same problems in financing that the present congregation has encountered. They built the church and had to wait awhile to add the steeple. To help raise the money for the steeple, the ladies of the church served "ice-cream socials", so history repeats itself--a new generation of ladies is still serving "socials" to help pay part of the cost of the new church.

By 1914 the church was on the Carlisle Charge along with Gilliam's Chapel, Kelly's Chapel, and Santuc (called Antioch in some of the old minutes). R. O. Lawton was the pastor and in his 4th quarterly conference report, he states that attendance at every church service "is very encouraging." There was "a live and enthusiastic choir" and the young people took an active interest in church affairs. In 1915 the Sunday School was reorganized, and efforts were being made to build a parsonage to replace one that had been built, and in 1920 the church was repaired and repainted for the total cost of \$350.

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