History of Mauldin Methodist Church

Mauldin United Methodist Church

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A HISTORY

of

MAULDIN METHODIST CHURCH

Formerly Poplar Springs Methodist Church

1869 - 1969

April 27, 1969

Mauldin, South Carolina
Preface

On May 1, 1969 the Methodist Church at Mauldin, South Carolina, will begin its second hundred years of service to the surrounding community. To commemorate this event, a centennial celebration has been planned for April 27; and this brief history of the church has been prepared for distribution at that time.

Older members of the church and community have been interviewed and personal reminiscences have been written down and recorded on tape. A historical sketch written in 1953 by Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Hindman has been used together with old family records and pictures. Old church records have been located, and complete quarterly conference records from 1895 to the present have been searched.

The account which follows tells of the struggles of a growing congregation of concerned Christian people as they attempted to build a church, and through it give their children Christian training, support missions, minister to the needy, the sick and aged, and spread an influence that would make the surrounding community more Christian. This is a story of dedicated Methodist ministers, of earnest, hardworking laymen, of young people and children often described by their ministers as "the most promising I have ever seen". It is a story of sacrifice and self denial, of dreams for better things and patient work to make those dreams come true. It is a continuing story and we can be proud to be a part of it.

Many people contributed to the progress of our church throughout the years. If it were only possible each would be named. But this cannot be done. At best this account can only be fragmentary. That it has been written at all is due to the cooperation of a great number of contributors. Mr. and Mrs. Hindman listed Mrs. S. L. King, Mrs. Corrie Smith, Miss Jean Adams, Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Greer, Mr. Walter Griffith, J. B. Forrester and Mrs. Janie Short as having given them information. Among those contributing to this later account are: Mrs. Walter Smith, T. E. King, Mrs. I. H. Forrester, Mrs. Lizzie Griffith, Mr. H. C. Taylor, Mrs. Ellen Fowler, Miss Annie Sheffield, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Whatley, Mrs. Hugh Baldwin, Miss Helen Blakely, T. C. Alexander, Miss Nellie Smith, Miss Marie Fowler, Mrs. W. A. Fowler, Mrs. Joe Morris, W. M. Burdett, Miss Martha Burdette, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Corn, Mr. S. M. Forrester, Miss Judi Forrester, Harold Vaughn, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Greer, Mrs. M. G. Verdin.

Perhaps those who read this account will be able to contribute to a more complete history of the church. It is hoped that this can be revised and printed during this centennial year.

Centennial Committee:

T. M. Verdin, Jr.  Chairman
Mrs. J. A. Fowler
J. H. Blakely, Jr.
J. T. Massey
Miss Margaret Bradley
Mrs. Richard Hart
HISTORY OF MAULDIN METHODIST CHURCH
1869 - 1969

Shortly after the Civil War, a group of Christian men and women recognized the need for a church in the community then known as Butler's Crossroads, now the Town of Mauldin. Some of these people were members of Bethel Methodist Church which had been established since 1804. Others may have been members of McBee's Chapel, established 1841. Under the leadership of Reverend Samuel Green and Mr. J. B. Hyde, who lived in the area, this group made plans for the first church in the Mauldin community.

The oldest record available is a deed dated May 1, 1869 which transfers from J. B. Hyde to the trustees: Mr. Andrew Forrester, J. B. Hyde, Benjamin Hamby, Benjamin Holland and B. B. Glenn, a plot of ground measured as one acre and fifteen poles. The land was to be used for school grounds and for a Methodist Church.

This property included a grove of poplar trees, with several large fine specimens shading a beautiful spring. The spring was well known even in Indian days, and early settlers who stopped to refresh themselves and their horses there had already given it the name "Poplar Springs". Mr. Thomas Griffith, father of Walter Griffith, suggested that the church take its name from the springs.

In 1869, as a part of the divided church, Poplar Springs was given the official name of Poplar Springs Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Following the changed church structure in 1939 the church became Poplar Springs Methodist Church. On November 1, 1959 by official action of the church, the name was changed to Mauldin Methodist Church. By this time Butler's Cross Roads had been Mauldin for almost 50 years; the spring had been covered over for 15 years, and few poplar trees remained. Following the General Conference in Dallas in 1968 the name was again changed to become officially the Mauldin United Methodist Church.

It was reported by older residents that the first services were held in homes and then in a brush arbor not far from the spring. The first church building was a simple one room structure facing toward the present railroad. (There was no railroad until 1885). Men of the community met and hewed out the sills with a broad axe. The planks in the floor were six inches wide. There was no ceiling and it is believed there was an open fireplace. It is known that there was no church school during the winter months because of the severe cold, inadequate heating, and bad roads. It was reported that this building served both as a church and school until a school was built. The first school, also called Poplar Springs, was built on the rise nearer the spring. The school house was of logs and its one room was heated by a big fireplace across one end. When this school became crowded the church was also used. Professor Boyd taught in the school and Miss Lydia Bailey in the church. It was said that the children sometimes brought raw potatoes, baked them in the coals and ate them for lunch.

The first minister, Rev. Samuel Green, lived in the community and was instrumental in getting the church organized. There were about twenty five
charter members, including some who transferred from Bethel. Some may have been Baptist or Presbyterian since Poplar was the only church in the community. Church records from 1869-1895 were lost in a parsonage fire, but from the memory of older residents it is believed that the charter members were Glanns, Forresters, Cobbs, Hambys, Smiths, Kelletts, Griffiths, and Taylors. The first Church School Superintendent was Mr. Walker Glenn. The first person to join the newly organized church was reported to be Mrs. Jane King, grandmother of T. E. King.

Rev. Samuel Green was a very popular man and was highly regarded in the community. His picture hung for many years in Poplar Springs Church. A smaller copy of that same picture, familiar to older members of the church, is owned by Harold Vaughn, having been passed down in his mother's family. Rev. Green lived to be an old man. His name was still on the quarterly conference roll in 1895. During Mr. Green's ministry Mr. J. F. Whatley's mother, Mrs. Sudie Forrester Whatley, and her two sisters joined Poplar Springs Church. They were given a choice of methods of baptism and chose immersion. A pond was dammed up and a group of girls were baptised in real Baptist style. As far as is known, they were the only ones to be baptised in this way in the history of the church. Rev. Green had a negro driver for his team of horses. This man, Pete Brunson, and his wife joined Poplar Springs and remained faithful members until their deaths. In 1953 Mrs. Corrie Smith recalled that Rev. Green married her and Mr. Ambrose, as is shown by the wedding certificate in the family Bible.

Mr. Walker Glenn, the first superintendent, was very active in church work. Both he and his brother, Mr. Beverly Glenn, could always be counted on to lead in public prayer, though not many laymen did so in those days. Mr. Glenn was a long tall fellow and drove a small mule. He was so tall that they told it on him that he could hitch up from one side.

In those early days preaching services were held twice a month, on the first Sunday afternoon and the third Sunday morning. Poplar was on the charge known as the Greenville Circuit, which also included Bethel, McBee and Salem for many years; however, the circuit changed. In 1895 the minister listed Bethel, Salem, McBee, Poplar, Rehobeth, and Waycross. The early ministers were truly circuit riders, traveling by horse and buggy to the various churches, dividing their time between them and trying to minister to all. When the minister was not present the church school superintendent led the exercises which included congregational singing, scripture, and prayer, followed by the classes, and the closing assembly. Church school services were held every Sunday at Poplar from April until October, but were usually cancelled during the winter months. As late as 1902 the pastor wrote "To get the people to take much interest in the winter seems impossible. When the custom of the pass (sp.) can be overcome, there will be no doubt, large and promising schools in this section. For there are plenty of young people and children." Others wrote "I try to take care of the children" and "The children are not neglected". Finally in 1903 Rev. White reported that Poplar had decided to continue through the winter "something I have worked on for some time".

The first building may have been replaced after some years. There seems to have been a second one room building with a high ceiling and with steps all across the front. Hanging kerosene lanterns lit the room and stoves heated it. In 1902 the building was valued at $500. In the
meantime a two story frame school house was erected on the rise above the spring. It was located about where the parsonage later stood. In the early days the same men served as trustees of the school and the church.

It was in the second building that a revival was in progress when the earthquake of 1886 took place. "It was on a Wednesday or Thursday night", Mr. Whatley recalled his mother telling him. "The revival had been going on the entire week. Rev. Gilbert said something like this, 'Brothers, when I drove in tonight, I had a most peculiar feeling. I have been preaching all week with all the fervor of my soul, and so far as I know, nothing has happened. I believe the Lord is displeased and He is going to do something about it tonight.' Then he prayed, 'Lord, shake up this church.' When the earthquake began my mother thought it was in answer to his prayers. She said they hunted the exits when the building began to shake. After that they had a very successful revival." Mrs. Mamie Baldwin also recalled the earthquake. She said, "That was a very exciting time. I was there. I was sitting in the pew, old time plank seats, and I felt the seat begin to shake. I was about eight years old. It kept getting worse. In a few minutes people began getting up and making their way to the door. The house was shaking real bad. The preacher was trying to get out, too. He said, 'Let's not run.' My father was sitting outside. That was shortly after the railroad came through. He and some other men walked around the church when they heard the roar, thinking they would see the train go by. Then they realized it was not a train but an earthquake."

Protracted meetings were held during the month of August for many years. For some time the morning audiences were mainly the children from the nearby school, the teachers marching the entire school over for the 11 o'clock services each day. Camp meetings, too, were held at the various churches. In 1896 the minister reported one at Poplar lasting eight days. The young people especially enjoyed being together. At the "big meetings" it was the custom for the older ladies to "get happy" and shout and walk the aisles. Mr. Whatley recalled that as a little boy attending these services he would try to get there early to avoid a seat near the aisles.

The older people of the community recalled that everyone loved to go to Poplar to hear the singing because "they sang from the heart". Most of the early ministers mentioned the good singing as the best in the whole countryside. In the earliest days the tune was pitched by using a tuning fork. The song leader or minister did what was called "lining out" the words for the singing since few owned song books. A line of song was read "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound" - then the congregation sang. The early song books had only the words with no music. Music schools were held and the members learned to sing by shaped notes. The first musical instrument bought by the church was a pump organ, purchased in 1898 at the suggestion of Elias Montgomery, a young Wofford College student home on vacation. The organ cost $40 and $10 was paid down, the remainder being pledged.

A list of college students was faithfully reported each year and these records show the Thomason sisters attending Erskine, the Verdin brothers attending Furman and so on. The ministers noted a large number attending college for the circuit throughout the years and Elias Montgomery's plea for an organ was the forerunner of many other projects led by the young people of the church.
The quarterly conferences were two day affairs back in the early days. They were big events in the life of the church. The churches rotated in being the host church. The ladies carried well filled baskets and dinner was eaten on the grounds. On Saturdays all the business of the conference was taken care of and Sundays were reserved for worship, with preaching and singing both in the morning and afternoon.

It was not easy in those days for the church to collect money to meet its obligations. In the early records the ministers say "We hope to raise all we have been asked for; but it will not be until fall". And again "We hope to do well, if our people make a crop collection will no doubt be in full". And later "We intend to make a close canvass and if possible get every cent ordered by the Annual Conference". During this time the preacher's salary was $350.00 a year from the entire charge. Poplar Springs was responsible for $100 of this. The stewards visited members, especially after crops were sold and often a "fifth quarterly conference" was necessary to "pay out". Several ministers spoke of having young girls help with the collection. Collections for missions were undertaken but were not always successful even when Church School classes were organized as Missionary Societies. Ministers reported having a few dollars on hand for missions, saying it was not due to "hardness of hearts but to the hard times".

In 1904 Poplar again went into winter quarters. At this time the old building was sold and torn away and a new building was under construction. Deeds show a transfer of 2 acres of land in 1902 from M. P. Robertson to Poplar Springs. In 1905 the new sanctuary valued at $1500 was in use. Ely Moore, a negro carpenter from Greenville, and his sons were the builders. On the building committee were W. A. Hamby, Dr. Anthony White and J. B. Forrester. The building was the white frame structure many of us remember. There were shutters at the windows and a vestibule in the front. There were two side aisles leading to a semi circular altar rail (still in use). On a slightly elevated platform was the pulpit and dark oak chairs. Behind the pulpit was a window and in front of the communion rail was the communion table used also by the secretary of the church school. The one room was heated by two coal stoves located about halfway between the vestibule and altar. The "Amen corner" on the right side of the pulpit was reserved for the older ladies and gentlemen of the congregation. In the regular pews the men and boys sat on the right and the women and girls sat on the left. The Children and visitors occupied the center section. In the vestibule hung a framed motto presented by Mr. Ambrose Smith, superintendent of the church school for more than twenty five years. The motto read: "Whosoever thou art that entereth this church, remember that it is the house of God. Be reverent, be silent, be thoughtful, and leave it not without a prayer to God for thyself, for him who ministers, and for those who worship here".

The Dr. Anthony White listed as a member of the building committee was accorded an unusual honor when he joined the church in 1903. Dr. White lived about where the library now stands, and incidentally he and his wife had a community lending library in their home. Although his wife was very active at Poplar and he was quite respected in the community Dr. White did not join the church until his wife and the minister finally persuaded him to do so. To honor this outstanding citizen a public catechizing was held at Poplar on a Sunday afternoon. People were invited
to hear the Doctor questioned and to see him taken into the church. As far as the records show this honor was not repeated for any other person. Dr. White's name continued to appear on the records as an official of the church for many years.

Many of the early records still existing were signed by T. M. Verdin as recording steward. It is interesting to note that his son succeeded him and later records were signed T. M. Verdin, Jr. Even later T. M. Verdin III (Bud) signed MYF records. This contribution of several generations is also true of the Forrester family and others.

In 1910 Butler's Cross Roads became the Town of Mauldin, named to honor Lt. Gov. W. L. Mauldin who was instrumental in getting a railroad station built on the C & WC railroad in the town. The station was a busy place for many years and the station master arranged for many bales of cotton to be shipped from Mauldin after they were ginned and baled. The town was incorporated and a mayor elected regularly until 1928 when the charter became inactive (remaining so until 1959).

Rev. J. G. Huggins reported in 1913 that the five churches on the Greenville Circuit, Bethel, Fellowship, McBee, Poplar Springs, and Salem were constructing a parsonage at Conestee, an earlier parsonage having been destroyed by fire. T. C. Alexander remembers Mr. Huggins as a very popular preacher. "On summer afternoons Mr. Huggins came to our home often. My dad and Mr. Huggins would cut a watermelon and each eat half of it." Mr. T. E. King also recalled Mr. Huggins. He remembered that Mr. Huggins told him that if he would hitch up his team for him, he would marry him without charge. Mr. King, knowing he had already "popped the question" said, "All right, it's a deal". Later Mr. Huggins completed his part of the bargain. Mr. Alexander recalled that his sister Grace was organist while Mr. Huggins was here and also while Mr. Singleton was minister. Later on Sudie Smith (Stenhouse), Mrs. W. A. Fowler's sister, took over at the organ. During most of this time Mr. Ambrose Smith remained superintendent of the church school.

By 1916 Fellowship was no longer on the Greenville Circuit and in that same year the circuit trustees were authorized to buy a lot at Simpsonville for a church. The Simpsonville church was chartered in 1918 and a building constructed. Poplar Springs Church remained active during the World War I years. Rev. Singleton spoke of the efficient laymen and said "All we need is to put on our harness and pull out". There was still a tendency to slow down for the winter months. The roads were not yet paved and the winters were severe. The minister wrote "We hope to double when Spring opens up and the birds begin to sing". In 1919 he wrote "Things have not got back to normal from the flu".

For many years the upstairs of the wooden school house near the church was used as an armory for the local militia company. By this time a new brick school building had been constructed across the road and the old building was vacant. Captain Elisha Smith commanded the company and his sons Walter Smith and Homer Smith were among those who stored military gear in the school and met regularly to drill up and down the road. Militia meetings seem to have been enjoyed by the men.

Another exciting event occurred during this era. Again church was in session at Poplar when it was interrupted by a loud noise. It
was during the church school hour and as was the custom some of the classes were being held under the big trees. A freight train loaded with hogs and chickens overturned just opposite the church and the resulting noise is still remembered by those who were present. Mr. T. E. King was teaching a class of boys in the summer house or band stand on the school grounds and his class got a first hand view of the catastrophe.

On May 12, 1923 a land deal was made with Mauldin School to make the public road the line for dividing the school and church properties. In 1924 Rev. Watson reported that Poplar has bought the old school building and expects to equip it. It was used for some time for church school classes but was again abandoned because of the need for extensive repairs by 1928. The church was growing and the young people began to talk of the need for Sunday School rooms. The women of the church with Mrs. W. J. Smith as president of the missionary society began to take up a collection for the building fund. The young people in 1925 planted and harvested 5 acres of cotton with the proceeds going toward a building fund.

As early as 1924 Poplar Springs adopted the plan of giving one Sunday's collection each month for Epworth Orphanage (in addition to Mother's Day and Work Day offerings) and one Sunday each month for Missions. This was from the Sunday School collection and the church has continued this plan without interruption to the present day - the mission collection going to World Service. W. M. Burdett, Church School treasurer for many years recalled that the Sunday School collection was often more than the church collection and it was a practice for the Sunday School to pay for the lights, the coal, and for the janitor in addition to buying the Sunday School literature. He also said, "Until shortly after World War II Mauldin was for the most part an agricultural community. Consequently it was not out of the ordinary for a family's entire cash income to be realized in the space of two or three months when cotton was sold. As a result money was scarce for the remainder of the year. Shortly before Quarterly Conference was due, the stewards would canvass the membership looking for "preacher money" in order to have a good report for the Presiding Elder as the District Superintendent was then called."

Revival services in the late 1920's were still called "protracted meetings" and usually took place after the crops had been "laid by". The visiting minister would preach daily at 11:00 A.M. and 7:30 P.M. for a two weeks period. On the three Sundays three worship services were held, morning, afternoon, and night. Up until the late 1920's the entire student body at the Mauldin School across the street was marched over in a body to attend the morning worship for several times during the "meeting".

Singing conventions were still popular up into the 20's. People came from as far away as Tennessee to participate in the singings at Poplar Springs. These conventions were two days long. The guest singers stayed overnight in the homes of members of the church. At the conventions which were held outside, various church choirs bearing banners marched across the church yard, pausing as they reached the organ to give their selection.

Mr. Whatley recalled that he was principal of the Mauldin School while Mr. Brooks was minister (1920-1924). "There was one occasion I remember well. I had invited a commencement speaker and Mr. Brooks was to do the invocation. When the speaker did not show up I told Mr. Brooks he would
have to fill in and he agreed to do the job. He did it superbly and he
and I were very warm friends after that." Mr. Brooks was the minister
when an Epworth League was organized in 1924 and the young people were
very active during the late 1920's and 1930's. Miss Addie Greer was
listed as president of the League in 1930 with Mrs. T. M. Verdin president
of the Woman's Society. G. A. Rogers, Superintendent of the Church School,
and G. F. Clarkson, Preacher in charge. Mr. Rogers remained superintendent
for many years. Older church members remember his recitations during
assemblies and his participation in plays given by the League.

While Mr. Bledsoe was minister the brick school burned (1935) and
school was held in the community churches, in the negro school, and in
Oak Grove School for the remainder of the year. Mr. T. M. Verdin was
principal and Miss Martha Burdette, W. M. Burdett, and Mrs. Richard Hart
(Mildred Clarke) were in the senior class of 1935 which graduated in
Poplar Springs Church.

While Mr. Bledsoe was minister the church again added to its property.
In 1935 land was exchanged with the school and 2 44/100 acres were bought
from J. S. Cooper to enlarge the cemetery. In 1939 the church made a
request to build and asked the Board of Church Extension for $500. The
building committee included: B. E. Greer, J. Walter Griffith, I. H. (Buck)
Forrester, G. H. Pollard, M. C. Mulikin, Mrs. B. E. Greer, and Miss Marie
Fowler. Deeds show Mr. B. E. Greer gave land to the church on two occasions
in 1940 and later. The church borrowed $2000 and the members, many of whom
were skilled carpenters, gave their labor free. A newspaper clipping dated
June 27, 1940 gave a picture of the new structure and stated that its
actual cost was $5000, and it had seven classrooms (in the basement).
W. R. Bouknight, Jr. was listed as pastor with S. L. King, George Pollard,
and John Forrester, trustees. The building pictured was the brick
sanctuary now in use and it was dedicated in April 1943, the church having
paid $3000 in debts in three years. A clipping and program of the dedication
show that Bishop W. T. Watkins delivered the sermon and Dr. B. Rhett Turnip-
seed, District Superintendent, assisted the pastor W. R. Bouknight, Jr.
The trustees listed at that time were J. B. Forrester, S. L. King, G. H.
Pollard, J. T. Massey and L. M. Verdin. Serving as stewards were B. E.
Greer, T. C. Alexander, W. W. Bramlett, Walter Smith, T. M. Verdin, Mrs.
Sara K. Burns, W. J. Verdin, Horace Fowler, W. A. Fowler and Mrs. Milton
Verdin. The membership in 1943 was listed as 260 with 78 members having
been added in the previous three years.

The parsonage at Conestee was sold in 1942 and a house was rented
in Mauldin to serve as a parsonage. At this time McBee was inactive and
Mauldin and Bethel made up the charge. Salem was under the care of a
junior minister.

These were the World War II years and the report reads, "We are
handicapped by not having gas to use". The women invited soldiers into
their homes and a service flag was bought and hung in the church. The
war came even closer when not only the young men of the church but the
pastor also went off to war. Mr. Bouknight entered service as a chaplin
and J. G. Forrester came as minister. There was great interest in building
a parsonage and again $500 was requested from the Board of Church Extension
in 1944. Again members contributed their time and labor in the task of
building. The monthly servicemen's newsheet "From Your Church to You"
sponsored by the community churches said in the August 1944 issue: "The Methodist Church Parsonage is being built. All the foundation is complete. And what a foundation it is. Even Mr. Forrester could not budge it with a baseball bat. But when Mr. Clarence Mullikin builds a foundation it's there to stay. Others have helped in various ways toward the construction. Mrs. B. E. Greer has given almost all her time, seeing that supplies are on hand, also painting, nailing, hauling, and "filling in" anywhere she's needed. The convicts did a nice job of grading the grounds. When landscaped and beautified, a lovely spot it will be. To show appreciation the ladies of the church served dinner Saturday, July 29, to the convicts and also to the men and women who helped erect the framework." When the Forresters moved into the parsonage in December, church members gave them the traditional "pounding" which included all sorts of foodstuffs, turkey, chicken, eggs, meat, etc. This was duly recorded in the conference records.

In April 1947, a returned servicemen's class was organized and again the young people were very active. In December 1947, the pastor reported "The Young People did a splendid job raising the organ fund and we are proud of them. Of $2216 raised, the ladies gave $292. The women paid for the carpet and in 1949 gave a "Womanless Wedding" to pay for a washing machine for the parsonage. They also gave suppers, and in 1952 sponsored a cook book sale. They still remembered the sick, took meals to families when a death had occurred and helped with the needy. By this time the young people were planning a recreational building and the ladies were working on another fund for Sunday School rooms. Under the leadership of D. W. Smith these plans together resulted in the addition at the back of the sanctuary. There were two classrooms upstairs and two downstairs which could be opened and did triple duty as children's assembly rooms, church social hall and classrooms. Many a bridal shower or class party took place there.

During Mr. Smith's ministry the churches of the community continued to cooperate in various undertakings. United choirs sang for school commencement. Combined Easter Sunrise services were held at the various churches and through the Mauldin Community Council a summer recreation program was begun.

The charge underwent several changes about this time. In 1948 the Mauldin Charge listed Poplar Springs and Pisgah under J. G. Forrester. Later in 1948 under D. W. Smith, Poplar was on the Mauldin Charge with the newly organized Laurens Road church. Several families, including the Mullikins and the Whites, transferred membership to help Mr. Smith get the new church going. Poplar and Laurens Road continued to share a minister under P. L. Bauknight until 1956 when Poplar Springs was made a station. In that year the church made a great leap forward financially by conducting a complete Every Member Canvass under the leadership of Hugh McKinney. The budget jumped from $6,803 in 1955-56 to $17,995 in 1956-57 with $8,500 earmarked for the building fund. W. J. Long was church treasurer at this time, having succeeded T. M. Verdin in 1945 and continuing to serve until his death in 1965. The building committee for the educational building consisted of J. A. Fowler, J. T. Massey, W. M. Burdett, W. J. Long, and Harold Vaughn. S. M. Forrester and Jack Rucker were the builders and the architects were Cunningham and Walker. The building was completed in 1958 at a cost of approximately $45,000. Trustees at that time were J. A. Fowler, Mrs. B. E. Greer, R. M. Hart, R. E. Johnson and Frank Smith. R. B. Way was minister.
While Mr. Way was minister the church voted to help a congregation on Augusta Road in their plans to build a church. Funds were given them for the purchase of a lot and in 1959 the church budgeted $667 for each of the following three years to be given to that church to help with their building program. The church also gave $308 to Lee Road Mission which was in the process of becoming a church under the leadership of D. W. Smith.

In November 1959 the church took official action to become Mauldin Methodist Church. Donaldson Air Force Base brought many new residents to the area and our church grew. The new educational building was soon in full use with Boy Scouts using the basement scout room, many church suppers and other social activities in the Fellowship Hall and classes filling all available rooms. During this time audio visual equipment was purchased and the church library, established some years before, flourished under Miss Elizabeth Pollard and later Mrs. Martha Rogers Kellett as church librarians. Mrs. Homer Bishop began the operation of the Mauldin Methodist Kindergarten in 1958.

Again our church lost a minister to the service of his country. In 1960 Mr. Way rejoined the chaplain corps as a captain in the U. S. Army and he was followed as minister by R. L. Holroyd, Jr. Mr. Holroyd was an excellent singer and he personally directed the choir. New industries were bringing in many new people to our community and Sunday night services followed by a Fellowship Hour were designed to help absorb the new members. Mr. Holroyd did not complete his term and Rev. M. B. Patrick, a retired minister from Greenville, supplied in the interim. He preached each Sunday visiting the sick and keeping the congregation together. At this time there were 388 members with an average attendance of 232.

In 1962, C. D. Williams ("Red") began a four year ministry at Mauldin Methodist Church. A great many new members were added to the church rolls as the community continued a rapid pace of growth. On May 13, 1964, the $35,000 mortgage on the educational plant built in 1958 having been paid off, dedication services and mortgage burning rites were held with Rev. J. Walter Johnson, District Superintendent, Rev. C. D. Williams, Dr. George M. Smith, Chairman of the Official Board, and Mrs. R. M. Hart, Chairman of the Commission on Education taking part. It was necessary to have two services on Sunday morning, one at 9 o'clock and one at 11 o'clock. The church school outgrew its facilities and classes were held in the church library, in the kitchen, and in the basement. On March 28, 1965 the congregation voted 116 for a new building program with only 4 against. A building committee, consisting of T. C. Cofield, S. M. Forrester, A. J. McKinney, Sr., R. L. Rucker, G. M. Smith, Harold Vaughn and T. M. Verdin, was elected. The building committee selected Mr. H. C. MacDonald of Brevard, N. C. as architect for the new building.

Mr. MacDonald presented plans to the congregation in July 1966 for a $250,000 building complex to include a sanctuary of center aisle design with a 40 foot ceiling and topped by a 180 foot spire. The plans were accepted and in December 1966 a drive for funds resulted in the first Christmas building fund collection, called a Birthday Gift for Christ by Rev. Theus Rogers, minister. The church had on hand at that time
$35,000 in savings and had an operating budget of $24,000. The latest deeds show a transfer of property from Mrs. B. E. Greer in 1956 and from Mrs. T. B. Cooper, Jr. in 1968.

Rev. Roy Stockman came to Mauldin Methodist Church in June 1967. Since that time 150 new members have joined the church making a present membership of 574. A new parsonage valued at $28,000 was purchased on November 17, 1967 at 306 Vesper Circle in Mauldin. The old parsonage was sold and was moved on October 16, 1968. The building fund now stands at a figure above $70,000 and as soon as final specifications are available a contract will be let for the construction of a new sanctuary. The church has continued to grow spiritually and has expanded its mission outreach, having the distinction of being a four star mission Church. The tradition of strong lay leadership continues. As a part of an area rapidly growing in population bringing it increasing responsibilities, Mauldin Methodist Church now looks forward to a second hundred years of unlimited opportunities for service.
MINISTERS WHO SERVED MAULDIN METHODIST CHURCH

1869 - 1969

Rev. Sam Green 1869-1873 - Lived in the community - was responsible for getting the church started. A very popular preacher.

Rev. A. D. Attaway 1873-1876 - First minister after Poplar became a member of the Greenville Circuit.

Rev. John Capers 1876-1880

Rev. W. A. Betts 1884-1885 - Wrote for church publications and newspapers.

Rev. Gilbert 1885-1889 - Colorful preacher. During his pastorate the earthquake of 1886 occurred.

Rev. W. M. Harden 1892-1896 - Reported Poplar had a camp meeting that lasted eight days.

Rev. Olin J. Durant 1896-1898 - Worked hard, felt church and Sunday school in "fair condition considering much sickness and bad weather".

Rev. J. C. Counts 1898-1900 - Very tall man. His favorite saying "If you live right you will die right".

Rev. Thomas J. White 1900-1904 - Organized Sunday School into Missionary Societies according the church discipline.

Rev. N. G. Ballenger 1904-1906 - A committee appointed to build a new church and sell old one. Parsonage burned but Rev. Ballenger and family "warmly received by people".


Rev. P. B. Ingram 1911-1912 - Reported "Sunday School's doing well and people interested in the cause of missions".

Rev. J. G. Huggins 1912-1916 - Came, helped in a meeting; returned as pastor; a great worker in the community - liked jokes.

Rev. J. L. Singleton 1916-1920 - Always planted a fruit tree in the yard of every parsonage where he lived.

Rev. M. M. Procks 1920-1924 - Preached extensively for education.

Rev. C. W. Watson 1924-1926 - A good preacher - wife a good speaker.

Rev. W. S. Goodwin 1926-1928 - Always attended the missionary societies; tried to get old school building for Sunday School building.
Rev. C. F. Clarkson 1928-1932 - Worked with missionary societies had large groups.

Rev. G. H. Pearce 1932-1934 - Land exchanged with school 2 4/10 acres bought from J. S. Cooper to enlarge cemetery.

Rev. J. A. Bledsoe 1934-1940 - Took good care of church property. Requested of conference permission to build church October 9, 1939.

Rev. W. R. Bouknight 1940-1943 - Present church dedicated - joined army as a chaplain in 1943.


Rev. M. B. Patrick Supply for ten months; visited among the people; well liked.

Rev. C. D. Williams 1962-1966 - Appointed building committee; worked with plans for new church. Burned mortgage on first brick structure. Great increase in membership. 9:00 A.M. service started.


CHURCH SCHOOL

In the Greenville Circuit Quarterly Conference Minute Book dated January 26, 1895, there is a handwritten report signed by W. M. Harden P.C. (preacher in charge) as follows: "There are five Sabbath Schools in successful operation (on) this work. Well attended with very faithful Superintendents and Teachers. All use our literature and good singing at all points." Poplar Springs was one of the Sabbath Schools reported. It is believed that these schools began soon after the church was organized and continued active in the spring and summer months each year thereafter. Frequent mention is made in these early journals that Sunday School classes were discontinued during the winter months because of the severity of the weather and muddy roads.

In 1898 there was the following report - Sunday Schools - four with a total of 36 officers and teachers, 235 pupils. Each of the schools is doing well. I help and look after the children. Signed J. C. Counts, P.C.

William Burdett, church school treasurer and secretary since 1939, recalled early Sunday School classes when the entire plant consisted of one frame building. The different classes could only be grouped together in various parts of the sanctuary, with each, as the teacher progressed through the lesson adding to the general noise. A keen listener, with some luck, could hear the lesson from six teachers. A total attendance for Sunday School of about 65 was considered quite good.

Always in the early summer with keen anticipation on the part of the parents, the church school observed "Children's Day". With timidity and self-consciousness the youngsters recited poems, quoted scripture and sang songs. They brought their offering in special envelopes for the Epworth Children's Home on that day also. From that time and before the Sunday School has regularly supported the Home through the third Sunday's church school collection and special offerings on Mother's Day and Work Day.

When the brick sanctuary was built in 1940 Sunday School rooms were provided in the basement. At that time new classes were added and a few years later the children's division was organized under Mrs. D. W. Smith. They had regular assemblies with the children participating. A nursery was also provided. The additional rooms built at the back of the building gave more space for class rooms with the Sunshine Bible Class and the Men's Bible Class using the larger rooms. The Elizabeth Hamby Bible Class is the oldest organized class. The Hugh Chastain Class was organized for returned service men at the end of World War II.

In 1958 while Hugh McKinney was Superintendent of the Church School a new educational plant made it possible to add about thirteen new classes.

The children's division became completely graded under the leadership of Mrs. W. M. Burdett in 1960. The youth division was not completely graded until 1968 under Miss Judi Forrester.
While Coke Alexander was Superintendent he began the custom of giving pins to those who had perfect attendance at church school. Some of those who earned pins for four or more years were T. C. Alexander, W. J. Verdin, W. M. Gilliland, T. M. Verdin and Miss Martha Burdette.

The newest classes organized are those for the college age youth and for the young married couples. Again the church school has outgrown its space and recently under the leadership of Wales Burdette, present church school superintendent rooms have been provided in the basement of the educational building.

On Easter Sunday, April 6, 1969, there was a record attendance of 331. There are now twenty three classes and approximately 49 teachers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

Mr. Walker Glenn
Mr. Andrew Forrester
Mr. West Taylor
Mr. William Hamby
Mr. Baylis Forrester
Mr. Ambrose R. Smith
Mr. B. E. Greer
Mr. George A. Rogers
Mr. T. C. Alexander
Mr. W. N. Burdett
Dr. George M. Smith
Mr. Hugh McKinney
Mr. Hugh Chastain
Mr. Elford Baldwin
Mr. Wales Burdette
EPWORTH LEAGUE

(Later Methodist Youth Fellowship)

The Epworth League was organized August 5, 1922 when Rev. M. M. Brooks was minister. The first Epworth League was a senior group with Miss Kate Blakely as its president. The League had many members from other denominations in the community and was very ecumenical. The group prepared and gave inspirational programs each Sunday afternoon at the church. They held a social once a month for Christian fellowship and fun. The group sent two delegates to the Youth Assembly at Lander College each summer usually paying their expenses.

In 1926 a union of eight leagues from Laurens and Greenville Districts was organized. By 1927 it became known as the Laugre Union and met once a month on a week night. The host church had charge of the program and social hour. In 1930 a tennis tournament was held by the union with Poplar Springs Epworth League as host. This tournament went on for a week and many lasting friendships were formed. Poplar Springs won the championship. Miss Nellie Smith and Mr. Tom Verdin were winners of the doubles.

About the year 1944 the Epworth League was reorganized and updated. The name was changed to Methodist Youth Fellowship. The MYF included more age groups - Junior High, age 12 to 15; Senior High 15 and 16; and the older youth. Adult Counselors were added. In 1965 the Younger Juniors, age 9 to 12 began meeting. The Laugre Union was reorganized and its new name became the Laugre Sub District.

Each summer the MYF has a week of religious emphasis. Youth activities for the seniors and "Christian Adventure" for the junior highs. The last two years this week has ended with a retreat at Clark's Hill.

The MYF has had many week-end activities. They have held retreats at Camp Adventure, Junaluska, N. C., at Garden City Beach, Garden City, S. C. and at Elijah Clark State Park, Clark Hill, S. C. The group has gone overnight camping at the I. H. Forrester farm and held Galilean Services at William Greer's lake.

The League has furnished a great part of the summer recreation for the community. For two summers 1967 and 1968 the church has employed Miss Judi Forrester as Youth Director. Under her direction the group has worshipped, studied, worked and played together.

The Youth Group has been a working group down through the years. They have worked to raise money for many worthwhile projects. Back in the 1920's the group gave several summer (three act) plays in the Mauldin High School auditorium to raise money to send delegates to the Lander Assembly. In 1925 the League planted, worked and harvested six acres of cotton on land donated by C. C. White to raise money for the church building fund.

In December 7, 1947 the Youth Group completed paying for the church organ. The present educational building is the result of
a "dream plan for a youth shack" behind the church. In 1950 the MYF bought a tape recorder so sermons and special services could be recorded to be presented to shut-ins. The youth made a religious survey of the community and they have canvassed the town for UNICEF each Halloween.

In 1968 under Miss Judi Forrester's leadership the MYF started a project to raise one thousand dollars to pay for the altar of the new church building. They had bake sales, car washes, and cake and ice cream suppers. They attained their goal and presented the church with the $1025 at Christmas 1968. Many of the major accomplishments of our church began in the Youth Division.
CHOIR

There was no organized choir in the early years of Poplar Springs Methodist Church. An individual would be selected to lead the congregational singing. The songs were sung in "Long meter" or "common meter", without instrumental accompaniment. Poplar bought its first pump organ in 1898 and among those who played for the church were Mrs. Pallie Pollard, Mrs. Sallie Cox, Mrs. T. A. King, Mrs. Lillie Smith Blakely (1908-1909), Mrs. Christine K. Holtzclaw, Mrs. Grace Alexander Parish (1912-17), Mrs. Louise Hill Whatley (1917-21), Mrs. Sudie Smith Stenhouse (1921-28), Miss Addie Greer, Mrs. R. J. Westmoreland. Some of the early song leaders or "heisters" were Mr. Andy Forrester (1800's), Mr. Walker Glenn, Mr. Will Cox (1900), Mr. Johnny Forrester, Mr. Pack King, Mr. T. E. King (1910), Mr. Palmer Bramlett.

First records of an organized choir begin in the 1940's with Mrs. Mildred Fowler serving as choir director from 1941-1960. This was the period of Community Choirs at Easter and at commencement exercises. The children's choirs were begun about 1960 under Ginger Forrester (Mrs. Douglas Vaughan) and Kathleen Fowler (Mrs. Marion Fowler). Mrs. Kathleen Fowler directed the adult choir 1961-62 and an excellent Christmas musical program was given. Rev. Holroyd was choir director when a recording was made. Later, Mrs. Richard Delk and Mrs. Douglas Vaughan have directed the adult choir while Mrs. J. O. Alexander has directed the children's choir and Mrs. Betty Green Mitchell has directed the youth choir. Mrs. Shannon Patterson is the present director of the youth choir. Excellent Christmas programs have been given under their direction.

Mrs. R. J. Westmoreland was organist when the Hammond organ was purchased in 1940. Following her later organists have been Mrs. Marvin Bailey, Mrs. T. C. Henderson, Mrs. Marion Fowler, Mrs. Douglas Vaughan, Mrs. W. J. Alexander, Jr. and Mrs. J. O. Alexander.
WOMAN'S SOCIETY

The first mention of "Missionary Society" at Poplar Springs Church was made in 1913 by Rev. J. G. Huggins who according to the direction of the conference organized the Sunday School classes into Missionary Societies to solicit mission funds. A report was made in 1913 by Miss Nannie Thomason, secretary, of the Missionary Society at Poplar. Bethel had had a woman's society for some time. The earliest women's organizations were referred to as "Parsonage Aid Societies" and later the "Missionary Meeting."

Over the years, collections were made for projects at home and around the world - for Nansing China, Japanese relief, for a European Missionary, for Russian Relief, for Southeast Asia, and so on. It was at least partly through the interest of the women and the many study courses under the leadership of fine teachers like Mrs. C. D. Williams that Mauldin Methodist Church today supports in part Miss Eulalia Cook, Missionary to Peru.

In 1925 the women of the church were organized under the leadership of Mrs. Florrie Smith. Membership was about twelve and meetings were held in the homes of members in the afternoon. The first duties of this group were to care for the sick and needy in the church and community, and to take care of furnishing parsonage needs.

Mrs. Janie Forrester recalls that the group provided covers (bedding) for the parsonage family. Each member of the group was given a pattern and made her quota of squares. Then the women got together to do the quilting.

When more women in the church began to take outside jobs, a Wesleyan Service Guild was organized under the leadership of Mrs. M. G. Verdin. Mrs. Robert M. Verdin (Mildred) was its first president. As the church grew a need was felt for more women's groups. Under the leadership of Mrs. Marilyn Holroyd the missionary society was divided into circles in 1961 and one morning and two night circles were formed in addition to the regular afternoon group and the Guild.

These five groups are still active in our church. The "Florrie Circle", named in honor of Mrs. Florrie Smith and Mrs. Florrie Greer, meets on Wednesday after the third Sunday afternoon at 3:45. The Wesleyan Service Guild meets on the third Thursday night. The "Virginia Forrester" Circle, named in honor of Mrs. S. M. Forrester, meets on the second Wednesday morning. The Mary Circle, which had Mrs. Hazel Burdett as the first chairman, meets on the second Tuesday night. The Martha Circle which had Mrs. Mae Walker as the first chairman meets on the first Thursday night. The general society meets quarterly.

Among those who have served as presidents of the Woman's Society are Mrs. Florrie Smith, Mrs. T. M. Verdin, Sr., Mrs. J. A. Fowler, Mrs. M. G. Verdin, Mrs. J. H. Blakely, Mrs. A. B. Forrester, Mrs. W. J. Verdin, Mrs. Joe Morris, Mrs. Robert Johnson, Mrs. Charles Phillips, and Mrs. Marvin Cooper.
The Methodist Men were organized on February 27, 1953 under the leadership of Rev. P. L. Bauknight as is shown on their charter. They met monthly throughout the year on Wednesday night following the third Sunday.

One of their projects has been the sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop 221. In 1959 they gave the sign for the church.

Four special events are held each year with one scheduled each quarter. In the spring there is a Father Son Night when a Christian athlete usually speaks. In the summer there is an annual family night with entertainment by the young people of the church. In the fall a Father-Daughter supper is held and the year is climaxed at a Christmas supper which is the traditional Ladies Night.

Men from the local club take part in district events and in 1965 a representation attended the National Methodist Men's Retreat at Purdue University.

Among the men who have served as presidents of this organization are: T. M. Verdin, Horace Fowler, Jack McKinney, Hugh Chastain, Henry Houser, Curtis Brookshire, Richard Delk, Richard Cartwright, Robert Johnson, Jack Rucker, Sam Forrester, J. T. Massey and Joel Bailey.
ARCHITECT'S DRAWING OF THE MAULDIN METHODIST CHURCH
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

1869 2019

MAULDIN
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Living in Christ, Loving all People

September 8, 2019
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Mauldin United Methodist Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Webb Belangia, Senior Pastor
Rev. Dick Herd, Associate Pastor
Van Broad, Traditional Music & Choir Director
Carol Campbell, Administrative Assistant
Anna Chandler, Director of MUMK Preschool & Discipleship
Will Edmiston, Facilities & Maintenance
Rebekah Harbison, Director of Connection Ministry
Mary McDonald, Business Administrator
Michael Norris, Director of Children’s Ministry
Philip Paluszak, Organist
Jahnna Reck, Pianist
Angie Smith, Nursery Coordinator

100 East Butler Road, Mauldin, SC 29662
864-288-4728
www.MauldinMethodist.com
September 8, 2019

Rev. Webb Belangia
Mauldin United Methodist Church
100 East Butler Avenue
Mauldin, SC 29662

Dear Reverend Belangia, Members, and Friends of Mauldin United Methodist,

I offer greetings to you all on behalf of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. It is a privilege for me to congratulate you on your 150th church anniversary. What a milestone to reach! You have worked tirelessly in making disciples for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and now you celebrate.

Through these years, you have met the challenges that you have faced with determination and a willingness to keep on going in the way that God would have you go. With all of those efforts, you have produced results that demand attention and have proven that you are strong in ministry. Today, that stamina is still abound, and God is still with you, loving and blessing you as only God can do.

My prayer for you is that this special occasion will be a spirit-filled celebration and that God’s presence will be apparent to all who gather.

May you walk by faith and not by sight into the future, filled with hope and joy in serving the Lord.

Grace and Peace,

L. Jonathan Holston
GREENVILLE DISTRICT

The United Methodist Church
213 College Street
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29601

Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.
Superintendent

July 22, 2019

Mauldin UMC
Post Office Box 481
Mauldin, SC 29662

From the time a Pastor is appointed they begin building the legend of their ministry in a place. Stories are told and retold of how they handled a crisis, brought peace among division, offered the love of God in ever widening circles outside the walls, made scripture come alive through preaching, teaching and daily life. The ministry of a congregation also writes a story over a time in a community. Ministry and influence in a community is a dance between what the congregation offers up and God empowers.

Over 150 years a congregation's story become a multifaceted mixture of all these parts. The succession of members and pastors, programs, worship, outreach and witness all runs together and becomes your story of faithfulness in following Christ. The 'Big Story' of a particular church is the difference it made where planted. The Body of Christ, which began as Poplar Springs Methodist Episcopal and is now known as Mauldin United Methodist will soon celebrate 150 years of making a difference in a community, in families, in hearts, minds and souls.

I celebrate with you all the growth from all the seeds of hope you have planted. Only God knows the spiritual fruit from your unbroken determination to share faith and develop leaders for over 150 years. Pride is often said to be a bad thing, but you can be proud that Mauldin UMC has given of itself: time, talent, treasure and witness through all these years. You can be proud that you continue to build upon that foundation of humble faith, trust and service. May your past and future continue to honor your call to grow deeper in faith, witness and welcome to those who seek the warmth of belonging within the Body of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr
Anniversaries are a big deal. Don’t believe me? Ask any husband who has forgotten one! Seriously, we humans love celebrating, and this year our church gets to celebrate and remember 150 years of church life.

A lot has changed since we began as Poplar Springs Methodist Church. One hundred and fifty years is a significant period of time! What can we learn from our church’s past? Consider the vision that it took to start Poplar Springs Methodist Church. In 1869 the Civil War had just ended, and things were anything but...civil. Times were hard. Today, as we encounter issues that threaten to undo our denomination, we should remember what this church has endured. As the hymn, “The Church’s One Foundation,” says, “Tho’ with a scornful wonder, we see her sore oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed.” The topics may be new but our struggles are not new...they are life. We are here to testify that God walks with us in this life. Christ IS the Church’s One Foundation. In its lifetime, this congregation has endured two world wars and a handful of others to include a “cold war,” depressions, recessions, the invention of flight, automobiles, big bands, Elvis, the Beatles, a moon landing, civil rights, 9/11, shootings in schools and places of worship, and a wall full of itinerant pastors who were just “passing through.” I wonder if our church’s founders ever dreamed that their little gathering would grow into a worshiping community with more than two thousand members. I wonder if our founders had any idea that the little church they started would be the spiritual family that so many turned to in all the troubling times in our history or the place we would celebrate our greatest achievements. I wonder if our founders envisioned a day we would be serving not just our own community but sending missionaries to such faraway places as Tanzania, Germany, Peru, and Costa Rica. Maybe they did envision these things... or maybe they simply realized the importance of a solid foundation in Christ.

It has only recently become our mantra, but we have been “Living in Christ and Loving All People” for the entire history of our church. 150 years after its founding as Poplar Springs, Mauldin UMC thrives. For the next 150 years may our church’s one foundation be Christ her Lord.

God’s Continued Blessings,

[Signature]

Rev. Dr. Webb Belangia
Senior Pastor
A Proclamation from the City of Mauldin
Recognizing the 150th Anniversary of Mauldin United Methodist Church

WHEREAS, Mauldin United Methodist Church has a longstanding and substantial presence in the City of Mauldin; and

WHEREAS, Mauldin United Methodist Church began as Poplar Springs United Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1869; and

WHEREAS, the first sanctuary was built on their current site, housing both the Church and Mauldin's first public school; and

WHEREAS, the first sanctuary was replaced in 1940, when church members built a brick sanctuary, which still stands today and is the oldest building on the campus;

WHEREAS, the name of the church was changed from Poplar Springs to Mauldin Methodist Church in 1959. Shortly after, the church opened the City of Mauldin's first kindergarten. The name was changed again to Mauldin United Methodist Church in 1968 reflecting the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, growth over the decades has resulted in new construction, making the Church what it is today; and

WHEREAS, the strength of local churches is dependent on the support of the community; and

WHEREAS, Mauldin United Methodist has always been involved in the Mauldin community and supported the City's various activities, including our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Christmas Parade; and

WHEREAS, Mauldin United Methodist Church is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year;

WHEREAS, I encourage all citizens to continue to support Mauldin United Methodist Church and to attend the celebration event at the Cultural Center Amphitheater on September 8, 2019;

NOW THEREFORE be it proclaimed by the City of Mauldin that Mauldin City Council recognizes and extends its best wishes and congratulations to Mauldin United Methodist Church on its 150th Anniversary and recognizes their contributions to the community on this 8th day of September, 2019.

Mayor Dennis Raines

ATTEST:

Cindy Miller, Municipal Clerk
Order of Worship
*Please rise in body or spirit

GATHERING MUSIC

*CALL TO WORSHIP: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer, hither by thy help I’m come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here’s my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for the courts above.

WELCOME & SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

OPENING PRAYER

*PSALTER READING: Psalm 100

1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

2 Serve the Lord with gladness!
   Come into God’s presence with singing!

3 Know that the Lord, who made us, is God.
   We are the Lord’s;
   we are the people of God,
   the sheep of God’s pasture.

4 Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving, and God’s courts with praise!
   Give thanks and bless God’s name!

5 For the Lord is good;
   God’s steadfast love endures for ever;
   God’s faithfulness to all generations.
HYMN OF PRAISE

"Charles Wesley Hymn Medley"

(“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today,” “Rejoice the Lord Is King,” “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing,” “Blessed be the Name,” “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus,” and “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”)

Christ the Lord is ris’n today, Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heav’ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore; rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore; lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise, the glories of my God and king, the triumphs of His grace! He breaks the pow’r of canceled sin, he sets the pris’ner free; His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing, Blessed be the Name of the Lord! The glories of my God and king! Blessed be the Name of the Lord! Blessed be the Name, blessed be the Name, blessed be the Name of the Lord! Blessed be the Name, blessed be the Name, blessed be the Name of the Lord!

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee. Israel’s Strength and Consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Joyful, all ye nations rise. Join the triumph of the skies; with th’ angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”
*APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, 
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord: 
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, 
born of the Virgin Mary, 
suffered under Pontius Pilate, 
was crucified, dead, and buried; 
the third day he rose from the dead; 
he ascended into heaven, 
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; 
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, 
the holy catholic church, 
the communion of saints, 
the forgiveness of sins, 
the resurrection of the body, 
and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY

“Festival on Saint Anne”
“Lord I Need You”

Chancel Choir
LIVE Band

Please take your offering to one of the ushers who are standing with collection baskets. 
If you are unable to rise, please raise your hand, and someone will come to you.

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; 
praise God, all creatures here below. 
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! 
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! 
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! 
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
V1 Standing on the promises of Christ my King, through eternal ages let his praises ring; glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.

Refrain: Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior; standing, standing, I’m standing on the promises of God.

V2 Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

V3 Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, bound to him eternally by love’s strong cord, overcoming daily with the Spirit’s sword, standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

V4 Standing on the promises I cannot fall, listening every moment to the Spirit’s call, resting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

MORNING PRAYER, followed by THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
  hallowed be thy name.
  Thy kingdom come,
  thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
  as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
  but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
  forever. Amen.
SERMON
“Like a Tree Planted By the Water”
Jeremiah 17: 7 & 8

*HYMN OF RESPONSE
“I’ll Fly Away” Medley

Some bright morning, when this life is o’er, I’ll fly away. To a home on God’s celestial shore, I’ll fly away. I’ll fly away, O Glory. I’ll fly away (in the morning). When I die, hallelujah by and by, I’ll fly away.

When the shadows of this life have flown, I’ll fly away. Like a bird from these prison walls have flown, I’ll fly away. I’ll fly away, O Glory. I’ll fly away (in the morning). When I die, hallelujah by and by, I’ll fly away.

Just a few more weary days and then, I’ll fly away. To a land where joy shall never end, I’ll fly away. I’ll fly away, O Glory. I’ll fly away (in the morning). When I die, hallelujah by and by, I’ll fly away.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I’m found. I was blind, but now I see. When we’ve been there ten-thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we first begun.

Would you be free from the power of sin? There’s power in the blood, power in the blood. Would you o-er evil the victory win? There’s wonderful power in the blood. There is power, power, wonder-working power, in the blood (in the blood) of the lamb (of the lamb). There is power, power, wonder-working power, in the precious blood of the lamb.

Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow? There’s power in the blood, power in the blood. Sin stains are lost in its life-giving flow. There’s wonderful power in the blood. There is power, power, wonder-working power, in the blood (in the blood) of the lamb (of the lamb). There is power, power, wonder-working power, in the precious blood of the lamb.

I’ll fly away, O Glory. I’ll fly away (in the morning). When I die, hallelujah by and by, I’ll fly away. When I die, hallelujah by and by, I’ll fly away.

BENEDICTION & BLESSING OF THE MEAL

Belangia

Please join us in sharing a complimentary picnic lunch.
There are two stations: a Jimmy John’s boxed lunch table and a Pepsi Truck.
Box lunch options are labeled.
Our Church History

Mauldin United Methodist Church began as Poplar Springs Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1869. J. B. Hyde deeded 1-1/10th acres, the core of the present church property, for the use of a church and public school. This site had been commonly used for outdoor "brush arbor" services in good weather due to the presence of a cold, clear spring shaded by beautiful tulip poplars. The building was a pine log structure that served as both the church and as Mauldin's first "free" (public) school. Because the one-room building was poorly heated by a single fireplace, services were not held between November and March, and school was in session only three months of the year.

The small wooden church was built in 1905 and served as the sanctuary until 1943. It was heated by two coal-burning stoves so that congregants were finally able to attend church all year long. Prior to this, a separate school had been built up the hill on the site of the current Sanctuary. A great deal of sharing of religious services, musical programs and teaching staff continued through the 1940s.

In 1943 the long-outgrown wooden sanctuary was replaced by a brick sanctuary that now houses the Children's Ministry Center. Many church members contributed their labor as carpenters, brick layers and painters to help keep the cost down to $5,000.

Our church's name was changed to Mauldin Methodist Church in 1959, long after the springs for which it was originally named were covered over. In 1968 the church's name changed to Mauldin United Methodist Church to reflect the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and several Methodist denominations.

Steady growth over the decades resulted in the construction of an education wing in 1958 followed by a new sanctuary in 1970, which was updated in 2001. The Leisure Ministries Building (gym) was constructed in 1979 so that sports and leisure activities could attract our younger members. So many families with children joined our fellowship that another children's education building was required. This building opened in 1989.

In 2005, the LIVE Service, a contemporary worship service, was created to address the worship preferences of many congregation members. This service was originally held in the Leisure Ministries Building, but its popularity and the need for more classrooms, a dedicated youth center, and a much larger space for fellowship gatherings led to the construction of the Spirit Center, which opened in 2009.

Faithful members and dedicated ministers not only kept the church alive through wars and the Great Depression, they also helped support local, state and international missions. Christian service continues today with the addition of interfaith housing and nutrition programs, a prison ministry, Operation Christmas Child, nurturing the elderly and home-bound, grief and prayer ministries, sponsorship of a Boy Scout troop, and many other ministries. The Methodist commitment to education continues through our excellent Preschool and Kindergarten, a vibrant Christian education program for all ages, and seminary support.

Mauldin United Methodist Church has been richly blessed for a century and a half by the Holy Spirit. We have been gifted with excellent pastors and a loving, friendly membership that embraces service to our members, the community and the world. A church campus is not the church but a collection of buildings, yet it reflects our congregation's commitment to meaningful worship, spiritual growth, Christian fellowship and service. With the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, Mauldin United Methodist Church looks forward to another 150 years of living in Christ and loving all people.
September 8, 2019

Dear Mauldin United Methodist Church,

This committee began meeting in 2017 to prepare for today’s celebration of 150 years. Roy Abercrombie was the chair for the first year, and Jo Nelson took over as chair in 2018 to see us to the end. Susan Sponaas spent countless hours putting together a formal written history of Mauldin United Methodist Church. She and Juanita Bray did extensive research through the historical records of Mauldin UMC. We owe them a debt of gratitude. In fact, once research was complete, Susan then made everything accessible on a church database that anyone can easily use it in the future. Committee members have loved putting this celebration together. We were excited for the 150th committee to use the new church logo in full color on a Mauldin UMC commemorative t-shirt. It was important that our celebration include all of us being together to worship, fellowship, & share a meal as a community of faith. We realized what an opportunity we had to learn so much about our history.

In a world where we rush from one thing to the next, it’s important to be aware that we are only here today by God’s grace. This congregation lived in His grace and did not rush from one thing to the next. Over the last 150 years, these Methodists paused, devoting their lives to faith and service to the Mauldin community. We hope and pray that learning more of past members’ commitment and faith will inspire today’s congregation to create their own legacy of growing in service to and for Christ.

In the words of Bishop Jonathan Holston in The Advocate in February 2017, “We are called to remember who we are and whose we are.”

Living in Christ, Loving all People,

The 150th Celebration Committee

Roy Abercrombie, Eloise Alexander, Juanita Bray, Carol Campbell, Karen Felder, Sam Floyd, Rebekah Harbison, Deb Helms, Dick Herd, Elizabeth Loughran, Jennifer Medlock, Jo Nelson, Julie Sellars, Susan Sponaas, Vicki Switzer
But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and it never fails to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17:7 & 8