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Trinity Clio History

Trinity United Methodist Church, Clio

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Recommended Citation

Trinity United Methodist Church, Clio, "Trinity Clio History" (2024). *Methodist Local Church Records*. 380. <https://digitalcommons.wofford.edu/churchrecords/380>

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THE HISTORY OF TRINITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH OF
CLIO, S. C.

1898

Handwritten notes in blue ink, possibly a signature or date.

Faint handwritten notes and scribbles in blue ink, including a large bracket-like shape.

THE HISTORY OF TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CLIO, SOUTH CAROLINA

The History of Marlboro County by J. A. W. Thomas states that "About 1760 Iveys Church (now Clio) was situated near what is now Dunbar."

The earliest documentation of the House of Worship from which the Trinity United Methodist Church has evolved is a deed from Levi Ivey to Godi Ivey in 1835. In that deed one and one-fifth acres on which the "Meeting House" stood is excluded from the conveyance. Levi Ivey had only recently acquired the property. Traditionally, the early church has been called Ivey's Church.

The old "Meeting House" was situated on the road from Clio to Dillon and is presently the site of the Old Clio United Methodist Church. Apparently, a church, erected at this site in the 1850's, was burned by the "incendiary's torch" in 1866. The present structure was probably built shortly thereafter and was utilized by the Trinity congregation until 1886 when the congregation moved from the Old Clio Methodist Church facility to a new building within the town of Clio on Society Street, formerly Darlington Street.

The building of the new church was begun in 1885 at the site of the present church. The old church was sold before the new church was completed, and services were held for a while in the Baptist Church. The old church, now about one hundred years old, is still in use. The building, erected in 1885-1886, was destroyed by fire in 1902, and a new church, the sixth, was built in 1902-1903.

In 1919, under the leadership of Rev. C. C. Derrick, plans were made for building a modern church to replace the small wooden building which was erected in 1902-1903. The members of the Building Committee for the new church were: W. F. Cross, W. C. Smith, J. H. Bennett, J. C. Covington, and L. D. Bundy.

There were many delays and work on the new building did not get underway until the early spring of 1920. The cornerstone was laid by Bishop U. V. W. Darlington on September 20, 1920.

In 1940, under the leadership of Rev. J. F. M. Hoffmeyer, sufficient funds were raised to pay off the indebtedness, and although the building was not completed or furnished, Trinity Methodist Church was dedicated by Bishop W. T. Watkins on September 20, 1940—twenty years to the day after the cornerstone was laid. Progress on the building was the victim of the cotton crash in the 1920's and the subsequent depression.

Under the leadership of Rev. George S. Taylor, sufficient funds were raised in 1947 to complete the sanctuary, to install a heating plant, to paint the building, and to make minor repairs. This work was not undertaken, however, until the spring of 1948. While this work was in progress, under the enthusiastic leadership of Rev. J. Sherwood Davis, a plan was presented to the membership for raising the necessary funds to purchase the pews and other furniture for the sanctuary. The response of the membership was so generous that within sixty days the contract was let for the pews and other furniture. Within a few weeks after the contract for furniture was signed, Mr. & Mrs. P. H. Lipscomb and Mr. & Mrs. P. G. Wright presented a Wurlitzer electronic organ. Mr. A. L. Calhoun, Jr., and family presented the chimes; Mr. Lee Chamness Sistare presented the brass altar set. Thus, after thirty years, the congregation of Trinity was able to worship in the completed sanctuary.

Throughout the years, many furnishings have been given to the church by members in memory of loved ones, and a list of these may be found in the Memorial Book in the vestibule of the church.

The years between 1920-48, when the sanctuary of Trinity was finally finished and furnished, had been filled with much heartache and disappointment for the members of Trinity because of their inability to complete the stately

sanctuary. Upon completion of the work, a feeling of immense joy and thankfulness for its completion inspired Mr. Frank Koger to write a short history of the church. He stated, "The entire membership is very deeply indebted to all those who have served as pastors here during the past thirty years for their faithful and unselfish service during the trying years when our church was very heavily in debt."

Mr. Koger concluded his history with the words of Cardinal Newman, "So long Thy power hath blest us, Sure it still will lead us on."

At the time of the dedication of the sanctuary, funds were available to add four new Sunday School rooms and to begin working in the basement, beautifying the recreation-dining room. The congregation moved into its beautiful sanctuary for the opening service and homecoming on July 11, 1948, with about 375 people present. The sanctuary has a seating capacity of 360. At this time, a total of \$166,814.01 had been raised for the building fund. Mr. H. D. Harrell was the architect.

On September 12, 1948, another special program was held for and by the many former pastors who had given of themselves without reserve, and who had inspired the congregation to finish the building and to pay off the indebtedness on the church.

The Clio Circuit was first known as South Marlboro and was a part of the Bennettsville Circuit until 1874. The churches composing the Clio Circuit in 1897 were Clio, Bethlehem, Beulah, and Mannings Chapel. The parsonage was in Clio, located in what is now the Joel P. McIntyre, Sr. home on South Main Street. In 1882 it was purchased from W. A. Hinshaw by Lewis Spears, James T. Covington, and John T. Roper, trustees of the parsonage.

The present parsonage was built in 1905. The construction of the building was supervised by Rev. F. H. Shuler. From 1972-75 the parsonage was completely renovated and new furnishings were added at a cost of \$11,502. It is now a comfortable, spacious home with all modern conveniences and is large e-

nough to accommodate an average family.

Clio Church became a charge in 1885-86, when it was moved into a new building within the town of Clio. Trinity Church united with the Methodist Protestant Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1939. The name of the church was changed from the Methodist Episcopal Church South to the Methodist Church. In 1968 the church was united with the Evangelical United Brethren and the name was changed to Trinity United Methodist Church.

Trinity has always had a Women's Organization and has carried out the program of the Women's Division.

Since its beginning, Trinity has maintained a very active and meaningful Sunday School Department. Under the leadership of many of its members, the Sunday School Department has been an inspiration to young and old alike.

During the period 1948-1976, under the guidance of Pastors R. P. Turner, E. B. Johnson, T. L. Chapman, Risher Brabham, Robert Morris, and Lewis Sherard, the church has continued to grow, to increase in numbers, and in spiritual awareness.

On Sunday, May 31, 1970, the first Bruce Welge Memorial Day was observed at Trinity. On this day an award is presented annually to a college student or high school senior who exemplifies the attributes of patriotism and good citizenship. The award is presented in honor of the ideals, rights, and freedoms that Bruce Welge died to preserve. Bruce became a friend of Trinity through his classmate at the Citadel—D. G. McIntyre. He visited frequently in the home of D. G.'s parents, Mr. & Mrs. D. H. McIntyre. Bruce died in action in 1969 in Vietnam. His parents, the Welges of Chester, Illinois, made the award possible by presenting a memorial fund to the church. The interest from this growing fund is given each year to the young person who is chosen for this honor. This special day has become very meaningful in the life of Trinity. A speaker of some note is chosen, a special musical program is presented, and after the award is given, the families of the church gather

for a picnic on the grounds.

Recipients of the award are: 1970, Betty McCaskill Alford; 1971, Robert Norton; 1972, Sarah L. Dowling Norton; 1973, Thomas Woodle, Jr.; 1974, David Greene; 1975, Lyn Meadors; 1976, Melinda McIntyre.

Among the speakers have been: Congressman Ed Young, Hon. W. J. B. Dorn, and Dr. Wright Spears. Marion Wright, Jr. has been chairman of this day since its beginning.

In 1964 Mr. Lee C. Sistare gained the consent of Christ Episcopal Church in Wilmington, Delaware, to give to Trinity their old pipe organ, valued at \$35,000, provided Trinity pay for the work that was being done on it (\$1,260). This gift was made possible by the Dupont family's having given Christ church a new organ. With the help of members and friends, Trinity was able to raise the necessary funds to dismantle the organ, pack it, ship it to Clio, and have it installed for approximately \$12,000.

The organ was played for the first time at Trinity on Sunday morning, September 26, 1965, with Mr. Sistare as guest organist.

The Choir of Trinity has always been outstanding. From the earliest church, music has been a vital part of the worship service. Throughout the years, Mrs. Elizabeth Covington McIntyre has been a faithful leader and an inspiration to the choir. She has given tirelessly and unselfishly of her time and talents to music education in the public schools as well as in the church. One of her pupils, Marion Wright, Jr., has served as director for the past 14 years. Under his direction the choir, with organist, Mrs. Mildred McQuage, and pianist, Mrs. Annette Floyd, has presented many outstanding musical programs. On May 30, 1976, the choir gave "I Love America" an outstanding Bicentennial Program. They presented this program in several churches in the area, thus sharing the spirit of the Bicentennial year.

Trinity has carried out the programs prescribed by the Methodist Conference and has participated in county and community efforts as well. A very active

MYF was instrumental in preventing the opening of a liquor store in the early 1950's.

Attached hereto is a list of all the ministers who have served this church. Also attached is a list of the amounts raised and of contributions made to the building fund through the year 1948.

BICENTENNIAL CHURCH HISTORY COMMITTEE 1976

Mary J. Calhoun
Ellen W. McRae
Josie M. Wright

JMH
'76

MINISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED TRINITY CHURCH

1886-87 G. M. Boyd
 1890- F. Auld
 1891-92 R. A. Child
 1893-94 John Owens
 1895-96 J. B. Traywick
 1897- T. M. Dent
 1898- W. W. Williams
 1899-1900 T. M. Dent
 1902-04 A. T. Dunlap
 1905-07 F. H. Shuler
 1908-12 C. C. Herbert
 1913-14 A. E. Holler
 1915-18 A. D. Betts
 1919-20 C. C. Derrick
 1921-23 B. G. Murphy
 1924-27 W. A. Beckham
 1928- W. J. Snyder
 1929-32 H. F. Collins
 1933-35 Gobe Smith
 1936-37 W. P. Way
 1938-39 A. V. Harbin
 1940-44 J. F. M. Hoffmeyer
 1945-47 George S. Taylor
 1948-51 J. S. Davis
 1952-55 R. P. Turner
 1956-58 E. B. Johnson
 1959-62 T. L. Chapman
 1963-66 J. Risher Brabham

1967-72 Robert Morris

1973- Lewis Sherard

Four members of Trinity entered the ministry:

Rev. R. Wright Spears, native son

Rev. Henry Bennett, native son, deceased

Rev. Robert K. Christopher, deceased

Rev. Marion G. Caldwell

One deaconess:

Mrs. Elizabeth Covington McIntyre, native
 daughter

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

BUILDING FUND

Year	Amount Raised	Contributions Gen. Board	Contributions S. C. Board	Name of Pastors
1919-20	\$48,000.00			C. C. Derrick
1921-23	36,484.00		\$1,000.00	H. C. Murphy
1924-27	31,210.00			W. A. Beckham
1928-	1,825.00			W. J. Snyder
1929-32	6,241.00	\$ 900.00	500.00	H. F. Collins
1933-35	4,219.00	2,237.00		Gobe Smith
1936-37	1,734.00	1,250.00		W. P. Way
1938-39	615.00			A. V. Harbin
1940-44	7,323.50	2,925.51	500.00	J. F. M. Hoffmeyer
1945-47	9,265.00			George S. Taylor
1948-	<u>10,585.00</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	J. S. Davis
Total	\$157,501.50	\$7,312.51	\$2,000.00	

Grand Total: \$166,814.01