Cedar Swamp Methodist Church History

Cedar Swamp United Methodist Church

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Cedar Swamp Methodist Church

In recent years the relentless pace of change has sparked a new interest in the slower and simpler ways of the past. Few things serve to kindle this nostalgic spirit better than a quiet walk through the cemetery and around the United Methodist Church in Cedar Swamp Community of Williamsburg County.

This church had a very humble beginning in the early 1800's. The first worship services were held under a brush arbor on the avenue of Major J. B. Chandler's home. Reminiscences of Mr. Nabor Lesesne say that Major Chandler raised a tune by striking his tuning fork on his knee to get the pitch.

In 1826 the Black River Circuit was organized with Cedar Swamp, one of many churches. The distance was long between these churches and the pastor rode horseback or in a buggy, which meant each church had worship services only once or twice a month. On alternate Sabbaths the congregation gathered to worship with praying, singing and praising God together.

During 1853 the church was built under the leadership of Captain John E. Scott, Major J. B. Chandler and Dr. John C. Williams. These men are buried in the church cemetery and Dr. William's marker gives some history.

In 1893 property was deeded to the church trustees by Major Chandler and the second church was built. Mr. Lesesne states in his memoirs that he helped hand shingle for this structure. The shingles were cypress and came from the swamp behind Mr. Marcellus McCrea's home. Mr. Lesesne states that he and the other churchmen gave generously to the building of this church under the guidance of W. D. Snowden, S. A. Guerry and J. Y. McGill. This church served until the present structure was built.

Ground breaking for our present sanctuary was on December 2, 1956. The building committee for this church were S. Dave McGill, Laddie Brown, Mrs. Scott McGill, Mrs. Ervin Graham, Ernest Prosser, Sr., J. S. McCutchen, F. P. Guerry, Jr., and Ruie M. Brown Chairman. Mr. Norwood Brown was contractor and L. K. Montgomery architect. Rev. Dalton Poston lead the first worship services in the new sanctuary August 25, 1957. Rev. Poston and several others who had served as pastors were invited to return for a marvelous homecoming when the mortgage was burned.
Cedar Swamp
United Methodist Church
Second building

Circa 1893
In 1826, the Black River Circuit was organized and meetings were held under a "Brush Arbor". Then in 1853, the first church building, as Cedar Swamp Methodist Church, was constructed. The second church was erected in 1893. The present church was constructed by Norwood Brown in 1957.
Quarterly Conference
RECORD
M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH.
THE COMPLETE

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE RECORD BOOK

EMBRACING A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS.

QUESTIONS ARRANGED

ACCORDING TO

WS MADE IN THE DISCIPLINE BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1894

Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

NASHVILLE, TENN.
PUBLISHING HOUSE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH,
BARBEE & SMITH, AGENTS.
Quarterly Conference Roll of Members for year 1895

Indian Town Charge.

Florence District,

South Carolina Conference.

Rev. E. F. Hodges Presiding Elder.

Rev. R. E. Mood P. C. Assistant.

S. J. McConnell S. P.
Isaac Effns.
J. M. Negmuth.
W. D. Snowden.
W. B. Baker.
J. H. George.
J. U. W. Till.
W. H. Kenedy.
B. S. Smith.
J. H. Cook.
J. P. Steele.
Robert Effns.
J. J. Hanna.
W. H. Thompson.
Ques. 24. Are there reports from the trustees? (See Supplement.)


MEMBERSHIP, BAPTISM, AND CHURCH PROPERTY.

Local Preachers, White Members, Colored Members, Total Members this year,

Total Members last year, Additions on profession of faith, Additions by Certificate and otherwise,

Removals by death, Certificate, and otherwise, Infants Baptized, Adults Baptized,

Number of Societies in the Charge, Number of Churches, Value of Churches

$ , Number of Parsonages, Value of Parsonages $ , Value of other Church Property $ , Money expended for Churches and Parsonages $ .

FINANCIAL.

Presiding Elder...Ass'd $ , Paid $ , Church Extension...Ass'd $ , Paid $ ,

Preacher in Charge Ass'd $ , Paid $ , Education ... Ass'd $ , Paid $ ,

Bishops Ass'd $ , Paid $ , American Bible Society ... Paid $ ,

Conference Claimants Ass'd $ , Paid $ , Exp. Del. Gen. Conf. Ass'd $ , Paid $ ,

Foreign Missions ... Ass'd $ , Paid $ , For... $ ,

Domestic Missions ... Ass'd $ , Paid $ , Total amount raised from all sources during year $ .

EPWORTH LEAGUE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Number of Epworth Leagues, Number of Epworth League Members, Number of Schools,

Number of Officers and Teachers, Number of Scholars, Amount collected for Sunday schools $ , Amount collected for Missions $ , Amount collected on Children's Day $ ,

Amount collected for other objects $ , Total amount raised $ .

Ques. 27. Is there any miscellaneous business? Ans. These ad

Isaac Effo is elected Recording Steward.

Isaac Effo and John N. McGill were elected delegates to Dist. Conference; R.W. Marshall W. W. Scotts alternates.

Ques. 28. Where shall the next Quarterly Conference be held? Ans. Elim .

(The Questions followed by the figures are to be asked at the Quarterly Conference indicated by the numbers.)

The Minutes were read and approved, and Conference adjourned.

E. J. Hodges, Presiding Elder.
The building committee for a new church building for Cedar Swamp Methodists watches as S. D. McGill turns a shovel of dirt. The ground breaking service was conducted by the Rev. D. H. Poston while members of the congregation responded. The new building will include six classrooms and a sanctuary seating 120 persons.

Cedar Swamp Methodist Building Committee

CEDAR SWAMP CHURCH SYMBOLS.

Many have asked about our cross on the steeple and our church symbols. Please read this and tell others when they ask.

Cross on Steeple. The Celtic Cross, sometime called the Irish cross, Cross of Iona, or Wheel Cross, has a circle which emphasizes the eternal effect of the redemption secured by the death of Christ on the Cross. It was first used by the Irish missionaries in Scotland. It is often seen on covers of hymnals, and other publications, on tombstones, and church steeples, altars, and church doors.

This cross is installed on the capstones over the Upper Room Chapel in Nashville, Tennessee. No more appropriate Christian Symbol could be found to tower over the Church at Cedar Swamp.

CHURCH WINDOW SYMBOLS.

NOAH’S ARK When Noah's Ark is used, it stands for salvation or more particular the salvation which the church affords. It is often used as a symbol of the Church. God reveals His redemptive work in the Old Testament.

DESCENDING DOVE Matthew 3:13-17. A symbol of the baptism of Jesus is formed by combining the symbols for the Holy Spirit for Christ and for water. Matthew, Mark and Luke refer to the Holy Spirit descending "like" or "as" a dove on Jesus at His baptism.

EASTER LILY There is no specific scriptural justification for using the Easter Lily as a symbol but it does aptly describe our hope in the resurrection. When the bulb is buried in the earth out of it grows foliage and a new bulb. This symbolizes the gaining of immortal life by the death of the body.

LAMB - CHRIST John 1:29.

According to John 1:29 when John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said "behold the Lamb of God" This and a similar statement in John 1:36 have brought into being two of our most meaningful symbols. The "suffering" Lamb and the "triumphant" Lamb.

Book - The Holy Bible

Sir Walter Scott on his deathbed asked for "the Book". Some one questioned him as to what book he desired. He replied, "need you ask? There is but one". A world wide appreciation of the Bible such as that expressed by Scott make the outline of a Book almost automatically represent the Holy Bible.

IHC or IHS — Jesus Acts 4:12

This symbol is seen more often than any other except the Cross. The IHC is older and more authentic than Ihs. Many say that it means "In His Service", and Jesus Hominum Salvator, Latin for "Jesus Savior of Mankind".
Cedar Swamp Methodist Church, Kingstree
CEDAR SWAMP METHODIST CHURCH OPENS
SUNDAY
First Services To Be Held In New Building (Staff Photo)

Homecoming To Be Held Sunday Near Kingstree

KINGSTREE, Aug. 22—Methodists of Cedar Swamp will open their new church at services Sunday at 11:15 a.m.

The $40,000 church will hold homecoming with former pastors, former members and friends as special guests.

The opening services will be read by the minister, the Rev. D. H. Poston. Lunch will be served in the community house immediately after church services.

The new brick church has just been completed by donations of more than $800 from every man, woman and child member of this small rural church.

The 83 members made donations of $24,000 in the fund drive and borrowed the remainder.

The attractive new building, unusually designed with the steeples in back, stands next to the old church.

The sanctuary is within the wing that extends out to the front of the building. Inside, the organ and all furniture is new. Floors are tile, and there is a central heating system.

Seating capacity of the sanctuary is 120. It may be increased to 200 by sliding folding doors back of the sanctuary that connect it with two Sunday school rooms. There are also four other Sunday school rooms in the building.

This is the third building for Cedar Swamp Methodist Church. In 1826 the Black River Circuit was organized and meetings were held under a brush arbor. Then in 1853 the first church building was constructed. The second church was erected in 1893.

Sunday’s services will be the final services conducted here by Mr. Poston. He leaves Aug. 29 to become minister of a church at Glendale, a suburb of Spartanburg. The Rev. J. M. Aiken will come from Wagener to succeed Rev. Poston.

The church was constructed by Norwood Brown, contractor. L. L Montgomery was architect.

The building committee which made plans for the building included S. D. McGill, chairman, R. J. Brown, R. J. McDuffie.

County Record in 1957
# TABLE I, STATISTICAL REPORT

### District

- Lake City

### Charge

- Kingstree Circuit

### Pastor

- T. Dwight Parrot

### If this report is only for a station charge, give state and county.

- Williamsburg

### NAME OF CHURCH OR CHURCHES:

- Use only total columns. In making financial reports, omit cents. Report to nearest dollar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Church S.C.</th>
<th>Church S.C.</th>
<th>Church S.C.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wm.burg</td>
<td>Wm.burg</td>
<td>Wm.burg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm.burg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Full Members Reported

- Total: 314
- County: 73
- State: 29
- Millwood: 137

### Average attendance at Sunday morning worship service(s)

- Total: 127
- County: 20
- State: 45
- Wm.burg: 62

### Infants Presented by Parents or Guardians

- Total: 12
- County: 12
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 0

### All Others: Children, Youth, Adults

- Total: 4
- County: 2
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 2

### Preparatory Members Now on Roll (Baptized Children Under 16)

- Total: 16
- County: 14
- State: 2
- Wm.burg: 2

### Total Officers, Teachers, Other Leaders (Do Not Inc. in Lines 17-22)

- Total: 17
- County: 6
- State: 11
- Wm.burg: 33

### Children (5-11 years) in entire Ch. Sch. (except nursery home mem.)

- Total: 45
- County: 10
- State: 35
- Wm.burg: 20

### Nursery Home Members

- Total: 0
- County: 0
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 0

### Youth (12-21 Years) in entire Ch. Sch. (except youth home & ext. mem.)

- Total: 32
- County: 0
- State: 11
- Wm.burg: 21

### Youth Home and Extension Members

- Total: 0
- County: 0
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 20

### Adults (22 and Older) in entire Ch. Sch. (except adult home & ext. mem.)

- Total: 40
- County: 0
- State: 24
- Wm.burg: 16

### Adult Home and Extension Members

- Total: 0
- County: 0
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 22

### Total Church School Membership (Add Lines 16-22 Inclusive)

- Total: 155
- County: 51
- State: 84
- Wm.burg: 3

### Average Attendance at Sunday School (All Ages)

- Total: 79
- County: 0
- State: 55
- Wm.burg: 46

### Average Attendance Methodist Sunday Evening Fellowship (All Ages)

- Total: 0
- County: 0
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 0

### Average Attendance Additional Sessions of Children

- Total: 0
- County: 0
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 0

### Average Attendance MYF Sunday Evening Meetings (Inc. also in Line 25)

- Total: 0
- County: 0
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 0

### Avg. Attend. of Adults in Ch. School Meetings Other than Sunday School

- Total: 0
- County: 0
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 0

### Number of Church Schools on Charge

- Total: 26
- County: 0
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 0

### Methodist Pupils and Constituents in Vacation Church Schools

- Total: 26
- County: 0
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 0

### Church School Members Joining the Church on Profession of Faith

- Total: 4
- County: 0
- State: 1
- Wm.burg: 3

### No. of Classes or Groups in Church School

- Total: 12
- County: 0
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 8

### Number of Classes or Groups using Approved Methodist Lesson Materials

- Total: 12
- County: 0
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 8

### Church School Offering for World Service and Conference Benevolences

- Total: 0
- County: 0
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 0

### Membership (Including Wesleyan Service Guilds)

- Total: 0
- County: 0
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 0

### Amount Paid for Local Church and Community Work

- Total: 0
- County: 0
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 0

### Ship in Methodist Men's Clubs

- Total: 0
- County: 0
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 0

### Of Together Subscriptions

- Total: 0
- County: 0
- State: 0
- Wm.burg: 0

### Of Organized Churches

- Total: 3
- County: 1
- State: 1
- Wm.burg: 1

### Estimated Value of Church Buildings, Equipment and Land

- Total: 60,400
- County: 5,900
- State: 43,600
- Wm.burg: 31,000
The report to the Official Board shall be made on this form. The REPORT TO THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE, it and when requested, shall also be made on this form. If additional space is needed for a full report, use extra sheets of plain white paper the same size as this form. Numbers in parentheses refer to paragraphs in the 1956 Discipline.

**Report of the Commission on Education**

**This is also the Report of the Church-School Superintendent**

For the Period Beginning **Sept. 1958** and Ending **June 1959**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Superintendent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Swamp</td>
<td>Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake City</td>
<td>Knight, Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHURCH-SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE INCREASE**

1. (a) Who is the Membership Cultivation Superintendent (¶ 143 § 8, 246 § 1)?
   
   (b) What are the names of those working with him representing the divisions, or departments, or classes?
   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Division/Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

2. Is a list of prospective new members maintained and worked?

3. How do church-school membership and average attendance compare with a year ago?

**QUALITY OF WORK**

4. What is being done about teacher training?

   Teacher training course or district

5. Do the Commission on Education and the Workers' Conference meet regularly (¶ 233 § 6, 249)?

6. What other features of progress can be reported?

**EVANGELISM IN THE CHURCH SCHOOL**

7. (a) Has the responsibility of teachers to lead pupils to Christ and church membership been emphasized?

   (b) Is the co-operation of parents and the home actively sought?

   (c) Are you using a practical plan training teachers to be evangelists?

**NEW CHURCH SCHOOLS**

8. Has a new church school been organized by this commission during the period of this report (¶ 242)?

   Note: For definition of church school, see ¶ 243, 1956 Discipline.